



Third Quarter Newsletter



What is holding us back?

Pastor Henry Mak

The bible depicts the life of Christians as a Marathon race, which requires persevering endurance to complete the course. Are we able to finish this long distance race of our life faithfully? This is an issue that we need to frequently examine.

A serious Marathon runner would get rid of every burden, never carry excessive baggage or clothing. I know of a brother who regularly participates in Marathon races. He practices long distance run in all seasons. Even in the snow, he still only wears tightly fitted thin sportswear. He would not let anything slow him down.

God also wants us to run the course of our life this way, get rid of distraction as far as possible. However, many believers are still entangled by many things, precluding them from fully living out the life of Christ. Specifically, we must free ourselves from three major areas of struggle to be able to run the course of life prescribed by God.

- I. Let go of our worries- Worry constitutes the emotional garbage that suffocates our spiritual growth. The more we worry, the slower our progress. "An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up." Proverbs 12:25. Just figure, if God's children can be free from the burden of worry, how great would be our accomplishment for

God. We can lead people to God, so that they could know Jesus, the Son of God.

Worry can completely drain away our energy and time. Once we get caught in the worrying trap, we would no longer be able to carry out the mission of God. We must tackle and subdue worry.

Firstly, we must discern the concerns that hold us back. Not until we identify the worries could we drop them down. We frequently feel suffocated because there always seems to be something wrong, things that are obscured to us. Without identifying the source of anxiety, there is no way to tackle it.

Secondly, we must bring our worries to God. "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall." Psalm 55:22. What God means is, shed your concerns, hand them over and let Him take care of it.

I am advocating prayer instead of physical therapy, diet therapy, medication, theological studies or various learning process to eliminate worries. The more we pray, the less we worry. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all



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understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7. Let us replace worries with prayers through supplication and praise. Let our Father be aware of our cares. Through prayers we get in touch with our Father in heaven. With Christ at the center of our life, there is no reason to be concerned about anything. The company of our Lord already provides us with comfort and conquering power.

- II. Put your wounds behind you- There are so many things that could inflict serious damage to our hearts, including scams, broken promises, conflicts and betrayals. Most of the time, the damage inflicted in our hearts are much more devastating than external wounds. For instance, you may forget about the laceration of your finger during childhood or the bruises sustained in a playground; but always remember the person who hurt your feelings with harsh words. The haunting memories keep playing back in your mind like an ever rewinding tape.

We must erase the grievance and hostility from our mind, and learn to forgive all who have hurt us. Psalm 37:8 tells us “Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.” Re-exposing our old wounds only serves to reinforce the hatred and pain in our hearts. Many believers attend church every

week carrying their long cultivated wounds in the heart. They cannot put these wounds behind them, thereby preventing them from attaining the potential and goal from God. They must put the past behind their back.

The help of God is essential for learning to forgive others. This is the only way to rid yourself of the wounds and grudges in your past. Nobody can declare someone unforgivable, for Lord Jesus has forgiven every one of us. Refusing to forgive others would only end up in our own suffering.

- III. Put all mistakes behind you- In order to accomplish the will of God for us, we must put our sins, mistakes, failures and regrets in past. For everything old has gone, we are all new creation in Christ, the new has come. I do not want to see someone who has been converted to Christ, keep bringing back the regret and guilt from forty years prior. You have to shed them at the feet of our Lord, let Him handle it and do not hold on to them. We should “throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrew 12:1-2.



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We must learn to come before God constantly, examine our life, find out the things that we should confess and repent. For the scriptures have given us a guarantee, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. God is always ready for our confession and forgive all our offenses.

Dear brothers and sisters, are you still harboring worries, wounds, guilt and grievance in your heart? We have to lay them down, put the past behind our back, forgive each other, treat each other with love, focus on eternity, for our Lord will return soon, amen.



God Cares for Our Picnic

Priscilla Yeung

God answered our prayers. The weather has been bad before our July 4th picnic. Therefore the "little faith" me considered different options. Even though brothers and sisters prayed fervently, I recalled the saying "there is unpredictable storm from above".

On July 4, 2009, the sky was clear and crisp. My God! You even care for our church picnic. Early in the morning, we gathered at church and departed for our destination. When we arrived at Hopkinton Park, there were already many people. Fortunately, Sam, Irene and

Kathy arrived earlier to save us a wonderful spot. All delicious food was all over several tables and some of our brothers started the fire for BBQ. We had time for praising songs, games and exercises before we started lunch. Right! We had the "Praise aerobic" which brought so much fun. On one hand we sang songs to praise God and on the other hand we did aerobic exercises. All the adults were and joyful and relaxed while all the youths were amazed with their acts. Afterwards, there was a game of limbo dance. I was amazed by the flexibility of some of our adults.

After the activities, it was time for lunch. We had a great variety with different cuisines and flavors. The BBQ meats, in particular, smelled so good that everyone started salivating.

Finally we had our free time for activities. All the youths dived into the water playing. Others went walking and chatting. Everyone went his or her own way to enjoy the wonderful nature created by God.



Testimony

Sandra Wong

Thanks to the Lord, I will soon be celebrating our first wedding anniversary with Ronald. During this first year of marriage, we enjoyed the intimate relationship of a newlywed. More importantly, we experienced the grace of God everyday. During the past year, we faced many changes in life, made many difficult decisions. Conceivably, when too many changes and decisions happen at the same time, conflicts



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will be stirred up. Ronald and I were not exempted. Following marriage, apart from major change in identity, there were additional issues arising from our living conditions, work and church situations. In the process of working through these changes, Ronald and I had many heated confrontations. They were serious enough to be labeled as ‘hysterical’ or ‘roaring.’

Ronald and I come from totally different backgrounds. The only thing in common is the faith in the same Lord, our savior. Ronald has already spent seven years in United States on his academic pursuit. He has been well conformed to the American culture. On the contrary, I had never left Hong Kong for longer than three months except my graduation touring and studies in England for half a year. We have tremendous difference in life habits, culture and education level. In addition, Ronald has been used to taking care of everything by himself while living independently in America. I am the exact opposite. Before marriage, I was a spoiled princess at home; never have to do any chores at home. Growing up in a well-off household, I always got the choicest food, the best accommodations, the best clothes, and never have to worry about the future.

Flashing back to the time we decided to get married, Ronald was a doctoral candidate, with a non-salaried job. We have always anticipated a pleasant and mesmerizing marital life. Later on, we realize that without any income from Ronald, all these things would merely turn out to be unrealistic dreams. Therefore, we started praying for Ronald’s career path after graduation. Even though we prayed together,

asked God to grant the desire of our hearts, we have never seriously investigated whether these plans are in accordance with His will. As a result, we quarreled whenever things did not work out. We fought over the living place and family budget. We kept on arguing over numerous trivial issues even up to the time of our wedding. This is the consequence of putting our individual preferences above everything, thereby completely ignoring the goal of marriage, namely, witnessing the love of Christ and bringing glory to God. I am so thankful for the grace of God, guiding our every step, even providing a suitable position once we seek His favor. Finally, God led Ronald to his dream job, a post-doctoral fellowship in Harvard University. The stipend can support our living in America. Time and again, God’s arrangement is the best for us, sufficient and abundant.

Although we have not stopped fighting with each other, serenity will be restored every time we come before the Lord in prayer and issues will be resolved. I still remember the time when we kept arguing on our expenses. Since the stipend for Ronald is only sufficient for our living in United States, we cannot spare any money to support our parents. Ronald wanted to request exemption from paying the life expenses of our parents. I vehemently opposed because this act essentially nullified our commitment to our parents. The conflicts perpetuated until we came to terms with our limitations and turned to God for help. God’s grace is really adequate for us. Only a few days later, our parents simultaneously initiated the discussion on this issue of family support. They expressed concerns of our financial difficulties in these early years of marriage,



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complicated by the relocation to the United States and the fact that Ronald has just started his first job. They would not demand our payment of family support until our financial situation improves. We were very impressed not only by the love of our parents, but even more by God's response to our supplication. God solved this problem for us and give us a way out.

We experienced the guidance of God again in our relocation to Boston. The search of accommodation was made outside Boston. I was preparing for the wedding in Hong Kong while Ronald was finishing his doctoral thesis in Los Angeles. Communication with our realtor was through the internet. Not able to survey the neighborhood on site before moving in, we could only proceed by faith. Initially we had eyes on a seemingly suitable apartment, in a favorable location with a nice neighborhood, at a reasonable rent. Having made up our mind on this apartment, we immediately contacted the agency to rent it. Before making the phone calls, Ronald and I seek the Lord's guidance in prayer. However, anxiety grew when we were unable to contact the realtor, worrying about losing the apartment to someone else. We prayed for this apartment incessantly, until one day, Ronald told me that he finally got in touch with the realtor and prepared to sign the rental contract on the following day. We made yet another supplication for this. Following the prayer, Ronald was unexpectedly hit by an urge to investigate the rental site through Google, to see if there were any special conditions. By trial and error, we discovered that a case of homicide happened in that neighborhood just a week ago. The body of the murdered victim actually lied within the parking lot of the

apartment. Aware of this fact, we immediately called the agency and canceled the rental contract. Marvelously, God led us to another apartment with even better conditions on the very same day. This time around, the rental proceeding was a breeze. Even more amazingly, when we looked for used furniture on the web, God brought us in contact with the previous tenants and directly purchased most of the large furniture pieces. We were thereby spared of the big trouble on the day of landing in the United States.

God's grace for us was felt not only on major matters. Ronald and I experienced the guidance and protection of God in every moment of our life. Willingly present our wish and need to God, wait for His action in faith and He will make the best arrangements. There is no lack of scriptures on the guidance of God. These are my two most favorite inspiring passages.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7.

We are all aware of our limitations, yet God is the creator of the world. His power is greater than anything on earth. Today, we confess our weakness on every matter. God will strengthen us on our point of weakness, exactly as depicted in the scripture:

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9.



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We are His children. He loves us more than anything else, even sent us His only begotten son, to save the rebellious children like us. He irrigates the vegetations in the wilderness everyday, feeds the birds in the air and animals in Africa. Being His most beloved children, how could He bear to see us suffering from hunger and humiliation? We only need to lay down our prejudice, obstinacy, recklessness and return to our loving Father, confess to Him our sins. He will certainly forgive us, continue to cuddle us in His bosom and relieve us of our burden.



2009 Jacob Fellowship Retreat

Tony Wong

The 2009 Jacob Fellowship summer camp was very memorable because I fell down in the church parking lot, twisting my angle, even before we headed out. But it enabled me to see the concern and care of our brother and sisters. As the bible said, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him." I was willing and happy to let the brothers and sisters serve me. "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." Therefore, may God doubly bless them. The camp environment was very beautiful. We had group games for starters. Everyone had a great time. There was a campfire at night, which was witness to the fact that God listened to our prayers, because it didn't rain until after the campfire was over. The next morning we had

group devotion and bible trivia. In the afternoon we had water activities such as swimming and canoeing. For three whole days we had a professional photographer, Mr. Liu, taking pictures for us as well as having delicious meals prepared for us by caring chefs. God's gifts to us really transcend all understanding. We all look forward to the 2010 church summer camp, when we would return to this camp site, and enjoy fellowships between our brothers and sisters and God's wondrous arrangements.



VBS(1)

Flora Hu

When I reminisce back to my younger days, all my memories trace to the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston. Even before I was born, my mother carried me in her womb to this very church every Sunday. At church, there was the joy of being with Christ Jesus, as well as the bonuses of being able to have fun with your friends, sing, and listen during story time. When my sister Angela was old enough to go to VBS, I was so envious. Finally when I was also old enough, I found it to be the most enjoyable week of that summer. After 7 years of going to VBS annually, I was finally asked to be a Teacher Assistant, as well as an Exercise and Game Instructor. I was absolutely flattered and honored to be offered to fulfill these responsibilities. I am currently 15 years old, and for three years I have been a Teacher Assistant and an Exercise and Singing/Dancing Instructor. I feel that my sense of leadership



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was developed through church, and I thank God for that.

VBS 2009 was just as exciting as the years before. First thing in the morning would be exercise and songs, led by Jennifer and me. The songs this year were significantly harder than the previous songs, but it was nothing that couldn't be done. After songs and exercise, I assisted Donna with the 1st and 2nd graders and had a pleasant time doing it. As I sat in that chair watching the young children read the word of Jesus Christ, I wondered to myself if I was as studious as them 8 years ago. The children this year were great; they did what they were told and were quiet when they needed to listen. After class was craft and game time. Each day, the kids would be so happy to be able to play a new game and put together a new craft they would be able to show their parents on Graduation Day. Lastly, they would end practicing the songs and hand movements. The week flawlessly flew by and before I knew it, it was Sunday, Graduation Day. I was nervous when the kids had to perform the songs because I knew it was challenging for them. However, I also knew that God would be there to guide them in spirit, while I would be just ten feet away doing the hand movements with them. The kids sang beautifully, and the songs ended perfectly. I was so proud of them, and I thanked God for giving me the strength, skill, and patience to help lead the kids.



VBS(2)

Grace Wong

My name is Grace, and I have been attending the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston as long as I remember. Every summer the church hosts something in August called, VBS, which stands for Vacation Bible School. Many kids attend, looking forward to a fun week, filled with energy. The friendly staff and assistants all try to make the week as lively and entertaining as possible.

This year during VBS, all the staff welcomed a group of enthusiastic kids to our church. Everyday, the kids first participated in some exercise led by a staff member. After they're all awake, they came together and sang three songs that they performed at the end of VBS week. Classes began next, where the kids were separated into their age groups and learned about God. Afterwards, they ate refreshments together and had some fun with arts and crafts. The last part of the day is games where the children have good times and run around. When it was time to go home, they were sad to leave, but they knew they could look forward to more fun the next day at VBS.

On Sunday, the children performed the three songs to their parents and other church members. Their cuteness made everyone smile. The graduation ceremony continued with passing out certificates and prizes for those who excelled in certain areas. Everybody anticipates for next year's VBS, praising God for allowing this year's VBS to go by so successfully.



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Evangelical Meeting Update

Yvonne Chan

This year the music department held a musical evangelical meeting on September 19. We led people to think about “What is considered full of blessings” through hymns that praise the Lord and through testimonies that are full of blessings. Thanks to the Lord’s grace, many relatives and guests came. According to responses from the audience, all aspects starting with the hosts, testimonies, message delivery to the choir were at their best. We thank the Lord for his work on us. We hope this evangelical meeting will increase their desire to believe in Christ.

Blessing is something that every one of us has longed for, particularly during the Chinese New Year. Traditional Chinese people will put up decorations with the character “Blessing” in hopes of great blessings for the coming year. However, how does one measure blessings? Is it just the things that you possess in front of you? How long can these possessions bring you joy? This evangelical meeting precisely brought people through their doubts, and explained to people clearly that possessions can only bring people a limited amount of joy and fortune. An abundant person might not have peace and joy due to the ever changing affairs in this world. Just like the financial crisis that caused a lot of people to lose their job, those who are wealthy are now worrying about their daily needs. All the changes in life prevent people from peace and joy. Just as brother Joe

Yeung’s testimony, “it does not matter who you are, rich or poor, only if you look to God will you have peace and joy.” Psalms chapter 23 states, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.” Brother Yeung found the true meaning of life precisely during the lowest point of his life. Today, he is living in God’s grace with his cup overflow as he testified.

As Christian, aren’t we receiving the cup daily from our Lord? A young Christian couple from Hong Kong, Ronald and Sandra, narrated the relationship with God in their newly wedded life. As Sandra described, it’s like three straight lines which forms a beautiful shape, they are able to find balance in conflicts with God leading their life. Brother Liu said it correctly. God let wise people understand that if something cannot be explained with their limited wisdom, it is not necessary that it is not true due to our limited wisdom. However, the Holy Spirit reminds us of our sins. Only through Jesus Christ that we can emerge from sins, put down our arrogant self to accept each other, let love within the couple be more perfect. God leads and helps us through our weakness. God’s ability becomes more complete through our weakness. God’s grace comes upon each of us. Just like the book of John, chapter 3 verse 16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” All we need to do is believe in Jesus Christ, and we will receive this tremendous fortune for your whole life

Thanks the Lord for his guidance, that night during the musical evangelical meeting, we not only have the delighted dialogue from the hosts and beautiful singing from the choir, we also



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have truthful testimonies of life and message from our pastor. All these clearly helped the audiences to realize the true fortune is not what they possess in front of them, but is to build and to have the kind of love that can be depended on and never fades; this is our Lord Jesus Christ. It is only by relying on Jesus, that we will receive forever peace and joy. May God bless everyone.



Church News

Our events during the second quarter:

- 7/4/09 – Church picnic at Hopkinton State Park.
- 8/10/09 – 8/14/09 – Vacation Bible School.
- 9/19/09 – Musical Evangelical meeting, please invite relatives and friends to attend.

Upcoming events in next quarter:

- 11/1/09 – Church Counselor Election at 2:45pm. Members, please attend and vote.
- 12/20/09 – Christmas Worship at 1:25pm.
- 9/19/09 – Musical Evangelical meeting, please invite relatives and friends to attend.

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 third quarter 2009, we have collected \$2,849.10. Keep up with the work for church building.



Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the church building project. Pray that God would provide us wisdom and unity in the process, including legal consultation and architectural procedures. Ask the Lord to level down all barriers and accomplish His will.
2. Intercede for the new members recently baptized on September 20, 2009. They are Wilson Wong, Brian Quach, Ryan Wong, Emily Chow, Samantha Lee, Christine Li and Amenda Wong. Ask the Lord to guard their heart, give them progress in their spiritual life.
3. Pray for the youth ministry. Ask the Lord to use Katelyn Saylor, our newly recruited youth mentor, to promote active participation in fellowship by our teenagers. Seek the Lord’s provision of suitable preachers for the English worship service, to edify the faith of our youth group.



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4. Intercede for the Mandarin ministry and ask God to bring Mandarin speaking families into our congregation. Pray that God would establish the Mandarin fellowship, light the fire in brothers and sisters to serve and care about each other.
5. Intercede for Cedric and Wendy Cheung, the missionary supported by our church. Pray that the Lord will lead this family of four safely to Chengtu, China for evangelical mission through practice of medicine. Pray for the Lord's provision of every need and power to witness the Lord effectively.
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) Ask God to care for Sister Kun Wan Chow-Wong who is suffering from arthritic pain.
 - iii) Remember Deaconess Irene Chan in your prayer for complete recovery after the second surgical operation.