

INAUGURATING FIRST ZO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 3rd, 2010

Rev. L. Taithul

We are One in Christ

Introduction

I am delighted to be in your midst today. The Psalmist writes, "This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24 NIV). That is what I want to do on this beautiful day. The Lord God has been gracious that we are gathered here and Rev. Richard Branaman inaugurated the First Zo Christian Church at First Christian Church of Atlanta. Being united, let us be happy in the Lord's presence.

Let us submit ourselves to the Lord in prayer

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus, Amen.

Invitation

At the conclusion of the service there shall be a fellowship in the fellowship hall over lunch provided by members of First Christian Church of Atlanta (American), and First Zo Christian Church (Zo). American and Zo foods will be available side by side, and get food of your choice sit around the table; have fun and fellowship with new friends around you. Today, the Lord has promised us that he is with us. Do you all want to hear his voice? Thanking you all!

Attention

At this auspicious occasion, we shall attempt to meditate on the theme "One in Christ". My grandfather, Helzalian by name, believed life hereafter and rewards in that second life. The rewards he believed in the second life was that whoever hunt heads and celebrates will receive honor and crowns. Practicing his belief he had five human heads. My father, after receiving Jesus Christ as His Savior and Lord in 1949 read Exodus 20: "I am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

He was so conscious of his father's achievement and fell on the ground, became unconscious in ecstasy. When he came back to his full sense he prayed, "Merciful Lord, lay on me the outcome of sin committed by my father and release my children to serve you." Then and there he committed his life to serve the Lord God, evangelizing people around him in India and migrated to Burma and served there as missionary for forty years and was laid to rest at Nangkateih, in Burma in 2001. He left a word to me and said, "Water the plant that has been planted"

Problem

1.5 million Zo people are in Diaspora living in European and Asian countries including North America. Majority of them are still in Burma suffering untold miseries under the oppressive military regime. Military government promotes Burmese language as national language and succeeds. It also propagates Buddhism as national religion. But many people have embraced the Christian faith as a result of the American missionaries' efforts in the past. The Buddhist government even attempts to win the Christians to Buddhism by applying tricks and promotions. Example, a rifle man in the army should be willing to accept Buddhism; he will be promoted as commander-in-chief, highly exalted, regardless of qualification or experience.

As a result of the Christians praying for some form of delivery from the oppressive military regime, U.S. government through the United Nations opens the door wide for people to resettling in America. Many people are landed in different states of America as refugees. They are delivered out of the bondage of military regime, yet learning English language and to keep up their Christian faith as a new community remains a necessity.

Solution

Paul in his letter to his beloved son, Timothy points out that to preach the gospel is a noble cause, worth suffering for. There is no fear or shame to suffer for the cause of the gospel. Noble men and women often suffer for the best cause in the world. What then must we commit to Christ? It is our bounden duty to lead human souls to salvation and preservation of their souls to the heavenly kingdom.

An earnest request from Zo community in Clarkston was extended to the First Christian Church of Atlanta to provide them a spacious place for worship, cooperation and perusal to the glory of God, and for the extension of his kingdom. A spontaneous response was received from leadership of the First Christian Church of Atlanta, realizing the vision that the congregation reaches in love to those in need, a community of healing, hospitality, and hope, and a movement for unity in a fragmented world. First Christian Church Atlanta and First Zo Christian Church stepping into the future together is the answer to Jesus' prayer when he said, "That they may all be one."

The congregation welcomes the Zo community to use facilities God has entrusted to them, and accepted them as partners in ministry and mission. This course of action has been endorsed by the Regional Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia and has granted First Zo Christian Church the status of congregation in formation on February 27th, 2010.

Action

The pilgrimage begins now. Members of First Zo Christian Church need intensive learning English language. Once they are able to communicate with the English speaking people, they may be able to get better jobs and environment. Youth group, boys and girls are so eager to learn music, instrumental and vocal. They are gifted in singing praises to the Lord, God almighty. Leadership of FZCC has been exploring closer, more hygienic, and better management of apartment complex for the community, whereby even when transportation fails people can walk to worship. The attempt goes on.

Conclusion

FZCC leadership wishes to plant the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) among Zo speaking people all over United States. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) initially embraces all who have belief in Christ, and repenting of sins; acceptance of Jesus into our lives. Organizing them in the form of church planting will help them busy for their spiritual welfare, Promote love and concern for each other. Members need help from leadership in various social concerns such as, helping them get benefits, Medicaid, maternity, sanitation, immigration and interpretation in all this. The invitation for action together here is that we need your prayer support and cooperation, oneness in faith and practice will build up the kingly rule of God in our midst.

The voice of the Lord says that with the help of the First Christian Church of Atlanta, members of the First Zo Christian Church have been joined to Christ, the old Zo begins to disappear, the old is gone, behold, the new Zo has come. (2 Cor 5:17). Let the Spirit of Christ continue to work in us, Amen.