

**BANNERS FOR THE
2006 INTERNATIONAL
CHINESE-SPEAKING CONFERENCE**

Shepherding the believers
is crucial to their growth in the divine life
unto maturity for the building up
of the Body of Christ.

Christ is the good Shepherd,
the great Shepherd,
the Chief Shepherd, the Shepherd of our souls,
and the eternal Shepherd
guiding us to springs of water of life
for our eternal satisfaction.

We need to be shepherds
having the loving and forgiving heart
of our Father God in His divinity
and the shepherding and seeking spirit
of our Savior Christ in His humanity.

We need to live a shepherding life
that flows out from our love to the Lord,
ministering Christ to others in love
by cherishing and nourishing them
for the building up of the church.

**Outline of the Messages
for the International Chinese-speaking Conference
January 29-31, 2006**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE ORGANIC SHEPHERDING OF CHRIST
FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Message One

The Urgent Need of Shepherding for the Building Up of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:12-16

John 21:15-17 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs. He said to him again a second time, Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep. He said to him the third time, Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

Acts 20:28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

Eph. 4:12-16 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error, but holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- I. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to recover the ministering of Christ by all the believers so that the church as the Body of Christ might be built up—Eph. 4:12-16.**
- II. Shepherding is to take all-inclusive tender care of the flock; shepherding refers to taking care of all the needs of the sheep—John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28.**
- III. In the Lord's recovery today, there is an urgent need of shepherding—John 21:16; 1 Pet. 5:4:**
 - A. In His organic salvation God the Father first regenerates us by God the Spirit and then shepherds us in God the Son as our Shepherd that we may exist and grow in His life for eternity—1:3; John 10:11; Rev. 7:17.
 - B. To shepherd the believers is crucial to their growth in the divine life unto maturity for the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:12-16.
 - C. The greatest lack among us is in the matter of shepherding.
- IV. If we do not know what shepherding is, the entire Gospel of John will be in vain to us; it is only when we shepherd others that we know the Gospel of John—10:11, 14; 21:16; 14:20; 15:1, 4-5.**
- V. The shepherding of God's flock for the main purpose and ultimate consummation of the eternal economy of God is referred to in Song of Songs—1:7a, 8b; 2:16; 6:3.**
- VI. Shepherding is to take care of the children of God by feeding them—John 21:15-17:**

- A. The work of shepherding is the work of feeding—Matt. 24:45; 1 Cor. 3:2.
- B. Shepherding by feeding is a part of the God-man living.
- C. The shepherds' feeding is not only for the growth unto the believers' daily salvation but also unto their maturity in the divine life, which is needed for the God-men to be built up into the Body of Christ—Heb. 5:14; Eph. 4:12-13.

**VII. Shepherding depends on teaching; if we cannot teach, we cannot shepherd—
Matt. 28:19-20; 9:35-36:**

- A. Shepherding and teaching go together—Eph. 4:11:
 - 1. Shepherding and teaching should be like two feet for our move with the Lord—Acts 20:20, 27-28.
 - 2. Our shepherding should always be with teaching, and our teaching should always be with shepherding.
 - 3. Teaching not only strengthens our shepherding, but it also helps us to reach the goal of shepherding—Psa. 23:6b; John 10:11, 14-16; 14:2.
- B. If we fail in shepherding and teaching, the whole church will become desolate—2 Tim. 2:20; Rev. 2:20, 24.
- C. For the shepherding of the saints, there must be the healthy teaching in the vital groups—2 Tim. 4:3; Titus 1:9.
- D. In order for God to fulfill His purpose and accomplish His economy, we need to teach the economy of God and reach the peak of the economy of God—Eph. 1:10; 3:9.
- E. Only the teaching of the apostles concerning the economy of God can transform the saints; therefore, we need to shepherd the saints with the apostles' teaching according to God's economy—Acts 2:42; Titus 1:9.
- F. Shepherding and teaching are our obligation as a charge given to us by the Lord; this is the basic way ordained by God in the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate His eternal goal—the New Jerusalem—Eph. 4:16; Rev. 21:2.

**VIII. The shepherding that builds up the Body of Christ is a mutual shepherding—
1 Cor. 12:23-26:**

- A. All believers, regardless of their stage of spiritual growth, need shepherding; we all have defects and shortcomings and need others to shepherd us.
- B. All of us need to be under the organic shepherding of Christ and to be one with Him to shepherd others—1 Pet. 2:25; John 21:16.
- C. We are both sheep and shepherds, shepherding and being shepherded in mutuality; through this mutual shepherding, the Body builds itself up in love—Eph. 4:16.

IX. “I hope that there will be a genuine revival among us by our receiving this burden of shepherding” (*The Vital Groups*, p. 40).

X. “If all the churches receive this teaching to participate in Christ's wonderful shepherding, there will be a big revival in the recovery” (p. 40).