

Is There Not a Cause?

The church has received a very clear instruction for the continuity of training her people for the Lord's vineyard from this apostolic directive, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"* (2 Tim 2:2). This training primarily involves the systematic study of the word of truth as outlined in a later verse of the same passage. *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Tim 2:15).

This Pauline injunction has appealed to me ever since the days of my studies at the Far Eastern Bible College. It has subsequently knitted my heart to the burdens of the teaching ministry. This calling was further affirmed when the Lord opened the doors for me to be sent to the rich mission fields of Africa in January of 2006, particularly at the Bible College of East Africa (BCEA) in Nairobi, Kenya.

What was supposed to be a short term mission has actually been extended as I have entered into my fourth year of teaching at the BCEA. Over the years the Lord has enabled me to teach twelve subjects spread over eight school terms. How I thank God for giving me the joy and fulfillment as I serve Him in this ministry.

Throughout these years of labor in Kenya, the burden to teach has even become heavier. In a land synonymous with widespread hunger, I observed that most churches, too, were severely famished as the people were fed with the different gospels of charismaticism, neo-evangelicalism, as well as false doctrines from a plethora of cult groups. Their presence is overwhelming. You can see them everyday on TV, in the neighborhood and public plazas – they're just everywhere. One cult group that call themselves "Good News Missions" even had the audacity to come knocking at the gates of BCEA with the expressed purpose of evangelizing the principal,



Rev. Dr. Mark Kim! Thus, I found myself asking the very same question that David asked, *"Is there not a cause?"* (1 Samuel 17:29).

As a lecturer, perhaps nothing can be more rewarding than seeing students graduate from their courses and go on to do well in the Lord's service. We've had feedbacks of our graduates standing up *"for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ"* in their ministries. A recent graduate was confronted by his superiors for teaching that the word of God is perfectly preserved. He later left that ministry. One student who came from an Arminian church had his support discontinued after he taught Calvinism in his Sunday School class. Another was refused parental support for his studies at BCEA because they were Roman Catholics. Nevertheless, these faithful students

persevered in their studies and ministries; and the Lord graciously provided for them.

There are frustrations as well as we see some graduates being deceived by worldly enticements and grandeur of modern church ministry. Some had fallen by the wayside in sin and error. Yet these things have not diminished the burden one single bit. If anything, it has only fueled the zeal in me to all the more *"...teach them*

ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do" (Exodus 18:20).

In all these, I would like to thank the Lord for my mother church and home church for sharing the burden as they continue to extend their invaluable prayer and support for my family and me. Likewise, I am very thankful to the Lord for my family who continues to bear with me as it means being apart from each other most of the time. We do pray that the Lord may finally bring us together one day to serve Him as a family.

May Jesus Christ be praised!

by Richard Tiu