



First Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcbg.org

Reasons for Building Church Premise

Pastor Henry Mak

Scriptural reference: Joshua 4:1-9, 19-24

Chapters 3 and 4 of the book of Joshua recorded the miraculous events where the Israelites crossed the River of Jordan and entered into the Promised Land. These two chapters illustrate two important principles. Firstly, God will sometimes lead us through paths that are unfamiliar and have never been thought of, to demonstrate His power and glory. Israelites could have entered Canaan from the south to obviate crossing the river. However, God commanded them to pass through the River of Jordan. From human perspectives, this is unreasonable. But, when the Israelites trusted and followed God's instruction, miraculous signs appeared. Secondly, we must pass on our faith to the next generation, follow the example of Joshua who set up commemorate stones to remind the succeeding generations of God's might and magnificence.

Our church has been renting the Central Baptist Church premises for 17 years. For many members, they have been on this path for more than a decade, feeling acquainted and cozy, sparing them the burden of expenses, maintenance and management. They enjoy the comfort of worshipping in the sanctuary every Sunday, and have no desire for anything else. Therefore, when we brought up the issue of purchasing church property, some members question the need for abandoning the familiar way to pursue a new course. Alternatively,

based on the current finances of the congregation and economic turmoil in our nation, the stakes are so high making it impossible to reach our goal. Such thoughts ignore God's plan for us to trust Him and tread through unfamiliar path. When the Israelites stepped into the river by faith, the River of Jordan was immediately blocked off from far away. They could then travel on dry land, crossed from the east to the west bank, entered the land promised by God. I am convinced that God will lead us in a similar way into our promised land, to bring out His power and glory.

Thanks to God who motivates our church leaders along this vision of church building. Planning and preparation have been made for many years. This is especially imminent when both Central Baptist and our own congregations have grown, in need of large spaces for simultaneous activities. Church building has become an exigency. We need to step forward in faith, let God accomplish great things for us. Having said that, the selection of location, facilities, room for expansion and financial issues must be worked out meticulously. We must seek the guidance and provision of God in every step and never do things in haste.

Church building is not for establishing our prestige, or promoting the fame of church. We should aim at experiencing and witnessing the glory of God. Every believer needs his personal story of salvation. Our community also needs a legend of church building, the legacy of God's saving grace. Do you want to experience God's intervention in our church? Are you willing to take part in the church building plan? I call on every brother and sister



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to join forces in construction of this spiritual home. Everybody has his place in this project. Present your willful heart to God. When we are united in this building effort, we will certainly experience the power and glory of God. May God accomplish His will in our church.



Unforgettable Friendship

Helen Chiu

I've been a lunch mother for 6 years and this year is the most unforgettable of all. My coworker died suddenly of a heart attack a week before Thanksgiving. When the Principal announced the news, I couldn't accept it. I was so sadden that my body felt iced over and my heart felt painful, right at this moment I knew I was in shock, I couldn't sleep at night.

My colleague and I have been together for 6 years, she came back to work after retirement. She was Caucasian. Although there was a huge gap in our ages, we quickly became best friends due to our similar personalities. I have to speak English in school, be it with the principal, director, teachers, students or other people in the same department. But because I emigrated from Hong Kong and not an America-born Chinese, my English is not fluent. Especially with the names of some students and teachers, I had no idea how to pronounce them correctly. Luckily, my Caucasian colleague had the patience to teach me, the problems were solved and work became smoothly.

My colleague deeply loved work and the care of children, I was also infected, we both worked diligently and shared successes and failures. My colleague would drive me home in the cold winter. 6 years went by fast and I'm very grateful to her. Today she suddenly left me, I was extremely sad initially, but recollecting that even though she's gone, her kindness will always stay in my heart, her delightful smile especially. Each colleague praises her.

She was a Catholic; I felt a comfortable and safe feeling during her memorial service. After this, I will treasure my family and friends more, hope that the non-believers amongst them will one day accept the Gospel and return to the heavenly father.



Hot Pot Gathering

Little May

Every year Jacob Fellowship has a "Ping Pong Hotpot Happy Day" that is beloved by everyone, this year it was on February 28th under cold weather conditions. Fellowship members even invited friends to come along.

Everyone gathered at the youth center around 10 o'clock, sisters were busy preparing food in the kitchen while brothers set up tables, chairs and entertainment equipments. The fellowship spirit was clearly displayed by the joint effort.

All kinds of food spread throughout on several tables with hotpots had people salivating. They couldn't stop eating once hotpot day officially



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started. The youths were busy eating and playing ping pong at the same time. The adults were also busy eating and chatting. During the time we were eating, we had a short speech from Pastor Mak, testimonies from David, Priscilla and Babington. All these added warmth to our hearts.

Then people from each table competed with each other by using various methods of singing in order to be the winner. After that were the Ping Pong competitions, the youth group, men's team and women's team all put in their best efforts. There were cheers all around. When the time came to end things, most brothers and sisters wanted to continue to hang out longer and eat more food.

They continued to sing song after song and ate more food from the hotpot. Everybody was happily eating, singing, listening and chatting until 8 o'clock at night when things ended under a joyous atmosphere.

Hope there will be even more new brothers and sisters sharing this day with us next year!



New Year Greetings from Women's Fellowship

Junior reporter

The Women's Fellowship major event of "Welcoming the spring season with blessings and celebrate the New Year" cook off was on February 7, 2009. We had a great turnout of more than fifty brothers and sisters, enjoying a vivacious atmosphere. An extravaganza of innovative culinary masterpieces contributed

by our sisters was displayed on three tables. Our three judges took up their mission with a stern facial expression and solemn attitude. They worked it out with chopsticks in one hand and a pen in the other hand and they tasted every competing dish meticulously. Nancy Wong won the grand prize of the night with the entree "Splendorous night banquet."

After dinner, the fellowship was divided into two groups for three rounds of competition. The first round was for the most artistic Chinese calligraphy whereby some hidden talents of outstanding penmanship were discovered. The second round was on most speedy transcription of Psalm 150. This game fully displayed the collaborative team spirit. In the third round, representatives from each group raced to grip the most melon seeds with chopsticks within one minute. Every body joined the fierce contest passionately and enjoyed great fun.



My Home Church

Jennifer Li

So far, I've been attending Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston for over eight years. Over these years many things have changed, including me. I still remember the first day I came to this church. It was the summer of second grade and my parents had enrolled me in VBS. I entered as a complete stranger, barely knowing anyone there. That week, I gained the knowledge God's existence. After VBS was over, my mom brought me and my sister to attend this church regularly.



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As years past, I learned many things from church. It changed me to become the better person I am now. I learned what's right from what's wrong and how be obedient. Using knowledge from God, I was able to make wise decisions in my life. Jesus Christ is the greatest example of love I know and it has taught me to be more patient and kind towards others.

Not only did I gain knowledge from God, but my perspective has also changed. Before that, I didn't think much about the nature and the world. For example, I use to only think of flowers and trees to be just another plant. Now, I see them as one of God's wonderful creations. When an opportunity arrives, I don't consider it as luck. Instead, I think of it as a part of God's intended plan for me. In times of sadness, the reminder of God's love would make me smile.

Eight years later and this church have been like my second home. I've met many people here and grew up with them. Now, we're not only good friends but like a family. I had attended VBS as a 2nd grader, eight years ago. Now, this is my second year of being a teacher's assistant for the Kindergarten class. I walked into this church as a stranger, but I now walk out of church with a loving church family and most importantly, the knowledge of God's wonderful love.



The Way to Worship God

Ellen Chow

My saxophone performance on Sunday was very exciting and fun for me. I had a chance to play my saxophone for God and I took it. I was a little nervous at first but as I started to play, I became really comfortable up there on stage. I practiced a lot too because I wanted it to be good enough for God. It's very important for me to play in front of people. It gives me a chance to improve on my performance skills and make people feel happy to praise God.

I think it's important for young people to play music and to sing for the church. It shows that you are really dedicated to worshipping God and you enjoy it. With our talent we can worship the Lord and encourage other people to do so to. It's also great experience for us. I would definitely want to do more things just like that in the future.



Church News

Our events during the fourth quarter:

- 1/19/09 – Annual Meeting was held in Youth Center.
- 2/07/09 – Women Fellowship hosted the Chinese New Year Celebration banquet in Youth Center.
- 2/14/09 – Mission Department hosted the “Come to love our Lord” evangelical meeting in Fellowship hall in basement.



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- 2/28/09 – Jacob Fellowship hosted the “Ping Pong Hot Pot” gathering in Youth Center.
- 3/07/09 – Women Fellowship hosted the elders fun day in Chau Chow restaurant for tea tasting.

have collected \$3,101.78. Keep up with the work for church building.



Prayer Requests

Upcoming events in next quarter:

- 4/10/09 – Good Friday service at 7:30 p.m. in Youth Center. Let us come together to remember the Lord.
- 4/23/09 – 4/24/09 – Youth Retreat in Grotowood. Rev. Michael Dean will be our speaker and there will be 14 youths to attend.
- 6/06/09 – Sunday school teachers training at 10:30 a.m. in Nursery. Sunday school teachers and brothers & sisters are all welcome to join.

Pray fervently and share the mission:

- For 2009, our church theme is “Equip to Advance the Gospel.” Let us encourage one another and support our church.
- For 2009 Bible Reading campaign, our goal is to complete reading Old Testament from Genesis to First Chronicles and Psalms in a year. Please be steadfast to read the Bible daily.
- 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. For the first quarter 2009, we

1. New believers Bible class will begin in April. Please pray for the students. Ask God to open their hearts to receive the truth, understand the Lord’s saving grace.
2. Remember in your prayer the Good Friday worship service to be held on 04/10/2009 at 7:30 PM in the youth center, ask for God to prepare a worshipping heart for every brother and sister to commemorate the sacrificial love of our Lord.
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. The goal of church building fund raising is \$13,000. Ask God to motivate every brother and sister to contribute their share of willing offering. Also seek God’s favor to provide us with a suitable premise for the church.
5. 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) Deaconess Irene Chan has not completely healed from femur fracture. Pray for God’s care and timely recovery from upcoming second surgical operation.



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- iii) Sister Mo Ping Wong has yet to recover from abdominal surgery, pray for God's cure of her ailment.