

**Implementing Vocation -- Applying Team Teaching**

◎ **Teacher Leung**  
**“Living Word” Training Instructor**



**From the Editor:**

*In the Ministry Editorial last month, we reported on “Living Word” instructor Teacher Leung and his innovative teaching method. This method involves a whole team of teachers, instead of just one main teacher. In this edition, we will be introducing how this innovative teaching method is implemented, and we will share the thoughts of the teachers.*

Teaching the Bible is the vocation from God that all members of this teaching team have in common. The practical expression of this vocation is a persistence and reverent fear in studying the words of God. Teacher L, who has walked with the author for over ten years had this to share:

“Training up Bible teachers in the church has always been my unchanging goal. The process of watching, learning and participating, given enough time, brings us joy in maturing and growing. That is my reflection on these last few years. I especially recall the two service trips to Shandong and Jilin, which were especially memorable. Everyone persisted in meeting on the internet month after month. During that period, we strengthened each other,

built trust, and increased our ability to work together. Add to that the division of labour when we teach, that is how our team has grown.”

Many people know that teaching by example is better than teaching merely with words. If we are to allow learners to grasp what a “team” is through the teachers in a planned manner, then we must abandon the lecturing style of a single instructor. (Single instructors are still the mainstream teaching style in the mainland.) We must then change the focus onto building trust and enhancing the confidence of each member of the teaching team. Pastor G made the following summaries about what the teaching team learned:

“1. Always have stable and committed time for learning. This has been very worthwhile for me, personally speaking, and very precious. The time we spent together learning, exchanging and sharing was very good for blessing and helping each other grow. We gained a lot.

2. Have more conversations before the work begins. Exchange messages and dialogue to divide the work, share views and ideas, and talk about resources.

3. Care for each other on every trip, and this will increase the sounds of laughter on the way and every day. It makes everything more personable. You will then experience and increase mutual strengthening and affinity.

4. During the training, each person must pull their weight and fulfill their role, while accommodating each other. It is both a service and learning.

5. During the breaks or night time on the trip, take the time to conclude the day with some learning observations and thoughts on the experience, so that everyone is better equipped for the work that is to follow. This process is “student-centered”. We must always be observing, analyzing, planning and adjusting. This becomes another gain for the teaching team. If you can enjoy this, you will never feel bored.

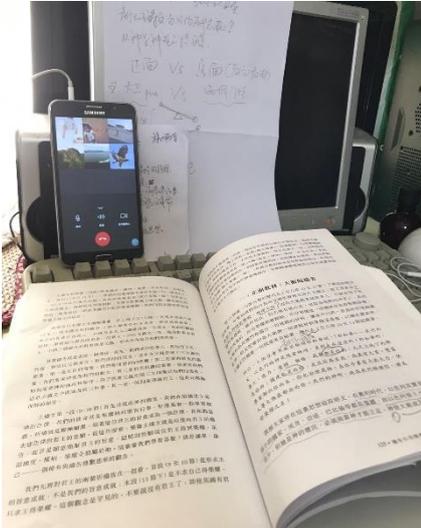


6. After training is over, reflect and conclude as soon as possible so that every experience becomes the possibility for a better “next time”. This will also preserve the experience.

7. I personally really enjoyed serving as a team. I also enjoyed the process whereby the team learns to accommodate each other, learns together and helps each other grow.”

Perhaps you noticed that it isn’t possible to just make something up on the spot with a teaching team (though we leave time to invite the Holy Spirit to direct us as He wills). So it

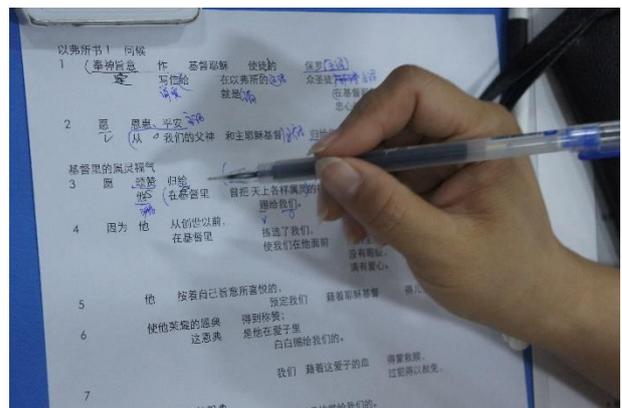
is necessary to practice and prepare beforehand. Though most days, the four of us are each in our corners of the world, in the hidden places on the cloud (internet) is the heaven where we meet together and with God. Teacher Z says:



"On August 17, 2016, we started our "high tech" learning small group that crossed time and space. Thinking back now, it has been about a year. A year seems like a really short time, but we analyzed the book of Hebrews, which I was most afraid of. We also read half of Dr. Yeung's book (That is, "The WORD: A Call to Transformation" by Philip S.C. Yeung). A year can also be a very long time. In that time, we passed the north and south of the great river; we developed various ministries with different focuses; we learned to work together while serving in ministry; we advanced from "observing" to "participating", and now we have matured into "partnering"."

In our gathering, the training content is where the light of the Spirit shines brightest! Teacher L reflected on her experience of teaching in Shandong:

"Teaching and learning are two aspects. The first is what is taught, the second is the degree of interest and immersion in learning. Church volunteers and pastors all definitely want more knowledge from the Bible. They will always pursue the ability to inject the Bible into their lectures. Thus, learners want to combine hermeneutics with preaching. This raises the level of their interest so that, naturally, they are more serious about learning. Moreover, the ability for the teaching team to work together releases a collective energy that naturally moves everyone to be involved in the learning process."



## Conclusion

It is because we have a foundation of a covenant and willingness to bear each other's burdens that we can slowly implement and actualize this method of team teaching. The process involves dividing roles (a relatively easy and proficient procedure), coordination

(technically difficult, time-consuming and requires sensitivity towards changes in each team member's emotions), personal preparation work with the Biblical text and supplementary material, and in later stages, transforming this material into something that everyone owns, and can use. The differences between members (viewpoints, style and methods, etc.) in the process of serving and getting used to each other did not result in a tension that broke the team apart, but rather created a platform for growth that each member had in common.

But, it must be clarified and confessed that a high level of rapport and cooperation is not something that everyone can get used to immediately. There have certainly been some natural turnover among team members. This is a long journey, "The road is long, continue and proceed arm in arm!" "May the Lord establish!" "There is the ultimate hope. The revolution is not over. Comrades, we must continue to work hard!" This is the voice in our hearts, and our cry to our God!

### **Please Support Mentoring based Leadership Training!**

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## Faith in Embracing Ups and Downs (Acts 6-8)

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**Associate General Secretary (Publishing)**



He was approved among his peers and in his organization, and thus was appreciated and voted in as a new-generation leader representing his community. He was down to earth and paid attention to the needs of various classes in the society. Waiting on hand and foot at the front end of the community, he helped the people in hardship and gradually extended influence to other communities, which made him loved and accepted. Unfortunately, persons in power felt threatened and offended by his active approach, which brought him calamity!

Who was he? He was not a social activist, but a leader of the early church – Stephen. He is one of the most faithful leaders in the church. With the number of Christians increasing day by day, the early church got a fast track development and received recognition both inside and outside the Christian circle. Objecting parties started to incite people by spreading rumors and initiated persecution against the Jerusalem church. Christians fled into Judea and Samaria, and Stephen was arrested and finally killed. However, the reactions of many church disciples astonished the outsiders.

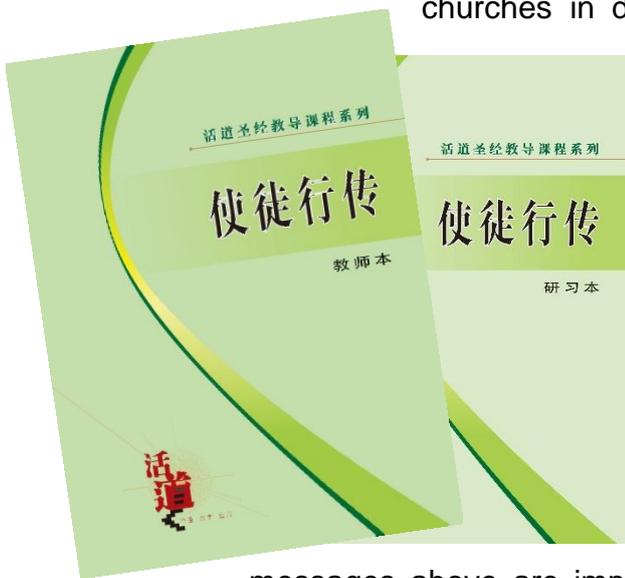
**Faithful to the Lord's Word:** while Stephen suffered from injustice and harm, and faced the evil-doers alone with his life being threatened, he still maintained his faith in the truth and the Lord, never repaying evil with evil or leaving Christ (Acts 6:15-7:60).

**Holding to Calling:** those who were forced to scatter and escape from persecution went around proclaiming the Gospel; preaching, casting out demons and performing cures, as well as baptizing. (Acts 8:4-13).

**Obedying the Holy Spirit:** the Apostles went to districts of the gentiles to support the missionary work; they were led by the Holy Spirit to serve, such as converting the Ethiopian eunuch with the Gospel and bringing the salvation news to Africa (Acts 8:14-39).

Despite the ups and downs, disciples acted with great faith in the Lord and in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Today, churches spread in the vast span of mainland China, and individual churches in different locations face different circumstances,

which can be either favorable or difficult. But the Lord's will transcends the circumstances. He always accepts disciples who are faithful to His word, who hold to the divine mission and are submissive to the Holy Spirit, and not those who only know to blame the circumstances or are aggressive to repay evil with evil.



*Living Word: Book of Acts* is planned to be published in November and distributed to churches all around. We will see that the

messages above are implanted in Christians through small groups, and through lectures in seminaries together with Inductive Bible Study, to nourish future church leaders. It is known that Premier Li Keqiang has signed the Religious Affairs Regulations, which will be effective from February 1 of next year. The matter raises concern of the tightening of religious policy, both internally and overseas. We invite you to walk with the mainland China churches, through support of publication works, to build up disciples who are determined to embrace the ups and downs.

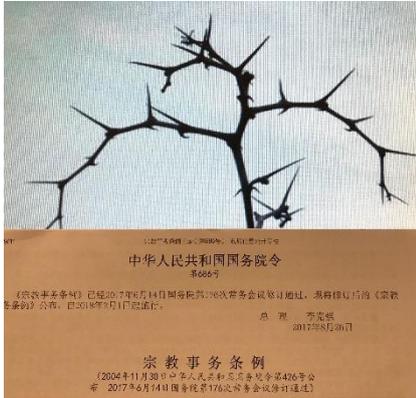
## Work Progress Table

Books of the Bible	Year Target	Completion Date	Yearly Fund Raising Target	Funds raised, as of mid-September
Acts	Published & distributed	2017 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	US\$96,000	Half of the amount raised, falling short of US\$47,000
Genesis (revision)	Published & distributed	2017 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		
I & II Corinthians	Authoring	2017 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		
Romans, Galatians	Authoring	2017 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		
Isaiah	Prewriting, information processing	2018 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter		

We will update the Work Progress Table regularly and send out news on book production and funding needs. We request your prayers and attention to the ministries' development and resources matching. We wish that you take action now to donate to the production of the *Living Word: Bible Teaching Courses Series*, to give the churches their most needed Bible teaching materials. Thank you!

# Prayers

## 1. God in control



On August 26, Premier Li Keqiang endorsed Religious Affairs Regulations that will take effect on February 1 next year, replacing the old regulations that had been used since 2005. The new regulations triggered widespread concerns about the tightened religious policy in China, which covers regulations of religious bodies, registration of house churches and even the role of the Three-Self Patriotic Church (note).

But let us trust in our Lord who loves Chinese churches deeply. He will remain in control. Whatever the circumstances, God's churches will continue to shine the light of Christ. May believers continue to be light and salt in society despite tightened regulations.

Note: Article in our publication "Pray for China" issue 286 carries comments on the Religious Affairs Regulations Draft Revisions (Deliberation Draft). Please contact us if you want to get more information.

## 2. Support for rural churches

Because of the large pay gap between cities and rural areas, many young workers have flocked to the cities to work, leaving behind elderly people and children in villages. The development of rural churches is hindered by a lack of young believers. The churches lack workers for various ministries and cannot afford full-time staff.



May the Lord show His mercy to rural churches, and lead urban churches in ministering to and supporting rural believers. May the Lord also raise up the "Business as Mission", improve the village economy and attract young villagers back by teaching them skills for marketing crops.

### 3. Commitment to Christian education



With the widespread influence of cults in the mainland, it is very important for believers to have a sound foundation in the Bible. A believer will not be influenced by false teachings if he had learned the truth when he was small. Sunday School teachers are important because they can help nurture future church leaders. In October 2017, the first batch of enrollees in the two-year teacher training course, the Christian education professional diploma programme, graduated.

May the Lord help the graduates be good coaches for Sunday School teachers, and a model for nurturing children's spirituality. May Christian education work be continued in the mainland.

### 4. Eternal home

China's property rental market is booming, as a trial scheme begins in 12 cities giving equal rights to property owners and tenants. Living in a materialistic society, young people are now more willing to pay expensive rent for a better living environment rather than buying property for investment.



May the Lord help churches cultivate proper values among young people, teach them not to be obsessed with earthly material life but to strive for God's kingdom, desiring for the eternal home instead. May the Lord also have mercy on His people, so that they can find a stable home despite rising rent.

*~ THE END ~*