回顧與展望

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【忘記背後，努力向前，向著標竿直跑】（腓 3︰13）是保羅所給我們的勸勉。

在這四週年紀念之際，讓我們暫時靜思往後看台灣信義教會的歷史。我心中充滿無限對神的感激，也珍惜每位為神的名作的每一件事工。神是大有能力，是奇妙的，祂能從無生有，從大地混沌，沒有秩序，而成為有光，有穹蒼，有海，有陸地......，也因著神的大能而使在波特蘭地區從無而產生出了我們的教會，使我們這群人能夠踴躍地在主日同心敬拜神，參加各種的活動和交誼。我們各人都可以體會到藉著讚美神，服事神，我們的靈性一直在進步。從我們在小事上的服事，如今神交給我們更大的任務；從單身漢的階段而交給我們一家之主的責任。從前我們不知道聖詩是如何唱的，如今是聖詩班的一員；從前對於讀聖經漠不關心，如今參加查經班為要知道其中的奧祕。從前彼此不認識，而如今是主內的兄弟姊妹；從前不知如何禱告，如今能站在講台上司儀，帶領主日崇拜，你感到靈命有改變嗎？教會如孕育的搖籃，栽培出各樣不同恩賜的人為神工作，甚至有人要獻身做全時間的事奉，藉著母親節的勉勵和慶祝，促進父母親如何引導子女歸向神，如何向神禱告求智慧，保守兒女不受惡者侵犯而交上不正的朋友。教會使我們有機會服事，如司琴、講台的翻譯、教主日學學生、代禱、帶領短唱、搬運椅子，聖經，詩本，在復活節獻上百合花，在聖誕節獻上聖誕紅，並有家中最美的盆栽點綴禮拜的氣氛，弦樂美妙的演奏，兒童、成人的獻詩，帶領青少年團契的活動和查經，甚至將寶貴的金錢按時獻上，等等。在這四年之間是否我們把握每一個機會在為神工作，短短的四年我們的機會有多少？我們忽略了多少的機會。

在開奧利崗大會中，全美的大主教在他的演講中說，我們敬拜的神是活著的，雖然看過去兩千年教會歷史有迫害時期，有基督教盛行時期，有羅馬天主教時期，有宗教改革時期，有新教時期，至現代時期，教會一直是存在著。我們的教會也是繼續在存在，繼續在崇拜，牧師繼續在講神的話，勸勉信徒靈命的長進，有聖餐，有洗禮，有婚禮，有桑葬禮，有祝福新生兒禮，神的祝福一直施於我們。求者必得，尋者必遇，叩者必應。主耶穌的應允永遠伴著我們，我們的教會將來會如何全靠今日的我們如何走在前面帶領新來的人。教會有許多的事工排在我們的前面，要如何去籌劃完成，全靠各位的努力事奉，不只名人有夢，我們也是有夢，我們要同心協力去將這夢實現出來，踏上我們的前程，繼續奔跑。

Retrospect and Prospect

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translated by Grace Kuo

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead" (Philippians 3: 13) is the exhortation given to us by Paul.

As we celebrate the fourth anniversary of our church, let us look back, for a moment, on the history of Taiwan Lutheran Church. My heart is filled with gratitude to God and treasure every single thing that people at church has done in the name of God. Our God is almighty and wonderful; He can create something beautiful from the void. Out of formlessness and emptiness, God created light, the heavens and the earth, the land and the sea.... Because of God's mighty power, our church was created in the Portland area, so that we can now worship the Lord together on Sundays, as well as to participate in various activities and fellowship meetings. Everyone at church can experience our spiritual growth through praising God and serving Him. In the past, we were entrusted with small matters, now God entrusts us with bigger responsibilities. In the past, we didn't know how to sing hymns, now we are members of the church choir. We were not so concerned about reading the Bible before, now we come to the Bible studies because we want to know more of the Biblical truth. We did not know each other before, now we are brothers and sisters in the Lord. We did not know how to pray before, now we preside during Sunday service and lead the worship services. Do you sense changes in your21 spiritual life? The church is producing talented people to work for God, even those with commitment to serve God as full-time workers. Through celebrations of the Mother's Day and Father's Day, parents are encouraged to lead their children to God and to pray for wisdom from the Lord for their children to be protected from evil. We have plenty of opportunities to serve God, like playing the piano, translating sermons, teaching Sunday school students, praying for other people, leading singspiration, moving chairs, putting Bibles and hymn books in the right places. We can also offer flowers such as lilies, poinsettias, and the most beautiful plants from home to decorate our church. There are also opportunities for string music, youth choir, and adult choir, as well as leading youth fellowship activities and Bible-studies. We can even make regular monetary offerings. In these four years, have we fully utilized every opportunity to serve God?

During the Oregon Synod Convention, the Bishop spoke on the living God whom we worship. Although the Christian Church went through different phases in the past two thousand years, times such as the Persecution, the Revival, the professed allegiance of the Roman Empire, the Reformation, the Repudiation and Revival, the church continues to exit. Our church also continues to grow and worship. Our pastor continues to preach God's Word, to encourage the spiritual growth of believers, to conduct the holy communion, baptism, wedding matrimony, burial ceremony, and infant dedication. Through all these, God continues to bless us. "For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks tinds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." God's promises always accompany us; how our church will be depends on how we work today. There are new comers in our church; there are many ministry challenges and service opportunities before us today. How church planning can be achieved depends on how everyone of us participates in church activities. Not only do the famous have dreams, we also have dreams. Mayall of us work together to carry out our dreams for our church. May we continue to run the race set before us!