



# FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL



## “The Diaspora Generations & the Great Commission”

By Lisa Pak

**Matthew 28: 18-20** – <sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

**Ephesians 4:11-13** – <sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

- Great Commission is bookended with (1) Assurance of Christ’s power and authority, and (2) the Promise of His Presence.
- There is perpetuity in the Great Commission and in the ongoing growth of the Body of Christ through the generations.
- The Church, as the Body of Christ, has all the gifts necessary to do His work until completion.

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**FTTAD2033 Vision:** To have a Bible, Believer, and Body of Christ in every place and every people group by 2033.

**Q: How can the Chinese Diaspora Churches and the rising generations of the CMC bring all that considerable strength and the gifts that God has deposited into you for the purposes of the reaching the least and the last?**

- 1) In today’s world, the global Church must find ways to collaborate—the key bridge-building community is the Diaspora Churches.
  - a. Great Commission was given to the whole Church—ALL Believers.

- i. Therefore, Jesus tells the disciples to tarry until the Holy Spirit comes because they need His Help (Acts 1:4-8). Holy Spirit is poured out on all believers.
- ii. Spiritual gifts are also imparted upon all believers. They don't hang on trees waiting to be plucked but rather are *in people*. Therefore, people—in all our flawed humanity—must learn to collaborate, work together, and serve each other **not** in spite of the cultural, worldview, linguistic difference **but** precisely because those differences are the strength of the Church.
- iii. There are people groups and places that the Chinese Diaspora can reach most effectively because of anthropology, language, nationality, etc.
- iv. Now is the time for the Chinese Diaspora Church to prayerfully consider the generations of growth and God's blessings for such a time as this.

2) The older generations of the Diaspora Churches need to make intentional space and give leadership opportunities to their rising generations.

a. Examples of Generational Leadership Transitions

i. David and Solomon – 1 Chronicles 22

- 1. When David is told by the LORD that he is not the one to build the Temple, David leverages all his political weight and wealth to ensure, as much as he is able, that his son Solomon has the maximum possibility of success.

ii. Mordecai and Esther – Book of Esther

- 1. An example of generational collaboration. Mordecai has perspective and challenges Esther according to his wisdom and knowledge. Esther takes up the challenge and uses her position as Queen Consort and her newfound knowledge of the Persian courts to out-manuever Haman and save the Jewish people from his maniacal scheme.

b. Example of Leadership that hangs on too long

i. Saul and David

3) Rising Diaspora leaders need to be strong in prayer, humble in leadership, and embrace our bi-cultural/bi-lingual identities.

a. Beware: "Rehoboam Syndrome"

- i. Honour is not just lip-service and "going through the obligatory motions"; it's a heart posture towards the elders, parents, leaders that went before us and did their best to grow and nurture us; it is

arrogant to think that we somehow got ourselves to where we're at all by ourselves.

- b. 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Identity Crisis
    - i. It is a fallacy that you have to choose one or the other (ethnic heritage vs. adopted home); reality is that you are fully both—fully enculturated in the cultural context of the larger community; fully part of the cultural heritage of your generational lineage.
    - ii. Must embrace your 3<sup>rd</sup> cultural identity; this is the key to leveraging your intuitive knowledge and experience for God's kingdom in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- 4) Two things that the current leaders of the CMC and CMC churches can do right now:
- a. Reach out, and continue reaching out, to believers of other cultures and start layering those conversations and strategic relationships to build up the Church, the global Body of Christ.
  - b. Reach out, and continue reaching out, to the rising leaders of your own Diaspora communities and listen, support, and encourage them.

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

- Rising generation of the Diaspora communities (Asian, South Asian, African, European, Middle Eastern, etc.) have a significant role in the spreading of the Good News to all nations in this century, in the coming years.
- God had planted the seed for today's generation many generations ago for such a time as this.
- How can your community get involved?
- What can you do to contribute where you are now?
- Talk to the leaders of your communities and pray, pray, pray.