


A black and white portrait of Martin Luther, wearing a black cap and a dark garment. The background of the portrait is a faint, repeating pattern of Latin text, likely from his 95 Theses. The text is partially obscured by the portrait and the overlaid text.

**Jumping out of the Darkness,
Changing the World.**

Historical Picture Exhibit  **th**
in Remembrance of the
Anniversary of Martin Luther's
Ninety-Five Theses

NO.1-3

Jumping out of the Darkness, Changing the World: Historical Picture Exhibit in Remembrance of the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses

NO. 4

The man behind religious reformation – Martin Luther

NO. 5

The general atmospheres of Martin Luther's time

NO.6

The confusion of faith, the loss of purpose of life

Martin Luther was born in the historians' so-called Dark Ages of the western history, dated back from the 6th century till the 15th century. It was a turning point of human history, from middle age to modern society. The society was a mixture of godly superstitious and worldly corruption. The message of end time was preached, including the idea of Jesus, as the severe final judge who would ride on the cloud or rainbow and judge the whole world. And the grace and redemption of Christ was emphasized at the meanwhile.

- 1 part of "The Last Judgement" -by Jehan Cousin Le Jeune (1522-1595)
- 2 part of "The Last Judgement" -by Weyden, Roger Van der (1399-1464)
Jesus throw lily to the good, sword to the evil.

NO. 7

Though people believed in God, they were also terrified by the idea of going to hell. Therefore, various witchcraft and exorcism was practiced. People believed in the power of evil spirits and demons while had their trust in Christ. The prayers never ceased especially when the plague was spreading.

- 1 A witch riding on a cat in a German Woodcut in the medieval age
- 2 <<St. Francis Borgia helping a dying Impenitent >>- by Goya
- 3 In the 14th century, Black Death spread in Europe and caused approximately 75million death. European population was affected seriously, and also indirectly influenced social structure at the time. Meanwhile, the status of churches was wavered.
- 4 Having blind faith in a person with masks that had very similar shape to beaks of birds, called "The plague doctor" could exorcise the plague that was brought by "evil spirit."

NO. 8

The main teaching of church was causal theory at that time. Salvation was earned by good deeds and destruction was caused by evil work. They worshiped guardian gods, sacred instruments and believed that making pilgrimages, aggregating good deeds would redeem them from eternal punishment. Therefore, by issuing indulgencies, the Holy See made a great fortune and was led into moral and authoritarian corruption.

- 1 In order to raise funds, The Roman Curia authorized the clergy to sell indulgence at each place. Gradually, it became an unfair means to accumulate wealth in churches.
- 2 In the medieval century, churches thought worshipping to relics of believers and saints

could protect life and be blessed, and went on a pilgrimage also could have special blessings. From the 4th century, there were records of going on a pilgrimage. Moreover, praying and saluting to Jesus's mother, Mary, and ancient saints were also recognized as the best work.

NO. 9

Four characters of social phenomenon

Population: Millions died due to the outbreak of plague., European population dropped sharply in the 14th century. It lasted till the 15th century that the epidemic ceased and population rose gradually. Urban immigrants gave the labor force a lift.

The emergence and development of knowledge and technology: Economically, navigation, exploration, mining and metal industry were flourishing. Politically, Feudal governors obtained power and declared independence everywhere. It was also an age of discovery. In 1492, Colombo discovered the America continent. Spain, Portugal, Great Britain and France followed the trend of exploration and these kingdoms expanded greatly in economy and power. Germany was not an independent country yet at that time.

- 1 In the 15th century, the commerce was flourishing again in the Mediterranean region, the city was also flourishing due to large population moved into a city.
- 2 The opening illustration of Euclid's Elements in the medieval, the women in the illustration was teaching geometry.
- 3 In 1492, Columbus discovered the new continent of the America. It drove exploitation and immigration from each country in Europe to the new continent.

NO .10

The rise of new ideologies: The authority of Holy See and Pope- Pope were challenged by the rising new perception on world and universe. The feudal governors and kings made use of nationalism as a tool to achieve their independent ambitions.

The uprising of peasants: Peasants, being at the bottom of the society and were underprivileged, often stood up to fight for their secular interests in the name of religion. It was an age which was full of social and political upheaval.

- 1 The Investiture Controversy was between Heinrich IV and St. Gregory VII. Heinrich IV surrendered and went to Italy to confess his sin to St. Gregory VII in the snow for 3 days and nights.
- 2 Copernicus' heliocentric system proposed that sun is the center of universe. His proposal changed the concept of universe at the time, and also caused conflicts with churches.
- 3 Under feudal system, serfs revolted against layers of exploitation.

NO.11

The cultural impact of renaissance

NO .12

The shadow of Dark Age

The middle ages lasted for 1000 years. Though the kings, nobles, feudal lords and priests were the minority in society, nevertheless, they positioned themselves higher above others.

While the majority were civilians, labors, farmers and believers, they had no voice and were also invisible in the kingdoms. Consequently, it was called Dark Ages.

NO.13

Cultural and social changes brought by the surge of renaissance

The Renaissance, originated from Italy in the late 14th century, kindled the flame of humanism all over Europe. They looked for what human being have in objective, ration and legal system traced back from the Greek and the Roman Empire. At the same time, they tried to acknowledge human beings by the Hebrew religion which emphasized on internal experience. The rise and decline between subjective and objective as well as external and internal interactions was the center of social and culture development in the past 500 to 600 years.

- 1 Rationalism emphasizes on philosophy, rationality, and science. Socrates and Plato inherited Rationalism.
- 2 Inheritance of Hebrew belief emphasized on the experience of faith in main body, and approved a human to be.
- 3 The goddess of justice, presenting the law and order of Roman
- 4 Florence, Italy, the driver of European Renaissance

NO .14

The theology and church administration were brought into the storm

Affected by the cultural changes, there were debates and controversies on the translation of Bible and reformation of church bureaucracy. John Wyclif, 1320-1384, an English theologian and Bible translator advocated for translating Bible from Vulgate into English. He stood firm on the sole authority of scriptures. He was severely persecuted because he challenged the authority of Roman Catholic Church. His corpse was burned and the ashes casted into the River Swift. Jan Hus, 1371-1415, a Czech priest strongly influenced by the writings of Wyclif followed his footsteps and fight against the Church. And he was sentenced to death by burning. However, the cry for reformation had arisen from everywhere and couldn't be put out by the suppression of the old force.

- 1 A pioneer of Protestant Reformation, John Wyclif
- 2 In 1415, before Hus laid down his life for principle, he wrote a letter to his fellow in Prague. He wrote, "After me, there would be a swan, they couldn't catch." When fire was ignited, Hus' last words: "100 years later, Lord arise a person, his innovation would be unable to suppress." Luther thought he is the swan. It was around 100 years, after Hus laid down his life for principle in 1415, and it was 1517.

NO .15

The introduction of moveable type stimulated the publishing business and benefited the exchange of ideas

In the mid of 15th century, Jonannes Gutenberg invented metal moveable type. The efficiency of printing had made the interflow of academic and cultural ideologies faster and more effective. The writings of Martin Luther were fast spread all over Europe, thanks to the moveable type.

- 1 Gutenberg is an inventor of typography in Europe.
- 2 The earliest Gutenberg printing machine
- 3 The process of Gutenberg printing machine
- 4 Gutenberg bible

NO .16

The growth of universities and the rise of intellectuals

In the late 15th century, European countries started to set up universities. By educating intellectuals and studying classical documents, the ideologies flourished and grand masters emerged. They were fond of debating doctrines and it became a trend, which led to the great breakthrough on knowledge and science, such as astronomy, medicine and mathematics. These, changes inevitably became a force and drove human beings into a brand new age.

- 1 The manuscript in the 16th century, it depicted a gathering of the doctors from University of Paris.
- 2 Universities rose in the medieval century, from up left to down left, were University of Paris, University of Bologna, and University of Heidelberg.
- 3 Three elites in European Renaissance (from top to bottom) are Petrarca who wrote <<Petrarchan Sonnet>>, Boccaccio who wrote <<Decameron>>, and Dante who wrote <<Divine Comedy>>.

NO .17

Martin Luther's early life

NO .18

A miner's son brought up strictly

Martin Luther was born in a poor, conservative miner family with strict disciplines on 10 November 1483 in Eisleben, He was the eighth of the nine children in the Luther's family. His father named him after Martin of Tours as he was baptized on 11 November, the Saint Martin's day. Because his father, Hans Luder, and mother, Margarethe Lindemann Luder, had great ambition on him, and therefore were harsh on him. His family moved to neighboring county, Mansfeld, shortly after Luther was born, and he was brought up there.

- 1 Martin Luther's parents, Hans Luder and Margarethe Lindemann Luder
- 2 The life of miner in the 16th century, Luther's father became a rich miner.
- 3 Eisleben's former residence (upper graph)
Mansfeld's former residence (bottom graph)

NO .19

Rooted Solid Language Foundation through a Sound Study on Latin

Luther studied dialectic, linguistics in his childhood and teens. He was sent to a local Latin school, then Magdeburg, when he was young. In Magdeburg, Luther enrolled into a school operated by a group of spiritual revival pursuing priests called Brethren of the Common Life, which was deeply influenced by Renaissance and Humanism. In his teens, his parents sent him to Eisenach, where he rooted a solid Latin foundation through a sound study on Trivium: grammar, rhetoric and logic.

- 1 Circumstances of Martin Luther's childhood at school
- 2 "Brethren of the Common Life" was a group that laymen cultivated spiritual and religious life. One of the most famous person is the author of <<Imitation of Christ>>, Thomas Kempis. (right graph)
- 3 The house that Luther lived in his teenage time in Eisenach.
- 4 The Statue of Luther in Magdeburg

NO .20

Served in the Choir with Passion

Luther devoted his life to church music ministry and had a great impact in this field. His outstanding gift in hymns was revealed in early age. He was very keen on music since he was young. While attending the choir of St. George Chapel in Eisenach, Luther even organized a choir with other kids and performed among neighbors and on other occasions. The income compensated the short of his tuition and living expense.

- 1 When Luther was 15 years old, he was a member of choir at St. George's Basilica (bottom left). He often went door to door to sing to make some money or gain some food. Luther's beautiful voice attracted the attention of Ursula Cotta. She found Luther had talent in music, and helped and taught him, moreover, became his spiritual mother.

NO .21

The Fearful Image of Heavenly Father into Luther's Heart due to the harsh family and school education

Luther was intimidated and resentful because of the strict disciplines from his parents and schools; he later illustrated his first stage of education as living in purgatory. He pictured school as a prison, classroom as a cell, teacher as the brutal jailer and the students were like donkey confined in the stable when he recalled his childhood education experience. More comments related to this experience, he said, the schoolmaster was a tyrant and executioner, school was a prison and hell. I learned nothing but fears and pains. Luther reflected the harsh authority on Father's image based on those experiences; therefore, he grew up as a sensitive and emotional teenager.

- 1 During Luther's school life, it was usual to be punished more than 10 times at one morning. Latin teacher also often asked students to wear donkey's headgear as punishment.
The Netherlands' painter Jan Steen (1626-1679) depicted the circumstances of studying at a country school in the medieval century.

NO .22

Studied philosophy at university leading him to God

In 1501, at age of 18, he entered the University of Erfurt in Thuringia. Studying hard, so he was among the best. Luther received his master's degree with 2nd prize in 1505. He was exposed deeply into the scholasticism of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas. The teachings of school were against worshiping authority, instead emphasizing positivism; it built up Luther's speculative ability later on. The philosophy of Aristotle underlined on logic and positivism proved to be unsatisfying to him. Gradually, Luther believed God's love and inspiration was far more important for people to know God.

- 1 Scholasticism was a theory that churches trained clergy in an academy in the medieval century. Aquinas reinterpreted Aristotle's philosophy by Christian theology. Aquinas became a representative of scholasticism.
- 2 University of Erfurt
- 3 Aristotle
- 4 Aquinas

NO .23

Struggling in the hardship and striving for spiritual growth

All the experiences of Luther's life journey, from his strict self-discipline in early age to the striving hard work in monastery, had caused him a great confusion about the prospect and meaning of life. "How can a mere man achieve the goal and demand of God when he lives a life before the righteous and holy God who judges the world?" The inner struggling had urged him earnestly seeking for the evidence of being justified and saved before God. He dedicated his life to pursuing it.

NO .24

Puzzling over and pursuing the grace from God in monastery

NO .25

Pondering over live after facing the fear of death

Luther was troubled by many issues as he grew into teenage; it became evident and urgent to him especially when he faced the fear of death three times before and after 1505. In 1503, his dagger pierced his leg, cutting the artery in his thigh and blood gushing out and he almost died in that incident. Another incident which shocked him the most is the death of his close friend. He became to consider what the ultimate concern of life should be. Luther followed his father's expectation for him and enrolled into law school. On 2 July, when he was returning to school after a trip home, he was almost struck by a bolt of lightning in Storternhem. Terrified at that critical moment, Luther cried out, "Help, St. Anne, I will become a monk." (St. Anne was the patron saint of miners.) After this terrifying event, He left law school and entered St. Augustine's Monastery in Erfurt and became a flagellant monk in regardless of his parents strong objection.

- 1 A painter depicted an expression of Martin Luther when he met lightning at Stoternheim. The painting also intentionally expressed his fear and thinking of facing his friend's death. The death of his friend was an important turning point in Luther's life.
- 2 A portrait of Martin Luther became a friar of Augustinians.
- 3 Today, there is a memorial monument on the road of Stoternheim.

NO .26

The way of flagellant failed to kill the accusation of sins

The orders of St. Augustine's Monastery were not easy to meet. While Luther was in the monastery, he followed all the rules, fasting and praying, laboring and confession. He was too devote to the practice that he was too weak and fainted all the time and his live was endangered. All these hard work couldn't help him to be spared from accusations of sins. The harder he practiced, the more he realized that 'It is not possible to make him perfect by the work of flesh.' The weight of guilt had separated him far away from God. He was also doubtful on whether he could gain the salvation from God.

- 1 Luther became a friar.
- 2 The Augustinians where Luther attended
- 3 The cultivating life of Luther in the Augustinian was often one meal a day, and sometimes kept abstinence for days, therefore, his digestive system was damaged perpetually. There was no heater to get warm in winter. In daily life, friars could not talk and laugh. The life was serious. The prayer meeting and fellowship started from one or two o'clock in the morning, and 3 hours for a round. Certainly, marriage was forbidden.

NO .27

Luther fell into spiritual despair from time to time and was in great anguish. He was even angry about God's existence. Later, he reflected, "All my brothers in the monastery who knew me will bear me out. If I had kept on any longer, I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, reading and other work."

I was a good monk and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I.

○1 In the Augustinians, Luther kept abstinence and penance so he fainted for several times.

NO .28

Cultivating by a good mentor, devoting himself into teaching and researching

In this period of time, Luther met the vicar-general of the Augustinian Order, Johann von Staupitz(1460-1524), and was mentored by him. Staupitz was a mystic. He believed that when people emphasized on good deeds instead of confession, it was a pride and an act against God. The true peace was the result of a full surrender to God and having a mystic union with God. Luther was deeply attracted to Staupitz's life witness and always came to confess before him. At least once, Luther spent six hours confession to Staupitz. Staupitz admired this young monk's desire for spiritual growth and determined to help him to become his successor.

○1 Staupitz helped Luther lay out from sense of guilt and started to think of God's grace and salvation of Christ. It comforted Luther deeply.

○2 Luther's mentor, Johann von Staupitz

○3 Staupitz's theological work.

NO .29

Pressing on understating the biblical truth, Luther unleashed the mystery of justification by faith

Staupitz was the dean of the theology faculty at the University of Wittenberg. He encouraged Luther to teach at the school and studied theology at the same time. Luther received his biblical master degree in 1508 and another master degree in the Four Books of Sentences in 1509. He studied Greek and Hebrew hard for mastering the languages in which Bible was written. In 1512, Luther was awarded his Doctor of Theology and became a Theology professor in University of Wittenberg. It was his life turning point and his focus was turned to theology and therefore drifted away from philosophy. Having succeeded Staupitz as chair of theology, he lectured on Books of Romans, Galatians, Hebrews and Psalm. The doctrine of justification by faith in Book of Romans enlightened him and he suddenly understood the words of life on God's righteousness, holiness, loving kindness and grace.

○1 Luther was prayed to be a priest in the Erfurter Dom in 1507.

○2 Sentences

○3 Luther was a Bible professor in University of Wittenberg in 1512.

NO .30

Questioning church traditions and proposing reformation

NO .31

In the middle ages, the Catholic church gradually formed many unbiblical traditional belief systems. Among all, the primacy of Pope-Pope and church officials was the most controversial and caused many criticisms. Raised up in a Catholic family and also being a monk, Luther at times questioned many churches' rules. He struggled and couldn't find peace in his heart.

- 1 The painting, in the medieval century, satirized that the Pope compromised with the evil to exchange for wealth.
- 2 Badge of the Holy see
- 3 In 1302, the Pope Boniface VIII declared the authority of Pope was supremacy. It was highly respected in history.
- 4 Pope Gregory VII promulgated <<Dictatus papae>>, and it stated 27 rules of rights that should be belonged to Pope. The objectives were Pope was supremacy, and the churches would not make any mistake. One of the rules stated, "Pope could depose a king". Heinrich IV opposed the rule, since then the churches and Roman Empire had deeper and deeper cracks.

NO .32

Making pilgrimage in Rome and felling disappointment after witnessing it's corruption

In 1510, Luther was sent to Rome. He made a pilgrimage in Rome by visiting holy sites, doing penance work and even climbing the Scala Sancta, the holy stairs on his knees. What he received from Rome was deeper disappointment and anguishes because he witnessed the corruption of the Catholic church, the luxury and corrupted life of the officials. Shocked by what he saw, he recognized the problems that the church was facing.

- 1 Churches sold indulgence.
- 2 In the medieval century, a pilgrimage guide of Roman especially pointed out 7 churches in Roman.
- 3 The churches of Roman in the medieval century, pilgrim thought walking on Scala Santa could be expiate sin.
- 4 Martin Luther said, "There was a Scala Santa in Roman, as long as a person walking on it could be expiated. One day, a man walked halfway of Scala Santa, and suddenly went down, the other asked for reason, and he said, "as long as there is a faith in heart, the sin can be forgiven, and do not care about any of outside behavior or etiquette.
- 5 Relic worship

NO .33

Understanding the grace of justification by faith and the righteous will live by faith

In 1515 and 1516 when he was lecturing the Books of Romans and Galatians, a fear toward God rose in his heart and he even hated God secretly. He recalled, "I didn't love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly. If not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly. I hated God. As if, indeed, it is not enough that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the Decalogue and also tormented by the gospel." While he prayed and meditated one the meaning of scriptures over and over again, at last, he discovered that justification is neither by the just judge of God nor by human's good deeds but by the gift of God. It is not achieved by work but by receiving. When he was enlightened by Romans 1:17, his spiritual eyes were opened.

**For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written:
The righteous will live by faith.**

○1 Martin Luther, “I don’t love the righteous God, really. I hate Him. He punishes sinner. And forgive me that I have to say blasphemously that I secretly whispered and annoyed at God, my suffered conscience is angry. Even though, I still try to fathom Paul’s meaning, and would like to understand what Paul would like to declare.”

NO .34

**The Turmerlebnis – where Luther had his spiritual breakthrough
Of his late years, he called it the Turmerlebnis.**

‘I had **indeed** been captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans. But up till then it was not the cold blood about the heart, but a single word in first chapter and verse 17, “In it the righteousness of God is revealed.” That had stood in my way. For I hated that word “righteousness of God”, which, according to the use and custom of all the teachers, I had been taught to understand philosophically regarding the formal or active righteousness, as they call it, with which God is righteous and punished the unrighteous sinner.

At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by the gift of God. The meaning is stated as: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith.....Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.

Later I read Augustine’s The Spirit and the Letter, where I found that he, too, interpreted God’s righteousness in a similar way.’

NO .35

Inspired joyfully, Luther framed the Theology of the Cross

Luther believed that this discovery was the nerve center of Bible and it also became the theology foundation of religious reformation movement later on. The grace of God, through the sacrificial love which Jesus Christ had done on the Cross, has been given to whoever believes. And one could be submissive to God and obey His will from one’s heart with a joyful and thankful heart, through forgiving of sins, cleansing of conscience and freedom from the burden of guilt.

NO .36

Based on Bible, Luther coined three solas

When translating the Romans 3:28 into German, Luther added the word ‘sola’: ‘A person is justified by faith alone apart from law.’ Some criticized him. However, his insistence to add ‘sola’ was essential in order to meet the requirement of German grammar. Therefore, after the outbreak of reformation movement, sola Gratia, sola Fides and sola Scriptura is the clear slogan for this movement. The establishment of three solas helped people to grasp the core of this movement and also gave it a fast move. ‘sola Gratia’ demonstrates the love of God by Christ’s blood and sacrifice. ‘sola Fides’ is the only way to hold fast of the grace of God and God’s son, Christ. And ‘sola Scriptura’ is where Christians stand and what they follow. Other than three solas, the framework of the Theology of Cross, which is the foundation of religious reformation, also includes grace prevails the law, teaching from Book of Galatians, and the revelation of Christ as the high priest and mediator as well as that priesthood of all from Book of Hebrews.

NO .37

Protesting against the decree of the Roman Catholic Church, religious reformation kicks off

NO .38

Being persistent on belief of justification by faith and the Theology of Cross

Luther's understanding of God's characters had been renewed after he continued to study and teach scriptures. After he had the revelation on justification by faith and had coined the Theology of Cross, his impression on God, which once was a figure higher above all men , who harshly dominated the law, forbidding, can't be pleased and approached, and regardless of your hard work for salvation, was replaced by a loving kindness salvation giving God, who had done the work of salvation on the Cross, and He freely gives it to all who desire to receive the grace of salvation from God. Because he believed in justification by faith, Luther began to denounce the theology, rituals, systems of Roman Catholic Church. He lashed out, especially, at the sale of indulgence. And it kindled the flame of religious reformation movement as a result.

- 1 Due to authority of Pope, theology of the churches, and indulgence etc., Martin Luther Friar and Leo PP. X had argument, and finally caused protestant reformation.

NO .39

Nailing the Ninety-five Theses on the door, Luther breached with the Roman Catholic Church

On 31 October 1517, to protest against the sale of indulgences by Johann Tetzel, papal commissioner, Luther wrote down the Ninety-five Theses and nailed it on the door of All Saint's Church in Wittenberg. He challenged scholars to debate publicly on the following three subjects: the sale of indulgences, the authority of Pope-Pope to pardon sins, and the so-called treasury of merits, namely, all of the good deeds done by saints and papas which can be transferred into indulgences for believers to purchase and as an escape of the punishment of purgatory.

- 1 At the time, the churches allowed clergy went to each place in Europe to sell indulgence for raising funds. In the end, it became an unfair means of accumulating wealth.
- 2 Portrait of Tetzel
- 3 They propagandized, "Buying more and more indulgence not only could have exemption from future sin, but also could buy it for the dead to save their soul to come off from the Hell, and entered to the Heaven.

NO .40

The Ninety-five Theses which Luther wrote fundamentally questioning Pope's authority on forgiveness of sins and the efficacy of indulgences. He also overturned the saying, 'As soon as a coin in the coffer rings / the soul from purgatory springs.' Luther's statement spread fast all **over** Europe and Pope's authority was questioned and damaged. And Luther's life fell into a series of dangers and debates on beliefs.

- 1 The post promoted selling indulgence. It declared to people that buying indulgence could exchange merits, and saving people come off from the hell and entered to the Heaven. People believed it at the time.

- 2 The churches called that disciples had not been forgiven due to sin, the soul had to refine in “purgatory”, then allowed to enter to the Heaven.
- 3 The box of indulgence or money

NO .41

The Ninety-five Theses was officially named ‘Disputation on the Power of Indulgences’ which was written in Latin. While Luther intended for an academic discussion initially, the Ninety-five Theses were quickly translated into German and distributed after being published. It had made a big stir and caused huge debate. It also contributed to the continuance of religious reformation.

- 1 In 1517, Luther nailed <<The Ninety-Five Theses>> on the Schlosskirche in Wittenberg (down graph), and its front door (left graph).

NO .42

Being a monk, Luther considered the indulgences; good deeds and the pardon of Pope-Pope were all false assurance of peace. Through the true repentance, taking up one’s Cross and suffering only, one can have the assurance of entering the kingdom of God. The center of the Ninety-five Theses is:

The are nevertheless in truth the most insignificant graces when compared with the grace of God and the piety of the cross.(#68)

- 1 The Ninety-Five Theses

NO .43

Heidelberg Disputation

Under Pope’s command, Luther’s mentor, Staupitz, was supposed to fight against Luther’s Ninety-five Theses during a regular triennial meeting of St. Augustine’s Monastery in Heidelberg in April, 1518. Instead, Staupitz kindly decided to offer Luther a fair opportunity to defend for himself. Luther revealed his theology in the meeting by stating that St. Augustine’s theological doctrine on human’s total depravity and salvation is by Cross alone that is coincided with the theology of justification by faith. Many had turned to support Luther and later became the reformists after this disputation.

Now it not sufficient for anyone and it does him no good to recognize God in His glory and majesty, unless he recognized Him in the humility and shame of the cross.

- 1 Luther argued his point of view in Heidelberg.

NO .44

Luther wrote Explanations of the Ninety-five Theses afterwards and his view on the Roman Church had changed as well. He no longer considered the Church was infallible. He said, ‘Roman church as it was at the time of St. Gregory, when it had no jurisdiction over other churches, at least, not over the Greek church.’ he reflected firmly:

We need not fear to die in a state of excommunication. If the sentence is just, the condemned man, with contrition, can still be saved; and if it is unjust, he is blessed.

- 1 The key man who flourished Western Roman Empire was Gregory the Great (540-604, right graph). He was also the last Godfather, and the first Pope. Most of historians define “medieval century” from the year Gregory the Great became the pope in 590, and ended in 1517, the year Martin Luther started Protestant reformation.

NO .45**Examined at Augsburg**

On 12 to 14 October 1518, Luther was questioned privately by papal legate Cardinal Thomas Cajetan in Imperial Diet, in Augsburg. Cajetan reminded Luther that Bible needed to be interpreted and Pope had the exclusive right to interpret scripture and he held supremacy in the Church. Luther confronted with him strongly and there was a deadlock. After the mediation of Prince Frederick, Elector of Saxony, both parties agreed to be silent if the other party does so.

- 1 The interrogation in Augsburg, The cardinal, Thomas Cajetan, asked Luther to give up criticism of indulgence, and admitted authority of the pope. Since then, Luther did not admit the authority of churches anymore.
- 2 The portrait of Thomas Cajetan
- 3 Luther refused to give up the claim, Thomas Cajetan ordered to escort Luther to Rome receiving interrogation. Supporters of Luther helped him to flee overnight.

NO .46**Leipzig Debate**

In 1519, Johann Eck, as the papal representative, conducted a debate in Leipzig with Luther. Eck redirected the terms of debate from the function of indulgencies into the authority of Pope and the Roman Church. It lasted for 18 days. Eck's debating skills led to Luther's declaration on that Sola scriptura was the basis of Christian belief, that neither the Pope nor the Diet were infallible.

- 1 Johann Eck was a defender of the churches and religious doctrines. Eck and Luther had public debate in Leipzig. The contents of debate was included the Hell, selling indulgence, and necessity and methods of confession, and legality of the authority of the pope.
- 2 Johann Eck
- 3 A place of debate was Pleissenburg in Leipzig.
- 4 Pope Leo X announced "Exsurge Domine" to against Luther, and scornfully called Martin Luther was a "wild boar in God's vineyard."

NO .47

On 15 June 1520, Pope Leo X declared that Luther was a heretic and ordered his writings to be burned. By issuing bull of excommunication against Luther, Pope demanded him to recant in 60 days or be excommunicated. However, Luther refused to recant and continued to reiterate Sola scriptura.

- 1 Before Hus laid down his life for principle, he said, "after me, there would be a swarm that they could not catch." After Luther studied the theory of Hus, he had said "we all followed Hus' theory, and did not realize". Luther expected himself to be the swarm to inherit thinking of Wyclif and Hus. Therefore, many works of art regarding to Luther always have image of swarm.

NO .48**Devoting to writing and publishing aggressively and stating faith publicly**

In 1520, Luther published his best-known work, *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church, and On the Freedom of a Christian*, as well as hundreds of German booklets. His writings were very popular. And he also publicly set fire to the bull and decretals which Pope issued. As a consequence, Luther was excommunicated by Pope on 3 January 1521. The breach between Luther and the Roman Church became official thereafter.

- 1 Luther excitedly spoke to supporters who sang hymns on streets of Wittenberg, “I believe God and truth, I wouldn’t compromise. I would like to burn out the unfair decree in front of you to express my protest to Pope.”
- 2 Three writings collected thought of Luther about nations, theology, and religion. And the government, churches, and persons were released from all kinds of authority, sacrament system, and humanity.

NO .49

Diet of Worms

Prompted by Pope, on 17 April 1521, Emperor Charles V held a meeting in Worms and summoned Luther to be present. Though he knew that his safety was uncertain, Luther risked his life and attended. He replied, ‘If there were as many devils at Worms as tiles on its roofs, I would enter, for defending the truth of God.’ Regardless of threats, he boldly stood before the nobility and imperial assembly, reaffirmed *Sola scriptura*.

- 1 Carlos V convened Diet of Worms. He promised that he would not judge Luther’s sin before hearing.
- 2 Accompanied by friends, Luther did not care about any risk to go to Worms. The places he went had many supporters. Luther seemed to be a hero.
- 3 Carlos V
- 4 The place where Luther stood to face a trial

NO .50

After he prayed earnestly for the whole night, at 6pm on 18 April 1521, he declared sternly, ‘Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the Pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me.’

- 1 Luther prayed overnights to gain courage. He declared his faith in Diet of Worms with no fear.

NO .51

Concentrated on translating German Bible by hiding at Wartburg Castle.

During his return from Worms, Luther was fakenly kidnapped with forced by Frederick the Wise, a German Elector who had been supporting him, and had him hidden in Warburg Castle.

- 1 On the way back to Wittenberg, knights of Frederick faked kidnapping to capture Luther and took to hide him in a safe place in Wittenberg.
- 2 Frederick the Wise

NO .52

One month after the Diet of Worms, Pope decreed and condemned Luther as a notorious heretic and an embodiment of devil. His writings were outlawed, should be banned and burned. He also made it a crime for anyone to give Luther food or shelter and permitted anyone to kill Luther and his gangs without legal consequence. Luther lived incognito at the Wartburg for 10 months. He took off his robe, grew a beard and called himself Junker George.

- 1 Churches published a pamphlet via comic to imply Luther as a monster with 7 heads (right graph, seven heads monster is antichrist in Revelation in the Bible). Luther satirized himself, “a comic depicts me as a seven heads monster, certainly, I am unbeatable because they could not beat me when I only had one head.”
- 2 Sneering Luther was a devil’s bagpipe. Luther was fool. (down left graph)
- 3 Hiding in Wartburg, and using a pseudonym, Junker Georg

NO .53

While he lived in seclusion, Luther wrote 12 books and translated Bible from Hebrew and Greek into German so it would be more accessible to the laity. Before, the Roman Church didn’t encourage believers to read Bible on their own. Therefore, there was Latin Bible, Biblia Vulgata, available only and few people could read. Since then, German Christian could read German Bible. And the supremacy of Pope and the Roman Church were gradually replaced by Holy Bible. This took a great impact on the life of Germans. As other nations followed, other vernacular Bible translations replaced Biblia Vulgata. More and more Christians owned their own Bible. Thanks to the breakthrough of moveable printing technology. And the momentum of religious reformation became stronger.

- 1 After Luther translating the Bible (down graph at left), each place in Europe continually started to translate the Bible into languages of each place.
- 2 Luther hid in a small room in Wartburg in busy with 12 writings, such as annotation of May magnified the Lord, annotation of the Epistles and the Gospels etc. The most important, Martin Luther translated the Bible into Germany from Hebrew. (The Bible New Testament was published in 1522, and the Bible Old Testament was published in 1534). The publication of Germany Bible helped all Germany to understand God’s words in their own language. It did not only help proceeding protestant reformation, but also affected the development of Germany, and promoted it to higher level to be a model of Bible translation.

NO .54

Return to Wittenberg and lead the reformation

The movement of Reformation in Wittenberg was in chaos while Luther was disappeared. In 1521, Andreas Carlstadt, Luther’s friend and a senior faculty colleague at Wittenberg, made radical religious ceremonial changes. At Christmas he performed the first reformed communion service in secular clothing and rejected confession as a prerequisite for communion in the service. He also let the communicants take both bread and wine on their own during the communion. Carlstadt advocated that the government should confiscate the church properties and remove imagery from churches. At the end of 1521, a band so-called

Zwickau prophets arrived preaching the messages of doomsday at Wittenberg. And it had worsened the whole situation.

- 1 Andreas Carlstadt was a president of Wittenberg University. He was the person offered doctor degree to Martin Luther. He and Luther promoted the protestant reformation together, and he had debate with Eck in Leipzig. Due to missing of Luther, Carlstadt took intensive means of reformation.

NO .55

In 1522, the town council of Wittenberg asked Luther to return, he decided it was his duty to act. Firstly, he published German New Testament and wrote On the Order of Worship. One of his best aides, Philipp Melanchthon, 1487-1560, also wrote the first reformed theology centered on Justification by Faith. In 1524, with the help of another aid, Luther developed a reformation hymn. Now, by the installments of the scripture, theology, order of worship and hymn, the reformation, or protestant had formed and separated itself from the tradition of the Roman Church, Catholic Church. Little by little, the religious reformation movement had been spreading throughout European continent. It has become the most influential factor of human history and culture.

- 1 “Loci Communes” become the first systematic theology after the protestant reformation.
- 2 Back in Wittenberg, Luther stood on the stage to give speeches, writing propaganda, and suppressed disputes quickly.
- 3 Philip Melanchthon was the most important partner to Martin Luther. He was gentle, loving peace, good at writing, and called as a “writer of silent protestant reformation”.

NO .56

Debate with Erasmus, Luther lost support of intellectuals

The religious reformation movement of Martin Luther was critically tested from 1524 to 1525. Luther had been praised by intellectuals ever since he devoted himself into religious reformation. Among them, Desiderius Erasmus, 1466-1536, was an influential humanism ideologist. In 1524, Erasmus wrote a book, On Free Will, which indicated that human being had the free will to choose. Luther responded to his writing by a publication, On the Bondage of the Will, after reading it. As Luther pointed out in his writing, men had no freedom under the bondage of sin. The debate on free will turned hot. However, many intellectuals considered Luther went too extreme. They followed the lead of Erasmus and abandoned Luther’s reformation movement.

- 1 Desiderius Erasmus, “On Free Will” (down graph)
Martin Luther, “The Bondage of the Will” (down left graph)
- 2 Desiderius Erasmus was a scholar of humanitarianism in Catholic. He sympathized the circumstances of Martin Luther and would like to be his friend. However, due to “On Free Will”, they had broken the relationship.

NO .57

Offended peasants and lost their support

On the other hand, Peasant War broke out. German peasants rebelled against nobility for their rights. They killed many nobilities and feudal during one riot. Luther didn’t agree with revolutionary violence. Therefore, he encouraged the nobility to swiftly suppress the peasants in order to sustain social stability. Thus, large crowd of peasants left his reformation

movement. Within a year, Luther lost the support of both intellectuals and peasants. And the death of the German Elector, Frederick the Wise, who was Luther's greatest supporter, made it worse. Though, Luther persevered and continued to make advance on religious reformation.

- 1 Thomas Munzer, an aggressive protestant reformer and a leader of revolution of peasants, stood using violence to realize social reformation.
- 2 Luther was against violent reform, he preached and discouraged farmers from rebellion.
- 3 John inherited his older brother as Frederick the Wise in 1525, and continually supported actions of Luther's protestant reformation.

NO .58

After the Diet of Speyer, the birth of Protestantism

After the Diet of Worms, Emperor Charles V did not execute the Edict of Worms to declare Luther as a heretic due to wars with France and the Peasant. From 1526 to 1629, he called for two assemblies at Speyer to settle down the conflicts between the Roman Church and Luther in the realm of Holy Roman Empire. In 1526, the Diet of Speyer decided that every prince could choose religious beliefs that temporarily frozen the Edict of Worms. However, in 1529, during the Diet of Speyer, it was announced that the Edict of Worms shall be executed and the reformation sects to renounce their belief. The evangelical princes who had been supporting Luther stood up and protested against this decision. Hence, the reform movement became known as "Protestants". And the Protestants Restorationism was born.

- 1 Diet of Speyer, in 1529, supported Luther against churches and emperors. Christianity was called "Protestants".(down) Speyerer Dom was a place in order to commemorate the protest of supporting Luther's reformation.(down right)

NO .59

Diet of Augsburg

In 1530, Emperor Charles V called for assembly at Augsburg trying to quench the fire of religious reformation movement by inviting both parties to make a statement on their beliefs. Luther's identity was not legal so he was unable to be present at the Diet. Staying at the Veste Coburg, he made himself present through a variety of publications including the composing of Admonition to All the Clergy Assembled at Augsburg. His friend, Philipp Melanchthon, was mediating in between and published "Augsburg Confession" which detailed the theology doctrines of the Lutheranism. While the Roman Church rebuked it by publishing "Confutatio Augustana", Melanchthon responded with a much detailed publication, "Apologia Augustana". The assembly rejected and decided to persecute reformation movement by violence. The Lutheranism and the Roman Church separated and pursued their own path.

- 1 Diet of Augsburg in 1530
- 2 In Diet of Augsburg, people who supported reformation proposed Augsburg Confession to a emperor.
- 3 Augsburg Confession
- 4 The illustration in Augsburg Confession

NO .60

Luther's marriage and family

NO .61

Against celibacy tradition and married former nun, Kate

Luther considered celibacy was not necessary and unscriptural for priests and nuns. He assisted and protected many nuns escaped from the Nimbschen Cistercian convent and helped them to get married. In 1525, he married Katherine von Bora, nicknamed Kate, who was one of the former nuns and had children with her. He put his belief into practice and had a happy family life with Kate.

- 1 Luther thought that his marriage could make his father happy, enrage the pope, make angels laugh, and devil cries.

Luther called Kate “sweetheart”, “wretched wife”, and “my ribs”. In a letter to a friend, “Even though I am nothing, I am not willing to exchange her with any fortune.”

NO .62

Kate was a virtuous, competent and diligent housewife. She was a good helper to her husband, Luther. She grew much of their food from her garden by planting vegetables and fruits, raising chicken, geese, pigs, cattle and bees. She could brew beer, even. Though Luther used to be untidy but was gaining weight after she tenderly took care of him. They loved each other deeply while communicating and supporting each other in prayers and in spirits. Sometimes, Kate would have arguments with Luther over his excessive generosity. Luther taught Kate Bible knowledge and she advised him with gospel of forgiveness and encouraged him while he was discouraged. One day, Luther fell into his depression again and couldn't get out of it. Kate dressed in black with all her children around her, in black too. Luther asked, “Who is dead?” Kate replied, “No, your appearance looked like God is dead? So I joined with you in sorrow.” Luther understood the underlying meaning and went out of frustration.

- 1 After the abbey reformed Luther's house, there was a vegetable farm and orchard in front of the house.

- 2 The statue of Kate in front of Luther's old house (left graph)

Kate was going through a door and forward with a firm and steady step. Allegedly, the door represented a line of two times, a sister married to a friar was a breakthrough of the time! It was also represented the door of Luther's house. Kate took care of her husband, brought up six children, and received visitors and students, she has to do her best efforts and went in and out to be the best helper of Luther.

NO .63

Luther and his children

Luther and Kate had six children: Hans, Elisabeth, Magdalena, Martin, Paul and Margaretha. Luther loved his children very much and enjoyed the time spent with them. Two of their children died young because of the plague. He was deeply distressed of losing them.

- 1 Luther valued his family and loved children. He said, “Due to God's grace and nomination, parents become parents. This is my duty and pleasure. The duty is from God's order.”

- 2 Luther's second daughter, Magdalena, was past away when in the year of 13 or 14.

Luther asked Magdalena if she was willing to go to Holy Father's place. She answered, “Yes, I do. Dear father, let's obey God's will.” Luther and Kate were sad, however, they did believe that Magdalena was back to Holy Father's place before them.

NO .64

Raising children in a lively and happy family

The Luther's family loved music with passionately. When they gathered, they praised God by singing hymns. And those who heard would admire the atmosphere of this family. He used to say that he not only let his children study languages and history, but also sing music and study mathematics. Luther was an advocate of family. He believed that family was the school for spirit and virtue cultivation, a center and foundation of education. Therefore, parents should be responsible for educating their children. Luther said, "Parents give birth to children is to form them physically; they have responsibility to educate their children by shaping their minds and teaching them the word of God so Christ could be formed in their hearts. Therefore, parents or teachers must bear the pain like giving birth to childbirth again and work with God, praying the Holy Spirit accomplish the work Christ formed in the hearts of their Children."

- 1 The Luther always sang and praised to God together. The way he taught children was creative, more leading thinking and less sermon, more encouragement and less punishment.

NO .65

Lecturing all the time and Table Talk were collected into publication

In order to help out with family expenses, Katy rented out extra rooms of her house by accommodating 20 students. She supplied the meals by cooking herself. Martin Luther was so fond at table talk. His topics ranged from the ineffable majesty of God the Omnipotent to the frogs in the Elbe. The boarding students took notes recording his teachings. It became the famous "Table Talk". There are 6596 entries that the students recorded, Compared with Luther's academic writings, "Table Talk" demonstrates more on Luther's heroic and humorous characters and is a valuable record for those who want to understand Luther's thinking.

- 1 The Luther and students had meal together and casual comment.
- 2 Students recorded Luther's words from the dining table and edited to a book.
- 3 Luther's former residence

NO .66

The influence and contribution of Luther to Human history and culture

NO .67

Writing hymns and singing, a promoter of Church hymns

Luther loved music. He was talented on playing, singing and composing. He had been singing in a choir since he was very young. While he was at home, he sang with his children as well. A co-worker said, "I spent quite a lot of time sing along with him. He would never get tired nor bored at singing. And he was always talking about music with enthusiasm." Luther once said, "Music is a fair and glorious gift of God which has often wakened and moved me to the joy of preaching. Music is a divinely inspirational weapon against the devil. It drives away the devil and makes people happy. To the devil, music is distasteful and insufferable. My heart bubbles up and overflow in response to music, which has so often taken me out from pain and busy daily affairs. Our heavenly father desires music to be used in churches forever. This precious gift gives to human beings only, that reminds us that God has created human beings for the purpose of praising and highlighting God."

- 1 Luther sang in a church choir in his childhood. After he married, he played music and sang to lead family to worship. Moreover, he taught children to use music to serve God.

NO .68

Luther was passionate on music. He engaged himself in composing and writing hymns. He insisted that church hymns should not become a mere accessory of ceremony. Rather, the congregation shall sing to each other for praising God. It was also a realization of the doctrine of all priesthood that influenced the church music greatly. He also reformed the format of hymns by writing lyrics in German instead of Latin; adopting scriptures into lyrics; having the melody restored to be simple and flexible, and he called it hymns or Chorale. It is a brand new formation without shadows of tradition. Later, Oratorios, full of the effects of drama, was formed. There was a saying, "With German Bible, God could speak directly to German saints. And with the German hymns, German saints could pour out their hearts to God directly too." Ever since, in the past 500 years, choral has been an important church heritage and it affected the future of art of music immediately.

○1 Hymns (Gregorian Chant) in the medieval century, only the clergy could sign in a church.

○2 Luther published "Etlich cristliche Lyeder Lobgesang; Achtliederbuch" in 1524. Although there were only 8 songs, it was a breakthrough year to church music. He continually wrote lyrics, melody, and these become worship songs and everyone could sing.

NO .69

Luther published thirty seven hymns in his life. Out of these thirty seven hymns, eleven were translated from Latin to German; four were adopted and modified from folk songs; seven were edited from Psalm. The best known one was "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", based on Psalm 46. It was composed with speaking German language along with folk style tune. The lyrics were refined and concise and the melody rhythmic. It was called "Battle Hymn of the Reformation."

NO .70

Once the theologians stated that the contributions of Luther to the faith of Christ were three of his life works the best gifts for churches. Firstly, he restored the truth of "justification by faith; secondly, he translated Bible; thirdly, the hymns that he composed. Martin Luther also said, **Next to theology I give music the highest place of honor Next to the Word of God, the praise of music can change the characters and life of God's children the most..**

NO .71

The Lutheran music also led the trend of Christian music and was shining forth in the days of Bach, Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685=1750. Coincidentally, Bach was born in Eisenach, where Luther was raised up two thousand years ago. He also went to St. Georgenkirche Latin school, the one that Luther used to attend. He was greatly influenced by Martin Luther and devoted to compose church chorale all his life. He used to apply more than 30 of Luther's chorales into his festival program so to honor Luther's contribution. His work of divine music and cantata revealed that faith resulted in spiritual activities. He woke up the spiritual sympathy through the different compositions of rhythm and harmony. By doing it, he redefined the meaning of music. The work of Bach, which was also an experience of pilgrim, was in line with the work of Martin Luther.

- 1 Stained glass of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church meant, "no Luther No Bach, Martin Luther was Bach's composing inspiration.
- 2 For many people, they recognized Christian hymn via Bach, and he was called "the father of music"

NO .72

The wave of reformation was overwhelming, and opened a historical new page Religious Reformation in Germany

Saxon declared the Lutheranism as official religion in 1527, and it was practiced in half manors in Germany in 1530. Luther dedicated his whole life on shaping and perfecting the ordinances, creeds, and hymns and so on until the day that he died in 1546.

- 1 Because of protection from Sachsen and other suzerains, the Protestant Reformation might be able to continued in German.
- 2 Nowadays, there are statues and epitaphs in the places that Luther had been to commemorate Martin Luther and other protestant reformers. Currently, Lutheranism is the main denomination in German.

NO .73

Religious Reformation flourishing all over Europe

In 1523, the religious reformation began in Zurich of Swiss Confederation by Huldrych Zwingli so to urge the Zurich City Council accepted the Reformed faith. The Church of England conducted its own religious revolution from Roman Catholic Church due to political issues. In 1537, John Calvin published *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. He was based at Geneva and his influence was wide spreading in Europe. The Lutheranism was adopted by Denmark and Norway as official religion while advancing its reach in northern Europe in 1537. Though the majority believed in Catholic, Calvinism protestant still made steady progress in France. Martin Luther's reformation movement had an impact on every aspect of European history and culture with different scale.

- 1 The graph depicted the protestant reformation in Europe had caused confrontation. In order, Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin who were the main leaders in the protestant reformation sat on the left side of the table. The representatives of the churches sat on the right side of the table, and surrounded by other protestant reformers.
- 2 Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli influenced each area.

NO .74

The Internal Changes of Catholic Church

Though the Reformation movement led by Martin Luther was to deny the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church, it split and other divisions were even more radical than Lutheranism. On the other hand, as a result of the reformation movement, the cry for internal reformation rose also in the Roman Catholic Church. The Counter-Reformation leaders, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and San Francisco Javier, went on Asia mission in 1534. The protestant also aggressively sent out missionaries to Asia and Africa to share gospel in late 18th century. Christianity gradually united under the influence of Lutheran theology and played a significant role in the process of new culture emergences in the world.

- 1 Pope Paul III especially opened The Council of Trent (1545-1563) to adopt a resolution for all kinds of "Counter Reformation" which was proposed by Martin Luther. However, it

significantly reformed Rome churches.

- 2 Xavier was the first missionary who evangelized Catholic to Melaka and Japan. In Catholicism, he was called as “the greatest missionary in the history”. He planned to evangelize into China, however he passed away due to illness on the Kawasima that is offshore from Guangdong.

NO .75

The founding spirit of USA was founded by Luther’s theology

In 1620, 102 English Puritans sailed to English colony in North America by the Mayflower. Before they went ashore, 41 male passengers signed the Mayflower Compact on 11 November, 1620, and it declared: “...in the presence of God, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. The Mayflower Compact, 11 November, 1620.” The context of Mayflower Compact was founded by the belief of religious reformation. It initiated a new age which is that a government is formed by the agreements of governors and shall be governed by law. It is one of the ideologies of the establishment of the United States of America in 1775 and became the cornerstone of every democratic country in the world nowadays.

- 1 “Mayflower Compact” was become the basic ideas of nature human right and all men are created equal in United States Declaration of Independence.
- 2 Mayflower went ashore at Plymouth, MA. The Puritan who sought godly Christian signed “Mayflower Compact”.

NO .76

In 18th century, the revival of Moravian Bohemian Brethren begot a severe conflict with Catholic Jesuits. The Moravian Bohemian Brethren sang the hymn composed by Martin Luther, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” when they were arrested. They were persecuted severely in prison. Some escaped and were sheltered by Count Nicholas Von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760. They became the initiator of the great Moravian Revival. In 1717, Zinzendorf enrolled into University of Wittenberg, the same one which Martin Luther used to study. It was also the 200 anniversary of the publication of Ninety-five Theses and a lot of celebration activities were going on. This experience greatly impacted Zinzendorf on his belief, life and missions. In 1735, Zinzendorf sent out the very first missionary group, an immigrant gospel preaching group composed by the once escape-from-persecution brethren, to America from Herrnhut, Germany. Hence one can see that American’s founding ideology was influenced by the Lutheranism.

- 1 The organization of Zinzendorf and its Herrnhut was called “Moravians”, or “Unitas Fratrum”.
- 2 David Nitschmann and Zinzendorf sent out the first group of missionary to United States, and it was also the first bishop of Unitas Fratrum in United States.
- 3 The badge of Unitas Fratrum.
They firmly stood by the spirit of the Protestant Reformation, emphasizing on “Truth is our life, not a theory.”

NO .77

Luther's reformation in Chinese history

NO .78

The missionaries brought the world into China

Chinese learned Martin Luther and Lutheranism through the introduction of foreign missionaries in late Ching dynasty. Xu Jiyu, a Fukien governor of Ching dynasty, influenced by American missionary David Abeel, 1804-1846, described David Abeel as a knowledgeable gentleman of the west in the preface of his work, "A Short Account of the Maritime Circuit". He was benefited greatly from being friend with Abeel. "A Short Account of the Maritime Circuit" is a publication about the geography and history of the world which expanded the perspectives of Chinese on global history and human civilization and played a key role for Chinese to look beyond China. Xu Jiyu mentioned Martin Luther in this book several times.

- 1 "A Short Account of the Maritime Circuit" (up graph) and its author, Xu, Ji-yu (up left) who was a minister of the Qing Dynasty.
- 2 Abeel was the first missionary from Congregational Church. He had communication with Xu, Ji-yu, and had influenced Xu's international view and geographical view.

NO .79

In the Introduction of European, a chapter of the most well-known publication, A Short Account of the Maritime Circuit which was written by Xu Jiyu, it has a statement regarded with Martin Luther, "Ever since Han dynasty, European countries believe in Catholic. The leader lives in Rome and has the supremacy right over nations. In early Ming dynasty, Luther, a German, separated himself from Catholic and formed a Protestant Christianity religion. Since, half nations follow the Catholic and another half follow Protestant Christianity. The conflicts between these two religions had resulted in the fights of royals against peasants and nations against nations." Tan Shitong, who was victimized for participating the Hundred Day's Reform in late Ching dynasty, commented on Luther in his writing, Ren Xue(仁學). He grieved over the radical changes during that era and was expecting people to stand out just like Luther by stating, "At the beginning of the Lutheranism, the principle of kingdom of God entitled people equality and strived to remove all the inequality. Thus, God reigns. However, Pope of the Roman Catholic Church didn't put it into practice but also claimed his supremacy in the name of God for his own interest so to dominate people. The thrones of the Emperors, though majestic and powerful, were at Pope's disposal. Therefore, they flattered him at their best. Hundreds of wars waging against Lutheranism and millions died. Woe to kings. Till the Lutheranism increased, and the Catholic decreased, people recognized that what it holds is authentic. Therefore, Christianity was decreased through the work of Pope but its revival was the strength of Luther. The dying of Confucianism exposed the false doctrine of the kings' governance and its failure. And there is no one yet to revive it. Therefore, I wish Confucianism a man rise like Martin Luther

- 1 Tan Shitong and his writing "Ren Xue"

NO .80

Kang Youwei, one of the influential men in modern history, was aware of Martin Luther too. He visited Wartburg Castle, where Luther hid after the Diets of Worms, while he was in exile and wrote a poem, "Praise Luther". "A hero hid under wooden shelter and translated scripture while war was waging in October. Thanks to be the Elector's protection or he would be

deceased and gone with the wind.” He listed Martin Luther, Immanuel Kant and Bismarck as the three German Heroes in his “German Journal” 1904. And he honored Luther as the head of the three German Heroes. No wonder his student, Liang Qichao, respectfully called his mentor, Kang Youwei, the Martin Luther in the Confucianism.

- 1 Philosopher of Enlightenment, Kant
- 2 Bismarck, blood-and-iron prime minister of Prussia
- 3 Kang Youwei wrote in “Journey in German”, “First time in German, there were Luther’s portraits everywhere. A portrait of Luther had a book in hand, looked like firm and steady. Luther started Protestantism, after 400 years, it was around the world, and there were thousands of followers. He was truly a talent in German. Through European history, Luther should be the first person. Traveling around German, I was pleasure to meet this portrait.”

NO .81

English missionary, William Muirhead, 1822-1900, once wrote “the Martin Luther”, a biography of Martin Luther, on missionary publication, “Christian Literature society for China”. It was published in two sequels in 1881. Though it was short, but included the essence. The abstract follows:

Let’s study the life of Martin Luther who was well known and also a revivalist in Protestantism..... One day, when he was on a journey with a classmate, suddenly, it was cloudy and thunders roamed, accidently, his friend was struck dead by lightening. He was terrified and vowed to be a Catholic monk. ...His deeds and characters amazed many because he confronted the kings and royals boldly and protested to what he believed. He said, “Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason- I do not accept. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”....Luther was appointed by God to reform the belief and spread it all over the world. Most western prominent countries, nowadays, have their trust in Protestantism and alienate from the Catholic. The Protestants are active and aggressive. Therefore, politics and literature, etc. have been flourishing in Western countries.

- 1 At the time, intellectuals must read “Christian Literature society for China” to understand western knowledge. The magazine was published for the longest period, and influenced the most in China.

NO .82

Lutheranism missionaries evangelizing in China

Karl Friedrich August Gutzlaff (1803-1851), or Guo Shi Li, was the first German Lutheran Missionary to China. He had himself adopted into Guo family which the ancestral hall locats in Fujian Tongan in order to evangelize Chinese. He was called the Morning Star Preacher of Chinese Lutheranism because he was the one who impelled the German Lutheran church to send missionaries to China. Gutzlaff died in young age, and he was buried in Happy Valley Cemetery in Hong Kong. The epitaph on his tombstone described him as “the Father of Chinese Lutheran Church.” Gutzlaff Street of Hong Kong was named after him.

- 1 Gutzlaff had attened Nanjing discussion, and drafted Treaty of Nanking. It let him facing censure.
- 2 Gutzlaff Street in HongKong
- 3 Gutzlaff’s grave and epigraph in cemetery in Happy Valley in HonKong

- 4 Gutzlaff wore Chinese sailor clothes to evangelize to Chinese.

NO .83

Lutheranism of the US and northern European countries had been following the footsteps of the Germans and had landed and spread all over the China. For example, Norwegian Lutheranism built their home base in middle Hunan Province, so they had been called XiangZhong Lutheran Church. In the early 20th Century, they settled in Yiyang Taohuacang and had it as their mission center. The so-called Chinese Schindler, ambassador Fong-shan Ho, had mentioned the church in his hometown Yiyang in his memoirs, My Forty Years as a Diplomat.

- 1 Teach dormitory of Yiyang Taohuacang of the Lutheran College (up right)
The photo of Norwegian missionary team (down right)
- 2 Norwegian Missionary society church in Changsha in Qing Dynasty (up left)
The orphans adopted at Yiyang Taohuacang Lutheranism church (down left)
- 3 The predecessor of Yiyang Central Hospital is Lutheranism Hospital that was established by Norwegian Missionary.
- 4 Ambassador Feng-shan Ho saved thousands of Jews after the World War II. United Nations called him “Chinese Schindler”. Left graph is a autobiography of Fong-Shan Ho “My Forty Years as a Diplomat”.

NO .84

Jigongshan, the summer resort of Lutheranism

Kikungshan locates at the junction of Henan and Hubei. It has beautiful scenery and cool weather, a good place for summer retreat. In the early 20th century, Kikungshan had attracted a large crowd of foreigners to purchase lands and build houses after Lutheranism missionaries Daniel Nelson and Knut Sorensen Stokke explored this place. In the peak of its prosperity, hundreds of villas were erected with different fashion.

- 1 Autumn in 1903, 3 missionaries, Nelson (left), Stokke (right), and Martinson (middle), stood on Kikungshan to discuss developing plans.
- 2 Villas on Kikungshan
- 3 Daniel Nelson, the missionary of Lutheranism
- 4 The main peak of Kai Kung Shan is called “peaked head”, also named “reported peak”. The shape of Kai Kung Shan seems to be a crowing cock, thus named it “Kikungshan”. The place was barren hills before. Because of Nelson, Stokke, and Martinson’s development, it became one of famous summer resort in China.

NO .85

In August, 1920, the Chinese Lutheranism was founded in Kikungshan, Honan. It is a milestone of Lutheranism in China. Many offspring of foreign missionaries in China shared the same memory of the American School of Kikungshan, which used to be relocated in Guling of Lushan, Wohan and HongKong when war erupted. Its North American alumni still functions. Marjorie Ingeleiv Bly, 1919-2008, known as Lady White or Auntie White, who was sent by American Lutheranism to Taiwan and spent 40 years for caring lepers in Penghu, was born in Kikungshan.

- 1 Teachers and Students at American School of Kikungshan.
- 2 Marjorie Ingeleiv Bly dedicated her whole life in Penghu Taiwan.

- 3 Chinese Lutheranism had conference in Kikungshan.
- 4 American School in past and today.

NO .86

From Missouri to Yangtze River

The general Assembly of Evangelical Lutheran Church is in St. Louis, Missouri. Its Concordia Seminary, which trained and sent numerous missionaries to China, locates there too. The mission fields of Evangelical Lutheran Church in China were along Yantze River in Hubei and Sichuan. Hence, the Lutheran scholar, Dave Kohl, recorded the mission history of China in a book named "Lutherans on the Yangtze". The Concordia Seminary established Hankow branch in 1932. It had cultivated a lot of local ministers. The remains of the seminary, which is a kindergarten now, is a historical heritage preserved by Wuhan government. From 1913 to 1952, in forty years, the American Lutheran Church of Missouri had sent 58 male missionaries along with their family and 7 single female teachers and nurses to China.

- 1 Lutherans on the Yangtze
- 2 Teachers and students of Concordia Seminary in Hankow
- 3 Missioners of Evangelical Lutheran church and Chinese children
- 4 In 1839, the Concordia Seminary was established in Saint Louis, MI. The tower of Luther and the portrait of Luther were set up in the campus to commemorate Martin Luther.
- 5 Rev. Arndt and his wife went to Hankow in September 1913. It was the beginning of missionary in China for Evangelical Lutheran Church.

NO .87

From China to Taiwan

Foreign missionaries of different denominations, organizations and churches moved to Taiwan from China along with Nationalist Government of the Republic of China in 1949 when the Communist took over China. In 1951, the first Lutheran church was built in Kaohsiung. After Kaohsiung and Taipei, it built up churches in Taichung, Tainan and Chiayi. In 10th November 1954, Taiwan Lutheranism set up its general Assembly. Until 2014, the 60th anniversary of Taiwan Lutheranism Church, it has planted nearly 90 churches and mission stations in Taiwan. The organizations belong or associate with Taiwan Lutheran Church are Taosheng Publishing House, China Lutheran Seminary, Chia-Yi Christian Hospital, Kaohsiung Lutheran Hospital, Double Bliss Welfare and Charity Foundation and so on. Besides, it is also effective in overseas medical service and church planting.

- 1 The old time of Taipei Truth Lutheran Church of Taiwan Lutheran Church (left)
Lutheran brothers' dormitory (right)
Many intellectuals' life had good life construction here.
- 2 The old time of Taoshen Publishing House and Yin, Ying
- 3 The campus of China Lutheran Seminary in China Lutheran Seminary today
- 4 Today's Chia-Yi Christian Hospital

NO .88

Luther, though deceased, speaks still

NO .89

The death of Martin Luther

Luther's health had been deteriorated in his last days. On January 28, 1546, he journeyed to his birthplace, Eisleben, to settle down family dispute. Regardless of his poor health, he still preached four sermons and ordained two new pastors on the way to Eisleben. Finally, he collapsed. He told his friend Jonas, "I was born and baptized here in Eisleben, what if I should stay here."

In the evening of 17 February, Luther asked his friends to intercede for gospel to be widely spread. Realized that this might be the last moment of his life, he prayed, "I thank Thee, Lord God, heavenly Father, that Thou hast revealed unto me Thy dear Son, in whom I believed, whom I preached, whom I loved. I pray thee, Lord Jesus Christ; let my soul be commended to thee. I know, though I must give up this body I shall live forever with thee. I am ready to depart."

- 1 On the way back to hometown for mediating family disputes, he got sick and lay down on the bed until he rested in peace.
- 2 Eisleben was the place where Luther was born and died. The square had portrait of Luther (up right).
The bed was lay by Luther when he was sick and rested in peace. (middle right)
St. Andreas Church was the church where Luther gave the last sermon.

NO .90

Then he said it three time, "Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God." Luther's friends were beside his deathbed caring him by applying medicine to ease his pain, wiping his sweat and comforting him. His last word was, "Let my soul be commended to thee, Lord." His companions confirmed that he had kept his faith till the end. in the morning of February 28th, Martin Luther rested forever. On February 22th, he was buried in the Castle Church in Wittenberg, not far away from his preaching pulpit. The gravestone was inscribed in Latin, which reads: "Here buried the body of Doctor of Sacred Theology, Martin Luther, who died in the year of Christ 1546, on February 18th, in his hometown Eisleben after having lived for 63 years, 2 months and 10 days.

- 1 Rev. Bugenhagen, Luther's best friend, preached in Luther's memorial service.
- 2 The deadee of Martin Luther
- 3 Luther often preached in podium of Schlosskirche in Wittenberg before he dead, and his grave was under the podium.

NO .91

Luther's attitude facing death overturned the tradition

Luther frequently discussed the topic of death in difference occasions one year before his death. He even wrote a booklet named "Preparing to Die (Ein Sermon von der Bereitung zum Sterben)" to teach believers how to face death. He suggested them, "Fixing your eyes on the love and grace of God towards human beings instead of thinking how dreadful death and hell would be like. For Jesus Christ has carried all our sins and he has overcome death." Luther described death as a baby was given birth and delivered from the tiny womb, passing through darkness, experiencing agony and terror before coming to the beautiful world. Death is like a narrow gate, once we pass through it, eternal life is at hand.

- 1 Funeral of Luther
- 2 In "Ein Sermon von der Bereitung zum Sterben", Luther mentioned that death was just

like a birth of a baby, choosing to enter at the “strait gate” that God had prepared. Therefore, after struggling pain and fear, it would be able to receive a new life, and new world.

- 3 After hundreds of years, Luther’s “Ein Sermon von der Bereitung zum Sterben” is still publishing today.

NO .92

Although Luther was suffering badly from his illness, he still had the sense of humor. The day before he died, he said, “ I can return home and lay down in the coffin let the earthworms enjoy this fatty doctor’s body if they can reach a consensus.” There was a trend after Luther’s death that the tombstones would be paint with the biblical stories of death raised or sickness healed. When pastors preached during funeral, they would start by remembering the life and faith of the deceased. Funerary objects were not important anymore. And the mourning hymns were replaced by hymns of forgiveness, rest and resurrection; these changes strengthened the faith of believers. Luther started a new culture to face death. As he best friend, Melanchthon, commented his influence, “Luther died, Luther alive.”

- 1 Facing death, Luther still could have a sense of humor.
- 2 Influenced by Luther’s view of faith, Christian started to use stories of resurrection (such as Lazarus), or stories about healing (such as Moses had Nehushtan in hand) at artwork on their graves.

NO .93

What Luther had left would always be remembered

The church historian, who also is the author of the book, “HERE I STAND: A Life of Martin Luther”, Roland H. Bainton, commented Luther’s influences in three areas: to Germany, to church and in doctrine. He said, “To Germans, Luther fashioned the characters of Germans. Their language was very much impacted by Luther’s work of translating Bible into German. Luther’s chief influence to his own countrymen is the value of family. To the church, Luther’s influence extended far beyond the border of Germany. There are Lutheran churches in Scandinavia and America. It also was spreading to all over the world through the European and American missionary movement. To doctrine, Luther advocated the supremacy of Bible and concluded with doctrines of Five Solas: Sola scriptura (“by Scripture alone”), Sola fide (“by faith alone”), Sola gratia (“by grace alone”), Solus Christus (“Christ alone”) and Soli Deo gloria (“glory to God alone”). The Five Solas Doctrine is widely adopted by different denominations.

- 1 There are different visions of “HERE I STAND: A Life of Martin Luther”. It had been welcome since it was published. It becomes the long selling book.
- 2 Roland H. Bainton was a authoritative historical scholar. His representative work was “HERE I STAND: A Life of Martin Luther”.

NO .94

The 19th century historian Thomas Carlyle praised Luther with highly admiration in “On Heroes, hero Worship and the Heroic in History”, “I will call this Luther a true Great Man; great in intellect, in courage, affection and integrity; one of our most lovable and precious man. Great, not as a hewn obelisk; but as an Alpine mountain, so simple, honest, spontaneous, not setting up to be great at all; there for quite another purpose than being great! Ah yes, unsubduable , granite, piercing far and wide into the Heavens; yet in the clefts of it fountains,

green beautiful valleys with flowers! A right Spiritual Hero and Prophet; once more, a true Son of Nature and Fact, for whom these centuries, and many that are to come yet, will be thankful to Heaven. “

○1 Martin Luther led changes and he was depicted as a “Hero of German” with passion and courage.

As below, it was Thomas Carlyle’s writing “On Heroes, Hero Worship and the Heroic in History”. In the book, Martin Luther was praised as a hero in priests.

○2 Thomas Carlyle was a historical scholar, satirical writer, and a critic and with the most powerful influence in the age of Victoria in England.

NO .95

A life example shaping the culture and histories afterwards

NO .96

Devoted in studying Bible, faithful to Biblical revelation

Sola Gratia, sola Fides and Sola Scriptura were the core values of Martin Luther’s life. He faithfully kept them all his life and run toward the goal to adhere to the revelation from Scripture without any excursion. He was an uncompromised debater who reasoned out the revelation carefully and carried out faithfully, hence his whole life is an example of glorifying God and serving for the benefits of others which has formed a culture and changed the history afterwards.

○1 Allegedly, Martin Luther was made fun and disturbed by the evil when he translated the Bible. This brave reformer took ink and splashed to attack and against the evil.

Therefore, until now, there is still have stain on the wall.

○2 The promotion materials of the 100th anniversary of Protestant Reformation

The light, on the right side of the painting, penetrated cloud was lighted on the Bible that Luther was reading. Luther, on the left side of the painting, hold a quill in hand and wrote the mistake of indulgence on the door of a church. The quill penetrated a pope’s ears, and also took off a crown on the pope.

NO .97

Established Sola Scriptura as the only way to pursuit God

The current global society advocates culture diversities and the ultimate unchanging eternity is not in sight. The value system has been twisted by the ideas of no absolute, no truth and no God. Therefore, the public loses the ideas of origin and destination of lives. The grievance of losses lasts from generation to generation and there has been no surprise. Therefore, faith shall be built upon the foundation of Sola Scriptura so that we could press on toward the goal and win the prize from God above.

○1 Luther emotionally preached and firmly believed that the Lord’s words are the light of life, Christ’s salvation and sympathy on the cross. For believers, it is grace, and for unbelievers, it is punishment.

○2 Martin Luther emphasized on sermons on a podium. Luther, in the painting, put one hand on the Bible, and the other hand pointed on the Jesus Christ on the cross that meant salvation. It was the prerequisite and expression of God’s words. And the Bible is the only and certainly unchangeable truth.

NO .98

Make good use of media and write diligently

Martin Luther was born in the time that Gutenberg's moveable type printing was invented. He made good use of this new printing technology and wrote remarks, essays and poems in elegant or slang styles which aimed for different target audiences to win attentions. In spite of risking his life while debating and being busy on traveling, Luther wrote diligently with discipline. Luther's writings were astonishingly enormous and few can be his equal on the spectrum of history. What's more, his work was powerful because his writing was reasoned with clarity and easily understood. None was not impacted by his work, from the greatest to the least,.

- 1 Gutenberg movable type
- 2 Martin Luther translated the Bible diligently

NO .99

We live in an era of multimedia communication. The communication effectiveness of new media is great and boundlessness. Once we have the information, we have the world. This is the fulfillment of 'Power Shift', the futurist Alvin Toffler's prediction. Standing at where we are today and review the footsteps of Martin Luther, we should develop a strategy on writing and new media in order to have great impact and reshape Christianity culture in the whole world.

- 1 If Martin Luther were born now, he would....

NO .100

Leaping out of the box of church and fundamentally changing culture and society

Most people focused on Luther's 'Ninety-five Theses' and the consequence of religious reformation when they think about Martin Luther. His influence and contribution is limited in the area of religious reformation. However, Luther's reformation is a fundamental revolution. He overturned the former relationship between believers and God by emphasizing that each one can read bible, pray and worship God by themselves instead of through the help of a mediator. Everyone is equal before God. God doesn't value one by one's social status and wealth but one's inner being.

- 1 Due to a point of Luther's view "everyone is a priest", every believer could read the Bible and pray by self, and could go communion at a church. Everyone could have personal relationship with God, and everyone is equal.
- 2 Family fellowship of the Protestant, the family sang hymn and worshiped together.
- 3 Believers could sing together in worship.

NO .101

Building up the foundation of human right and democracy

God created all things according to their kinds and every creature is unique in His sight. God so loved the world that He has prepared perfect salvation for mankind. Human, only, comes before God and believes will be justified and receives salvation. This is the genuine foundation of human rights and democracy. It has been proved by the human right and democracy historical progress in the past hundred years.

- 1 United States Declaration of Independence was based on the theory of "human right" in Enlightenment in Europe. It is a milestone for the development of democracy in early modern.
- 2 William Wilberforce was the precursor of slave emancipation. He was an independent

member of Parliament.

- 3 Locke (left) and Rousseau (down right) proposed the idea of “human right, sovereignty in people”.
- 4 The president of United States, Abraham Luncoln, and Dr. Martin Luther King abolished unequal treatment to black racial.

NO .102

Facing the crisis of depersonalization, setting up the absolute value of humanity

In Martin Luther’s point of view, “regardless of sovereign kings or beggars, both could kneel side by side before God and pray.” in other words, God sees only two persons kneeling before him regardless of their social status, kings or beggars. He sees beings not possessions. Sadly, outward feelings, materialism and idealism are overemphasized in modern culture. The consequence of postmodern scholars’ de-deification and depersonalization is found in destroyed foundation of human right democracy, dignity and value of live. It also gives birth to all kinds of crisis and difficulties in today’s society and culture. Thus, replanting the seeds of Martin Luther’s work into every aspect of society and culture is critical. The mission work of churches shall go deeper into the society to prepare good soil for receiving the seed of gospel and be fruitful with thirty, sixty and hundred times harvest.

NO .103

Implementing fishing mission work and sharing the fruitful life testimony

Martin Luther lived out his life as a faithful new creation with abundant life to bear witness for God. He traveled over oceans and sea, journeyed through ups and downs of live and overcame all hardship to finish his God given destiny. Luther spoke out the cries of souls in his time, accomplished the work from above and became a role model of the time. The life and work of Luther is worth of studying, following and remembering.

- 1 A life of Martin Luther

NO .104

Humility and nameless, exalting and glorifying God only

To enumerate the historic and modern characters, Martin Luther was the only one, except Jesus Christ, had devoted his whole life in turning the world upside down. At the stake of his life, he not only rebuilt the truth on the foundation of salvation which was done on the cross by Jesus Christ but also brought positive impacts on democracy, economy, humanism and missions. Though he was well known and attracted many followers in his time, still, he humbly said, “I beg that people do not mention my name and not to identify oneself as Lutheran believers but a Christian. What is Luther? I am not the truth, I was not crucified on the cross. I am not and do not want to be anyone’s teacher. Christ, only, is our teacher.”

- 1 Lucas Cranach, a friend of Luther, painted an altarpiece of the churches at the time. It presented the center of faith of Luther’s cross theology.
- 2 The protestant reformation that was led by Martin Luther made many religious reformers to follow or response.

NO .105

Where is Martin Luther today?

NO .106

Flipping through the human history,
We cannot help but sigh.....
Seeing hundreds of millions of people like ants,
Living, working, whispering and rushing.
What did they say?
What did they do?
What could they leave?
Time flies as the flow of water,
Pulling away
Eternal heroes and heroines,
In surging waves,
All of a sudden, without a trace.

NO .107

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther,
Like countless newborns,
Without a trace of spray,
Born in a grassroots German miner's family,
Did not arouse any attention.

Martin Luther like the majority of children,
Under the harsh expectation of parents, and the demanding rule of teachers,
Day after day,
Happy or unhappy,
Filled his mind what elders think necessary and great,
So did he grow up.

NO .108

Little Martin Luther's only pleasure was singing.
As a ritual he followed the parents into the church,
Senseless, weary and tiring, sitting there,
Wholeheartedly expected children's choir showing up,
To be one of them,
Giving his voice freely.

The days of growth,
Never paused running ahead,
Martin Luther's routine life continued,
Like all other children.

Martin Luther grew up,
In addition to different knowledge in the brain,
He was keen to feel the deep calling inside,
"God, where are you? Who am I? What do I live for?"

NO .109

The young Martin Luther began the painful pursuit,
From the Greek lecture debate to the mysticism of theology,
Martin Luther's bustling footsteps and breathing never stopped,
However, the rational argument of Greek thoughts,
With the extension of the scholastic philosophical discussion,
And the harsh cultivation of religious custom habits,
All are multidimensional, complex and separate,
Racking the brain, exhausting the mind,
More fatigue, more confusion, without goal and answer.
Despite industrial work, hard pursuit,
Martin Luther fell into a greater predicament and pain.

NO .110

Martin Luther entered the university with honors,
Seeing that the parents' earnest expectations would be fulfilled,
Thinking to become an eloquent lawyer, knowing all references and citations,
But the inner voice, crying out.....
Pulling his soul tightly from all directions,
First best friend's sudden death,
The fear of death in an instant tightly captured his soul;
A small accident followed,
His sword stabbed into his feet,
Seeing the blood flow out of his wound,
Scared Martin Luther thought he was going to die,
And cried for the moments of panicky horror;
He returned home from school, while lightning thunderstorms threatened him,
Martin Luther knew he would die at that moment,
Panic again, shouted to the protecting God of miners:
"Help! Saint Anna! If I'm saved, I will become a monk!"

Ignoring his father's strict objection,
Martin Luther decided to obey the voice from the emergent crisis,
Immediately left everything behind and entered the Augustine monastery,
Becoming a penance-seeking monk.

NO .111

Young Martin Luther tried his best,
Hoping to become a Truth-seeking, monastic, enlightened man.
He was ordained as a priest in the grand ceremony.
He gradually obtained higher degrees in language, culture, philosophy, and theology,
Teaching philosophy, theology and the Bible at the university.
However

What is the Truth?
Where is God?
How can man be sanctified in the presence of God?
Martin Luther neither eat, nor drink, nor sleep,
For confessing, praying and penance.

Gradually he felt the Truth was beyond what he could reach,
And God's holiness could never be understood, nor measured.
Martin Luther finally realized,
Monasticism was impossible,
Sanctification was more distant.

NO .112

Exhausting all possibilities, Martin Luther
Unarmed, sincerely came before God,
Opening the Bible he read many times,
He heard God in his deep soul,
Whispering softly.....to him
"The righteousness of God is manifested in this Gospel;
This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.
It is through faith that a righteous person has life." (Romans 1:17)
"We are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law." (Romans 3:28)
Martin Luther finally opened the eyes of his soul,
Seeing the transcendence of God,
Seeing the infinite love of God,
Seeing the five alones God prepared for men,

NO .113

Transcending time and space from His absolute,
God completed what men could and should do,
This is called grace alone;
God with His infinite love,
Came to everyone in need,
Gently knocking,
Giving the grace prepared,
To those with faith seeking for help,
This is called faith alone;
And all these richness,
Are stated in the whole Bible,
This is called the Bible alone;
By the three alone,
More easily accessible
Christ alone,
God alone,
Beyond any realm.

NO .114

With the transcending experience,
Martin Luther guarded his church in Wittenberg,
Looking back,
His heart was still full of doubts, worries, timidity, and hesitation;
Looking around,
Witnessed the corruption of the Church,

Especially the absurdity of the indulgence,
He noticed how powerless he was,
Completely fighting helpless against the Holy See.
Blasphemy.....
Tranquilly waiting at the corner of the Church of Wittenberg,
Tranquilly whispering to God,
Taking a trembling long quill,
Carefully writing in Latin against the Holy See, the crime of the indulgence,
His original intention was only to cause a small intellectual concern;
Martin Luther, however.....
Never expected his Ninety-five Theses
Would shake and change the history, across time and space,
And write an indispensable page
In human history and culture for five hundred years.

NO .115

On October 31, 1517,
Martin Luther alone posting his Ninety-five Theses,
Shut the door, restlessly walking from the back and forth in the church room,
Hearing someone at the door read aloud in German;
More people used Gutenberg printing technology,
To spread his Ninety-five Theses throughout Germany.

The warm response completely surpassed Martin Luther's imagination,
The call for reform was coming from all directions.
The pressure from the abuse of condemnation was more difficult to resist,
Martin Luther exposed himself,
Facing loneliness, danger and death threats,
Not knowing how to end the story.
Only devoting to spiritual pursuit,
Experiencing God beyond power,
Falling to the ground beyond words,
Reading the Bible,
Singing the hymn loudly:
"The Lord is my strong fort,
Eternal, firm and invincible,
He led me to a stable journey;
Helped me break through the winds and waves."

NO .116

Martin Luther, out of the doldrums,
Asserted everyone before God is unique;
Everyone should read the Word of God himself,
Directly understanding God's divine mind,
Directly facing God alone,
Praying, pleading and sharing thoughts,
Singing hymns, praising and sacrificing.
In the face of the powerful king's persecution,
Martin Luther, defeating the weakness, fear and threats,

Looking upright, proudly standing,
 Sounding great, loudly declared:
 " Here I stand.,
 I can do no other.
 God help me.
 Amen! "

NO .117

Martin Luther's religious reform,
 Not just a reform of religious system or ritual custom,
 For five hundred years,
 Martin Luther's footsteps of quest, monasticism, truth-guarding, and preaching,
 Have influenced human history and culture.
 Running toward future in today,
 The first is the modernization of Germany;
 Followed by changes in the whole of Europe;
 While the development of North America and the establishment of democratic system,
 Affecting the future development of the whole world;
 The Catholic and Christian missionary toward East movement after the 16th century,
 Rewriting the modern history of Asia and Africa;
 Along the human tracks for five hundred years,
 Tracing back the source and revealing the footprints of Martin Luther,

NO .118

Facing the crisis of contemporary cultural society,
 "Human beings are gone!" puzzling all over.....
 "Who am I?"
 "What is the meaning of life?"
 "What is man?"
 Facing the ultimate pursuit that only man can have,
 In the footsteps of Martin Luther,
 Clear clues can be found.
 Reviewing Martin Luther's life story,
 We cannot help but ask:
 "Today's Martin Luther,
 Where are you? "

NO .119

A time line of Luther's life

1483	Born in Eisleben
Since 1490	Studying in Mansfeld, Magdeburg and Eisenach
1501-1505	Entering and studying in the University of Erfurt
1505	Entering St. Augustine's Monastery in Erfut to be a friar

1507	Ordained as a priest
1510	Making pilgrimage to Rome and was disappointed by witnessing the corruption of the Roman Church
1512	Awarded Doctor of Theology
1517	Nailing his Ninety-five Theses on the door of All Saint's Church, Wittenberg
1518	Defending himself at the Heidelberg Disputation at the Augustinian order Questioned by papal Cardinal Cajetan in Augsburg
1519	Leipzig Disputation
1521	Proclaiming his stance at Diet of Worms, excommunicated and hid himself in Wartburg Castle
1522	Publishing German translation New Testament
1525	Marrying Katharina von Bora, Peasant's War outbreak and Luther supported suppressing peasants
1529	Pro Luther princes protestation of the Imperial Diet at Speyer and the sacramental union with Zwingli in Marburg Colloquy failed
1530	Presenting Augsburg Confession Forming Schmalkalden League to protest against Emperor and the Roman Church
1534	Publishing German translation New Testament and Old Testament
1537	Presenting Schmalkaldic Articles
1546	Died in Eisleben

Martyr Jan Hus was burned to death, 1415

Johannes Gutenberg invented movable type printing press, 1450

Nicolaus Copernicus discovered that earth orbited sun, 1514

Leonardo da Vinci, the leading figure of Renaissance, passed away, 1519

Columbus discovered a New World, 1492

Fernando de Magallanes achieved first every around the world trip, 1521

NO .120

Postface

Martin Luther is a name very familiar to me for a long time.

It has been repeatedly mentioned in all the aspect like human ideology, culture and history.

But, why is Martin Luther so important?

And who is Martin Luther after all? ◦

The Cosmic Light has been striving on the works of spiritual rebuilding through researching and discovering global history and culture. We devote ourselves completely into historical photo gathering, sorting, publishing and exhibiting without hesitation. Naturally, we concern

and focus a historical hero like Martin Luther from time to time.

In the past 10 year, we have organized many Chinese Church related historical photo Exhibition tours and were well received, concerned and encouraged by every community. We also heaped up a lot of connections, resources and experiences.

NO .121

However, when it comes to preparing the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's religious reformation, it is another story; especially many people have expressed their concern and expectations. We felt obligated and temped, but also confused of not knowing where to start. We considered it out duty to fulfill, but also reckoned our weakness and helplessness. It was not until 2015 that we decided to face the challenges without fear and carried on this great task.

In the past two years, we encountered Martin Luther while burying our heads in the related old documents, surprisingly. We presented only a tiny fragment of Martin Luther's marvelous life. However, his life is like a rich mine widely opens to those who intend to have a further exploration and exploitation.

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