

Presenting the Body of Christ to the world

Last week I attended the CCMN Family Reunion and Global Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for five consecutive days. It was an international mission conference, attended by 384 pastors, missionaries, church workers, and leaders from 30 different countries and regions. This conference greatly strengthened the bonding and connection between pastors and missionaries from different countries and regions. Also there had been a lot of touching moments. Listed below are some impressive moments of the summit with some of my reflections.

Not Religion but Love

The statement “Not Religion but Love” was the theme of the Summit, and it became the common experience of all participants in this five-day conference. True Christianity does not focus on how many people can be recruited, how religious power can expand, or how the church can grow rapidly, but simply on how to share an eternal love with the world.

In fact, the CCMN movement relating to this missions conference had just celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. Twenty-five years ago, dozens of pastors from different countries who would like to see church renewal and to live out a wholistic view of mission, had been meeting, dreaming and praying together for a few days in Hong Kong. Afterward they became good friends. Although each of them had returned to their own countries and continued their ministries, they still remembered each other, contacted each other, and supported each other. They co-operated with each other, shared resources, and promoted the work of evangelism and church renewal together. They have been walking together this way for twenty-five years. The network started with pastors from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Brazil, and today it has connected pastors, church leaders, brothers and sisters from Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, Australia, India, Sri Lanka, and many other countries, and some restricted access nations as well. These pastors, co-workers, missionaries, brothers, and sisters from all over the world have become a family. They cherish their relationship very much.

How could these amazing things happen? For those leaders who took part in this movement recognized that the most important thing is not the prestige of individual leaders, the development of ministries, or the growth of churches, but the genuine practice of mutual love among the community of Jesus’ disciples and to bring this love from above to the world's most difficult and needy communities. During the summit, I heard a lot of testimonies from the missionaries. Most of them are ordinary people that had been called and sent by the Lord. They are willing to go to those poor, less developed,

and even dangerous places. They live with the locals, and care for their neighbors. For them, the most important thing is not just to lead many local people to believe in the Lord, but to let the local people feel the love that is unconditional and will never give them up. Since the authentic Christian faith is not religion, but love.

One Body One Church

The CCMN Global Summit lasted for five days. The majority of the participants (over 380 in total) stayed in the same hotel and lived together. During those five days, we often ate together. In addition to breakfast, lunch, and dinner, there were tea breaks and late-night suppers. Although we came from different countries and spoke different languages, we could break through the language barrier and had wonderful fellowship time with each other. During a lunch break, several pastors from Hong Kong and Brazil were able to have in-depth sharing with pastors and believers from the Middle East. We understood more about the latest situation in their countries and we discussed about how to support their local ministries in the future. In one evening session, the host invited all participants to disperse among the representatives which came from six most turbulent countries and to pray for them and the churches in those countries. That was a really touching moment. We all felt that, because of the love of Christ, we had become one body, one church. When one member suffers, all suffer together; when one member glorifies, all rejoice together. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we were connected with our members in turmoil and suffering. We watched and cared for each other. Not only that we prayed together that night, but some pastors and missionaries had planned to visit and support the most turbulent areas in the near future.

Through this mission network, more than 120 members from churches all over the world have been called by the Lord and sent as missionaries by those churches in the past twenty five years. They have gone to share the love of God to places which are poor and with a lot of restrictions. Although they come from different churches and countries, they cooperate with each other and share resources in the mission fields as if they belong to one same church. This is a beautiful testimony of unity. I am a third-generation believer growing up in a Christian family. What I have observed over the years is that different denominations, churches, organizations, etc. are caring about their own business only, and they even distrust and tease each other. Many church leaders are narrow-minded. The Body of Christ becomes fragmented as a result. But in this summit in Kuala Lumpur, I experienced the presence of the Body of Christ. Although we came from different countries and ethnicities, different religious backgrounds, and different theological traditions, when we met together, we were willing to listen to each other because we knew that we all belonged to the same Body of Christ and were parts among one another.

Raising Workers. Passing on from Generation to Generation

Another important theme of this conference is "Raising Workers. Passing on from Generation to Generation." Since Pastor Ben Wong, one of the founders of the movement, was unable to attend the summit this time, the main content of the conference was coordinated and planned by the second generation leaders of the movement. However most of the participants felt that the content of the whole conference was very exciting and edifying, and the sharing and testimonies of the mission fields were very touching. We had indeed witnessed that the whole mission movement had passed from the first generation of leaders to the second generation. Furthermore, many missionaries testified that as they focused on raising up and training disciples of Jesus in the mission fields, they could also raise up workers who were committed to serving the Lord locally. In some mission fields, such as Japan, India, etc., some local christians had been raised up, trained and sent to other mission fields. These disciples from mission fields have become the new generation of missionaries. These testimonies are truly encouraging. We believe that all of us are involved in a movement to expand the kingdom of Heaven, to subvert the world, to raise up disciples from generation to generation, and to strive for the unity of the church. Moreover, we believe that this movement has not been initiated by us but our Lord two thousand years ago. He is also the one who has been sustaining the movement till today.

This summit had brought unforgettable memories on many participants. We really felt that the love of the Lord was among the community of His disciples. We realized that we really belong to the same body and the same church. Although many countries and regions are still facing great hardships and tribulations today, and those tyrannies are still rampant. Though wars are still raging and people are in dire straits, we firmly believe that the King of Heaven is still in power and has full control. He has already sent His workers to these most dangerous and difficult places, to be with the people in suffering and to share His love. In the last evening session of the summit, more than 380 participants joined hand in hand and declared that, "No matter how difficult the circumstances we are under, we are willing to make all efforts to maintain unity and support each other so that the Body of Christ can be concretely presented to all peoples and nations in this turbulent era". This covenant marked the peak of the whole summit.