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Gospel Overcomes the Wall of Separation

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Theme Bible Reading

Ephesians 4:1-3 NIV

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

John 1:14 NIV

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Introduction

There is an urgent need of unity in this globalization era. Typhoon, tsunami, nuclear fallout, climate change, precarious eco-system and the financial tsunami have indeed overcome the wall of separation that used to keep us apart. We are part of a global village and living in the same boat with a common fate. We do need a spirit of reconciliation to fight the problems and crisis facing us today.

We have to face the reality of the separation and the alienation of the present age. For example:

1. The increasing gap between the rich and the poor.
2. The discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, socio-economic status and etc.
3. The separating wall of language, culture, ideology, theology, prejudice and etc.
4. The problem of injustice and grudge alienated the victims from the wrong doers.

The Word became flesh

The gospel of Jesus Christ overcomes the wall separating sinful man from the holy and righteous God. The blessed presence of God in man brings about the grace and truth in the Christian life. The Son of God became the blessed Friend of humanity:

1. Jesus Christ is the gift of God sent to the world to reconcile us to be the children of God.
2. Christians are meant to be the peace-makers between God and man as well as between man and man.

Jesus Christ is the role model of the peace-makers:

1. His sacrificial love for the sinful mankind with the grace of forgiveness.
2. His admirable character of humility and gentleness.
3. His empathic outreach to the oppressed, and the downtrod.
4. His healing touch to the sick and the brokenhearted.
5. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. In other words, He humbled Himself to be a human person and lived among us.

6. He overcame the wall of separation between righteousness and unrighteousness and He empathized the human situation afflicted by the human sinful nature.

Empathy is the blessed attitude to overcome the wall of separation. We can learn from the empathy of Jesus Christ in the following verse: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12 NIV" What is empathy? Empathy is the key cornerstone in genuine human relationships. To empathize means to share, to experience the feelings of another person.

Forgiveness is forgetting the past and moving forward

After arriving Kyoto I am astonished and deeply touched by the JCMA colleagues' sincere confession of the past wrongs committed by the Japanese military before 1945, even though the tragic event has ended 66 years ago. On behalf of Taiwanese people I ask for your forgiveness for our sin of un_forgiving. It is time for us to reach reconciliation by forgetting the past and moving forward.

We need to meditate on the request of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Matthew 6:12 KJV" The Archbishop of York William Temple has pointed out: "Only one petition in the Lord's Prayer has any condition attached to it; it is the petition for forgiveness." Indeed, we are demanded by God to forgive man in order to be forgiven by God. This has been further confirmed by our Lord: "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14 -15 NIV"

What is forgiveness?

1. Forgiveness is a sign of positive self-esteem.
2. Forgiveness is letting go of the past.
3. Forgiveness is no longer wanting to punish those who hurt us.
4. Forgiveness is moving on.

As pointed out by Rev. Martin Luther King, the prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement, "Forgiveness is, not an occasional act, it is a permanent attitude." The American social reformer Rev. Henry Ward Beecher said, 'I can forgive, but I cannot forget,' is only another way of saying 'I cannot forgive.' Professor C. S. Lewis at Oxford University said, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive."

The role models of Apostle Paul and foreign missionaries

Apostle Paul is another role model that overcomes the wall of separation. He was a Jew reached out to the gentiles. Because Apostle Paul was a Jew used to live in Greek culture and converted from the Judaic tradition. As a result, he had been equipped to overcome the wall of separation between the Christian and the Greek as well as between the Christian and the Jew. In addition, Apostle Paul was a follower of Jesus Christ. He lived a life worthy of the calling receiving from Jesus Christ. He showed Christ-like character of humility and gentleness and was patient with those who differ from him and did his best to keep the unity in Christ through the bond of peace.

Foreign missionaries, for example, also overcame the suspicion and hostility of the natives. Foreign missionaries broke the barrier of suspicion and hostility by introducing the gospel of peace to people in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan and other parts of the world. We also witness the incredible medical mission brings down the wall of separation. Especially, the benevolent medical service has been very efficient to bring down the wall of separation around the world through the centuries.

Forgiveness based on the cross of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ manifested the forgiveness based on the cross. Having been nailed on the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:34 NIV" In fact, cross-bearing self-denial is the core of Christian gospel and reconciliation. This has been emphasized by our Lord Jesus

Christ, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23 NIV" Indeed, cross-bearing self-denial enables us to make confession of sin, forgiveness, love, patience, and reconciliation.

Japanese Christian pacifist Toyohiko Kagawa (賀川豊彦) left us a legacy of the practical insight of the cross: "The cross symbolized the power of the love of Christ and the power of suffering for righteousness' sake. But some Christians look with disdain upon those who actually follow Christ by hard work, motivated by brotherly love and passion to serve. They conceive pulpit religion to be much more refined than movements for the actual realizations of brotherly love among men. . . The religion Jesus taught was diametrically the opposite of this. He set up no definitions about God, but taught the actual practical practice of love."

In conclusion

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "If you do a good job for others, you heal yourself at the same time, because a dose of joy is a spiritual cure."

(本文內容為董倫賢監事／牧師在京都亞洲大會中之主日證道)

感謝您的支持 (至9月8日止)

1. 為阿里山尼希米行動

黃敏生 貳萬元整 (七、八月)

2. 會員常年會費

方菊雄、賴正軒各壹仟伍佰元整

3. 捐款

賴正軒 陸仟元整、方菊雄 伍佰元整

趙榮發 壹仟捌佰伍拾元整

十月份阿里山尼希米行動

十月一日(週六)上午將參加阿里山鄒族區會山美教會教牧館落成感恩禮拜，中午將舉行醫療諮詢服務，一日下午與二日上午安排有長期關懷之個案探訪，請為活動順利、有合宜的天氣代禱。(詳細行程內容請用mail索取)

亞洲大會八月中旬在京都閉幕

第四十屆亞洲基督徒醫療工作者暨學生交流會議，2011年8月11-15日已順利在日本京都平安會館召開完畢，本次主題為Overcome the Wall of Separation，本屆為慶祝亞洲大會40週年，故與JCMA年會合併召開。本會有13位(含6學生)前往，韓國有25位(含8學生)，香港2位(含1學生)，日本約80位(含5學生)，是近10年來最多人參加的一次。此會議明年八月將由TCMA在台灣主辦，敬請期待。

提醒您繳交會員常年會費

2011年會計年度已過三分之二，提醒會員今年度若還未繳交會費者，請儘快繳納，以利會務發展。另本會之捐款收據得以扣抵綜所稅，歡迎多加利用。



第63回JCMA總會·第40回Asia CMA Exchange Program

平成23年8月14日 於 御所西 京都平安ホテル

第四十屆亞洲基督徒醫療工作者暨學生交流會心得

中國中醫系五年級 林恬安

感謝主，這個暑假我在日本看見你。

時間過得很快，似乎昨天的我還在忐忑不安的情緒中辦理登機，但一回神我已經坐在電腦前打這篇感想，真的很難把我那幾天的各種情緒以文字敘說出來，不管是正面還是負面的情緒，都在這段期間讓我更加成長，更加認識主在我身上的奇妙作為。

「Overcome the wall of seperation」是這一次大會的主題，猶記出發前還一直在為這個題目傷神，到了才知道原來是在破除過去台日和韓日之間的戰爭所造成的遺毒，因著神的愛我們得以破除屬世的仇恨和障礙，因神的大能得以撫平受害者的傷口，得以饒恕加害者的罪行，雖然我們處在屬世的生活中有政治，經濟等等因素讓我們無法破除之間的高牆，但在神裡面我們得以學習「愛人如己」，得以學習「懺悔和饒恕」，主耶穌背負我們所有人的罪，在十架上還為我們這些罪人祈求饒恕，我們更是應該在過去的傷痛中站立起來，跨越之間的高牆，在神的愛裡再次合一。

這次的大會是先以兩天的學生活動拉開序幕，我們去參訪了日本京都一處過去規劃來安置韓國戰俘的區域—東九條，過去因著居民的戰俘身分，他們的生活狀況很差，大部分都以收垃圾為職，居住環境十分髒亂，建設也很差，歷經許多次的大水和大火，其中也遭遇過日本政府的刁難，但這群人還是在困境中頑強的存活著，在近十幾年來有一個日本的基督徒團體注意到他們，並將愛心和建設帶進這個被遺忘的地區，和日本

政府合作建立起新的建築，使這些韓國老人家們得以安享晚年，在這裡我看到年輕的日本志工們和這些韓國老人們充滿神恩的互動，雖然不見得是基督徒，但在這些老人家的笑容中，在他們開心的歌聲中，我真的看見神用他奇妙的作為治癒了這些人的心傷，將復興的靈帶入這個社區。

學生活動的結束迎來的是正式的大會，許多來自日本、韓國、台灣的前輩們和我們這些學生齊聚在一個大會議堂中，經過台日韓三國代表分別介紹各國基督教的歷史，讓我對過去的前輩們是如何胼手胝足的建立起教會和基督生命感到深深的佩服，也深深的感謝這些人將基督的國度帶到這片土地，期間有殉教的，有遭受迫害的，但他們還是在這條道路中直直前行，更讓我感覺自己真的是很幸福，在如此安逸的環境中認識基督，真的是要更加用心的追求主，脫離屬世的黑暗權勢，將屬靈的生活帶進我的職場，我的生活環境。

這次的大會真的是非常感謝台灣的所有夥伴們，身為全團唯一一個第一次參加的學生，感謝你們處處的幫助，讓我得以在這次大會上是真的更加認識神的大能大恩，也更加堅定我要在職場中也隨時追尋神的意念，我在大會中看到許多前輩活出神的美好樣式，期望自己也能成爲一個不僅能醫治身體傷痛，更能依靠主醫治病人心靈的傷痛，雖然這條路必定有許多的阻礙和仇敵的攻擊，但我相信這次的會議將成爲我全心追求主的動力之一。

感謝主，讓我在日本看見你。

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