

## Lesson 2

### The History of the True Jesus Church (2) **Out of China (1926-1949)**

#### Listed Scriptures

Mt 4:23-25; Mt 10; 2 Cor 4:1-6; 2 Tim 4:1-5

#### Lesson Aim

- 1) To retrace how the truth was preached throughout Asia prior to WWII
- 2) To encourage the students to preach the gospel

#### Memory Verse

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." (2 Tim 4:2)

#### Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Acts 11-15

**Note to teachers:** This quarter's lessons do not contain the Bible Background section since they pertain more to the history of our church.

## W A R M U P



Ask your students to recall what they have learned in school about the world wars. What effect does war have on the relocation of people? How would the relocation of people affect the spreading of the gospel? In today's lesson, we will be studying the growth of the True Jesus Church against the backdrop of World Wars I and II. We will see how God used this era of change to sow the seeds of truth in Pacific Asia.

Many times, God's arrangement is so wondrous that we cannot help but be amazed at His work. One of these arrangements is the Roman Empire in which Jesus Christ was born. At the time, the Roman Empire was so expansive that it extended from the Middle East to Europe. As a result, sea travel became more common and people were required to learn the common language of Latin. Therefore, apostles such as Paul could easily travel to different places and spread the gospel. In the same way, God allowed historical events to help disperse the seeds of the gospel. Japanese colonialism allowed people in Taiwan, Japan and Korea to communicate, and therefore preach in a common language. Persecution and immigration due to harsh circumstances allowed the church to expand. Moreover, nautical development along with loose immigration laws during the time provided easier transportation from country to country. In hindsight, we see that the Lord truly prepared the ideal environment for the true church to emerge from the east.



### Part 1 Southeast Asia

#### **A . Singapore (1925)**

Singapore was the first area to receive the gospel outside of Mainland China. It began in 1925, when Elder Titus Hwang of the True Jesus Church in Fujien, China, went to Singapore to preach the gospel. In December of that year, five people were baptized. Among the baptized was Deaconess Lois Hsu, who was completely healed from an illness of thirteen years when she was baptized. In February 1926, Elder Philip Foo from Fujien also went to Singapore. With Elder Titus Hwang, Elder Foo went and preached in Sitiawan, West Malaysia. Upon their return, they preached and baptized many believers. Some of those, such as young dentist Voon Kim Shin (later Deacon John Voon) would later become important workers in church development. By August of 1926, the membership in Singapore had reached 50. Elder Titus Hwang returned to China, but Elder Philip Foo remained in Southeast Asia to assist in the holy work. In January 1927, Elder Tan Chien Seng of Fujien also traveled to Singapore and preached in a school called Chung Teck. Fourteen members came to believe and began meeting in the upper room of a shop house that belonged to Brother James Ng. One month later, on February 27, 1927, the first True Jesus Church in Singapore was established at 11 Kinta Road.

#### Teaching Tips

*Please prepare a world map before teaching Lessons 2 and 3. It will be helpful for the students to visualize the geographical scope of the early missionary work.*

#### **B . Sabah-Malaysia (1927)**

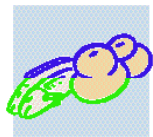
Once the church was established in Singapore, the gospel spread to Sabah via literary evangelism. In early 1926, Deacon John Voon of the Singapore True Jesus Church sent a copy of the Holy Spirit Times to Tsen En Fook of Jessleton, North Borneo (Sabah). Because Tsen was preoccupied with his business, he forwarded it to a friend in Sandakan with a note proclaiming, "a true church has risen." After reading the "Holy Spirit Times," Lee Siak Lin was deeply moved. Out of a fervent desire to seek the truth, he boarded a ship to Singapore on the first day of Chinese New Year to seek out the True Jesus Church there. After studying with the True Jesus Church for a while, he received water baptism on January 11, 1927. Three days later, he received the Holy Spirit. Brother Lin then returned to Sandakan, bringing Elder Tan Chien Sing, Deacon John Voon and a few others to preach the gospel. While they were there, the first True Jesus Church was established in Sandakan. Before Elder Tan and Deacon Voon left for Singapore, they ordained three ministers (Deacon Mark Chin, Deacon Philemon Ho and Deaconess Phoebe Kong) to be responsible for church religious affairs. In 1952, the Sabah church was officially registered. Then, on August 31, 1963, North Borneo was freed from colonialism and became independent, joining Singapore, Sarawak and 11 other states of Malaya to form the Federation of Malaysia. At the time, the name North Borneo was changed to the state of Sabah.

#### **C . Indonesia (1939)**

The history of the church in Indonesia is a testimony of miracles, perseverance and the Lord's guidance. In 1920, Jao Hoan Tek from Fujien, China, immigrated to Indonesia and settled in Mukasa (now Jung Pandang), South Sulawesi. Twelve years later, he returned to China to get married. Three months after his wedding, he contracted a fever and became an invalid for six months. His mother traveled from temple to temple to pray to numerous idols to no avail. Then, Jao's aunt visited. She encouraged him to believe in Jesus and to attend services at the True Jesus Church. Jao agreed and was carried to the church on a stretcher for prayers. Thank

God, after staying and praying in the church for 28 days, Jao Hoan Tek recovered and received baptism along with his mother (later Deaconess Lois Yao). Towards the end of 1932, Jao returned to Mukasa with the heart to repay God's mercy.

In January 1936, Jao visited China again. Stephan Siau, the preacher who had baptized him, asked him to apply for a license from the Indonesian government to preach in Indonesia, but the license was granted only in 1939. By then Jao was already working in Jakarta and had met up with Elder Tan Chau Sin who was originally from China. Elder Tan offered his house as a place of worship for the twelve members Siau and Jao had gathered in Jakarta. A few months later, the two church brothers rented a house with two sections. The front was used for worship, while the back was used to house physically ill people in order to evangelize to them. They had such faith to believe that those who came to the Lord could be cured! Because of the Lord's guidance, membership steadily grew. The first True Jesus Church of Indonesia was established in 1941. In 1952, the Indonesian Department of Justice granted a license to build the True Jesus Church of Indonesia in Central Jakarta and permission to establish branch churches in the whole country. As a result, churches were established in many cities.



*Part 2*

*The United States of America-  
Hawaiian Islands (1930)*

Just as in Sabah, the seeds of the gospel landed in the Hawaiian Islands through literary evangelism. In 1930, Doctor Ai-Chen Li (later Deaconess Li) of Honolulu believed and received baptism in the True Jesus Church in Shanghai, China. After baptism, Sister Li mailed a copy of the Holy Spirit Times back to her hometown in Hawaii. Sister Li's friends and relatives who read the publication become interested in the truth and the Holy Spirit. One friend named Mrs. Ho even traveled to Shanghai by boat to receive baptism. Realizing the importance of saving souls, Sister Li relinquished her medical practice and returned to Honolulu in May 1930 to preach the gospel. Many people believed and the True Jesus Church was established in Hawaii. Later, the True Jesus Church Headquarters in China sent Elder Thomas Kuo and other workers to Honolulu to continue the missionary work.



*Part 3*

*East Asia*

**A . Taiwan (1926)**

Sharing the same ethnic culture, it was only natural for the Japanese colony of Taiwan to house the first True Jesus Churches outside Mainland China. Ten years after the True Jesus Church was established in Beijing, the seeds of the gospel were carried to the island of Taiwan through the faith and determination of a handful of zealous youths. It began in 1925, when several Japanese-educated Taiwanese youth such as Elisha Huang, Gideon Huang and Zachar(iah) Chang accepted the truth in China. After receiving water baptism and the Holy Spirit, the youths gathered and formulated a plan to preach the gospel in Taiwan. First, they returned home to preach to their relatives and friends. Many Christian Presbyterians accepted the truth and were converted. Next, they asked for assistance from the church in China. For this reason, Barnabas Chang, Thomas Kuo, Luke Gao and others were asked to visit Taiwan on a missionary trip. The party arrived in Taipei by boat on March 3, 1926. After clarifying their purposes with the Japanese colonial government in Taiwan on March 4, the missionary team traveled all over Taiwan, to Hsiansi, Wentse, Hemei, Tainan, Niotiaowan and Chingshuei. Large outdoor evangelical services were held, and audiences of 200-400 attended. In the first baptism on March 10 alone, 62 were baptized. In the matter of 40 days, God allowed the True Jesus Church missionary team to baptize over 100 people, establish three churches and shock the Christian community in Taiwan.

Due to the Taiwan church's high level of organization, the Taiwan Church Branch (headquarters for all Taiwanese churches) was established by November 1926. The name was changed to True Jesus Church Japan during WWII, but when Taiwan was returned to China in 1946, the name was changed back to the True Jesus Church in Taiwan Province. Unfortunately, the Taiwan Church Branch was separated from the True Jesus Church in China after the communist takeover of China in 1949. From then on, the Taiwan Church Branch resumed the responsibility of world ministry coordination. In 1956, its name was changed to the True Jesus Church General Assembly in Taiwan. Since the First World Delegate's Conference in 1967, Taiwan has also become home to the International Assembly of the True Jesus Church.

## **B. Japan (1941)**

Taiwan was a Japanese colony when the True Jesus Church was first established on the island in 1926. Thus, some of the first Japanese believers, such as former Holiness Church member Suda Kiyomoto (Peter) came into contact with the truth in Taiwan. Suda was baptized in 1927 and was later ordained as a minister to preach to the Japanese people in Taiwan. Nonetheless, the church was not established in Japan until 1941, when five Pentecostal ministers, including Overseer (Bishop) Murai, traveled to Taiwan to observe our church and engage in discussion over doctrines. As a result of the discussion, Murai and Kamii Yakobu were baptized into our church. When they returned to Japan, they re-baptized the members of their former Pentecostal church and adapted the sacraments of the True Jesus Church.

Since the educated Taiwanese were fluent in Japanese, church workers were able to assist in the newly established Japanese churches. Unfortunately, after attending a theological seminar in Tokyo led by Elisha Hwang in 1942, Kamii left the church and established the Church of the Holy Spirit of Jesus. However, as a result of the seminar, Murada Shigehito visited Taiwan in October 1942 and was baptized into the True Jesus Church. In November, Murada moved his family to Taiwan and became a preacher of the True Jesus Church. Murada was sent back to his country in 1946 when Japan lost the war and lost control over Taiwan. When Murada returned to his native country, he helped establish churches in Nanjyou and Jyohe and prayer houses in Tokyo, Idare, Ueda and Haken. In October 1963, the General Assembly in Japan was formed. Even after Japanese occupational forces retreated from Taiwan in 1946, the Taiwan GA continued to support the Japanese churches. Sharing a common language was especially helpful in training and communication between the General Assemblies of Taiwan and Japan.

## **C. Korea (1941)**

Like Taiwan, Korea was also a Japanese colony prior to WWII. As a result, the generations growing up during the Japanese occupation were educated in the Japanese language. Having a common language made it relatively easier to spread the seeds of the gospel from Japan to Korea. The Korean members of the True Jesus Church came to believe in July 1941, when Bae Sang Yong longed for the truth and visited Elder Kamii in Japan. During his visitation, Bae received the Holy Spirit and was baptized. Not long after, Jung Tae Joon also came in touch with Elder Kamii and received the gospel.

In January 1945, Brother Jung returned to South Korea and preached to members of the Presbyterian Church. About thirty members, including Presbyterian Elder Park Chang Hwan, believed and became baptized into the church. Consequently, the True Jesus Church was established in Korea in August 1948. Together, Jung and Park preached all over Korea and established churches. The First National Delegates Conference was held in April 1950, and the Korean GA was formed the following year.



### Part 4 Other Notes

Here are some more interesting testimonies about the Lord's work in Pacific Asia.

#### **Singapore**

In November 1927, Elder Barnabas Chang went to work in Singapore and Malaysia. Unfortunately, he left the church and passed away on January 25, 1961. However, Barnabas Chang's son and grandson remained in the Singapore church and preserved their faith.

#### **Sabah**

During WWII (1941-45), the Japanese army occupied the whole region of Southeast Asia. When the situation worsened, believers had to go into hiding and were dispersed. Nonetheless, they kept their faith and continued to worship in the form of family services. After the war, the believers gradually moved back to their own residential areas and resumed church services.

#### **Indonesia**

In January 1969, the Indonesian General Assembly decided to construct a school behind the Jakarta Church building. A year later, Kanaan Christian School (KCS) in Jakarta was established, offering kindergarten, elementary and junior high school education to the general public. This was a major milestone in the history of the True Jesus Church. Today, there are about 3,000 students in the three branches of the school. Teachers and students of the KCS are required to attend Sabbath services, and students receive two hours of religious education every week from the Indonesian General Assembly. As a result of the school, many teachers, parents and students have become fervent believers in Christ.

#### **Hawaii**

In 1949, Deaconess Anna Goo Kim Yue visited her birthplace, Honolulu, and

found the church had changed its mode of baptism. Instead of administering baptism in living water, Deacon Awanas had substituted baptism in a cistern. Seeing the erroneous change, Anna and the dedicated members of the True Jesus Church left the apostate group and reorganized themselves. However, the new group was not able to assume the name True Jesus Church until many years later. Awanas agreed that the two groups had no connection with each other; Hawaii Church was then able to register with the state government as True Jesus Church as opposed to Awanas' group, the True Jesus Mission of the Latter Rain.

### Deacon Titus Lim's Memoirs

(Excerpt from the 55th Evangelical Anniversary of the True Jesus Church in West Malaysia and Singapore, pub. 1982)

"In the name of the Lord Jesus I bear witness. I am a deacon of the True Jesus Church in Kajang. I am getting old. Time and tide wait for no man. However some of the incidents that happened in the past few decades are still fresh in my mind... I shall now relate how I came to believe in the Lord. I came from an idol worshipping family. I was converted to Christianity at the age of fifteen, together with my mother and my brother, for I was studying in a school run by some German missionaries. Later I went to stay in Sandakan. Then I returned to China and got married. We were engaged when I was still young. The following year my wife died when she gave birth. I married again. My wife is now eighty-two years old. I brought her to Malaya and settled down in Kajang. At that time, Chin Toh Yin of Kuala Lumpur persuaded me to join the Seventh Day Adventist Church. I accepted and for ten years I remained a faithful member of that church. Later, Chin Toh Yin, then known as Elder Zephaniah Chin, persuaded me to join the True Jesus Church. However I was convinced that there is only one Jesus. I could not believe him no matter how hard he tried to convince me that the True Jesus Church had the power to perform miracles.

It happened that one day my second son fell sick. I was under the impression that the Seventh Day Adventist Church could also heal the sick. I managed to bring the pastor of that church in Kuala Lumpur to my house hoping that he might be able to heal my son. After some prayers, the pastor went back to Kuala Lumpur. I saw that my son's condition was getting worse. Towards evening, I quickly rushed him to a doctor who prescribed some medicine that cost five dollars. Normally it would cost only thirty cents. The physician told me that my son was in a critical state and that if no medicine were given he would die that very night. After my son took the medicine, he slept soundly that night and his sickness was cured.

Since then, my faith in that church crumbled. I was later baptized into the True Jesus

month after my baptism. Soon I learned from Elder Zephaniah that a certain Deaconess Chin would come to Kajang to help us pray for the Holy Spirit. My heart was filled with joy on hearing this. When she finally came, after listening to her sermon, the congregation prayed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Holy Spirit. I was filled with the Holy Spirit instantly. I walked on my knees and spoke in tongues. My heart rejoiced exceedingly. I was so exulted with joy that I refused to go to sleep that night. Indeed, the happiness I had experienced cannot be bought even with ten thousand pieces of gold! My family of four was baptized in the Ampang River, Kuala Lumpur, by Deacon Philip Thean of Sandakan. Later, I was ordained a deacon by Deacon Philip Thean. Elder Zephaniah Chin, Elder Jabez Chin and Deacon Peter Chin were also ordained by him. At that time, the prayer meeting was held in my house. As the believers increased daily, my house soon became too congested. Then Brother Tsan Tham offered half of his house for holding services. A sign bearing the name True Jesus Church was put up. As the number kept increasing, the church got another place to hold services...

...Chin Yoke Kee and his wife Chen Wu Mai with their three-year-old son were baptized into the True Jesus Church. One day the child was taken seriously ill and was brought to the church by his mother. The child's pupils were fixed and his pulse and breathing had stopped. Someone suggested to the mother to bring the child away from the church. Then suddenly a woman filled with the Holy Spirit cried out with a loud voice saying, "Jesus has the power of bringing the dead to life. Let us all remain in the church and pray until dawn that God may bring him to life again." We all knelt down and prayed for about one hour. Then the child cried out loud, urinated and came back to life. I gave the child to the mother and this child has grown up and is now working in Serdang, Kedah.

### C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



1

Briefly describe how the True Jesus Church spread from China to Taiwan, from Taiwan to Japan and from Japan to Korea.

2

How did the gospel reach Singapore? How did it spread from Singapore to Malaysia?

3

How did the gospel spread from China to Hawaii?

4

What are equivalents of the Holy Spirit Times today? How can we use these tools to sow the seeds of the gospel?



### *Sowing Seeds Around the World*

1. Draw a timeline on a piece of legal size paper, starting at 1900 and ending on 1950.
2. On the timeline, use different colors to mark the year in which the countries covered today received the truth.
3. For each church, write two descriptions. First, use one sentence to describe how the church was established. Second, describe something interesting or inspiring about that particular church.
4. To make sure students understand the region, have them color in the country on the world map.
5. Go around the room and ask the students to share what they wrote in step 3. What did they learn from today's lesson? How can they trace the work of the Holy Spirit in the spreading of the truth in Asia?

## R E F L E C T I O N &amp; P R A Y E R



*In our church publications, we often emphasize the importance of "Truth, Holy Spirit and miracles." Indeed, it was the literary evangelism of the truth, the personal experience of the Holy Spirit and the evidence of miracles that lead to the establishment of our churches in Pacific Asia. May God continue to work through us and send to us showers of blessings.*

## L E S S O N 3

## The History of the True Jesus Church (3) From East to West (1950-1979)

### Listed Scriptures

Isa 49; Mt 28:16-20; Acts 13

### Lesson Aim

- 1) To trace God's guidance in the expansion of our church after WWII
- 2) To challenge students to think about their potential role in world ministry

### Memory Verse

"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." (Mt 24:27)

### Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Acts 11-15

**Note to teachers:** This quarter's lessons do not contain the Bible Background section since they pertain more to the history of our church.

## W A R M U P



God commanded us to preach the truth to the ends of the earth as early as in Old Testament times. Acts 13:47 quotes Isaiah 49:6, saying, "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' " For the apostles, the "ends of the earth" meant Europe. Therefore, Paul obeyed the word of God by traveling all the way to Spain to preach. Where are the ends of the earth for us today? How can we preach to the ends of the earth?