**本教會的沿革和演變**

郭應啟 牧師

我和我的家人們、以及和我密切有關的若干團體、分別經過一段時間，熱切的祈禱和準備，祈求神的旨意和帶領，隨於主後一九八八年底，我領受了上帝的呼召，終於被基督教美國福音信義會傳道部的派遣，由德州的達拉斯地區搬家，抵達奧利崗州的波特蘭，來開拓亞洲人的宣道事工。

我和師母兩人於一九八八年九月十九日駕車出發，離開在德州牧會五年餘的聖路加教會，先經過南加州，訪問親友，終於當年十月一日照約按時來到目的地赴任，開始新事工。Mrs. Kuo and I started driving on September 1988. We left St. Luke's Lutheran Church

同年十月一日在波特蘭市的Augustana Lutheran Church 舉行奧利崗大會對亞洲人教會開拓牧師的差派典禮。當日所受奉獻共 $586.43 全部歸本會做為開拓之費用。

剛開始工作當初，本會連一個基本會友也沒有。回想那一年的秋雨似乎來得特別早。也許是剛搬到新地區，與前任住地氣候有極大的差異所致，師母與我都覺得甚是孤獨寂寞。後來由一位信義教會的白人牧師提供曾在白人信義教會受過洗的洪賢明夫婦的電話，遂與洪醫師夫婦取得聯絡，互相認識。如此洪家便成為本教會最初的基本會友了。再經過幾位同鄉的介紹和上帝的帶領與安排，也和趙莊如惠及紀王珠惠兩位姊妹取得聯絡。這完全是聽人祈禱的上帝所給予的鴻恩。據云波特蘭市東南區的聖馬可信義教會（白人教會）已經早在我尚未來波特蘭之前三年就為發動亞洲人之宣道事工而熱切祈禱，又後來才知道珠惠姊妹也為盼望在本地有間台灣教會而屢次切切祈禱上帝，為此事向神祈求了好幾年了。如今我們回顧神的安排和美意實在奇妙。

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| St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1989-1990 |
| 聖馬可信義教會, 1989-1990 |

經過大約五個月的經常小組查經及祈禱會的聚會後，在一九八九年的復活節，即三月二十六日，大家就同意借用東南區的聖馬可信義教會舉行第一次的主日禮拜。當日出席有三十五名，而出席者中至今還很關心本教會的家庭如下︰洪賢明家二人，紀王珠惠家三人，趙莊如惠家一人，甘以昌家二人，張李菖惠家一人，連郭牧師、師母二人，共十一人，此外奧利崗大會議長（主教）也來參加本會第一次的主日禮拜，表示大會對開拓本教會的關心和支持，按奧利崗大會屬下大約有一百二十間教會。在致詞中，大會議長說︰我們感謝主，有那麼多的人關心我們。第一次開幕禮拜而如今已不來教會者八人，因為他們已經搬離本地，而其他的人是因為言語慣用北京話或廣東話，甚至有人只講英語，而慢慢離開本會。我們希望他們能找到自己合適的教會繼續追求福音真理。其中還有些人我們仍然保持連絡，有主內的交通。同年五月教會正式成立委員會，和牧師同工。一切教會事工概由委員會決議而進行。

一九九零年十月八日（第二主日）起教會搬到西南區的聖路加教會，借用他們的一間小屋（稱為Shalom Center）做主日禮拜。這種改地聚會乃是應當時會友 、來教會聚會的方便而做的決定。因那時大部份的會友都住西南區。可是這種遷移使聖馬可教會的會友非常懷念我們。因為本會是該會繼續祈禱三年後才看到的成果，捨不得本會宣道開拓事工，只在該會聚會一年半就要離開他們，移到別的地點，他們未免覺得可惜，但是為了本會的發展，也都祝福我們前程光明，有上帝的賜福。

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| St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1990-1992 |
| 聖路加信義教會, 1990-1992 |

聖路加教會是間大教會，那時該會主日約有五百人聚會。他們全體會友都很有心幫忙本會聖工。例如本會之路標甚重，那路標是我和師母倆人在開始第一次主日禮拜前自己去買木材所製做的，我們目前的路牌還是使用原來那路標的基本材料。本會會友白天都有工作，聖路加教會的平信徒就自動來幫助我和師母，從聖馬可教會鏟跋我們現在所用的路標，又用自己的貨車將其載到聖路加教會，又幫我們掘洞，豎立了我們的路標。他們也請我們大家，包括兒童、青少年和成人都可以自由參加該會主日上午九時四十五分開始的主日學，節目豐富，又益於信仰長進。可惜因時間較早，我們比較少人參加。另外聖路加教會會友也有許多人自願免費教授本會會友英語會話，獲益不淺。還有在聖路加教會庭院內有些果樹，如日本甜李樹，和櫻桃，蘋果和越橘小果樹（blueberry），我們也都可以分享，真是無可相比的甜蜜回憶。

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| St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 1992-present |
| 聖安得烈信義教會, 1992-present |

可是才經過一年又三個月的時間，我們教會又來了另一次搬家。由一九九二年二月二日起，我們和聖安得烈教會會友第一次聯合禮拜開始（該會的第二場禮拜），我們就搬出了聖路加教會。因為我們當中由人認為小屋禮拜容量有限，為了教會的發展必須趕緊另找場所。聖路加教會兩位牧者知道此消息，即刻答應要盡快由該會同工委員會研究將該小屋擴大，或設法在該會禮拜堂樓下裝備隔音設備，讓我們使用，在那邊禮拜，可是需要時間，因為那時我們會友已經漸漸增加，就急不等待地，大家表決搬到現在的聖安得烈教會的場所了。

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| Pastor Kuo installed by Bishop Swanson on 06/14/92 |
| 設立郭應啟為本教會第一任牧師 06/14/92 |

自搬來聖安得烈教會至今已經過四年。而在一九九二年的六月十四日我們全體會友應了當時的同工委員會的領導和籌備，舉行了教會的正式成立和組織禮拜。那一天奧利崗大會的議長親自住持典禮。全體會友也正式聘請郭應啟牧師為本會第一任牧師，並由大會議長舉行新任牧師設立和就任典禮，連同來賓當日赴會者約有七十餘名，相當盛況。

教會成立後也即時向聯邦和州政府提出合法登記，申請免稅號碼等，我們就這樣正式成為一間教會。

自從郭牧師和師母於一九八八年底來波特蘭開拓教會開始，至教會正式成立時，歷時約三年又八個月。教會的生長雖然緩慢，可是確確實實不斷長進。

一九九五年底起本會又邁進了很重要的一步，就是由平信徒來擔任教會行政的同工會主席。我們切切求上帝繼續賜福這間祂自己的教會，而重用我們大家做祂的器皿，努力來達成使命，榮神益人。

**The History and Development of Our Church**

by former Pastor Y. C. Kuo

After praying fervently with my family and with several groups of people I closely associated with in the light of seeking God's will and guidance, I accepted God's calling in 1988 and was commissioned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to move from Dallas, Texas to Portland, Oregon for pioneering Christian ministry among the Asians.

Mrs. Kuo and I started driving on September 1988. We left St. Luke's Lutheran Church where I used to pastor for more than 5 years, passed through southern California to visit some relatives and friends, and we finally arrived to Portland on October 1, as planned. From that day on I started this new Christian ministry, within Taiwanese population.

When I first started our church we had zero member. Thinking back, the autumn rain that year seemed to come particularly early. Perhaps it was due to our new move, or the climate being very different from where we came from, Mrs. Kuo and I felt very lonely. Later, one Lutheran pastor gave me the telephone number of Dr. & Mrs. Sian-Ming Hung who were baptized at the Lutheran church right here in Portland. Thereafter, we began to know each other better and they became the first members of our church. In addition, through the introduction from other Taiwanese colleagues of Dr. Sian-Ming Hung's family, and with God's leading and arrangement, we came to know Mrs. Pearl Chi and Mrs. Grace Chao. Getting to know these people is truly a great blessing from God who answers prayers. We also discovered that St. Mark Lutheran Church, located in southeast Portland, had been praying for evangelistic ministries among Asians for three years. Gracefully, Mrs. Pearl Chi had also prayed for a Taiwanese church for several years by then.

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| St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1989-1990 |
| St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1989-1990 |

After about five months of frequent small group bible studies and prayer meetings, we all agreed to meet at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Our first Sunday service took place on Easter Sunday March the 26th of 1989. Thirty-five people showed up that day. Among them were those who are still constantly caring our church today include the families of Dr. & Mrs. Sian-Ming Hung, Mrs. Pearl Chi, Mrs. Grace Chao, Dr. & Mrs. Yii-Chiang Khan, Mrs. Hwie Chang, and Pastor & Mrs. Kuo. The Oregon Synod Bishop also came to attend the first Sunday service. Since the first Sunday service until now, there are eight people who have moved away from Portland area and others left due to language differences. That same year, our church council was established. Since then, ministry's decisions had been steering by our church council.

Starting on October 8, 1990, our meeting place moved to St. Luke Lutheran Church in southwest Portland. We met at their Shalom Center. We made the decision to move to St. Luke Lutheran Church was for the convenience of congregation members and partly due to the fact that most of our members live in that general vicinity. However, this move was somehow unpleasant for the members of the St. Mark Lutheran Church. After all, they had prayed fervently for three years before they began to see the development of this ministry,

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| St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1990-1992 |
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and we were meeting there only for one and a half years. However, for the sake of the continual development of our church, they all wished us the best as we moved on to our new meeting location.

St. Luke Lutheran Church is a big church. There were about five hundred people meeting on Sunday at that time. Their members were all very willing to help our church. The sense of acceptance really created a warm relationship between us, as the new comers, and the members of St. Luke Lutheran Church. They also invited us to attend their Sunday school including which had excellent programs to help our overall church's spiritual growth. In addition, many members there volunteered to teach our church members' English conversation and many of us benefited from that service. In the yards of St. Luke Lutheran Church, there were many plants such as Japanese pears, cherries, apples, and blueberries. We often shared those delicious fruits with their congregation members. That was indeed a sweet fellowship.

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| St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 1992-present |
| St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 1992-present |

After another year and three months, our church moved again. This time we moved to St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Beaverton, Oregon. We started our first service there with a combined service with St. Andrews Lutheran Church on February 2, 1992. The time we moved again was mainly due to the increasing number of members in our church that began to fill-up the space at Shalom Center. For the sake of the development of our church, we had an urgent need to find a bigger place for worshiping the Lord, Jesus Christ. After identifying this need, the two pastors at St. Luke Lutheran Church and their committee members began to think about expanding the room or installing noise insulation in one of their rooms downstairs so that we might be able to use. Nevertheless, this would require some time to fix. Since our church already began to grow, we could not wait much longer and thus decided to move again, to where we are now meeting.

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| Pastor Kuo installed by Bishop Swanson on 06/14/92 |
| Pastor Kuo installed by Bishop Swanson on 06/14/92 |

On January 26, 1992, all our church members helped to move church utensils to St. Andrew Church. Two young people from our church helped Mrs. Kuo and me move the church sign. Until now, members of our church have contributed greatly to the church; their love for the Lord has also grown. We all see our church as a big family. Many thanks to God!

It has been seven years since we moved to St. Andrew Lutheran Church. With the leadership of our church Committee, we held a special service to celebrate our formal establishment and organization on June 14, 1992. On that day, Oregon Synod Bishop came to conduct the service. Soon thereafter, we also legally registered with both the Federal and the State Governments to become a church abiding by law. Starting from 1995, lay people at church began to serve as the council chairperson. This is also another important step our church is taking. Slowly but surely, our church has been growing over these years. Please continue to pray God to bless His church and for us to be His useful instruments and for His own glory!