



First Quarter Newsletter



Reflections of Caretaker Group

Rev. Raymond Yeung

An ideal and successful church is not based on the size of the congregation, variety of ministries or amount of offerings. The so called “ideal” church does not even exist in this world. Only the spiritual church is perfect. However, there needs to be more churches after God’s own heart in this imperfect world.

We have a caretaker group in this church. Caretaking is a very important ministry, with broad coverage, virtually includes anything involving brothers and sisters.

1. Caring in the spiritual realm: our relationship with God. This encompasses our daily devotion hours, bible reading campaign, spiritual discipline, bible study, prayer, growth in spiritual life...etc. Commitment in service is needed. There are so many vacancies to be filled by us.
2. Caring in the daily life: this includes the essentials of life, in family, social relationships, career and academic pursuits...etc. Average church members share a common misconception of putting all the responsibility of care on the minister. I have always been skeptical about this. Does it always take the prayers of ministers or deacons to be effective? Of course, everyone should fully utilize the positions and opportunities granted by God, serve Him with all our heart and all our might and effort. This implies that every

believer should have more participation in the caretaking ministry.

Be reminded that our real identity is a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), meaning that every believer is a priest. We are called to come out of iniquities, to become the people of God, and to be admitted to the eternal holy nation of God. Essentially, we have deliberately accepted a holy mission, to serve the Lord throughout our life.

We should not totally rely on the provision and care of others, but learn to provide for other people’s need, serve and care for each other.

Are you part of this “royal priesthood”?



My Pursue for Peace and Salvation

Joseph Yang

My name is Nianzu Yang. I have come to realize that I am no longer capable of handling this sinful world of ours. And only the wisdom and salvation from God and our Lord Jesus Christ can provide a mean to help me maintain and carry on with my decency and righteousness.

I have grown up in a Christian family at a time when the religion was prohibited in China. Even so, I was still blessed and surrounded by my parents’ Christian friends and families during my childhood. I have long felt the passion, kindness, and cherish from this social circle that I had developed a belief that Christianity is a righteous practice that can



First Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcofb.org

bring peace and happiness to humanity. When China was finally opened up culturally, and my father had help rebuilt the local church, I started to follow my parents to attend Sunday services regularly.

I was also bought up in a rather disciplined environment during my youth. I was taught to achieve standards and meet expectations. Failure is a sign of unworthiness and deficiency. I was to work my way to achieve success before I am entitled to claim any reward, or deserve any blessings. Therefore, I have come to believe that Christianity is always a highest of order and standard that only the most deserving and worthy human beings are entitled to.

Since my teenage years after I have migrated to United States with my parents, I emerged myself into the lust and sin of artificial success and achievement. My devotion toward academic and career development has hindered me away from the cherish of God and the circle of Christian friends and families. I have come to consider myself as an achiever, who has made a difference through no help from any others but myself. But in retrospect, I realize that it was through God's grace that he had watched over me in so many aspects and provided me with a smooth and rewarding path.

In the most recent years of my early adult life, my artificial capability and arrogance has finally caught up with me. While I have never violated any code of conducts defined by mankind, I had not acquired sufficient love and consideration according to the principle of Christianity. I have committed sins that were all too natural and self serving at the time. As

a result, I am suffering from devastating family issues, problematic relationship with my spouse. I started losing control on some of the most important aspects of my life. I am in a state of helplessness, confusion and devastation.

At this most difficult of time however, God has presented himself to me, offering me a second chance in a rather unusual way. My father's passing last year was a great loss for me and my mom. But it also turned out to be a blessing that I can never foresee. My mom and I were again experiencing a tremendous amount of love and support from our church congregation. There were those my family knew since my childhood, and there were the ones I am guilty to say I barely know. But the unity and love I felt in the process was truly God's amazing grace. I was forever changed and reformed.

From that point on, and through study and assistance from senior members of the congregation, my point of view about the true meaning of a Christian has changed. It is not about perfection or worthiness. It is quite the opposite. It is because I am imperfect, because I am a sinner, because my insignificant ability in this God's universe, I need his wisdom and salvation to survive this sinful world and to better myself by the day. I owe it to myself, to my father, and to the congregation to accept such unconditional love. And I hope in turn I will acquire sufficient wisdom and courage to offer the same to all others I come across in life.

And lastly I like to end with the following verse that had help me feel and savor the true



First Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcbogb.org

meaning of salvation:

“God, please grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference; Living one day at a time and enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace; Taking as he did, this sinful world as it is, and not as I would have it; Trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to his will, I can be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with him forever in the next.”

Amen.



Victory over the Devil

Lo Song You Qan

In this depraved generation, an extravaganza of all evils is staged. Power, money, greed and lust entice you with a smile, beckon to you. Come; come with us to the ecstasy of the world.

My heart is thumping, my mind is wandering. Shall I go with them? My goodness, what shall I do? Two laws are waging war in me (Romans 7:21-24). One says go right ahead into the ecstasy of the world. The other one says no, you should never go that way, for that is the valley of the shadow of death.

Turn to the precious book, the Holy Scripture; keep on praying, seek the help of God. Be strong and courageous through His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, join in the warfare. Keep fighting. Fight until all demons are subdued; break free from the snare of the devil. God has empowered us and given us victory!



Reflection on New Believers Class

Ellen Chow

The New Believers class is a 13-week class to help us get started with our relationship with God. It’s a fun class with my mom as a teacher. So far we learned about assurance of salvation, answered prayers, victory, forgiveness, and guidance from God. It brings a great relief to my life knowing that we can rely on God for all these things.

I have been in this church ever since I was a baby. Throughout the 12 years of my life, I have always been looking forward to go to church on Sundays. My past Sunday school teachers have taught me and helped me to learn more about Jesus. My experiences in this church have changed me and I think I would be staying here throughout my whole life.



First Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcbg.org

Hot Pot and Ping Pong Fun Day

Nancy Wong

Jacob fellowship hosted a Hot Pot luncheon and Ping Pong Tournament Fun Day on Saturday, January 19, 2008. When I arrived at the Youth Center, the kitchen was already filled with many of our lovely sisters-in-Christ & friends to help out on the preparation of the Hot Pot food. Give thanks to our new Jacob Fellowship Chairperson, May Li in purchasing the Hot Pot food for us. Brother Harris, Derek & David were busy setting up the projector, equipments and sound systems for the karaoke. Tony was responsible for setting up the television for the children's entertainment. Some of the youths and adults helped set up the Ping Pong tables for a last minute practice right before the tournament. Everyone was so excited about the tournament! Especially, some youths were a little nervous during the actual race.

We had four Hot Pot set up at four different tables with so many different variety of food. For example, there were beef, pork, lamb, salmons, shrimps, wontons, dumplings, several kinds of choys, ho foon, udons, noodles, rice noodles, tofu, different dipping sauces, fresh mushrooms, etc. Our wonderful cook, Polly, as always, made Vietnamese spring rolls, "Shin Mui Soup", "Ha Goo Cho", & sweet soup for dessert. We began around noontime. First, we cooked some food for the children to eat. Then it was the adults' turn to start the Hot Pot feast. The aroma filled up the center. Everyone was

relaxed and joyful cooking their food while enjoying the beautiful music and songs from the karaoke. Some of us went over to other tables to chat and eat and had a great time. About two o'clock, we began our Ping Pong tournament. We started out with the youth's competition and then the adults. Many of them are good players. May had prepared some very interesting riddles for us to solve. John was such a wonderful singer. We all had a great time. Praise our Lord for giving us fellowship and good brothers and sisters in Christ!



New Year Unity Celebration Party

Irene Ho

"A year's plan starts in spring." Every year during the lunar Chinese New Year, the Women Fellowship hosts a dinner party and everyone gathers joyfully to celebrate. This year in February prior to the Chinese New Year, we had the New Year unity celebration party. Beside regular Women Fellowship members, all other brothers and sisters were invited to the party for the celebration of New Year. Everyone was reminded to wear red and to bring a dish of food for Chinese New Year.

Give thanks to God as it was cold but without snow in that evening. At about six o'clock, all the guests were coming to the Youth Center. There were a great variety of food dishes displaying on a long dinner table. The food looked very delicious. Some people were too busy to cook therefore they bought some takeout food. We saluted to those people who cooked their own dishes. Everyone was busy



First Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcbg.org

coming up with a title for his or her own dish to celebrate New Year. Some titles were perfectly matched with the dishes while some titles were far off. However we did not mind deceiving ourselves as long as we were happy and enjoying the party.

We had a competition for all the food dishes in that evening. The criteria included the smell and beauty of displaying the dish and how closely the title matched with the dish. (Our judges could not tell if the dish was really good or not as they can only look but not taste.) Our judges selected two dishes having the same highest marks – Mrs. Yeung and Auntie 8. Therefore we selected a three-man group of judges to decide which the best dish was. (I am sorry as the names of the judges cannot be disclosed; otherwise they would be in trouble.)

The “three-man gang” finally reached a decision. The champion award for the most beautiful with matching New Year meaning dish went to Auntie 8. Her dish – “A taste of the plummy duck in New Year reminds us God’s grace for a prosperous year.” Auntie 8! Well done!

Another unforgettable event was testimony shared by sister Lee Chun Chu who broke her right hand after a accidental fall. She counted God blessings to her. She was thankful for her husband’s tender care and the prayers and sincere inquiries from her family and the brothers and sisters from the church. This helped her to experience the endless love and care throughout the whole incident. She realized how greatly she was blessed by God.

After the testimony, sister Lee, her husband and sister Wong Mao Ling sang a hymn to praise our God and the audience below the stage were all inspired.

The climax of the party was a game led by Mrs. Yeung. The audience was divided into 4 groups and we had a competition to write New Year blessing verses in Chinese calligraphy. But the content of the blessing verses must come from the Scriptures e.g. God is Love. With a time limit, the group who could neatly write most accurate blessing verses would win. Once the race started, everyone was busy and making a lot of noises. Some people were reminded for their tardiness of not reading scriptures regularly. Some people were muted without any ideas. Some people were fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese. Everything seemed to be in chaos and every group attempted to finish as soon as possible. After every group’s hard work, we had the champion who received the prize which was a box of tangerine (Chinese pronunciation “Kut” which means futile).

We had several hours of sweet and happy gatherings, Time passed fast but everyone was fed and joyfully went home. I would like to express our gratitude for those who joined us. For those who could not join us at this year’s super AAA party, remember to join us next year. See you all!



First Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcoqb.org

Church News

Our events during the first quarter:

- 1/19/08 - Jacob Fellowship Hot Pot and Ping Pong Fun Day.
- 1/26/08 - Annual Members Meeting.
- 2/02/08 - Women Fellowship Chinese New Year Celebration.
- 2/16/08 – Mandarin Fellowship Chinese New Year Celebration.
- 2/23/08 - Our choir visited Wollaston elders home for Chinese New Year Celebration.
- 3/21/08 - Good Friday Service.
- 3/23/08 - Easter Sunday Service with Joseph Yang's baptism.

Upcoming events in second quarter:

- 4/05/08 - Women Fellowship Elders Fun Day.
- 4/06/08 – Minister Henry Mak Inaugural Worship Service.
- 5/17/08 – Youth Department Canobie Lake Outdoor Fun Day.

Pray fervently and share the mission:

- 2008 church theme is “Unite to advance the Gospel.” Let us encourage each other and support our church goal.
- 2008 Bible Reading campaign is underway. We aim to complete reading the New Testament in a year. Give thanks to our Lord ! In the past quarter, our average participants for Bible reading is 47 people, 20 of them completed all 13 weeks of Bible reading.
- 2008 Church Building Offertory goal is \$20,000.00. We have the “A dollar per

day” campaign to encourage everyone to save one dollar per day for our church building goal. We should voluntarily support the offertory for our church building. Until the end of March, we collected \$2,765.10. But this is short of our first quarter goal. Brothers and sisters, we need to work harder for our goal.



Prayer Requests

1. Thank God for bringing Minister Henry Mak to shepherd our congregation. Pray for God's facilitation of Minister Mak's visa application.
2. Intercede for the Mandarin ministry, ask God to motivate Mandarin speakers to attend gatherings and thereby learn the gospel. Please also ask the Lord to strengthen the Mandarin fellowship, let brothers and sisters learn to serve one another, progress in faith and love.
3. Remember the bible reading campaign in your prayer, ask the Lord to help brothers and sisters persevere in their daily bible reading, eagerly search the word of God.
4. Intercede for the new believers' class, ask the Lord to care for Ellen Chow, Flora Hu, Wyman Liu, Gary Lok, Alison Wong and Hillary Wong; help them establish a good foundation of faith, steadily progress in spiritual life.
5. Pray that our brothers and sisters be compelled by the love of God, attend every Sunday service with a reverent heart, worship and praise God.



First Quarter Newsletter

6. Intercede for our church members:
 - i. Mrs. Grace Yuen has to continue regular hemodialysis. Ask God to grant her peace and ease during the procedure.
 - ii. Sister Kwun Wan Chow-Wong has recurrent arthritis. Ask God to cure and care for her.
 - iii. Pray that Deaconess Irene Chan and Sister Chu Yee Wong have a safe visitation in Hong Kong and Malaysia (3/19-4/16) and stay in good health.