



# Fourth Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

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## Steward of Kingdom in Heaven

Pastor Henry Mak

Most investment consultants are convinced that longer term investment will bring better return. Christians are called by God to make the longest term investment and indeed invest in eternity. This is a truth taught by Lord Jesus in beatitudes recorded in the gospel of Matthews. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:33-34)

During this year, the financial tsunamis produce major disaster in economy; wreak havoc in people's lives throughout the nation. Corporations and enterprises scale down or even close. There are widespread layoffs. Income of citizens suffers great loss, resulting in marked shrinkage in bank account and depreciation of currency. Many people are in dire strait, barely meeting their daily needs. Tumultuous situation easily distracts people from long term vision and goals. Not until focus is put on the matters of God's kingdom could we get back on the right track and target of our lives.

I am convinced that God rules over everything. The world and all that is in it belong to Him, (Psalm 50:12), including the gold and silver. (Haggai 2:8) Everything that happens in this world is under God's control. We are merely stewards, managing what God has entrusted to us on a temporary basis. Everything comes

from God, including our possessions, family, children and capabilities. These are all granted by God.

God has already given us a long ranged vision, which extends all the way to eternity, a directive for our role as steward. Today, every brother and sister saved by the grace of Jesus Christ are called to be stewards, specifically, to serve in God's household, namely, the church. I would like to share with you the responsibilities and instruction for the steward depicted in the scriptures.

1. Stewards of God should be faithful in preaching the gospel. "So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2) I encourage every brother and sister to preach the good news to at least one friend or relative this year; diligently with perseverance, lead them to believe in Christ, train them up to become the Lord's disciples.
2. Stewards of God should be faithful in teaching. "The Lord answered, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?'" (Luke 12:42) I call on everyone of you to participate in the ministry of teaching, such as serving as Sunday school teachers or assistants, instructors of fellowships or bible study groups, teachers or caretakers in children classes or vacation bible school..etc.



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3. Stewards of God should be blameless. “Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.” (Titus 1:7) We must first be submissive to the Lord’s instructions in our heart, gain control of our mind, frequently examine ourselves in front of God, confess and repent from our iniquities. As such, our thoughts, speech and deeds could be blameless in the eyes of God and man.
4. Stewards of God should serve each other with their gifts. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10) We must efficiently utilize the gifts from God to serve each other, with a humble heart. There is no room for competition. We should give glory to God when praised; be humble and gentle in receiving criticism, with the full knowledge that our examiner is God, not man.
5. Stewards of God should bear spiritual fruit. “Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.” (Philippians 4:17) The fruits include leading people to Christ and make them disciples of the Lord; also encompass the fruit of the Spirit “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23)

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate with the word of Jesus Christ, “But seek first his

kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:33-34) All these things are your essentials, things of your concern, and the best for you according to God. May the will of God be accomplished in the life of every one of you. Amen.



## My Homeland Revisited

Wong Chu Yee

With the grace of my heavenly God Father, I went back to Hong Kong together with my sister Irene in March of this year. Along with this trip, we also travelled back to visit my second homeland which is also my birthplace, Malaysia Sha Ba. It is a rainy place with summer all year round.

After we landed to Sha Ba, my brother and his family provided us with warm hospitality. I was deeply touched with my cousins who volunteered to be my tour guide to visit my two old schools where I studied during my childhood. These two schools left me unforgettable memory. It was my grade one year when my parent sent me for a Catholic English girl boarding school. There were girls of different ages packed in the same class, also with different ethnic backgrounds like Malaysian, Chinese and Westerners. We used English to recite the Lord’s Prayer and sing hymns. Even though I did not know ABC at that time, I could still recite the Lord’s Prayer very well. I recited it without knowing the



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meaning at all. Four times every day there was sound of bells from the monastery on the hill. When we heard the sound, we would kneel down and touch the cross to pray with the Lord's Prayer no matter where you were. Sometimes we also did crafts. It was ridiculous for such school which was definitely colonial slavery type of education (Malaysia is a British colony at that time). Sometimes we would use different languages to study Bible. It was our lessons but they were just some stories to me who was naive during my early age.

Later when my father really understood my school situation, he decided to send me to a Christian girl school run by a British. It was a well established school focused on Biblical teachings. I started to get familiar with God's Word. But again they were just some mythical stories to me due to my youthful rebellious nature.

I also visited the cemetery where my mother was buried. My tears kept pouring when I saw the tombstone. The cross on the tombstone reminded me the scripture on John 14:1-4 which helped to stop my tears. I spoke to my heart as "Well, take rest! We will meet in heavenly home."

Here I would like to share with you my experience. When I was young, my father wanted his children to have Chinese cultural education, therefore we went to Guangzhou. During the Sino-Japanese war, we went back to Malaysia until I was more than ten years old. Then I insisted to go to Hong Kong and lived with my brother. I studied in St. Paul school for about a year. When the Pacific war broke out, my brother and I went to Guangzhou

where I was married. When China turned to Communist rule, I could not leave for any places because my husband was a Nationalist Party high official. Since I was married during my youthful age and my family had a good record, I had not been prosecuted. However, I was asked to attend those prosecution meeting which scared me a lot. My application to migrate to Hong Kong had been rejected for ten times. I was so worried and the stories about God that I learned during my childhood re-emerged to my memory. After all these years of hardship, I became more mature and God inspired me within my heart. God's Word from the Bible was so true. It was God-breathed and it was the righteousness and love from God. I knelt down to admit my sins and asked for God's forgiveness. I prayed to God to help me escape from such difficult situation. In September of 1980, my application to migrate to the United States that sponsored by my sister was approved. I was grateful to God as the application was approved in less than a year.

I spent three months in Hong Kong. In mid December, I came to the United States first landing in Hawaii. At that time I heard the sound of Christmas carols. I was inspired with thankfulness as my tears poured out. I was in God's arm and He said to me, "Work hard and change your lifestyle. I will give you strength." My two sons and I obeyed God's Word and started our lives in U.S. In 1984, Rev. Raymond Yeung and my sister in law, Deacon Chan Heng Yuen were in preparation for the establishment of Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston with the plan of moving to Quincy. I was baptized in our church which was still located at Newton at that time. This was my greatest blessing. Now I pray for



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God's guidance everyday. Guide my whole family so that they all believe in God. My gracious and amazing God has His own plan and time table. I am confident that my whole family will have the blessings of God's grace and salvation.



## Christmas

Christine Li

Christmas is the day that Jesus was born. I feel special to have my birthday right after his! I love getting presents, but I know presents aren't everything about Christmas. I love the parties that are held. I get to spend time with family and friends. To me Christmas is the most special and important holiday in the world. Not because there are parties and presents, but that our savior, Jesus, was born. He was born in a manger in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph were in a stable, it was the only place they could stay. When Jesus was born, Mary laid him on a manger. An Angel from God was sent to these Shepherds who were watching over their flocks. The Angel brought them the good news about baby Jesus. The shepherds came to see the baby. Then there were these three wise men looking for baby Jesus. They found him and gave expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. When King Herod heard about baby Jesus, he sent out soldiers to kill him. But God was watching over them. Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus escaped to Egypt. After King Herod died, they went back to live in Nazareth. Then Jesus grew up strong physically and spiritually. He taught people about His father, God in a temple. I love and

have faith in Christ Jesus. Therefore, Christmas means a lot to me besides the parties and presents.



## Christmas

Amenda Wong

My family celebrates Christmas because it means celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. My favorite part is when people give gifts to friends and family. The tradition of giving on Christmas is related to the birth of Christ. When Jesus was born, some shepherds saw the star and the angels told them to follow the star until they found a baby in a stable. Then there were wise men that followed the star and found Jesus. They presented him the gift of gold, frankincense and myrrh. That is why people give gifts to one another on Christmas.



## Christmas

Ryan Wong

Christmas is an annual holiday celebrated on the 25th of December. It marks and honors the birth of Jesus. Everybody celebrates it with gift-giving, church celebrations, and many decorations. Some of those decorations include Christmas trees, Christmas lights, mistletoes, and Santa Claus. Many children believe that Santa Claus, Father Christmas, comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve to deliver presents. Older ones just blame their parents responsible



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for the presents. My favorite parts of Christmas are presents, snow, parties, and celebrating with my family. My family celebrates Christmas by having an annual Christmas party. After or during the party, we usually open up our presents that others have given to us. I also like having the Christmas party in church every year. I like it because I get to hang out with my friends at church and eat while getting presents by raffle tickets. Christmas is a very jolly and fun holiday that I get to spend time with my family, relatives, and friends, so I hope this year I'll get the best Christmas ever!



## Savior Was Born On Earth

Lo Sung Yau Quan

Star light shone through the dark empty sky.  
Cruising across the sky was a superstar.  
Radiant star sent bright rays in all directions.  
The splendor filled the whole town of Bethlehem.  
King of kings was born in a stable, placed in a manger.  
This was Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God.  
He was sent to earth for salvation of sinners.  
Good news from heaven was preached to save all people.  
Magi set off from the east.  
They followed the superstar all the way to worship.  
Treasures were open and gifts were presented.  
Glory of the Lord first shone upon the shepherd.  
Heavenly hosts joined in the praises of God.  
Good news of great joy for all the people.  
Glory to God in the highest.



## Christmas Party

12/20 Saturday (Heavy Snow)  
Little Flower

Wow! A spectacular scene of "Concerted Efforts at Plowing Snow" played out in the church parking lot. Those strong males braved the snow with hands holding snow shovels; they vigorously and continually shoveled in hopes of clearing more spaces so that our brothers, sisters and friends can have more parking spots. This moving scene competes favorably with the following performances.

The young people had taken a role in this year's Christmas program; there were electric guitar and violin accompanying the chorus. What a refreshing sight! After having watched their performance, one really must acclaim "a generation of new people have surpassed the old".

"The Gift of Love" performed by the Women Fellowship was really outstanding, three gigantic walking, talking, and good-looking gifts brought out the message of "Love". But there was a person who contributed to the success of the performance and that was Sam Leung, who helped make those beautiful big gift boxes. At the backstage, he held an extremely sharp paper knife, brandishing it in front of the three pretty sisters, putting touch-ups on the boxes, all the paper cutting sound makes a person nervous but still, many thanks for his big help.



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Finally! Finally! It was “strong Derek” and “big cow Tony’s turn to come on stage. There were also two tall and powerful brothers acting as small grits and a song to match up; it was pretty interesting! But the singers were all watching and forgot to open their mouths, the performance was absolutely splendid, wouldn’t you say? (Hmm, so many flatteries must be one’s friends.)

Three children performed “The Robot” and it was quite interesting. We must praise them for having the guts to do it!

The “A Dollar A Day” performed by the Lee family really sent out a wake up call to people, reminding all brothers and sisters once more that supporting the church is everyone’s responsibility. It’s worth applauding.

Another young man extemporaneously played his music, also brought a moment of applause.

The closing act is the drawing of gifts, the entire celebration banquet carried on in the sound of joy, it also ended in cheers, see you next year!



## My Testimony

Mo Ping Wong

Twenty years ago, I was in Hong Kong, working two jobs a day, just to make my living and support my mother, provide her with a better living condition. Living in the glamorous city of Hong Kong, I faced heavy

social pressures from all directions. Life was not easy and I was not happy.

I longed for a religion which could help and save me from all these sufferings. I have been to Wong Tai Sin temple ending with great disappointment at the drawing of a highly unfavorable fortune stick. I lost all hope. Even Wong Tai Sin was too busy to care for me.

In 1989, Lord Jesus Christ led me to settle down in Boston, United States of America. Not knowing much about God, I only occasionally followed my brother-in-law to worship services or attended some celebration activities. I have been skeptical of the existence of a true God who cares about human so much as to come and save them. I inquired among my relatives who had believed in Christ for a long time. The answer I got was you should accept it with faith. Therefore, I earnestly prayed for God’s blessing during worship service at church. My prayers appeared to be unanswered.

In April this year 2008, I received a call from the doctor in Boston Hospital informing me of a tumor in my left abdomen. I asked him to send a copy of report to my family physician. A month later, I consulted a physician for stomach ache. She ordered abdominal x-ray followed by CT scan for me. The CT scan report showed a mass blocking the emptying of food residues from my stomach. I was very concerned about the inability to take solid food for the rest of my life. In the evening, Mrs. Ho, my piano teacher, called to comfort me, encouraged me to pray fervently for God’s help. She would also intercede for me. The next morning, in transit on a gurney for



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endoscopic examination of the stomach, I crossed my fingers and prayed earnestly for God's help, in the hope that no serious condition was found in my gastrointestinal tract. Jesus the true God really saved me listened to my call for rescue. The doctor told me that my gastrointestinal tract was fine. The initial mass turned out to be just edema. I could be relieved and actually discharged from hospital. Even though three preceding examinations have shown a tumor in my abdomen, but upon praying to God, He really saved me. I am so grateful for His rescue.

In the past, I was stubborn in handling life events, buried all grievances in my heart. What for? Now that I have trusted in the Lord, I have become much more relaxed. Apart from attending every Sunday worship services, I also joined fellowship meetings, to know God more deeply. Within the extended family of Christ, God loving people associate and care for each other. I am no longer alone. God is pleased to see us learning from each other, encouraging and loving each other, forming the one body of Christ. From now on, I shall live my life according to God's direction.



## My Testimony

Carol Lien Wong

Before my conversion to Christ, I was an insecure, unhappy person, with no peace in my heart.

At the age of eighteen, while studying in Taiwan, an uncle invited me to a youth

fellowship. Attending the fellowship for three to four years, I started to learn about Christianity and later on believed in Jesus Christ. Since then, my family has been hit by many troubles. I got busy with studies at school, and eventually gave up attending church meetings. Even so, I have been praying frequently. Many years later, I immigrated to United States. I suffered badly in a car accident in 1999, resulting in significant shoulder injury. Deeply grieved, I went back to church. However, due to transportation challenges, I stopped coming to church again.

Thanks to the Lord, while walking on the street one day, I discovered that the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston was actually quite close to home. I started attending this church, learning from the scriptures and sermons, studying word of God at home. In October this year, I attended the Baptismal Sunday school class in preparation for my witnessing of Lord Jesus through baptism. I am grateful for the eternal life granted by God. I am willing to follow the direction of Lord Jesus, learn to trust in God and seek His strength to live a good life everyday.



## Collection of Thoughts from Sunday School Student

Priscilla Yeung

The Sunday School class for Grade 1 to Grade 3 children was talking about how God took care of the Israelites in Egypt and how God sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt to the promised land. In one of our homework, the



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children wrote about how God took care of them or their family.

God Helped My Grandfather                      Josephine Lee

A few months ago my grandfather was getting really sick and was admitted to the hospital. He had some kind of infection due to the chemotherapy. We thought he might not make it out of the hospital this time. Our family started praying for my grandfather even though he is not a Christian. Then a lot of friends from my church started praying for my grandfather for his recovery, too. Pastor Yeung, Pastor Mak, and Deaconess Donna went to the hospital to visit my grandfather. Thanks to everyone's prayer, my grandfather is home now recovering and he starts to read the Bible when he is not tired.

God Gave Us Everything                      Tiffany Tan

He gave us a lot of things we need like money, houses, food, a family, friends and clothes. God made people who can learn how to make things for us. God cares, and loves us so much. You should always be a good person. Just try to do the right thing.

My First Recital                      Eva Chow

When I started playing the violin last year, I was really great. My teacher was going to have a recital. I was worried I would mess up everything in my song. I prayed on the night of my performance I would do good.

When it was my turn, I was scared because there were so many people staring at me. I smiled weakly and played. It was nice. I did very well. I thanked God for helping me.



## Church News

Our events during the fourth quarter:

- 11/02/08 – 2009 Church Councilor Election.
- 11/15/08 – Leaders Retreat.
- 11/20/08 – Christmas Caroling at Kam Man Supermarket and Christmas Celebration Dinner.
- 12/24/08 – Christmas Caroling for Quincy families.
- 12/28/08 – Christmas Worship and Baptism.

Upcoming events in next quarter:

- 1/10/09 – Caring groups meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. in Nursery. Group leaders must attend.
- 1/17/09 – Annual Members Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Youth Center. Every member must attend.
- 1/30/09 – Jacob Fellowship hosts the Chinese New Year gathering at 7:15 p.m. in Nursery. All brothers and sisters are welcome to join us.
- 2/07/09 – Women Fellowship hosts the Chinese New Year celebration event at 6:30 p.m. in Youth Center. All brothers and sisters are welcome to join us.

Pray fervently and share the mission:



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- 2008 Bible Reading campaign is underway. We aim to complete reading the New Testament in a year. Give thanks to our Lord! In the 4th quarter, the number of participants for Bible reading is 44 people, 24 of them completed all 13 weeks of Bible reading. Concluding for 2008, 72 people participated in the Bible reading and 29 people achieved reading Bible daily and successfully completed reading the New Testament.
  - 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. For 2008, we collected \$13,209.59.
  - For 2009, our church theme is “Equip To Advance The Gospel.” Let us encourage one another and support our church.
  - 2009 Church Building Offertory goal is \$13,000. We have the “A dollar per day. The whole family work together” 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.
- 2. Remember in your prayer the annual general assembly meeting to be held on 01/17/2009 at 9:30 AM, ask for God’s guidance in decisions on the church business for the upcoming year, and make brothers and sisters united in Spirit.
  - 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 Irene Chan suffers from femur fracture. Pray for God’s care and timely recovery.
    - iv. Sister Lai Yung Yue-Lau has disturbing tinnitus, pray for God’s cure of her ailment.



## Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the 2009 church board members, ask God to give them an