

## Bird's-Eye View

**I** In the eyes of the Lord there is just one ministry: **A** Speaking of the need of a replacement for Judas, Peter said that Judas "was numbered among us and was allotted his portion of this ministry: [Acts 1:17](#) For he was numbered among us and was allotted his portion of this ministry. **1** The apostles prayed for the Lord to show them clearly the one whom He had chosen "to take the place of this ministry and apostleship". [Acts. 1:25](#) To take the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place. **2** As used in verses 17 and 25, the word ministry refers to the ministry that bears the testimony of Jesus: **a** Though the apostles were twelve in number, their ministry was uniquely one—this ministry, a corporate ministry in the principle of the Body of Christ. **b** All the apostles carried out the same ministry to bear the unique testimony of the incarnated, resurrected, and ascended Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of all. **B** In 2 Corinthians 4:1 Paul says, "Having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart": [2 Cor. 4:1](#) Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart; **1** The ministry in 2 Corinthians is the corporate ministry of the New Testament ministers: **a** All the ministers have their own portion of the ministry. **b** In this corporate ministry Paul had his portion, Peter had his portion, and Timothy had his portion. [2 Tim. 4:5](#) But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry. **c** When we add all the portions together, we have "this ministry," which is the New Testament ministry. **2** The many ministers have one ministry—the ministry of the new covenant for the accomplishment of God's New Testament economy. **3** All the apostles' works are to carry out this unique ministry, the ministering of Christ to people for the building up of His Body. **C** Second Corinthians 3:6 tells us that God has made us "sufficient as ministers of a new covenant": [2 Cor. 3:6](#) Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. **1** The Spirit, the ultimate expression of the processed Triune God, imparts the divine life, even God Himself, into the believers and the apostles, making them ministers of a new covenant. **2** Hence, their ministry is constituted with the Triune God of life by His life-giving Spirit. **D** "I give thanks to Him who empowers me, Christ Jesus our Lord, that He has counted me faithful, appointing me to the ministry" (1 Tim. 1:12): **1** In this verse Paul does not say, "He appointed me to my ministry." **2** Paul says that the

Lord appointed him to the one unique, corporate New Testament ministry. **3** We all should praise the Lord that by His mercy and grace He has appointed us to the corporate ministry that builds up the Body of Christ. **I** Although the foregoing verses reveal that the ministry in the New Testament is corporate, certain other verses indicate that the ministry is also personal: **A** Acts 20:24 refers to Paul's personal ministry because Paul speaks of the ministry which he had received from the Lord; the ministry in this verse is the personal ministry: [Acts 20:24](#) But I consider my life of no account *as if* precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God. **1** Paul's ministry was his being; he and Christ had become one. **2** What he preached was what he was; he ministered his very being to others. **3** Paul was one with Christ and had been constituted of Christ; thus, his ministry was a ministry of the Christ who had been constituted into his being. **B** Acts 21:19 definitely and clearly refers to Paul's personal ministry: "He related one by one the things which God did among the Gentiles through his ministry." [Acts 21:19](#) And having greeted them, he related one by one the things which God did among the Gentiles through his ministry. **C** Colossians 4:17 says, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it"; Archippus had a ministry, and in the same principle, we all have a ministry. [Col. 4:17](#) And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it. **D** In 2 Timothy 4:5 Paul charges Timothy to fully accomplish his ministry: [2 Tim. 4:5](#) But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry. **1** For Timothy to fully accomplish his ministry was for him to fill up the full measure of his ministry. **2** This ministry denotes the ministry of the word, which is to minister Christ in all His riches to both sinners and believers for the building up of the Body of Christ. **3** Such a ministry is desperately needed to counter the trend of decline, as prophesied in 2 Timothy 4:3 and 4. **E** Because the New Testament ministry is the service of the Body of Christ and because the Body has many members, every member has his own ministry: [Eph. 4:11](#) And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, [12](#) For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, **1** According to the members, there are many ministries; however, according to the Body as a whole, there is just one ministry. **2** Our personal ministry should not be separate from the

corporate ministry. **3** The Body has a corporate ministry, and all the members of the Body have their individual ministries. **4** As we have seen, all the ministries of the members of the Body added together equal the corporate ministry. **f** There should be the same speaking from different angles: [1 Cor. 1:10](#) Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and *that* there be not divisions among you, but *that* you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion. **1** There is a need for many to be raised up to speak the same thing from different angles. **2** We believe that the Lord will raise up many more to carry out the unique ministry. **3** We all have a part in this ministry, which is the one ministry with different functions, different angles, and different aspects. **4** We are not following a man or imitating anyone; however, we are ministering the same thing. **iii** “For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12): **A** The apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherd-teachers are for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry mentioned in verse 12. **B** The many gifted persons in verse 11 have only one ministry, that is, to minister Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ; this is the unique ministry in the New Testament economy. **C** The perfecting of the saints is unto the work of the ministry, and the work of the ministry is unto the building up of the Body of Christ. **D** “This is the Lord’s recovery, this is our commission, this is our burden, and this is our ministry. How blessed we are to have a part in this ministry!”

**CP1** There is only one ministry in the eyes of the Lord, and all the ministers have their own portion in the corporate ministry

**I** In the eyes of the Lord there is just one ministry: **B** In 2 Corinthians 4:1 Paul says, “Having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart”: [2 Cor. 4:1](#) Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart; **1** The ministry in 2 Corinthians is the corporate ministry of the New Testament ministers: **a** All the ministers have their own portion of the ministry. **b** In this corporate ministry Paul had his portion, Peter had his portion, and Timothy had his portion. [2 Tim. 4:5](#) But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry. **c** When we add all the portions together, we have “this ministry,” which is the New Testament ministry. **2** The many ministers have one ministry—the ministry of the new covenant for the accomplishment of God’s New Testament economy. **3** All the apostles’ works are to carry

out this unique ministry, the ministering of Christ to people for the building up of His Body. **D** “I give thanks to Him who empowers me, Christ Jesus our Lord, that He has counted me faithful, appointing me to the ministry” (1 Tim. 1:12): **1** In this verse Paul does not say, “He appointed me to my ministry.” **2** Paul says that the Lord appointed him to the one unique, corporate New Testament ministry. **3** We all should praise the Lord that by His mercy and grace He has appointed us to the corporate ministry that builds up the Body of Christ.

The ministry denotes the unique new covenant ministry for the building up of one building, the Body of Christ, and this ministry is the unique service of thousands of New Testament ministers. Every member of the Body of Christ has a part of this ministry. Although every believer has a part of the ministry, their parts are not separate ministries but are only parts of the one ministry. The carrying out of God’s new covenant requires only one ministry. If there is more than one ministry, trouble will result.

[Application to young people, college students, new ones](#)

**Testimony 1** Hallelujah, God has qualified us as ministers of the New Covenant. Thank the Lord for the Daytime training every Thursday. The messages on truth, life, and service in the training are consisted of the content of the New Testament ministry. As I listen to the speaking of the New Testament ministry with brothers and sisters, I feel that the Spirit is working in me. The Word of God is spirit and life. As the Word of life of God was infused into me, the negative things in me were killed and I was able to come out of spiritual death, disappointment, and weakness. Then, I could be filled with the Spirit, and go out with the Lord to carry out the gospel and shepherding. I thank the Lord that as I passed on the words of the ministry I had enjoyed to the young people under my care, the Spirit has also worked on the them and the burden of the gospel and shepherding came from them as well. Lately, three elementary school student brothers have joined the YP district, so our middle and high school brothers are taking care of them with a burden. In addition, many of our elementary school brothers and sisters were able to invite and bring many of their friends to the meeting. I was touched by their spirit of gospel. They are not to be despised because they are young. All saved elementary school children are also the ministers of the new covenant. They too can preach the gospel.

**Testimony 2** There is only one ministry in the eyes of the Lord. It is to perfect the saints to the work of the ministry, to the building up of the Body of Christ. In order to build the Body of Christ, every member needs to grow in life and function. When I started to learn to serve and to take care of the new ones, I was praying for them according to their desires, for them to be able to go on to higher education, to find a job, to get married etc. But such prayers were totally ineffective. Because it could not supply life. Rather sometimes the new ones would leave. Later, I learned to pray for the new ones in terms of their growth in life and to arrange the services that would enable them to function. Also, when I visit new ones at home meetings, I go out in the Body, in the I used to feel that it was a burden to take care of the new ones because I was sometimes swept away by their situations going up and down, but now I can trust in the Lord in the coordination of the Body with the brothers and sisters, and taking care of them is not a burden but an enjoyment and I was filled with joy. Now the church is leading the brothers and sisters to return to the meeting hall for the Lord's Day meeting. May we visit the new ones, supply them with life, and bring them into the reality of the church life.

**Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, in the eyes of the Lord, there is only one ministry. It is to supply Christ to people and to build up the Body of Christ. I also have a part to play in the corporate ministry of building up of the Body of Christ. When I preach the gospel and talk to my friends, let me supply Christ to them. I will not be discouraged, but will function in the unique ministry of the New Testament.

**CP2** Under the unique ministry, there are various individual ministries. Understand your positioning in One Body and fulfill your own ministry well

**II** Although the foregoing verses reveal that the ministry in the New Testament is corporate, certain other verses indicate that the ministry is also personal: **E** Because the New Testament ministry is the service of the Body of Christ and because the Body has many members, every member has his own ministry: Eph. 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, 12 for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ. **1** According to the members, there are many ministries; however, according to the Body as a

whole, there is just one ministry. **2** Our personal ministry should not be separate from the corporate ministry. **3** The Body has a corporate ministry, and all the members of the Body have their individual ministries. **4** As we have seen, all the ministries of the members of the Body added together equal the corporate ministry. **F** There should be the same speaking from different angles: 1 Cor. 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion. **1** There is a need for many to be raised up to speak the same thing from different angles. **2** We believe that the Lord will raise up many more to carry out the unique ministry. **3** We all have a part in this ministry, which is the one ministry with different functions, different angles, and different aspects. **4** We are not following a man or imitating anyone; however, we are ministering the same thing. **III** "For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ." (Eph. 4:12)

I hope that in the coming years many of the young people will speak of Christ for the building up of the Body. I have no intention of being the only one to minister. On the contrary, I expect the Lord to raise up many more to carry on the unique ministry. We all have a part in this ministry, which is one ministry with different functions, different angles, and different aspects. You have your part, and I have mine...We all are ministering Christ as life and as everything for the building up of the local churches. This is the Lord's recovery, this is our commission, this is our burden, and this is our ministry. How blessed we are to have a part in this ministry!

**Application to businesspersons, graduate students**

**Testimony** I testify that there are various individual ministries under the unique ministry, and that the purpose of both the unique ministry and the individual ministry is the same: the building up of the Body of Christ. I am a trainer of Full Time Training in Tokyo, teaching classes, etc. Especially when serving in coordination, I pay attention to the following points: **①** Listen carefully to the burden of the brothers who fellowship first, and develop fellowship in the same flow. In the coordination within One Body, there is a flow of the Holy Spirit, so serve within that flow. **②** Always try not to have a competitive



attitude, because if you lose oneness, you lose all your blessings. For just as the material body has many members, but they function in harmony and for the good of the body, so also is the Body of Christ. [1Cor.12:12](#) For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. [14](#) For the body is not one member but many. [15](#) If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body. [16](#) And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body. [18](#) But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed. [19](#) And if all were one member, where would the body be? [20](#) But now the members are many, but the body one. In functioning in this way, my first concern is to know my positioning in the full-time training. Those brothers who are serving in front are about 20 years younger than I am, but my positioning in this service is to support them and make it easier for them to serve with more burden. In terms of the coordination of the four living creatures, it is not a forward walk, but a backward or sideways walk.

At the West Japan site of the National Special Conference in May, after the message, Brother Lin Hung shared with us the burden of pursuing life study for 15 minutes every day. After the fellowship with Brother Lin Hung, I felt the need to fellowship briefly to carry out his burden, and I did so with Brother Lin Hung's permission. I felt the rich anointing of the Holy Spirit in my fellowship. The response from the saints was also very positive. Also, full-time trainees and trainers participated in a combine blending meeting of the entire church at the end of June. The trainer said, "I enjoyed it very much because the riches were expressed, with many members performing different functions." There is always a great blessing when there is a coordination of saints in One Body.

**Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, there are various individual ministries under the unique ministry. If I know my positioning within One Body and fulfill my ministry, I can serve in the flow of the Holy Spirit. Such service is enjoyable and glorious. May we deal with the competing spirit in our natural life, and may we leave the division and fulfill my own portion for the building in the unique ministry of the New Testament.

## 神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

- 台北61集会所との夜のブレディングスケジュール**  
**ジュール**: 夜は大阪(桃谷集会所、堺集会所)、東大阪、神戸(本山、六甲)に分かれてブレディングを行います。神戸のブレディングは以下の通りです。  
18:00-19:00 神戸宿泊64名とBLD夕食(@本山、六甲)  
19:00-19:30 交わり  
19:30-20:30 夜の主日集会
- 7月ビデオ訓練**: 7/12(金)-8/3(土)  
金曜: 19:30-21:00  
土曜: 8:30-12:00  
第一大地区@本山、第二大地区@六甲  
※金曜日のビデオ訓練に参加出来なかった在職の兄弟姉妹は、16:30-18:00@本山でビデオ訓練に参加してください。
- 2024年SST(真理のサマースクール)**:  
8/12(月)-17(土)  
東京基臨ビルで行われます。神戸から青少年14名、奉仕者10名が参加します。若者たちが時間を聖別して、真理の中に入り込み、仲間たちと共に主をエンジョイできるようにお祈りください。
- 9月全国特別集会**: 9/14(土)-16(月)  
場所: 東京基臨ビル  
14(土) 14:00-16:00 集会1  
15(主) 10:00-12:30 パンさきと集会2  
14:00-16:00 集会3  
16(月) 10:00-12:00 集会4  
※現地参加希望の締め切りは、8/4(主)です。
- 9月青少年ブレディング**: 9/14(土)-16(月)  
9月の全国特別集会と並行して行われます。  
宿泊先: オリンピックセンター  
参加費: 全参加2000円、1泊参加1000円(青少年)  
全参加7000円、1泊参加4000円(一般)  
参加申し込み締め切りは、8/4(主)まで。