

Samuel's Ministry Update

My First Year at A Rocha (中文版由第四頁起)



Dear friends,

Fifteen months have passed since my ministry at A Rocha began. It was indeed an amazing year with new job, new routines, and steep learning curves, giving me numerous first-hand experiences of the Lord's grace, guidance, and timely provisions.

Many friends, who once knew that I have been busy travelling frequently for work between Vancouver and Toronto, and lately to Asia, often asked me, "What are you really doing at A Rocha?" "What are these Multicultural Programs all about?" "Are you simply talking to people or actually working on some concrete environmental projects?"

In short, yes, I do talking, lots of them!

Since last September, I have met over sixty pastors, church leaders, ministry organizations' leaders, and theological educators, representing at least thirty Christian congregations, ministries, and theological schools in Vancouver and Toronto. I met them in various settings: at their offices, over lunch or coffee times, or at conferences and exhibitions; there I explained to them what creation care (or Christian thoughts and actions in environmental care) is, and introduced the works of A Rocha in Canada and around the world.



Because of these conversations and connections, I was invited to preach or teach at thirty different occasions for churches, Christian groups, and organizations. In most of those talks, I expounded in details the biblical narratives from Genesis to Revelation, showing to these audiences that our caring for the earth actually have deep biblical roots, far beyond a few frequently quoted biblical references; it is in fact our first human mandate that Christ has also redeemed and restored, and is one of the most tangible ways to demonstrate God's love to the whole

world. I also illustrated with Canadian and international examples how this passion and conviction for God's world could be translated into individual life changes and collective actions of the churches for public witness.

These encounters led to some surprising outcomes. Anna, a college student from Ontario who graduated this summer, has just completed a three month internship at A Rocha BC Centre. Her internship was initiated out of a conversation with me during a summer volunteer event at the Centre. These three months, she said, brought her a life changing experience, a new window to see God working on earth, and not the least, many friendships that will last for a lifetime. Anna was not alone; many young Christian scientists-in-training, who studied in such majors as environmental science or natural

resource management, are trying to find suitable nurturing opportunities to develop their future career while living out their faith authentically. Many found A Rocha matched that double-edged need.

Also out of those talks and conversations, I saw fellow sojourners being affirmed and encouraged; those are Christians who have seen the deep connection between their Christian faith and environmental-ecological concerns for a long time and have put into practice, yet found themselves very lonely on the journey. I saw fellow brothers and sisters-in-Christ being inspired with a new window of seeing their faith afresh, or being propelled to look deeper into their lives and attempt to make changes.



And yes, there are on-the-ground projects, although still in their infancy...

In addition to mobilizing those I met, taught, and conversed with, to participate in existing conservation projects in BC and Ontario, there are a few practical projects of creation care in the making. These are project ideas initiated by several local Chinese Christian leaders in Vancouver and Toronto, who first heard of A Rocha through my teaching and conversation and wanted to learn more about practical possibilities. I was invited to participate in their initial discussions and project forming, which are still in progress as I write, and I anticipate these discussions and planning would bear fruit in the next two years.

And yes, my ministry area now goes beyond Canada ...

A Rocha's leadership has long been convinced that if they would like to foster a global creation care movement, they need to engage the Chinese speaking world, for some obvious reasons: its huge population, its influence in world affairs, and the acute ecological challenges in the regions where Chinese population has important presence. While A Rocha has established a small staff and volunteer presence in Singapore-Malaysia, more ground works are need, and there began my involvement.



In September 2011, Dr. Paul Woods of Singapore Bible College and I represented A Rocha at the 8th CCOWE, a major global Chinese Christian conference related to the Lausanne Movement, in Bali, Indonesia; it was a great opportunity to showcase our works in front of Chinese Christian leaders from around the world. We had an exhibition booth and a Special Ministry Presentation, with Dr. Christopher J.H. Wright presenting. We found out that, while there have to be more works to address some theological bottlenecks and a great need for tangible

projects in Southeast Asia as educational and inspirational demonstrations, an increasing number of church leaders in the region have begun to recognize that taking care of God's world is an intricate part of their Christian missions.

After the conference I visited Hong Kong for a path-finding mission. I was surprised to befriend with a number of Christians who are currently in leadership within mainstream conservation organizations, academia, and theological schools, actively engaging in practical conservation, education, scientific research, and, amongst Christian circle there, a theological awakening in caring for creation. I will visit Hong Kong again in early 2012, this time with Rev. Peter Harris, the founder of A Rocha, and our Singaporean colleagues, hoping to connect the dots further. This is just the beginning!



All these are made possible through your prayers, encouragements, and material support. I am still deeply grateful that many friends responded graciously and generously after I issued an appeal for help in August, because of the large short fall on the Bali Conference expenses. I thank the Lord that He indeed works through many of you in providing the badly needed funds for various projects and initiatives under my watch. Your partnership on this journey is deeply valued and appreciated. Please consider to join me on this road again in 2012, making this ministry possible and sustainable.

Thank you very much and God bless!

Shalom (peace),

Samuel

December 2011



These are some of the bi-lingual pamphlets produced this year, thanks to the support from friends like you.

PS. If you consider supporting my ministry with gifts, please use the attached A Rocha Canada donation card, or visit our website arocha.ca. Please designate your gifts to "Multicultural Programs".

Samuel's Ministry Update

我在 A Rocha 機構的第一年



親愛的朋友們：

時光飛逝，我在 A Rocha 機構服事，已經十五個月了。這一年多確實十分精彩，期間新的工作、新的日程、及富挑戰性的學習進程，讓我親身體驗上主的恩典、引導、並及時的供應。

當很多朋友得知我要經常來往溫哥華和多倫多之間公幹，最近更去到亞洲地區，往往問我：「你在 A Rocha 工作，究竟實際上幹甚麼？」「這個跨文化項目是什麼一回事呢？」「你的工作是否只是與人交談聯絡，或是有一些具體實際的項目呢？」

簡單來說，我的工作涉及許多談話...非常多的談話！

自去年九月以來，我已經約見超過六十位教會牧者、領袖、機構負責人、和神學教育工作者，他們代表至少三十間位於溫哥華和多倫多的教會、機構及神學院校。這些會面在各種不同場合進行，有時是到訪他們的辦公室，有時是在午餐或咖啡時刻約見，也有在會議和展覽會中，期間我向他們解釋什麼是創造保育（或基督徒愛護環境的思想動機和行動），並介紹 A Rocha 機構在加拿大和世界各地的工作。



由於這些談話和接觸，過去一年我被邀請達三十次，在不同教會、基督徒團體、及事工機構的聚會中證道或教導。在這些宣講場合中，我往往會透過詳細闡述《聖經》裡從《創世記》到《啟示錄》那個完整的宏大敘述，向在場會眾展示，我們愛護地球的行動，其實有着深厚的聖經根源，遠遠超出了那些經常被支離破碎地引用的《聖經》章節；關愛受造世界實際上是我們人類第一個召命任務，這召命更蒙基督贖回和恢復，並且是其中一個最實際的方式向全世界證明上帝的愛。我還會引述加拿大和國際的例子，展示上述對聖經的重新認識及信念，是如何可以演變成個人生活的改變和教會的集體行動，

作為神子民的公共見證。

這些工作締造了一些意想不到的故事。安娜是一位來自安大略省，於今年夏天畢業的大學生，她剛剛完成了在 A Rocha 卑斯省環境中心一個為期三個月的實習工作。她的實習計劃始自於一次暑期志願工作活動中與我的談話。她在起程歸家前說，這三個月的體驗，給她帶來了一個改變生命的經歷、一個全新的窗戶去察看上帝在地上的工作、及同樣重要的、許多將持續一生的友誼。安娜並不是一個例外，許多像她一樣的年輕基督徒學生，在主修環境科學或自然資源管理等專業範疇的同時，也試圖找尋合適的實習機會，去培養他們未來的職業，並同時學習真實地活出基督信仰。他們中間許多人都發現 A Rocha 切合他們這方面的訴求。

因為這些會面交談及宣講，我看到許多志同道合者得到肯定和鼓勵；這些都是一些看到他們的基督信仰與環境生態關注之間的深切關係，並已付諸實踐的基督徒，但往往發覺自己在這旅程上孤掌難

鳴。我也看到不少主內弟兄姐妹，有一些受到啟發以新角度去明白他們的信仰，另有一些則受到激勵要更深層次地審視自己的生活，並試圖改變去切合與上帝心意相乎的信仰。

對！還有一些具體實際的項目，雖然仍處於起步階段...

在上述約見、交談、及宣講教導的場合中，我除了鼓勵動員與會者參加我們機構在卑斯省和安大略省現有的保育項目，還開始參與幾個「創造保育」項目的企劃及孕育過程。這些項目都是由幾位分別在溫哥華和多倫多的華裔基督徒領袖主動發起的，就是當他們與我交談或聽過我在聚會中分享時，首次認識 A Rocha 機構，並希望了解更多實際行動的可能性，故此邀請我參加他們的初步討論及項目企劃。這些商討和企劃仍在進行中，我預期這些項目將在未來兩年內開花結果。



對！現在我的工作已經伸延到加拿大以外...

A Rocha 的領導層一直相信，如果他們想培養一個全球性的創造保育運動，他們必須進入華人世界，原因非常明顯：中國龐大的人口、華人在世界事務中的影響力、及在華人口大量聚居的亞太地區內嚴峻的生態環境破壞及挑戰。A Rocha 確已開始在新加坡—馬來西亞地區展開了一些小型工作項目，由專責職員和志願同工帶領，然而，有更多的基礎聯絡及建立工作需要更關鍵的地區—例如香港、中國、臺灣—展開，我的參與也由此開始。



2011 年 9 月，我和新加坡神學院的保羅·伍茲博士，前往印尼峇厘島，代表 A Rocha 參加第八屆世界華福大會，這是一個與洛桑運動有密切關係的全球華人基督教會議，是一個向來自世界各地的華人基督教領袖展示 A Rocha 工作及信息的重要機會。我們在會場設立了一個事工展覽攤位和一個特別安排的事工推介聚會，更邀請大會講員萊特博士主講。在大會中我們發現，雖然我們仍需要許多努力去緩解華人信徒在「基督信仰與環境關注」這課題上好些神學瓶頸，同時也需要在東亞地區建立具體的創造保育項目，作為當地教育和啟發的示範，然而，我們也看見越來越多

當地的教會領袖已開始意識到，照管上主創造的大地也是在他們基督徒整全使命中不可或缺的重要部分。

會議結束後，我前往香港作進一步的聯絡及考察。我很驚訝地有機會認識好些基督徒，他們已經在主流的自然保育組織及學術界中擔任領導角色，積極從事實際的生態保育、教育、及科研等工作，同時，在基督徒圈子裡，特別是神學院校，已有不少信徒領袖開始更多關注環境問題，並在神學上反省。我將會在 2012 年初再次前往香港，這次更將會同 A Rocha 的創辦人彼得·哈里斯牧師和我們的新加坡同事，希望在當地



進一步接觸及認識，建立更多連接點及網絡，為在華語地區的工作項目探索可能性及作前期預備。這僅僅是個開始！

上述工作及進展其實是有賴你們在祈禱、鼓勵和財政上的支持。我仍然深深感謝許多朋友，在我於八月底因為參加華福會議的費用突然大增而要發出緊急呼籲請求幫助後，慷慨地回應。我感謝上主，祂確實通過許多朋友的幫助，降下及時雨，在不同時間解決了很多我所負責的項目在資金上的燃眉之急。我十分重視及感謝你們在這個征途上的夥伴關係。誠意邀請你，繼續在2012年為我在這個服役旅程上同行及守望，使這項重要事工變得有可能，可以持續下去。

非常感謝你們！願上主繼續祝福你們！

Shalom（主裡平安）！

趙汝圖

2011年12月



這些中英雙語單張的製作，是有賴你們的支持才能成事，對此我要致上由衷感謝！

附註：假如閣下考慮在財政上支持小弟這個事工，請用附帶的 A Rocha Canada Donation Card，或瀏覽我們機構的網站 arocha.ca。請注明捐款指定為“Multicultural Programs”。