



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 & 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?

Over the past fifty years, the True Jesus Church has spread to every continent in the world. Due to the large number of churches and limitations in space, we cannot cover the history of the church in every single country in this chapter. Instead, this lesson will focus on the four general periods of church expansion into new territories: the first wave of immigration (1960's—70's), the African missions (1980's and on), the second wave of immigration (1980's) and the Southeast Asian missions (1990's and on). Since the lesson will be organized by time and region, some countries will inevitably be neglected. For supplementary material, you may choose to look up additional information on specific churches. Testimonies of some church histories can be found online at www.tjc.org. The website also includes contact information for regional churches. As a class activity, teachers may even encourage students to research the history of their local church and exchange information with the J2 class of another church.



Part 1

First Wave of Immigration - Europe and North America (1960's-70's)

During the first wave of immigration, seeds of the gospel were carried from Asia and into the western world. Due to difficulties in communication and transportation, the believers had to overcome great obstacles in order to meet and worship. Their testimonies teach us the importance of the preservation of faith in all circumstances.

A. Europe

a. United Kingdom (1966)

The first seeds of the True Jesus Church reached the United Kingdom in 1950, when Malaysian brethren began moving to the UK for study and work. The Malaysian members began gathering together in 1966 for Sabbath service. However, it was not until the 1960's that the UK saw a large influx of church members from the British colony of Hong Kong, the New Territory and Ap Chau. The newcomers were mainly single brothers seeking a better life through hard labor and meager wages. Isolated from each other and their families, many of them became sheep without a shepherd and grew cold in faith (Ezek 34:5-6). In 1972, God led workers such as

Brother Hsiao (from Taiwan), Brother Keith Horn (an Englishman baptized in Taiwan), Brother Liew (who immigrated from Malaysia), Brother Yau, and Deacon Paul Tang to gather and encourage the members. As a result, service was held for the first time and Houses of Prayer were established in Sunderland and Newcastle. In order to assist church development, 13 brothers and sisters were also ordained as deacons and deaconesses in Newcastle in 1975. Finally, under the guidance of God, the first True Jesus Church in the UK was purchased in Newcastle and dedicated on July 12, 1976. On that joyous occasion, 70 infants and adults were baptized into the name of Jesus Christ.

b. France (1977)

The gospel of the True Jesus Church reached mainland Europe in 1977, when Brother H.K. Ho of Hong Kong and Brother Y.M. Yang of Taiwan began holding services in Brother Ho's house in Paris, France. Membership increased through immigration and conversion, and the current Veritable-Jesus-Eglise building outside Paris was purchased in 1992 and dedicated in 1994. Unlike other True Jesus Churches in the western hemisphere, the Veritable-Jesus-Eglise in Paris decided early on to use French as the main sermon-delivery language. As a result, the church has been able to reach out to native French speakers. Today, 90% of the members are first generation church members. Paris church is also one of the most ethnically diverse True Jesus Churches in the west.

c. Germany (1979)

Family services began in Germany when Brother Ko and Brother Wu arrived there in 1979. Slowly, membership grew as brothers and sisters joined them from Taiwan. With the help of workers from the U.K., Germany's first Spiritual Convocation was held in 1980. Afterwards, annual Spiritual Convocations in Heidelberg were held for the entire European Continent. Eventually, biannual Spiritual Convocations were also held exclusively for German speaking areas. Starting in 1982, services became more consistently held in Brother Ko's rented room in Heidelberg. Membership increased through conversion. The first baptism in Heidelberg was in 1984 during a visit from Preacher Meishi Tsai. In 1985 and 1987, the Prayer House in Heidelberg was established and registered under the name of Wahre Jesus Gemeinde e.V. After the service location changed several times, an apartment was purchased in 1992 for church purposes only. During 1984-1991, members preached in other places in Germany and developed three other service-points in the German speaking areas of Rheinland, Hamburg and Salzburg/Vienna.

B . North America

a. United States (1967)

The True Jesus Church in the United States was first established in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1930. However, in the continental United States, spiritual activities remained dormant until Deacon John Wu and Deaconess Anna Goo Kim Yue attended the First World Delegates Conference in Taiwan in 1967. Inspired by the conference, Deacon Wu and Deaconess Anna gathered together church members when they returned to the U.S. Soon after, family services developed simultaneously on the two coasts, where the majority of church members had immigrated.

On the east coast, three families held family services in Deacon John Wu's house in New York City starting in 1967. When Deacon Wu moved in February 1969, a prayer house was established in Teaneck, New Jersey. By March 1975, the church became registered. With God's blessings a chapel was purchased in Elizabeth and dedicated to God on August 11, 1978.

On the west coast, family services were held in San Francisco. There, the church was registered in 1969, but the chapel was not purchased until 1985. Meanwhile, in Southern California, family services began in 1968 in the homes of Brother Lo and Brother Wu. Eight years later, the El Monte Church was purchased and dedicated.

b. Canada (1973)

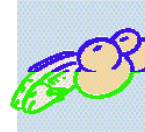
The True Jesus Church on Canada's east and west coasts also developed independently. The west coast churches developed much later as a result of Asian immigration in the 1980's. On the east coast, family services began in October 1971, when three siblings of the Wong family joined their sister in Toronto. The first Holy Communion was held when their parents joined them in 1973.

Soon after, the Lord allowed more brothers and sisters to join the family service. In 1975, Deacon Paul Wong visited and conducted water baptism for a sister. Later, church members from different countries immigrated to Toronto. An apartment was purchased for services in 1977, and the True Jesus Church in Canada was registered as the TRUE JESUS CHURCH (APOSTOLIC FAITH) CANADA.

Unfortunately, in 1980, neighbors began to complain about the traffic and noise due to services. As a result, the condominium corporation that managed the church apartment building threatened legal action if the church continued to hold services

in the apartment. Hence the Toronto church members began a four-year period of wandering as they held services in rented halls. In 1984, the building of the Hungarian Pentecostal Church was purchased as a church building in Toronto. Around 1992, the members felt that they needed a bigger church building. After several years of searching and planning, the members bought a piece of land and built the present Toronto church. In July 1996, the church was dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Part 2



Missionary Activities of the Late 1970's - 80's

Missionary activities of the late 70's and 80's were clearly led by the Lord. Here are some amazing testimonies of God's guidance:

A . Africa

a. Nigeria (1979)

In 1976, I.J. Akpan of the Mount Zion Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria contacted the Taiwan General Assembly. In 1978, he visited the United States and was baptized in the Kern River in Bakersfield, California. After he returned to Nigeria, he introduced the truth to members of his old church. Some of them believed the truth and were baptized. Paul Wong and Meishi Tsai were then invited to Africa the next year to discuss the truth with the board members of the Mount Zion Church. As a result, a second group of 322 people were baptized in 1979. God worked with them and there were many miracles and wonders. However, extensive truth cultivation could not be carried out.

b. Liberia (1983)

In 1981, the International Assembly sent members to Liberia where they distributed the "Words of Life" pamphlets during their transit at the airport. Two years later, I.A. preacher John Lo met a businessman from Ghana named Andy during his flight to Liberia. They discussed the truth and Andy was baptized three days later. John Lo and Joseph Shek continued to preach in Liberia and conducted a baptism at Buchanan. A church was then established in Liberia in 1983.

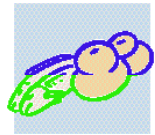
c. Ghana (1985)

Brother Andy, who was baptized in Liberia in 1983, returned to Ghana the same year and preached the truth to his friends. Therefore, in 1985, I.A. preachers Derren Liang and S.K. Yang went to preach in the capital city of Accra and

other places in Ghana. They baptized about 40 people and established a church there. When Andy returned to his hometown in Port Harcourt, he preached the truth, conducted water baptism and established the church there.

B . The Philippines

The Lord began working in the Philippines in February 1982, when a young pastor of the United Pentecostal Church began corresponding with the TJC International Assembly in Singapore. The pastor had stumbled across a dust-covered parcel of "Words of Life" publications in the United Pentecostal Church headquarters in Manila while receiving theological training. Finding biblical truth in the publications, he enthusiastically distributed them to his family, friends and fellow ministers. At the persistent request of the young pastor and others, I.A. ministers Deacon John Chin and Preacher Mun Loong were assigned to the Philippines in June 1983. The ministers shared our church doctrines with them and answered questions for six days. Then, on June 26, twenty-six souls were baptized into the True Jesus Church and a prayer house was established at the residence of Brother Balaston. During the second missionary visit in October 1983, twenty-eight others including the young pastor were baptized into the Lord. A second place of worship was established at Condungoon. With financial assistance from the I.A. and three G.A.s in Southeast Asia, the believers were able to buy land and build a church in Mansilingan.



Part 3

Second Wave of Immigration - South America and South Pacific (1980's)

Due to open immigration policies, a second wave of church members moved from Asia to Latin America, Australia and New Zealand during the 1980s. Like the early immigrants of the 1960's and 70's, members continued their faith through family services and Bible studies. However, churches were established more rapidly because families of members tended to immigrate to the same areas.

A . South America

The seeds of the gospel reached South America in the early 1980's, when the families of Brother Chen, Brother Huang and Brother Kuo emigrated from Taiwan to

Argentina. Family service began in March 1983. Starting from 1985, the International Assembly sent workers to assist in short term holy work. Then, in 1992, the I.A. began methodologically sending workers to Argentina on a yearly basis. Spiritual Convocations and seminars were held in hopes that more Chinese immigrants and Argentineans would accept the gospel. With the help of believers in Taiwan, a house was purchased for church use in 1989. In 1992, the I.A. approved the establishment of the True Jesus Church in Argentina. However, although the legal registration was submitted in 1991, the application was approved by the government only in 1998. The new chapel was purchased in 2000 and is currently under renovation.

B . South Pacific

As in South America, churches in the South Pacific were established during the immigration wave of the 1980's. Because of the simultaneous migration of many believers to the area, many locations of worship were established within the same period of time. Generally, the immigrant families brought with them years of holy work experience, religious education training, church council leadership, and a fervency to serve God and preach the gospel. Therefore, churches in this area were able to grow very rapidly. Due to spatial constraints, we will study the growth of two of the earliest locations of family service in Australia and New Zealand.

a. Australia - Brisbane (1988)

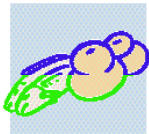
In the 1980's the Australian government's open immigration policies attracted many church members from Taiwan. When Brother Chen, Brother Kuo, and their families immigrated to Australia in 1988, they began family service and established the Brisbane House of Prayer. As more members joined them from Taiwan, the believers decided to register as a church with the Australian government in 1990. The True Jesus Church was officially established in Australia in July 1990. In December, a 4.5 acre piece of land was purchased and blueprints were drawn for the church building. Construction began in 1991 after obtaining approval from both the government and the neighbors. Many difficulties arose during the process, but God allowed the construction to proceed. Finally, the True Jesus Church in Brisbane was dedicated on April 2, 1994.

b. New Zealand - Auckland (1988)

In 1988, God arranged for Brother Lee, who originally intended to migrate to Australia, to land in Auckland, the "City of Sails." Within one month, five families followed suit and assembled in the Lee house for service. As membership grew,

God provided the Epsom Primary School assembly hall to be rented for service. In 1990 and 1991, the church was formally established and registered with the government. A church construction fund was established and God moved members to offer generously. Contributions came from Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, the United States and even from members of other denominations.

Due to the Lord's blessings, the congregation outgrew Epsom Primary School in 1995 and began renting space from another school. From then on, much work was involved in setting up the temporary worship venue and searching for a permanent place. In March 1996, the present church site was purchased. However, seventeen neighborhood families opposed the establishment of a church building when the public was notified. A hearing was set in 1997 and church members were mobilized for special prayers. At the end, a corporate agreement was reached and consent was granted. Therefore, the church was constructed under the guidance of God and dedicated to the Lord in April 2003.



Part 4

Missionary Activities of the 1990's - Present

With the blessing of the Lord, missionary activities in the 1990's have been even more far-reaching than those of the 80's. I.A. missionaries have been sent to preach to the non-Chinese in Eurasia, Southeast Asia and Africa. As a result, churches have been established in Myanmar (1992), Russia (1995), Kenya (1996), Benin (1998) and South Africa (1998). Believers were also baptized in Spain (1991), Holland (1992), Fiji (1994) and Vietnam (1996).

God's hand led in mysterious ways. For example, in 1997, a group of churches in India, called the True Jesus Mission came into contact with the True Jesus Church. Later, it was confirmed that they were a branch of the True Jesus Church (whose English translation was originally the "True Jesus Mission") that lost contact with the Shanghai GA when it was destroyed in 1949. Some of the TJM members have since returned to the True Jesus Church, while others continue to study the truth with I.A. workers. Likewise, the True Jesus Church in South Africa was established in 1998 when a lost sheep of the church escaped death in a shooting incident. Out of thankfulness toward God's grace, the brother turned back to the Lord, persuaded his family to be baptized and helped establish the church in Johannesburg.

Since the launching of the TJC English website in 2000, the Internet Ministry Project (I.M.P.) has allowed the gospel to reach places that no TJC missionary has gone before. Inquires about our church and its doctrines have come from places as far as the Middle East. With the help of the English True Jesus Church website, we may expect more churches to be established in new countries in the next few years. However, because of cultural, linguistic and geographical barriers, many of these newly established churches will need our care. They are like infants who need fulltime and volunteer workers with the appropriate language skills, holy work training and spiritual knowledge to help them grow and mature. Yet, the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. As we stride forward into this new decade and century, we hope that the Lord will continue to guide us. May He provide us the resources, the channels and the opportunities to preach to people of different ethnicities, so that we may fulfill His command to preach to the "ends of the earth."

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



1

List the four phases of church expansion covered in this lesson (in terms of geographic locations and time periods).

2

How were the churches most commonly established during each period of expansion?

3

What can we learn from each period of expansion?

4

How can we prepare ourselves for evangelical work while we are still in school?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



Establishing God's Church in a Foreign Land

In this lesson, we've learned how believers established churches in brand new places. But the story doesn't end with our lesson. There are still many countries in the world today that have not received the gospel. This activity will help students formulate a plan of preaching. They may base their plans on the experiences we studied in this lesson.

1. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4 and explain the rules of the game.
 - a. Each group has 10 years to establish a 30-person church
 - b. Assume that you do not have a fluent command of the language of that country.
 - c. Pick a country that currently does not have a True Jesus Church. Perform a background check on the country. Answer the following questions:
 - What is the main language?
 - What are the major ethnic groups?
 - What is the main religion?
 - What are three major obstacles in preaching in this country?
 - d. Pretend that you are about to immigrate to the country to establish a church. What would you need? Make a list of 10 things you need to prepare for immigration (for example, savings, language, working skills)
 - e. You have now landed at the airport. Using less than 5 sentences, describe what you see and feel.

2. Come up with a plan for establishing a church in this foreign land. Include:
 - How to overcome language difficulty
 - When and where to start family service
 - How to preach to more people
 - When to apply for prayer house status
 - Who you would ask for assistance
 - What materials or manpower you would need
 - How many people you would have to bring per year to reach your target goal

3. Allow each team 10 minutes to share their plan. Is it feasible? Why or why not?

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



Due to technological improvements in air, sea and ground travel, the ends of the earth could literally mean "every corner of the earth" where the gospel has not been preached. Of course, with the speed of the Internet and other forms of communication, we are able to reach out to people in remote and far-off places. still it is impossible for us to conquer it without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord give us the heart, the will and the skills to preach in different mediums and locations so that we may do His will on earth.