

take up our cross and follow Jesus.

Of course I don't obey and do what Jesus has called me to do in my own strength, but I can rely on Jesus' power and authority to achieve what he has called me to do; "As the Father sent me I send you". (John 20:21)

So part of the Chinese House Church movement in response to Jesus' call to go and make disciples set aside the month between Christmas and Chinese New Year, to each go and make three new disciples. The leaders in obedience to Jesus' call went out to make five new disciples.

In the first year in Brother Yun's region 12,000 people were baptised and trained during the following year. The next year

300,000 people were brought into the kingdom of God, living with Jesus as their King, and the angels in heaven celebrated. These are peasants with very limited education, most of who haven't seen a complete bible let alone read one, but they took Jesus at his word and obeyed.

What is Jesus, our King, calling you to do, us to do? When do we set aside time to listen to him that we might obey his call to go and make disciples. This Easter let's repent and ask Jesus who he wants us to reach out to and invest ourselves in teaching them to be his disciples? Who does Jesus want you to visit and encourage this week? If it can happen in China, Jesus' church can grow and be healthy in Australia, the example isn't given by Jesus to

put us down, but to inspire us to join our brothers and sisters, risking life and limb, doing things Jesus' way, that his kingdom comes.

Let us pray.  
Jesus please show us those things which block us from being obedient to you, going and doing what you have called us to do, so that your kingdom comes and that your will is done. We repent of them, show how we can be doers of your will this week. Place on our heart a passion for people that comes from you. Show us who you would have us visit this week to encourage them in their faith. Show us three people we can share you with between Easter and Pentecost, and them teach them to be your disciples. Jesus we surrender all we have to your will and the extension of your gospel. Amen.



## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

## 5 April 2009 OBEDIENCE. Palm Sunday



This week I've started reading a book 'Living Water' by Brother Yun. He is one of the founders of the phenomenal 'House Church' movement in China. The Lutheran Church started as a movement.

I'm attracted to knowing more and more about this Chinese house church movement. In a brief period of time Christ's Church has boomed to over 100 million people. I'm fascinated and keen to know why, to know how, because I'm sure like you, it would be wonderful to see a massive movement of the Holy Spirit here in Australia. I'd love to see a 'House Church' movement that infects 10 million Aussies in the next decade, or less. I'm sure we'd all love to see Jesus' kingdom come in Australia.

Today as we celebrate Palm Sunday we are reminded that that is Jesus' passion, to see his Father's kingdom come. We join Jesus in this prayer every time we pray the 'Lord's Prayer'. 'Your kingdom come', that doesn't simply mean the end of the world, but that Jesus kingdom comes into our world gaining territory as people are made his disciples; being baptised and them learning about all that Jesus has commanded us to do. Jesus' prayer is to see the Father's kingdom come. The kingdom he is the King of.

Brother Yun got me thinking as he was reflecting on Jeremiah 2. He wrote; "It's a dreadful thing to live your life in your own strength instead of God's and to ignore the living water He offers in favour of building your own

cisterns. 'Be appalled at this, O heaven, and shudder with great horror,' declares the Lord, 'My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.' (Jer. 2:12-13) It's time for us to stop playing religious games with God. It's time to get serious. It's no longer good enough just to 'believe' in Jesus, we need to become his disciples." (Living Water p116 by Brother Yun, Zondervan press)

This thought struck home with me. Am I trying to build Jesus' kingdom using my ideas, using my own abilities? Am I playing religious games, trying to attract a crowd so that I can look successful and feel good about myself.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem, ready for his coronation. Ready to be crowned King of His Kingdom. A kingdom that comes through his power, not mine. A kingdom that is to reflect him and not me. That's what a disciple of Jesus is; a person who reflects Jesus, in character, in lifestyle, in all they are, and they do it to his glory and for his profit. It's not what's in it for me, what's to my profit, but how does this profit Jesus and extend his kingdom to his glory, honour and praise.

God isn't brought praise when I do things that don't need him for it to be accomplished.

So here's one thing to stop and reflect on; 'What sort of church are we; one that exists by Jesus' power and authority or one that seeks to survive using our own abilities and strengths?

This isn't meant to be a put-down, or slur on people's good intent, but

I'm sure none of us would want to exchange the power and authority of God for our own strength. I'd certainly have short changed myself if that were the case. I want to live in and experience Jesus power and authority in my life and in the life of his community of saints. I want to be living solely by Jesus' power and

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## JESUS is KING

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authority, celebrating living with him as my king as our king. I'm sure that's something none of us would want to miss-out on. Let's regularly reflect on whose power and authority we are living from, so that we don't miss-out but enjoy living with Jesus as our King. After all that's what he gave his life for us to enjoy and celebrate for all eternity.

That reminds me of a brief story Brother Yun told, where they live

from Jesus' power and authority and didn't do things their own way. "The house churches had a problem when undercover agents came along to spy on the believers and see if they could gather information that might be used against them later." How would we go about dealing with this problem?

"The Christians prayed and asked God what they should do. The Lord told them to stop announcing the

place and time of their meetings and instead just trust that the Holy Spirit would reveal the details to each person He wanted to come to the meeting." I know what my response would be if someone told me to give up advertising service times and places and just leave it up to the Holy Spirit to bring them. My first thought would be that they are wacko, that's just plain crazy. We have to advertise, we have to work our membership list to get more people to come to

our church. We've got to work hard, don't we?

"On the day of the next meeting, nobody except the leader knew where the church service would be held, or at what time, but one by one believers began to turn up, all having been told where to go while they were praying earlier that morning." (p132,133 Living Water by Brother Yun, Zondervan Press) It sounded crazy but God blessed it because it was only possible through him, and therefore he was the one who would get the glory.

Jesus rides in as King, to extend his kingdom using his means, what amazing power and authority we have at our finger tips as we join Jesus in his mission of bringing in his Father's Kingdom.

Am I trying to grow Jesus' kingdom by attracting consumers. Advertising a commodity they can't do without, a commodity

that will add value to their lives. Jesus extended his kingdom by calling people to become his disciples, daily dying to themselves and being raised to live for him, surrendering themselves totally to Jesus' will.

That's something we also join with Jesus in asking the Father for,

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## OBEDIENCE

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that the Father's will is done; your kingdom come and your will be done.

One last thought from Brother Yun; "The answer to experiencing God's living water is not to seek more and more Bible teaching. The answer is not to attend more Christian conferences or seek new ministers with new messages. Please listen carefully. The key to experiencing the flow of God's living water in your life is...

## OBEDIENCE.

Most Christians I have meet in the Western world have plenty of Bible knowledge, but they do not experience the living water flowing from their lives because of their disobedience. God doesn't want you to know everything and do nothing. He would rather you know a little and act on that little in

obedience, and then He will give you more." (p116,117 Living Water, Brother Yun by Zondervan Press)

The word 'Obedience' struck a cord with me, because I know there is a rebel within me. I don't like being told what to do, I want to do what I like, doing it my way and most importantly there must be something in it for me. I certainly believe western culture holds being a rebel as a virtue and encourages us all to be self-made and independent. That's the very opposite of where Jesus leads us; obedience, self-sacrifice, denying ourselves as we