Go Make Disciples

25 years ago, I met an African-American Navy Chaplain. Since he also graduated from my seminary, we arranged to have lunch to chat about the old days. Chewing on an egg roll, he gave me this advice, "Churches are still segregated. If I work in a local church, I will always work in a black church. You may be facing the same fate. If you want to break the racial barrier, why don't you join the Navy?" I took his advice and had a wonderful journey ministering to all people in the armed services. Now that I am getting out of the Navy, why do I want to serve a Chinese church again?

Before his ascension, Jesus commissioned his disciples to make all people disciples. He didn't do it in Jerusalem, but in Galilee, which took them four days of walking. Why? I believe Jesus wanted to remind the disciples of their cultural roots. They were all from Galilee. Their heritage made them a cohesive group. The binding made them a strong team for ministry.

There is a need for ethnic churches even we try to be multicultural in other aspects of life. We as a church can reach out to people while others cannot because of our language skills and culture background. Only we can discover biblical insights from a Chinese prospective. Besides, we have better food and more cheers.

Like a salmon ventures out to the sea and eventually comes back to the river of its origin, I am here. I thank God for the opportunity and will use my skills learned in the Navy to benefit our church.

Let us pray: Dear Lord: As you commissioned your disciples, send us to fulfill your salvation plan. Help us to be persistent and effective. Amen.

使萬民歸主

廿五年前我碰到一位海軍牧師，由於他與我畢業於同一所神學院，我們相約到餐館談天，他一面咬着春卷，一面對我忠告："現今教會仍分清種族界綫，我若在教會事奉，必長期留在黑人教會中，看來你也是同一命運，你若要突破，應參加海軍爲軍牧。"

我聽從他的指導在海軍裏任職多年，如今退休了，爲何又回到華人教會來？

耶穌在升天前吩咐眾門徒去使萬民歸主，但耶穌在耶路撒冷發令，卻叫門徒步行四天到加利利接受這大使命，原因何在？大抵耶穌要提醒眾門徒的文化背境，他們都在加利利出身，有共同的根，同鄉同里，工作就更加緊密，友誼就更深厚了。

華人教會的根基就建立於這文化的共同點上。我們是雙語文的教會，我們能深入華人社區，造福人群，帶人歸主。

我就像三文魚一樣，到大海生活多年，最後又回到出生的江河。感謝主賜我有機會再爲華人教會服務。

請禱告：主阿，求祢賜我們有足夠的力量和决心，努力拯救世人，帶領多人歸主。阿們。