

Being A Forerunner in The Lord's Propagation and Paving A Bright Future for The Lord's Recovery—In Memory of Brother Steven Hou

An Absolute Person, Being Absolute for God and His Economy

In 1977, after the change of the system in the church in Taipei, the first group of young workers was raised up to join the full-time service after those in the 1950s. Brother Hou, attracted by the vision of God's economy, handed himself over absolutely in spite of the opposition of his family, and began to serve among these few brothers.

In 1978, when the "Propagation Service Team" was established on Taiwan Island, under the leadership of Brother Liu Zhicheng, some young brothers, like brother Steven, brother Livingstone Lee, and other brothers, began to coordinate in one accord. And within six months, they travelled all over Taiwan, made 72 visits, touring around the whole island 17 times, relocating more than 70 saints to new churches, and raising up about 30 golden lampstands. As Daniel 11:32 says, " But the people who know their God will show strength and take action."

In 1982, he went to serve the church in ZhongLi and a group of college brothers and sisters were raised up, who are absolute for the Lord, absolute for the truth, and have an absolute resolution to serve the Lord. Every evening they prayed at midnight in the schoolyard in the way of seemingly shaking the throne of God.

Being Your Continuation, Your Life-increase and Your Spread

In 1985, in the fellowship of the Lord's work, brother Hou and his family received the burden to propagate in Paraguay, South America, and spared no pains to gain people and the land in new cities like Asuncion and Ciudad del Este.

He blazed a way through all manner of obstacles and marched forward courageously, not only strengthening the local Chinese-speaking meetings, but also opening the door for local seekers to enter into the Lord's recovery. He even led several local leading brothers to attend the semi-annual training in Anaheim, USA.

Being Mark in the Present Age and A Useful Co-Worker to the Lord

Later, due to some special circumstances, Brother Hou left Paraguay, and in 1988 relocated to Rancho Cucamonga, Southern California.

By the time we served at Diamond Bar in 2002, Brother Hou had resumed his weekly group meetings for over a year. We went to visit him and he said he had a desire to visit people weekly to preach the gospel, so we accompanied him for six

months and a solid church life was resumed since then. Brother Hou had an open heart and followed closely to the leading of the ministry, especially the annual seven feasts. Because of the brother's attitude of forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, there was a significant recovery and growth within a year or two.

Between 2003 and 2005, brother Hou joined us in propagating in the church of Ontario, resulting in a trilingual church life where saints in three languages — English, Spanish and Chinese were blended to witness the one new man. After that, he served in the church in Walnut and was confirmed by the leading brothers in the Lord's work, to serve full time again. Before going to Germany, he also served in the church in Temecula.

In 2010, during the turmoil in South America, brother Hou was determined to go to the front line, and with his excellent English and Spanish, he visited the church one by one to recover the saints. Once he showed me more than 170 wounds from insect bites on his body, as evidenced by his fearlessness of danger and difficulty in the poor countryside of some South American countries.

Brother Hou once testified that the Gospel of Mark was written by Mark, and Acts 13 records that when he was a young man, there was a sharp contention between Paul and Barnabas concerning him. Therefore Mark did not follow Paul in his second journey. Although Mark may have had some problems with his character at the beginning, yet, eventually he became an intimate co-worker with Paul in the last books he wrote: Colossians, Philemon, and 2 Timothy. Brother Hou, like Mark, ran better in the later race than he had in his youth.

Dying on the Battlefield of the Lord as His Good Soldiers in This Age

In 2017, the trumpet for the propagation in Europe was blown, unsurprisingly, brother Hou, rushed to Germany in coordination without any hesitation. He was personally involved in the purchase and reconstruction of the meeting hall in Berlin, and gladly spent and was utterly spent into it.

During the epidemic, he still tried to spread the gospel and mailed a gospel tract to every single house in the whole city of Berlin. He used all his wisdom and spared no effort in the gospel. Previously, more than 300 saints in North Germany have already signed up for the "God-ordained Way" perfecting training, which is about to start soon. The passing of our brother is a great loss to the work in Germany and also a great loss to the Lord's recovery during the epidemic.

In one of the fellowship sessions of the Taiwan Fulltime Mid-age Training, brother Hou said, "May the Lord have mercy on us, that we may love the Lord faithfully, and be lovers who love Him passionately until our last day, last step,

and last breath. We should not die in leisure and fun, but in the battlefield of the Lord, to be His good soldiers in this age!"

Samuel Liu, The Church in Ontario CA USA, Oct 20, 2021