

SERMON

信息

CBCOC

4/30/2017

“The Magnificent Seven”

(Acts 6:1-7)

Happy Anniversary, CBCOC!

• **How old** is CBCOC? (a New Testament Church)
Jerusalem Church (**Jewish**) → CBCOC (**Chinese**)?

“A House of Prayer for **All Nations**”

Lk24 “明白**圣经**..” **Ac 1:8** “**shall be** my witness”

• **Mt28** Great **Command** (You must do it)

• **Lk24-Ac1** Great **Promise** (I will do it)..**神榮耀**..

The **Growth** of Jerusalem Church (**Acts 1-6**)

• **Acts 2** “received his **word** ..” +3000

• **Acts 4** “heard the **word** believed..” ~5000 Men

• **Acts 6** “**the word of God**...increase” ~???

Church Growth: preaching the word/**gospel**

Church Growth: preaching the word/gospel

What is **the word/gospel**?

- **God's creation** [Our Responsibility]
- **Human rebellion** [Our Problem]
- **Christ's redemption** [Our Solution]
- **Repentance & Faith** [Our Response]

Church Growth: preaching the word/gospel

What is **the word/gospel**?

Test & Lunch !!!

- God's _____ [Our R_____]
- Human _____ [Our P_____]
- Christ's _____ [Our S_____]
- R_____ & F_____ [Our R_____]

Church Growth: preaching the word/gospel

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The **Problem** of Jerusalem Church (**6:1**)

“Widows’ Food distribution” (ABCs vs OBCs)

- Unity
- Testimony
- Preaching

The Problem of Jerusalem Church (6:1)

- The Twelve's Proposal (6:2-5)

- "Give up the **word** of God?"

Keep the main thing the main thing!

- "Devote to prayer & the ministry of the **word**"

Raising up new workers: "The M. Seven"

- No more complaint

6:7 "The word of God..increase & the priests.."

- Move the gospel **out of Jerusalem!**

The Seven's **Magnificent Quality:**

1. Good repute,
2. Full of the Spirit
3. Knowing The Word/the wisdom

The Seven's Magnificent Quality:

1. **Good repute** (The fruit of the **Spirit**)
 - Mature: light & salt
 2. **Full of the Spirit** (**Spiritual**, not Successful)
 3. **Knowing The Word** (The sword of the **Spirit**)
- The **12** (Peter/John) to The **7** (Stephen & Philip)
- Stephen (**Acts 7** Abraham to Jesus)
 - Philip (**Acts 8** from **Isaiah 53** to Jesus)

The Magnificent Seven  **CBCOC Members**

1. Good testimony (**Mt 5**)
2. Full of the Spirit (**Eph 5**)
3. Knowing the Bible (**2 Ti 3**)

The Magnificent 7 Jerusalem Church

Acts: **General Description**  **Specific Example**

- **Acts 4:32-35** “Everything in common” (**GD**)

- **Acts 4:36-37** Barnabas (**SE**)

- **Acts 6:1-7** The Seven (**GD**)

- **Acts 6-8** Stephen & Philip (**SE**)

Acts 8:1-4 ...scattered.. Judea & Samaria except the 12.. **preaching the word.** (Refugees, **GD**)

Acts 8:5-6 “**Philip**..the city of Samaria to proclaim Christ...**said** by Philip” (**SE**)

Jerusalem **church members:** Philip/the Seven

CBCOC **members:** Preach the word (C & Non-C)

The Magnificent 7 Jerusalem Church

The **Missional Impact** of Jerusalem Church:

- **Acts 6:8-8:2** **Stephen's** martyrdom
 - **Persecution:** to Judea/Samaria/Africa
- **Acts 11:19-21** **Stephen's** martyrdom
 - **Antioch Church:** to Asia Minor/**the Greeks**
- **Acts 22:19-21** **Stephen's** martyrdom
 - **Paul:** a new "Stephen": "far far away"

Jerusalem Church: **Preach the word**

- **Wherever they went!**
- **To the point of death**

CBCOC: *Like Mother; Like Daughter!*

Jerusalem Church: Preach the word

- Wherever they went & To the point of death

CBCOC: Like Mother; Like Daughter!

In fear: Ban 7 Muslim countries

In love: Plant 7 churches for Muslims!

Mission is costly: Stephen's martyrdom

20/21世紀: An Age of Cruelty/Tyrant 暴君世紀

1900 **Box Rebellion** 义和团

- “Death to the Foreign Devils; Exterminate the Foreign Religion.” ...Shansi Province alone:
 - slaughtered 159 missionaries and their children!

1900 Box Rebellion

Lizzie Atwater: a young American missionary

- She/her husband/1 year old baby: executed

A letter to her sister in America (8/3, 1900):

*“Dear ones, I long for a sight of your dear faces, but I fear we shall not meet on earth. . . . I am preparing for the end very quietly and calmly. **The LORD is wonderfully near**, and He will not fail me.*”

*“I was very restless and excited while there seemed a chance for life, but God has taken away that feeling, and now I just **pray for grace** to meet the terrible end bravely. **The pain will soon be over**, and oh the sweetness of the welcome above!*

*“My little baby will go with me. I think God will give it to me in Heaven, and my dear mother will be so glad to see us. **I cannot imagine the Savior’s welcome**. Oh, that will compensate for all these days of suspense.”*

*“Dear ones, live near to God and cling less closely to earth, There is no other way by which we can receive that **peace from God** which passes understanding. . . . I must keep calm and still these hours.*

I do not regret coming to China, but am sorry I have done so little.

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*My married life, two precious years, has been so very full of happiness. We will **die together**, my dear husband and I. . . .”*

Mission is costly: Christian martyrs (A.D.1-21)

Acts 7:55-56, Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw **the glory of God**, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said,

“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and **the Son of Man standing** at the right hand of God
但司提反被圣灵充满,定睛望天,看见**神的荣耀**,又看见耶稣站在神的右边,就说:“我看见天开了,**人子站在神的右边!**”

- **Vindicate** His Church (CBCOC *faithful*)
- **Welcome** His Servants (CBCOC *faithful*)

