

## **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE PRACTICE OF THE GOD'S ORDAINED WAY**

Scripture Reading:

Hymn: 1232

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thes. 2:7 But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother would cherish her own children.

Eph. 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ.

1 Cor. 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

2 Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

### **I. Begetting – gaining people by knocking on doors:**

A. Being one with the Lord fearing no difficulties.

B. “Go therefore and disciple all the nations” – Matt. 28:19.

### **II. Nourishing – caring in the home meetings:**

A. As mothers cherishing new believers – 1 Thes. 2:7.

B. Use the Word of God to nourish new ones.

### **III. Teaching – instructing and perfecting in the small group meetings – Eph. 4:11-12:**

A. In the small group meetings, the believers have mutual fellowship, prayer, care, and shepherding; they teach and instruct one another, learn the truth together, and pursue the growth in the spiritual life to promote various services in the

church life, such as preaching the gospel, taking care the new ones, and leading the small groups.

- B. The small group meeting is the major part of the church life and church services.

**IV. Building – prophesying in the district meetings – 1 Cor. 14:31:**

- A. To speak for God and to speak forth God and to supply Christ to others.
- B. To speak the words for building up, encouragement and consolation for the building up of the church – 1 Cor. 14:3-5.

1 Cor. 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men.

1 Cor. 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

1 Cor. 14:5 I desire that you all speak in tongues, but especially that you would prophesy; and greater is he who prophesies than he who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, that the church may receive building up.

**V. The living of the new way:**

- A. Being revived every morning – Lam. 3:22-23:

Lam. 3:22 It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, For His compassions do not fail;

Lam. 3:23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

- 1. The first step in the exercise of the spirit – calling upon the name of the Lord.
- 2. The second step in the exercise of the spirit – pray-reading the Lord's word.

- B. Being renewed every day – 2 Cor. 4:16.

2 Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

**VI. The life-pulse of the practice of the new way—the homes :**

- A. In the age of the apostles, the churches were built up in the saints' homes—Rom. 16.

B. The mouthpiece of the gospel is man, and the outlet of the gospel is the homes – Acts 2:46, 5:42.

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart.

Acts 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and announcing the gospel of Jesus as the Christ.

C. We not only need to preach the gospel, but we also need to open our homes to give a great reception for Jesus to preach the gospel – Acts 10:1-5; Luke 5:27-29.

Acts 10:1 Now there was in Caesarea a certain man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

Acts 10:2 Devout and one who feared God with all his household, giving many alms to the people and beseeching God continually.

Acts 10:3 He saw clearly in a vision around the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him and saying to him, Cornelius.

Acts 10:4 And he looked intently at him and became terrified and said, What is it, Lord? And he said to him, Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

Acts 10:5 And now send men to Joppa and send for a certain Simon, who is surnamed Peter.

Luke 5:27 And after these things He went out and beheld a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, Follow Me.

Luke 5:28 And leaving all, he rose up and followed Him.

Luke 5:29 And Levi gave a great reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining at table with them.

D. In this way, blessing will not only come to us but to generation after generation following us – Exo. 20:6.

Exo. 20:6 Yet showing lovingkindness to thousands of generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

**Reference:** *The Organic Practice of the New Way*, Chapters 1-6, *Rising Up to Preach the Gospel (in Chinese)*, Chapter 4; *The Vision and Specific Steps for the Practice of the New Way*, Chapter 12.



**Excerpts from the ministry:****BEGETTING – GAINING PEOPLE BY KNOCKING ON DOORS**

The service that God ordains for us in His New Testament economy is first to “Go therefore and disciple all the nations” (Matt. 28:19). The meaning of the word “go” is very extensive. When you go, surely you have to visit people. After our prolonged study, we have discovered that to visit people by knocking on their doors is the most effective way to carry out the going.

How do we bear fruit by bringing people to salvation? During the past four years or more, we have practiced the visiting of people by knocking on their doors to save men through the preaching of the gospel. Strictly speaking, it is not a matter of knocking on doors. Rather, it is a matter of contacting people. To save people, we have to contact them. For example, to catch the fish, whether with a rod or with a net, we have to go to the places where there are fish. How can we not contact people when we are living in human society? Our communal life is simply a people-contacting life. First, we all have our relatives and in-laws. How many of these relatives of we have? Are they all saved? I am afraid that three-quarters of them are not saved yet. All these are the targets of our door-knocking. The Lord says in Acts 1:8 that “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the remotest part of the earth.” In preaching the gospel, we work from the center to the circumference, and then to the remotest part of the earth. Hence, you must first preach the gospel to your close relatives. Next you should go to your cousins and in-laws. In addition, your neighbors, classmates, and colleagues are all good potential targets. There are also lots of people on the public parks on the weekends. You can stop by one of the parks and preach the gospel to someone there. The opportunity abounds everywhere. The question is whether or not we are willing to do it.

If you are to preach the gospel to your classmate, first you have to build up a reputation. When they know that you are a “Jesus-fanatic,” and that the more you speak about Jesus, the more people change, they will begin to trust in you and will gradually believe in what you preach. There was a brother who used to work in the Telegraph Company. He preached to others all the time. His colleagues nicknamed him “Jesus.”

When he came into the office, everyone made fun of him by saying, “Hi, Jesus!” One day, the Telegraph Company encountered a problem. There was a sum of money that need to be entrusted to someone. Everyone agreed that it should be entrusted to “Jesus.” After all, it was “Jesus” that they trusted in. When you preach the gospel and others mock you, there may be the feeling of being ill-treated. However, others know in their heart that you are actually the reliable one. (*The Organic Practice of the New Way*, pp. 23-24)

### **NOURISHING – CARING IN THE HOME MEETINGS**

After visiting people, preaching the gospel to them, and bringing them to salvation, you should care for them in the home meetings. This is like a mother who has just given birth to a baby; she has to nurse the baby. All the mothers know that it is very easy for a child to die during the first three months after he is born. The mother must care for the baby carefully and cautiously. After three months, the condition is more stable. In the same way, after you baptize a person, you should preferably spend one to two hours to nourish and teach him. Within three days, you must go back to him. Thereafter, you should visit him on an average of once every three days, or two times a week. If you care for him in this way for a month, his condition will become stable. To get the best result, the same person should beget, nourish, and care for the new one.

As soon as a person rises up from baptism, you need to have a long time of fellowship with him. This is his first home meeting. I suggest that you talk to him about the Lord being the life-giving Spirit and being one spirit with us. You should tell him, “The Jesus whom you have believed in has become the life-giving Spirit today. Originally, He was God becoming the flesh on earth. But for the bearing of our sins, He died on the cross for us and shed His precious blood. After He died and was buried, He resurrected again after three days to become the life-giving Spirit. This Spirit is just like the air; He is everywhere. Although He cannot be touched or seen, He is more real than everything else. Everyone needs Him. Moreover, this Spirit is personified; that is, He is a person, a divine person. That is why if you call on His name today, He will enter into you. In addition, when God created us, He created us with a spirit. Not only do we have an outward body; we have a soul within also. Inside the soul, there is a spirit, which is our innermost person. Today, this pneumatic Lord has entered into our spirit and has

regenerated our spirit, so that the two spirits are now one spirit. Now your calling and praying must be from this spirit.” Following this, you can lead him to pray. By then, he may feel ashamed of himself. You can then lead him to confess his sins to the Lord. As long as a person is willing to confess his sins, everything will work out. This is like a person who has taken the wrong kind of food into the stomach. When the wrong food is vomited out and the stomach is cleared, everything will be recovered. When a person has “vomited out” all his sins, the result is the filling up of the Holy Spirit. With all these words, you have enough to talk about for the first home meeting. After this, you should set up an appointment for the next meeting. Preferably, it should be within the next one or two days. The reason for this is that newborn babies need special care. (*The Organic Practice to the New Way*, pp. 25-26)

### **TEACHING – INSTRUCTING AND PERFECTING IN THE SMALL GROUP MEETINGS**

How should the small group meetings be conducted? The key is to be organic. The small group meeting should begin from your own home. Although the time of the meeting may be scheduled at 7:30, you should begin praying at home before seven o'clock. While you are on the way to the meeting, you should continue to pray and praise. When you arrive at the brother's house, you may find that some brothers are there already. You should then begin the meeting by praising, praying, or fellowshiping. The content of the meeting should be of the following items only: the first is fellowship; the second is prayer; the third is mutual care; the fourth is the teaching of the truth; the fifth is the pursuit of life; and the sixth is the mutual encouragement and teaching, and the preaching of the gospel by going out to visit people. Every time the small group comes together, whatever it does, the content should be one of these six things.

Not only do you have to feed a newly baptized one, but you must bring him to a nearby small group meeting as well. You need to tell him, “Christians are communal. They are not like the butterflies. Rather they are like the bees and the sheep. Let me take you to see a group of Christians nearby.” However, by bringing him to the small group meeting, you should not let the others take over your job; you have to continue feeding and caring for him.

Concerning the small group meetings, I would first beg you to drop the all too legal practice that you have had before. The principle of attending the small group meeting is the same as that for the home meeting. You must be a person who is revived. Before you go to the meeting, you must first pray and have yourself enlivened. You must confess your sins thoroughly and be filled with the Holy Spirit completely. In this way, you will be a praying, singing, and living person. The small group meeting should consist of the following five things: fellowship, prayer, mutual care, the teaching of the truth, and the guidance in life. The Chinese are traditionally taught to be quiet. But when we come to the small group meeting, the minute we see each other, we have to speak. One may say, "The Bible is wonderful. This morning I read Matthew chapter one. The name Jesus Christ is really sweet." Another may say, "Yes, I also realize that Jesus Christ is really sweet." Another may say, "Yes, I also realize that Jesus Christ is wonderful. However, maybe I could share something with you. I don't know why, but for the whole day today, I have had a problem with coughing." In this way the fellowship begins. Perhaps by that time not everyone has arrived yet. You do not have to wait for everyone to be there. Instead you can start praying, "O Lord, remember our brother's cough." After the prayer, perhaps one brother would say that he has a good remedy, that it is not expensive, but is very effective, and that this brother can try it. This is what we mean by mutual care.

In this way, the brothers and sisters will get to know each other and will care for each other like members of the same family. This way will capture, support, and perfect people. The brother that you have invited may ask a question. "I have read the Bible, and I have listened to you speaking on justification and reconciliation. But what do all these terms mean?" Once this question is raised up, everyone will answer. After one finishes, another may add on, with more points. The older and more mature ones can speak something deeper at the end. We must build up an atmosphere where everyone answers. In this way, everyone speaks and will not take up much time. Perhaps some may bring out a question, "What does the life of God mean?" Everyone begins to answer again. In the answer there is the teaching of the truth as well as the guidance in life. If throughout the fifty-two weeks of the year there is this kind of teaching week after week in the small group meetings, everyone will receive much edification in truth and life. Moreover,

everyone will be able to tell others about these things. This is what we mean by an organic practice. (*The Organic Practice to the New Way*, pp. 29-30)

### **BUILDING – PROPHESYING IN THE DISTRICT MEETINGS**

To prophesy is to speak for the Lord and to speak forth the Lord. It is to supply Christ to others. This is the main work in the church meetings. The whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 14 talks about prophesying. It promotes, uplifts, recommends, and encourages prophesying. Verse 1 says, “Pursue love, and desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but rather that you may prophesy.” In the end, verse 39 says, “Therefore, my brothers, desire earnestly to prophesy.” Once you prophesy, you excel (v. 12), and the meeting becomes rich. (*The Organic Practice to the New Way*, p. 16)

What God wants is a corporate vessel, which is the church, the Body of Christ. We have paid much attention to this matter in the past. During the past two years we have also studied much concerning this. In the end, we see that there is one chapter in the Bible that talks about the building up of the church. It is 1 Corinthians chapter fourteen. It mentions the word “building” at least five times. This chapter deals with nothing other than prophesying. Only prophesying builds up the church. A few verses are particularly important. Verse 1 says, “Desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but rather that you may prophesy.” Verses 3 and 4 say, “He who prophesies speaks to men for building up and encouragement and consolation...he who prophesies builds up the church.” Verse 12 says, “Since you are zealots of spiritual gifts, seek that you may abound to the building up of the church.” Verse 24 says, “But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is judged by all.” Verse 31 says, “For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all be encouraged.” From these verses, we see that the most important thing with our meeting is the prophesying, which is to speak for the Lord, to speak Him forth, and to speak the Lord into people. Through the speaking of the Lord’s word, the riches of Christ are released and are dispensed into all the attendants. Finally, verse 39 says, “Therefore, my brothers, desire earnestly to prophesy.” From this, we can see that this whole chapter is on prophesying from beginning to end. (*The Organic Practice to the New Way*, pp. 25-26)

**THE LIVING OF THE NEW WAY –  
Being Revived Every Morning**

In today's world, there is no one who is not busy. We have to use our time just as we use our money. There must first be a budget. We have to devote the first part of our time to the Lord. The first thing we do every morning when we rise up is to exercise our spirit, because today the Lord is in our spirit. For us to enjoy the Lord, to receive Him, to gain Him, and to experience Him is altogether a matter of the spirit. If our spirit is not functioning today, our relationship with the Lord is through. For this reason, every morning when we wake up, the first thing we must do is exercise our spirit. We have to call on the Lord. If circumstances permit, we have to take up the Bible and pray-read. If it is inconvenient to do so, we have to pull out some verses from our memory and pray-read with them. Whatever we do, we have to spend some time pray-reading. This way of exercise is like having a thorough bath from inside out in the Lord's word. It is like taking a spiritual shower; we are washed from head to toe in the Lord's word, and our whole being is fully refreshed. (*The Organic Practice to the New Way*, p. 50)

**Being Renewed Everyday**

We have been talking about all kinds of practices in the new way: the preaching of the gospel by knocking on doors, the home meetings, the small group meetings, and prophesying in the meetings. All these are but outward ways and activities. The new way is actually a way of life. Today, all of us have to live a life of touching the Lord every morning to be revived every day. Every morning we need a new beginning. To us every day should be new. In this revived and renewed living, we will spontaneously care for others, and we will spontaneously share with others the Christ whom we enjoy and the Savior whom we have received. In this way, others will be able to enjoy with us the portion that God has given to us. God has not given the privilege of preaching the gospel to the angels. Rather He has given this utmost honor to us. Therefore, in our daily life, we spontaneously go out to visit people. This visitation is to bear gifts to others' homes. We politely offer the Christ that we enjoy throughout the day as a gift to others. This is our duty. It is also our honor. (*The Organic Practice to the New Way*, p. 52)

**THE LIFE-PULSE OF THE PRACTICE OF THE NEW WAY—THE HOMES**

What is the mouthpiece of the gospel. The mouthpiece of the gospel is man. We are the mouthpiece of the gospel, and the outlet of the gospel is the homes. Our home is the outlet of the gospel. If your home is not given for the Lord's use, you are one who preach the gospel individually, and you have the mouthpiece but not the way. Acts shows us that in the time of Peter, the disciples not only broke the bread from "house by house" (2:46), but they also announced the gospel of Jesus as the Christ from "house to house" (5:42). In Greek, the word *announce* is the verb form of the word "gospel," meaning that they announced the gospel of Jesus as the Christ. If every house announces the gospel of Jesus as the Christ, then every house will speak Christ. Hence, we not only need to preach the gospel, but we also have to open our homes.

Luke 5 gives us an excellent example. When the Lord Jesus saw a tax collector, a slave of money, Levi, He called him to follow Him. After Levi heard the Lord's calling, he left all, rose up, followed the Lord, and was saved. Once Levi was saved, he gave a great reception for the Lord Jesus in his house. He did not invite Jesus alone or any prominent officials and eminent personages; instead, he invited many tax collectors and sinners (vv. 27-29). Because he himself is a sinner, his friends were not good men but a bunch of rogues; he invited them also to recline with the Lord. The Lord was the guest of honor, and all the other guests were sinners. This is a good example of opening the homes for the preaching of the gospel. Once we open our homes, the gospel will have an outlet; without the homes, the gospel will have no outlet. Now we have a lot of mouthpieces, what we need is the outlet; hence, we must open our homes. (*Rising Up To Preach The Gospel*, pp. 76-77 in Chinese)

Therefore, I hope that all of you will open your homes to give a great reception for Jesus, inviting "sinners" as your guests, and preach the gospel to them...If you open your homes, you will not suffer any loss; on the contrary, you will be blessed. The Lord Himself said, "I... showing loving-kindness to thousands of generations of those who love Me" (Exo. 20:6). Hence, for the sake of eternity, we all should open our homes and provide an outlet for the gospel of the Lord. In this way, blessings will not only come to us but to generation after generation following us. (*Rising Up To Preach The Gospel*, pp. 79-80 in Chinese)

**Questions:**

1. 1. According to the Bible, briefly describe the four steps in practicing the God-ordained way.
2. 2. According to the Bible, briefly describe what kind of life should the believers live for the practice of the new way?
3. 3. According to the Bible, briefly describe why the life pulse of the practice of the new way is “homes”?