

Sisters' Training in Cambodia



To date, there are close to 500 saints in the church life in Cambodia. On the one hand, there are strong and pioneering brothers in the churches leading the saints onward. On the other hand, there is also the need for a group of sisters who love the Lord and serve diligently to provide help and support to the saints. In consideration of the need to perfect more sisters in the churches, it was decided a semi-annual sisters' training would begin this year and will continue to be held in spring and autumn of every year.

A sisters' training was held from September 21 to 22 this year in the province of Battambang with around 60 sisters participating. On the one hand, this training followed the burden from the sisters' training in March to help the sisters become today's Marys as patterns of loving and pursuing the Lord in the church life. On the other hand, the sisters were given appropriate fellowship and help on the four matters of clothing, prayer, pursuit for the growth in life, and the proper care for one's own body in regard to the practical situation in Cambodia. The following points are a summary of the testimonies given by the sisters:

1. The unveiling of the vision—seeing the importance of sisters in the church and in the family: in the Bible, the apostle Paul paid much attention to the perfecting of the sisters in the church. For example, in chapter 2 of 1 Timothy, more things were mentioned for the sisters than for the brothers. This shows that in the church life, the sisters are extremely important and crucial factors. Furthermore, Proverbs chapter 14 says, "The wise woman builds her house." For the building up of the church, the sisters need to learn to take care of their households with wisdom. They also need to properly raise up their children in all aspects by infusing the good faith into them that they may become blessings to the church. For this, the sisters need to

consecrate themselves again and again to the Lord that the Lord may pour out His blessings through them.

2. The daily practice—the importance of dressing properly: the sisters must adorn themselves in proper clothing with modesty and sobriety, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly clothing. The sisters must cover and protect themselves with a sense of shame, whether in the matter of clothing or speaking in the meetings. A sister testified: In this training she had a deep feeling regarding the influence of the trend of the world on the church life. This has caused the sisters to be drawn unconsciously to having braided hair, golden jewelry and nice clothing to adorn themselves, forgetting that in the eyes of God they are extremely valuable vessels. As God's vessels, they need to adorn themselves with a meek and quiet spirit, maintaining their separation from the world. Therefore, the sisters must pay attention to "modesty" and "sobriety", the two main virtues a sister must possess. They must see that the matter of clothing is not merely for the need of the body; it must also be in line with psychological, ethical, moral, and spiritual principles. If some clothing styles cause one to have hesitations, then she must ask the Lord if such styles are appropriate for the saints. This does not mean that the sisters should be sloppy regarding their clothing. Rather, a sister must dress in a way that is proper, clean, and appropriate for her status of being a Christian, so that God may be expressed through the way she dresses herself.

3. The Establishing of Prayer Life—seeing the need to be one with God in prayer: prayer lays the track for God's work. It is through a group of people faithfully entering into the prayer ministry of the church that God's move is carried out in an unhindered way. Furthermore, praying at every time in spirit makes us one with God to

express God Himself. A sister shared that through the help of this training, she saw that God's purpose in creating man is not for man to live like angels; rather, it is for us, who are created by God, to express Him and accomplish His purpose of building up the church. Today we are a group of believers who live a real human life and family life with God's life and nature. For this, we need to exercise to pray unceasingly. At times we may be busy with work and family needs, but we can still redeem our time by praying while doing things. We can converse with the Lord and call upon His name while working on practical matters. In this way, Christ is spontaneously lived out in our human living. We need to establish a proper human life and family life by contacting the Lord through prayer, and thereby have a proper church life which will cause us to be the Lord's living testimony and expression. Another sister testified that she treasured the mention of the hidden man of the heart in the incorruptible adornment of "a meek and quiet spirit". Meekness here means to not resist. Suppose a sister argues or quarrels with her husband. This shows the lack of a meek and quiet spirit in her daily living. Therefore, the sisters need to be in union with the Lord through prayer and experience the dealing of the cross daily. By praying unceasingly, whether personally or corporately, the sisters will be kept in a meek and quiet spirit while dealing with their daily needs.

Through this training, the sisters saw their great influence in their homes, toward their husbands and their children, and in the church. May the Lord gain the sisters in Cambodia to consecrate themselves afresh to be loving Marys and to actively exercise to be one with the Lord in prayer for the building up of the church that they may become blessings to the church.



The Establishing of the Church in Biyagama, Sri Lanka

Biyagama is about an hour's drive away from the capital Colombo. The church in Biyagama started with a brother who was very hungry for the Lord's Word. He ran a grocery store and an English tutorial class at home and maintained a very good relationship with his neighbors due to his warm and helpful nature.

In May of last year, he saw the preciousness of the truth in the Lord's recovery and turned from the denomination into our midst. Then some saints working in the medical fields in Taiwan came to visit us in August, and this brother's wife, who was then still meeting in the denomination, began to be open to us. Starting in September, three brothers took turns to visit and shepherd this family week by week. This brother also invited relatives and friends to come and listen to the brothers' expounding the Bible. By the saints' continuing steadfastly in shepherding every week, the number of brothers and sisters participating in the church life in Biyagama increased to more



than twenty. As a result, the church in Biyagama was established on June 9 this year as a golden lampstand.

A total of 16 local saints gathered for this first Lord's Table Meeting with 4 gospel friends who agreed to be baptized in the following week. Four saints from Taiwan and another 16 saints from other churches in Sri Lanka also came to witness the establishment of the church. In the meeting the brothers presented in a simple and clear way the meaning of the bread breaking meeting and the truth concerning the church. This helped the saints realize that they should come together to break the bread to remember and enjoy the Lord week by week. The brothers also fellowshiped that the church is the local manifestation of the Body of Christ for God to have an expression on the earth. Therefore, there is the need for every member to function in the meetings by prophesying to exhibit Christ so that people can see God in our midst.

