

HCAC Pastor's Words – The Joy of Evangelisation Rev. Almon Li (10/11/2015)

The sub-theme for this quarter is "Spreading Gospel". All believers clearly know that we should work hard to spread the good news of the kingdom of heaven as this is God's will. The Lord Jesus has given us this Great Commission before His Ascension.



I hope that HCAC is a God-pleasing church. Brothers and sisters may notice that HCAC has always organised evangelistic gatherings and activities so that everyone can take part in the evangelism ministry.

Our recent evangelistic gatherings include the following: Gospel Sunday (4 October), "Sharing on Life Journeys" (22 November), English Outreaching Gathering (12 December), Mandarin Outreaching Gathering (19 December), Cantonese evangelistic gathering (24 December). I hope that all brothers and sisters shall seize the opportunities to participate in the evangelism ministry.

While we would not deny the importance of preaching the gospel, we however regard it as a burden or difficult task, especially when we do not feel the need of evangelism or we think that we are not gifted in evangelism. As we hear repeatedly the messages such as "the Great Commission", "the debt of gospel", "woe to those who do not preach the gospel", we then participate in evangelism ministry reluctantly.

Let us review what the Bible says about spreading the gospel. It is not a burden or difficult task but a sign of believers having joy and glory. Wherever we are, when we preach the gospel we will be filled with joy which is complete. From Philippians 1:3-6, we can see that there are three kinds of joy in evangelism:

1. The joy of spreading the gospel

When Paul was in chains, the gospel was spread throughout the whole palace guard. Also because of Paul's chains, the believers' faith was so established that they were courageous to preach God's word. Paul once said that his heart was full of joy whenever he saw that the gospel was spread. This is Paul's secret to a joyful life. Likewise, we will be joyful when we see that people believe in Jesus because of the gospel we spread. This is an unforgettable joy from the bottom of our heart.

2. The joy of partnership

Paul knew that the Philippians advanced the gospel in partnership. This is not a ministry of a few persons but the commitment of the whole congregation to evangelism -- they worked in partnership for over ten years continuously. Their example encourages us that spreading the gospel brings in joy to not only individual preachers but also all members who serve in partnership.

3. The joy of completing the good work

When he saw that the Philippians were in partnership to advance the gospel, Paul firmly believed that God would carry the evangelism ministry on to completion. The promise is subject to the condition that the believers must advance the gospel in partnership. God's promise will be realised in our church when we fulfil this condition. Therefore, God will complete the evangelism ministry and make the church prosperous if we advance the gospel in partnership.

Brothers and sisters, do we want our church to have new believers constantly and grow in numbers, or do we want to enjoy our church life without the joy of spreading the gospel and leading people to the Lord? I hope that we can rise up to spread God's gospel in partnership, so that God can complete our evangelism ministry. Amen.