

## **The Burden to Gospelize, Truthize, and Churchize America**

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15-16, 20; Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Thes. 3:1; Psa. 147:15; Isa. 11:9;  
Rev. 1:11-12, 20; Acts 8:1, 4; 13:1; Col. 4:15-16

### **I. The burden to gospelize, truthize, and churchize America (hereafter, GTCA):**

- A. The burden of GTCA is to gospelize, truthize, and churchize America and to raise up at least 250 new churches in the United States and Canada; this long-term labor is part of the one, unique work of the Lord to propagate His testimony to build up the Body of Christ—Acts 8:1; 16:5; 1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 4:12, 16; Rev. 1:20.
- B. Under the direction of the Spirit, this work is being carried out through the fellowship of the co-workers, the participation of the saints in the churches, and with the support of the campus teams, Bibles for America, Defense & Confirmation Project, Living Stream Ministry, and other supporting entities.
- C. Some of the targeted goals of GTCA for the decade of 2011 through 2020 are:
  - 1. To distribute at least 250,000 free copies of the New Testament Recovery Version and 250,000 ministry books.
  - 2. To involve 5000 participating saints as vital groups.
  - 3. To target 500 suggested cities across the U.S. and Canada.
  - 4. To raise up at 250 new church trees in the U.S. and Canada.

### **II. The burden for GTCA is in the spirit of Brother Lee's burden to gospelize, truthize, and churchize Taiwan:**

- A. When Brother Lee returned to Taiwan in 1984 he presented his burden to create a plan to gospelize, truthize, and churchize Taiwan within a specific timeframe:
  - 1. "Since October of 1984 we expected to begin a five-year plan for the gospelization of Taiwan...I hope that we will produce at least one thousand full-timers...They will be formed into an army with ten people in a team. These one hundred teams will set out together. Each team will work first in a town and then in the villages...They will establish the church by preaching the gospel through door-knocking, establishing home meetings, and bringing ten to twenty people to salvation...In this way, in fewer than four months we will gospelize all three hundred eighteen towns throughout the island...Then in a few years Taiwan will not only be gospelized but also 'churchized.' There will be a church in every town and village as a shining testimony of the Lord. This plan is the Lord's leading. We should not think that this is too difficult"—*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1986*, vol. 2, "Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 1," p. 222.
  - 2. "We must spread the truths that the Lord has shown us to all the people in Taiwan. We must spread the truth until every household in Taiwan knows the truth. We must let the truth saturate the entire island of Taiwan. According to our calculations, it will take five to ten years to gospelize and truthize Taiwan"—*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 4, "Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 3," p. 131.
- B. Brother Lee hoped that the gospelization, truthization, and churchization of Taiwan would serve as a model for the spread of the Lord's recovery throughout the earth:
  - 1. "While observing the world situation in 1984, I saw that under the Lord's sovereignty the island of Taiwan has a wealth of talents, a high level of education, a thriving economy, and a low crime rate. Then I thought of preparing one thousand full-timers who would first receive the training and then go marching into the villages and small towns to 'gospelize,' 'truthize,' and 'churchize' Taiwan to make it a model for the spread of the Lord's recovery"—*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1986*, vol. 2, "A Blessed Human Life," p. 524.

2. "Our goal is not merely to gospelize, truthize, and churchize Taiwan but even to use Taiwan as a model and a starting point to gospelize, truthize, and churchize the entire world"—*Ibid.*, p. 527.
  3. "All six major continents are open to the Lord's recovery, mainly because of the truth in the Lord's recovery. Our greatest need is to produce a model in Taiwan for our spreading. Therefore, we must begin in Taiwan and spend three to five years to develop a model. Then we can take this model to other places"—*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 4, "Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 3," p. 131.
- C. The burden of GTCA is to carry out Brother Lee's burden concerning gospelization, truthization, and churchization in the United States: "My burden is to take Taiwan first and then the United States second. I do not care for any particular region on this earth. I am for the Lord's recovery, and I have the view to make this strategy"—*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1986*, vol. 1, "Elders' Training, Book 7," p. 139.

### III. A history of the spread of the Lord's recovery in the United States and the background of the burden for GTCA:

- A. Prior to GTCA, the history of migrations in the United States has involved waves of migration followed by periods of relatively slow spreading:
1. The first local churches established in the United States were New York City (1958), San Francisco (1958), Los Angeles (1962), and Sacramento (1962).
  2. The first period of relatively slow spread (1962-1969): During this period Brother Lee concentrated on training and establishing the brothers and sisters in the churches, particularly the church in Los Angeles, cautioning against premature migration; churches were raised up in several places, particularly in Texas, through clusters of believers touching the Lord's recovery.
  3. The first wave of migration (1970-1974): By 1970 Brother Lee felt that the time was ripe for migration to be carried out throughout the country; churches were established in many crucial cities, including Akron, OH; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; Spokane, WA; Portland, OR; Rochester, MN; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; San Diego, CA; San José, CA; Phoenix, AZ; Denver, CO; Indianapolis, IN; Philadelphia, PA; Washington D.C.; Berkeley, CA; Austin, TX; Tampa, FL; Miami, FL; Providence, RI; Boston, MA; Milwaukee, WI; Baltimore, MD; Fresno, CA; Billings, MT; Long Beach, CA; Huntington Beach, CA; and Anaheim, CA.
  4. The second period of relatively slow spread (1975-1980): Due to difficulties faced during the migrations of 1973, as well as external opposition and internal turmoil, concentrated migration slowed down significantly after 1974 for the remainder of the 70s; a number of churches were established, primarily in localities close to existing local churches (e.g. Fullerton, CA; Santa Ana, CA; Irvine, CA; San Bernardino, CA; Denton, TX; College Station, TX; Arlington, TX; and Fort Worth, TX).
  5. The second wave of migration (1981-1987): In the early 1980s Brother Lee shared his renewed burden for migration in the United States; subsequently migrations were carried out to many crucial cities, including Kansas City, MO; Wichita, KS; Ames, IA; Lincoln, NE; San Antonio, TX; Lubbock, TX; Lafayette, IN; Davis, CA; Huntsville, TX; Brownsville, TX; Knoxville, TN; Baton Rouge, LA; Orlando, FL; Newington, CT; Boise, ID; Charlotte, NC; Salt Lake City, UT; Columbia, SC; Raleigh, NC; Elyria, OH; Newport News, VA; Alhambra, CA; Tucson, AZ; Columbia, MO; and San Gabriel, CA.
  6. The third period of relatively slow spread (1988-2007): In the wake of the turmoil of 1988-1989, migration slowed down once again for close to two decades; during the late 80s and 90s churches were raised up primarily in areas close to existing churches, particularly in California and the Midwest (e.g. Fairborn, OH; Ann Arbor, MI; Diamond Bar, CA; Yorba

Linda, CA; Chula Vista, CA; Arcadia, CA; Rowland Heights, CA); in 1998 there were migrations to Memphis, TN; Jacksonville, FL; and Charlotte, NC.

**B. The initiation of GTCA:**

1. In 2008 the underlying burden of GTCA was brought forth among the co-workers:
  - a. This burden arose in response to the realization of the need to be faithful to Brother Lee's burden for the United States, coupled with the realization that the increase and spread of the recovery in the United States and Canada had been slow, due in part to factors such as internal turmoil and external opposition.
  - b. In addition, several important factors indicated that the time was ripe to take the United States for the Lord's recovery:
    - 1) Internal turmoil had been addressed and cleared up.
    - 2) There was now external support by "friends" of the Lord's recovery.
    - 3) There was a "standing army" of over 2800 graduates of the Full-time Training and 580 graduates of the FTT-MA.
    - 4) There were around 350 full-timers, primarily serving on the college campuses.
    - 5) Many saints of all ages were desperate for the increase of the recovery and were endeavoring to live for the gospel.
    - 6) There had been a progressive advancement in the practice of the God-ordained way and the vital groups in many churches throughout the recovery.
    - 7) There was a continual burden to gain young people from the college campuses.
    - 8) There was a need to maintain the fire of the gospel for the increase and spread of the Lord's testimony.
    - 9) There was a need for the widespread planting of small church trees across the U.S. and Canada through the migration of the saints and the gaining of seeking ones.
    - 10) There existed a new generation of seekers who are searching for the deeper life and truths.
    - 11) The harvest was ripe and ready to be reaped in the coming decades.
2. In the 2009 Memorial Day conference in Philadelphia the burden concerning GTCA was officially presented to the recovery.
3. In 2010 the co-workers presented to all the saints the burden for "GTCA 2011"—the move to gospelize, truthize, and churchize America with the goal of raising up 250 new church trees between 2011 and 2020.

**IV. The way to carry out the burden of GTCA:**

- A. The basic need for the carrying out the burden of GTCA is to pray, to give, and to go:
  1. In order for the Lord to carry out an unprecedented move in America, much and thorough prayer is needed; we need to pray for the Lord's move in America, specifically for people's hunger and thirst to increase, for the advance of the Lord's testimony, and the raising up of churches across the continent.
  2. Giving helps provide for the hundreds of thousands of free Bibles, ministry books, and other materials that will be distributed in the U.S. and Canada for the increase and spread of the Lord's testimony.
  3. The saints can go by visiting crucial cities and campuses, by participating in gospel trips to GTCA cities, and by migrating for the spread of the Lord's testimony.
- B. The basic units of participation are vital groups and local churches:
  1. The burden of GTCA can be carried out by vital groups composed of burdened saints who can be trained and equipped to pray for and labor on a particular city.
  2. This burden can also be carried out by local churches burdened for a particular GTCA city or for nearby cities in their region.

- C. Yearly sowing trips are being conducted in targeted cities with teams of full-time trainees coordinating together with local saints and full-timers.

**V. The progress of GTCA to date:**

- A. Since the initiation of GTCA, the following cities have been targeted for gospel trips, direct distribution, and migration (by year):
1. 2009: Charlottesville, VA; Fort Collins, CO; Madison, WI; Philadelphia, PA; Montreal, QC.
  2. 2010: Birmingham, AL; Chattanooga, TN; Indianapolis, IN; Lexington, KY; Manhattan, KS; Minneapolis, MN; St. Louis, MO; Tallahassee, FL; Washington D.C.
  3. 2011: Birmingham, AL; Flagstaff, AZ; San Luis Obispo, CA; San Marcos, CA; Santa Barbara, CA; Stockton, CA; Storrs, CT; Tallahassee, FL; Bloomington, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Manhattan, KS; Lexington, KY; Boston, MA; Lowell, MA; Worcester, MA; Minneapolis, MN; St. Louis, MO; Starkville, MS; Chapel Hill, NC; Lincoln, NE; Cincinnati, OH; State College, PA; Chattanooga, TN; Huntsville, TX; Waco, TX; Richmond, VA; Vancouver, WA; Coquitlam, BC; Halifax, NS; Hamilton, ON.
  4. 2012: Bellingham, WA; Birmingham, AL; Bloomington/Normal, IL; Chapel Hill, NC; Chattanooga, TN; Flagstaff, AZ; Manhattan, KS; Providence, RI; San Luis Obispo, CA; San Marcos, CA; State College, PA.
  5. 2013: Amherst, MA; Conway, AR; Fargo, ND; Grand Rapids, MI; Greeley, CO; Hamilton, ON; Knoxville, TN; Lubbock, TX; Murfreesboro, TN; Olympia, WA; Pittsburgh, PA; Stillwater, OK; Storrs, CT.
  6. 2014: Columbia, SC; Edinburg, TX; Fargo, ND; Fayetteville, AR; Fort Meyers, FL; Greeley, CO; Lafayette, IN; Lexington, KY; Lincoln, NE; Lubbock, TX; Merced, CA; Murfreesboro, TN; Novato, CA; Olympia, WA; Omaha, NE; Salem, OR; Stillwater, OK; Temecula, CA; Virginia Beach/Newport News, VA.
  7. 2015: Baton Rouge, LA; Birmingham, AL; Columbia, SC; Fargo, ND; Fayetteville, AR; Fort Myers, FL; Huntsville, AL; Huntsville, TX; Lafayette, IN; Merced, CA; Mississauga, ON; Novato, CA; Olympia, WA; Peoria, IL; Rancho Cucamonga, CA; Salem, OR; Salt Lake City, UT; Santa Rosa, CA; Temecula, CA; Virginia Beach, VA; Wickliffe, OH.
  8. 2016: Norfolk, VA; Bloomington, IN; Peoria, IL; Missoula, MT; Salt Lake City, UT; Columbia, SC; Huntsville, AL; Kennesaw, GA; Valdosta, GA; Reno, NV; Menifee, CA; Salem, OR; Santa Rosa, CA; Vallejo, CA; Abbotsford, BC; Laval, QC; Mississauga, ON.
  9. 2017: Abbotsford, BC; Laval, QC; Lethbridge, AB; Ottawa, ON; Medford, OR; Yakima, WA; Flagstaff, AZ; Missoula, MT; Chico, CA; Folsom, CA; Morgan Hill, CA; Brownsville, TX; Lincoln, NE; Bloomington, IN; Kalamazoo, MI; Peoria, IL; South Bend, IN; Charleston, SC; Clemson, SC; Valdosta, GA.
- B. Since the initiation of GTCA new church trees have been raised up in the following cities: Urbana-Champaign, IL; Glen Ellyn, IL; Waterbury, CT; Fort Collins, CO; Union City, CA; San Marcos, TX; Minneapolis, MN; Orange, CA; Lake Forest, CA; Round Rock, TX; Tallahassee, FL; Lowell, MA; Payette, ID; Manhattan, KS; Waco, TX; Chapel Hill, NC; Chattanooga, TN; Fort Myers, FL; Fargo, ND; Temecula, CA; Conway, AR; Broken Arrow, OK; Santa Barbara, CA; Hacienda Heights, CA; Louisville, KY; Birmingham, AL; Edmond, OK; Walnut, CA; Stockton, CA; Mountain View, CA; Cupertino, CA; Lexington, KY; St. Louis, MO; Stillwater, OK; Fayetteville, AR; Huntsville, AL.

**VI. Today there are approximately 300 churches in the United States and approximately 25 churches in Canada, with less than 30,000 saints meeting in the local churches in North America.**