



HEART OF A PASTOR – GLORY SHINES UPON THE LAND, GOD’S LOVE FILLED THE EARTH

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“Glory shines upon the land, God’s love filled the Earth,” this is a set of New Year’s couplet hanging in my house. Chinese New Year is around February and Chinese families are usually busy with various New Year activities, an environment of celebration. However, can this sense of togetherness be passed on to the next generation? The two main point of the couplet is glory and love, which is something we should reflect on.

Glory Shines Upon the Land: Reignite the Fire of Mission

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12). In the new year, let us examine our spiritual life; have we unintentionally hid the true light? If our light can enter the corners of darkness in the world, wouldn’t that allow more people to know more about this light of the world, Jesus Christ?

With that in mind, I can’t help but to reflect on the mission work of Zion. Honestly speaking, we have a lot of room to improve. As a member of the Missionary and Alliance family, “mission” should be in our spiritual DNA. It is our obligation to nurture brother and sister’s heart in spreading the gospel. Whether they are the unreached from afar or the neighbours in our neighbourhood, there are many people who are waiting to know Christ. May God’s light shines into our heart this year and may our heart be a reflection that can brighten people around us.

God’s Love Filled the Earth: Practice the Sacrificial Side of Fellowship

“And so we know and rely on the love of God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” (1st John 4:16) As we experienced the love of God, can we spread this love to others? “Love one another” is Jesus’s command to us, but how to we practice this within our community of believers?

Zion stepped into its thirty-first year. Thinking back, we experienced a church filled with love and warmth. However, unbeknownst to us, this relationship started to become more distant. It seems like an invisible wall was built between brothers and sisters. Churches today cannot just speak about love, but need to practice it.

Paul’s reminder in 1st Corinthian still reminds us today. “If I speak in tongues of men or of angels but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal ... If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” (1st Cor 13: 1 – 3)

There is a price for true love. Didn’t Jesus sacrifice Himself for us because of love? This is not cheap grace. If a church is to grow healthily, to build up the body of Christ, we must be more willing to sacrifice ourselves, a disciple that pays the price of love.

Conclusion

In this spring season, may we not only gather bodily with our family, but more so in our spiritual family and respond to the calling of God. May we be the light of the world and spread the gospel. May we also be a community of love, and destroy the wall between us. May glory shines upon the land and God’s love filled the Earth.

