



Second Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

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We Are Bonded Together in The Lord

Pastor Henry Mak

April marks a new milestone of my life. My wife and I departed from our acquainted place: people and environment. In response to God's calling, we came to the unfamiliar city of Boston and joined the extended family of Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston.

As early as a week before moving to the Greater Boston area, a sister in Christ, who is also a professional realtor, had already found a suitable apartment for us. She even completed the rental process and arranged for cleaning of the premises for us. Also, another sister in Christ paid the rental deposit for us. On the day we drove down here, there were seven brothers and sisters in Christ helping us move. The moving process was completed in less than two hours!

I can still recall the first encounter with the brothers and sisters in the church. It was a Jacob Fellowship gathering on a Friday evening and it happened to be on the second day of Chinese New Year. It surprisingly turns out to be a very successful event. Apart from the regular Jacob fellows, other senior church members and deacons also showed up to meet me. Even though it was our first time meeting them, my wife and I did not feel like a stranger. The enthusiasm of brothers and sisters has shattered all the barriers between us. Since that meeting, their names have been branded in our minds. They even appeared in my dreams. I truly believe that God has bonded us together.

Times flew by and I have been among you for more than two months. It has been a rejoicing ministry in this congregation. This is all because of your respect for the minister, the shepherd, and your unfading passionate love for us. My wife and I are very grateful to God for your sincere faith and love. With a trembling heart we picked up our lessons in pastoring. Without a doubt, we are not counting on our own strength, but relying on the Lord God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ. As such, we are willing to take up the mission and be totally committed.

From my past ministering experience, I believe that unity in Church is of utmost importance. We must serve with one heart, not for our own fame, but for the glory of God. To begin, we must know each other well, as described in Ephesians 4:2-3, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." The purpose of God's calling on us is to serve together, to advance the gospel, and to anticipate by faith the return of Lord Jesus.

Therefore our service must have a goal (a vision, a commitment) and top it with action (sow the seeds, spread the gospel) and individual spiritual revival. Have I experienced the life changing power of God? Do I have joy in ministry? Was I thrilled to spread the gospels to others?

To set the goal for ministry, we can start with something short term, such as every year, each one of us will bring a person to Christ; preach the gospel to at least one person each and every



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month; everyone should take up at least one service assignment, etc.

In terms of action, we can plan on inviting a friend or relative to the evangelical meeting in the evening of September 20; taking part in personal evangelism, visiting ministry, etc.

For revival, we shall make plans to attend the church's revival meetings; dedicate a certain time of the day for devotional; spend time in fellowship with God five or more times per week; attend the Tuesday night weekly church prayer meeting, etc.

In summary, God calls us to form His church, the body of Christ, and we as individual members, are intimately linked to each other. We should use our various gifts to serve God, edify each other, fulfill our duty, and become mature to attain the whole measure of fullness of Christ. Our unity should not be just in religious faith, but also in action: seize the opportunity of one to one evangelism, preach the gospel at least once, and have devotional time everyday. May God bless each and every one of you!



Obey God and Walk with Him

Wu Jing Ning

It was a very ordinary Monday, on my way to work, I was preparing the day and one week-long's work as always. At the same time, I was listening to the news on the radio. Suddenly, the radio announcer said: "The Sichuan Province of China had a 7.8 Richter magnitude

scale earthquake!" From that moment on, news occupied every form of media in great length regarding this catastrophic earthquake. As the death toll kept climbing day by day, the majority of people, including myself, had the same concern. Seeing pictures of the suffering and distress compatriots made our hearts feel inexhaustible sadness.

Still in sorrow, many people would ask: Why did this disaster occur? Why did so many innocent people have to lose their lives in a blink of an eye? Why can't we avoid this tragedy with our modern science and technology? And then of course, there were also those in the minority who took pleasure in the misfortunes of others. They came out immediately and said that this was the result of human misdemeanor and heaven's punishment.

The Holy Bible tells us, God created the mountains, rivers and everything else in the universe. He gives each person life and similarly, He may also take it back. The luck and the calamity are all bestow and plans of God. The mystery is immeasurably deep; God also does not need to give explanations to the insignificant human. All these cannot be explained by two simple words: "the punishment". In the "Book of Job", common people tried to explain God's intention and the Lord answered Job out of the storm: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? ... Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand!" God let Job and his three friends observe the sun, the moon, the stars, the mountains, the rivers, the alligators and the hippopotamuses; let them explain each matter's order and wonders, and God questioned Job



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finally, “Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?” Job realized and replied, “I know that you can do all things, no plan of yours can be thwarted. I spoke of things I did not understand; things too wonderful for me to know. ... My ears have heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in the dust and ashes.”

Modern people always think that technical developments can be used to quickly unravel the universe, the life, the social developments and the ultimate truth, and fully control our own destiny. Therefore, toward the end of the 19th century, some people announced that the foundation of the physics has completed, what is left over is basically patching up. But several years later, the discovery of quantum mechanics and atom physics created a new dimension in science. After antibiotic, immunity technical invention, people confidently predict that they can heal any sickness in the near future. But, several decades have passed by, new diseases that still puzzle the humanity incessantly emerge one after another. The antibiotic also gradually loses its effectiveness against the antibiotic bacterium. Humans have exposed their arrogance and ignorance completely time after time.

Our understanding of the universe is only from the grace of God as a gift. When God allows us to understand, we understood; otherwise, we still cannot understand. If this is not the right time, God will not promulgate one mystery casually. When we pray to God, read God’s words, we are not simply asking for blessings, but to ask God for better understanding, obey God’s plans, walk in God’s way. God’s grace is

like the roses on the roadside, beautiful but have thorns. We must obey and accept joyfully. After this plague, through continuous praying to God for the victims, we give glory to God and spread God’s salvation to the world.



Have You Done It Today?

Deaconess Donna Yung

Imagine the following situation: You have a relative who stay close to you everyday, protect you, empathize with you, help you and care about you. You are aware of his presence, but you take it for granted and take no notice of him. You cannot find time to communicate with him and you totally ignore his voice. One day, you are astonished to find out how little you know about him; how tenuous is your relationship with him. How would you feel? Would you painfully let this precious relationship slip away?

My dear brothers and sisters, can you imagine that this estranged relative turns out to be your gracious Lord Jesus? Through the redemption by faith we join the family of God. “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:18). This merely represents the starting point in building a living relationship with heavenly father. We must spend time with God everyday for the growth of our spiritual life.

Daily Bible reading is the most important step. It gradually leads us to know our heavenly father in depth, learn of His love, faithfulness,



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righteousness and mighty deeds. Jesus said, “I have called you friends” in John 15:15. This close and strong relationship cannot be attained instantly, like fast food. To build an up-close and personal relationship with our Lord, we must patiently listen to His words in the scripture everyday. By familiarizing ourselves with His love and hate, we will not deliberately irritate Him. The more we learn of His love, the more eagerly we communicate with Him; pour our heart out to Him. We learn how to trust in the Lord daily on large and small things. This is exactly what has been described in the hymn, “He walks with me and talks with me, along life’s narrow way.” As such, the living relationship grows stronger with time. It will be able to withstand calamities in life, bear fruit abundantly, and fill with God’s bounteous grace. Have you done your daily Bible reading today? Don’t procrastinate any longer. Don’t pass up the opportunity. Let us get a head start right now. Our effort will certainly reap a good harvest beyond expectation.



My Thoughts on Bible Reading

Alison Wong

My name is Alison Wong. I am thirteen years old. Ever since I was young, my parents always try their best to get my siblings and me to read the Bible. My dad emphasized how important it is to put God first in all my priorities. I try really hard to read the Bible every day. Even if I somehow forget to read the Bible for that day, I make it up by reading it the next day. I usually like reading my Bible in the afternoon. Every time I read the Bible, I put a star next to

it to mark my place. Reading the Bible will benefit you, because it helps you make the right choice and to make good and wise decisions. If you are someone who believes in God but does not go to church on a weekly basis, or if you are someone who doesn’t read the Bible daily, you shall try harder. It will help you be a better Christian.



Spread Good News of Heaven

Sung Yau Quan

Look!

The sun is shining upon the earth.
 How great are the mountains and rivers!
 Mountains are up and down in motion.
 Waterfall with crispy water is splashing.
 The breezes are gently blowing over the woods.
 Flowers are blossoming beautifully.
 Bees and butterflies are dancing merrily.
 Birds are singing on the branches.
 Children are playing on the grass.
 What a perfect and happy scene on earth!
 This is the paradise God has given to the mankind.

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Boom! Boom! Boom!

Satan is in power.
 Wolves are roaring everywhere.
 Fire and smoke is everywhere.
 The climate and tide is changing.
 Blood like rain and wind is pouring on the ground.
 Sadness and despair spread everywhere.
 The hell is on earth.

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Stand up!



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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.
 Implement the great commission –
 Spread the good news of Heavenly Kingdom.
 Save the sinner in the world.
 Let the God’s Word spread to all nations.
 Let man repent, confess and trust in the Lord.
 Follow the example set by Jesus Christ.
 Bear the fruit of righteousness.
 Wear the armor of God to fight the devil.
 Throw Satan into the lake of fire.
 The new heaven and new earth eventually comes.

Compared to a pessimistic person, an optimistic person is less likely to be sick and one would be healed faster even when he/she is sick. This has in fact been proven in medical studies in recent years.

People should obey the teachings of the bible for it is the revelation from God. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, welcome everyone with a joyous heart, pursue kindness, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Lastly, I hope brothers and sisters encourage each other and that non-believers will soon be touched by God’s teachings. Believers have eternal life, hope, numerous advantages, happiness and peace that always in the heart.



My Thoughts

Koon Wan Chau

The year end is the best time for us to give an account of God’s blessings. We can’t choose not to be hurt but we can count and record our experiences. Why break our hearts over and over again by counting how many times we cry? Rather, we should count the blessings and happy events that surround us and rejoice over them. Give more thanks for a favor done. Giving and receiving are both beneficial, by remember how much we have received, in return we will consider giving back, eager to do more for God and people. A thankful person benefits the society because he is willing to give, instead of feeling like the whole world is in debt of him.

If a person can give thanks in everything and see sunlight whether it’s a cloudy or sunny day, then he is an optimistic person. Being optimistic can build up personal relationships. It is also beneficial to the body and mind.



Understanding Our Choir

David Lee

Thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to serve in the Business Council again. This year, I am responsible for the music department. I like music ever since my childhood. Other than heavy metal, I appreciate any kind of music and songs. Ironically, I do not understand any notation or playing any musical instrument. Thank the Lord; he gave me a voice which is “not too annoying”. I often follow the CD in the car and sing out loud. My wife and daughters have complained numerous times that I am abusing them with my singing.



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As I chose to serve the music department, one of the sisters said to me jokingly, “Wouldn’t that be a waste of your talent?” At that moment, I did not feel like that at all. Instead, I felt that it is a great blessing to be able to sing with the choir to praise the Lord. I’ve also heard from a brother say that providing transportation service to brothers and sisters is more important than choir practice; but in my heart, everything we do in serving God is equally important. Meanwhile, I hope to give everyone a better understanding of the choir through this article.



Women Fellowship “Senior Fun Day”

Kathy Wong

It is the second time that Women Fellowship hosts the “Senior Fun Day” and it took place on May 5, 2008. At 10 a.m., Mrs. Tam shared the message “Be joyful in the Lord” during our meeting. She reminded us that the purpose of God’s creation was to bring us joy and happiness. We should have faith and peace in our Lord. How endless is God’s love! How great is God! Mrs. Tam encouraged us to be joyful at all times and trust God in everything.

After the meeting right at 12 p.m., we dispersed to pick up our elders in different cars and drove to Chau Chau Restaurant in Dorchester for dim sum. Upon arrival, our sisters and elders were divided to sit in 4 round tables. Then they are free to order various kind of delicious dim sum. Everyone enjoyed dim sum very much.

During our meal, everyone was in conversation and mingled with each other. Some talked about their past, in particular sharing own experience in trusting God. Some appreciated this “Senior Fun Day” very much and they hope this could be happened more often. We all agreed that we should have more activities like this. With joy, everyone had a good appetite to eat and drink and mingled with each other. We also took some photographs to capture this special moment. I hope brothers and sisters can join this event next year. This is a very special and meaningful “Senior Fun Day”.



Jacob Fellowship Minutes on May 31

Priscilla Yeung

On May 31 Saturday, it is a day for Jacob Fellowship barbecue. Tireless effort was made to rent the Blue Hills Reservation and we got Site #3. Everyone was excited and prepared a variety of food like pork, beef, shrimp, wings, corn, salads, watermelon, sweet soup, sweet potatoes and cotton candies. We prayed to God for good weather. On Monday through Friday, we had awesome weather. But the weather forecasted storm would be coming during the weekend. May, our leader made swift decision to cancel our barbecue event and our hopes were gone. On Saturday, the weather became worse and finally it started raining. Thank God for giving wisdom to May and we avoided the rain shower. I hope we can re-arrange another day for the barbecue. Then we may have a picnic in Blue Hills Reservation where we can



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enjoy the nature under the sun. More importantly, we can experience God's grace in His creation.



Church News

Our events during the 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.
- 6/07/08 – Sunday School teachers training “Youth Characteristics for age 12-16”.

Upcoming events in second quarter:

- 7/19/08 – Big Picnic in Castle Island, Dorchester. Depart from 9:00 am in the morning. Mark your calendar.
- 8/11/08 – Free Cruise for Boston Harbor. 40 people limit and first come first serve. Please sign up.
- 8/18/08 to 8/22/08 – Vacation Bible School. The theme is “SonWorld”. Children aged 5 to 12 are welcome. Please ask Adrian Leung for application.
- 9/19/08 to 9/21/08 – Our Church 16th Anniversary. On 9/19 7:30 pm, revival meeting with the topic “To fan into flame”. On 9/20 7:30 pm, evangelical meeting with the topic “Do not running for nothing”. On 9/21 1:25 pm, Sunday Service with the topic “Sweet 16”. Our guest speaker is Mark Hui, Senior Pastor of Brooklyn Baptist Church in

New York. On 9/21 6:00 pm, our celebration dinner in the Youth Center. Ticket is \$10 for each person. Admission for children 5 years old or less is free. Let us invite friends and relatives to celebrate our church Anniversary and bring glory to our God.

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 48 people, 31 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 June, we collected \$4,839.10. But this is short of our semi-annual goal. Brothers and sisters, we need to work harder for our goal.



Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the following items regarding the church 16th anniversary activities:
 - i. For the revival meeting on 09/19/2008 (Friday) evening, ask God to revive brothers and



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- sisters, inspire them to serve God.
- ii. For the evangelical meeting on 09/20/2008 (Saturday) evening, ask God to motivate brothers and sisters to invite friends and relatives to the meeting.
 - iii. Remember the thanksgiving worship service on 09/21/2008.
 - iv. Pray for the preacher, Rev. Mark Hui, ask God to grant him strength, so that he could fully deliver the divine message and bring glory to God.
2. Intercede for the Vacation Bible School which takes place from 08/18 to 08/22/2008, ask God to empower all ministering brothers and sisters, able to attract the children to God, and learn about the gospel.
 3. Intercede for the Mandarin ministry, ask God to motivate Mandarin speakers to attend gatherings, strengthen the Mandarin fellowship, let brothers and sisters learn to serve and care for each another.
 4. 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. Deaconess Cynthia Chan suffers from arthritic pain. Pray for God's care.