



Fourth Quarter Newsletter



Season of Thanksgiving

Pastor Henry Mak

The thanksgiving festival originated from the early days when pilgrims lived under strenuous circumstances and when they first arrived in America. In spite of the hardships, they still offered celebration as an expression of gratitude towards God. Nowadays, many people have completely forgotten the historical fact that this nation was founded on Christian faith. They even rename the Thanksgiving Day to turkey day, thereby removing the association with Christianity, turning it into a totally secular festivity. This has misled quite a number of Christians. Think about it. Taking away the commemoration and counting of God's blessings, would there be any meaning left of the Thanksgiving Day?

Psalm 103 represents the praising of God by psalmist; an expression of gratitude through praises. It provides us the rationale, the content and the way to count the blessing of God. Let us learn and personalize this psalm.

How did the psalmist inspire us to praise God?

- A. Learn to communicate with our heart:" Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name."(verse 1).
How can we communicate with our heart? We will talk to our heart when we are emotionally disturbed. For instance, when we are angry, we can relieve our rage by talking to our heart, just as we can avoid confusion by

ferently praying to God. In actual fact, talking to our heart is an emotional outlet; an expression of our inner being. We may say to ourselves, 'Do not get angry easily' or 'What is your goal of life?' Asking your own heart on what is in your mind can reaffirm the will of God in our life. When I entered the second half of my life, I asked myself how to live a more meaningful life. God responded by calling me to be equipped in a theological seminary. At the time of graduation, I asked myself, 'Could a man of my age be of any use to God?' God opened the door for me to serve Him in Boston, a place I have never thought of. Thanks be to God.

- B. Do not forget God's benefits. "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (verse 2).

Whenever we are clueless on how to give thanks, bring back to mind God's guidance for you in the past and His provisions. We forget all these, not because of our fading memory with age, but due to problems in our heart. Man would forget about God for various reasons. Look at the example of King Hezekiah. "In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the LORD, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign. But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the LORD's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem." (2 Chronicles 32:24-25) Even though Hezekiah was cured by God, he was not grateful and did not glorify God for His



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grace. His pride erased his memory of God. A haughty heart leads man to forget about the grace of God. Pride blocks a grateful heart. We end up praising ourselves instead of God, neither shall we give thanks to others. We all have a tendency to forget the benefits God bestowed on us.

- C. We have to count God's blessings. "who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." (verses 3-5).

Moses frequently reminded his people to give thanks to God and not forget all his benefits. How can we avoid forgetting the benefits from God? The solution is to always keep track of God's doings and His grace.

1. God forgives and saves: David sinned against God. Although God handed down punishment, He still has pardoning grace. Upon David's confession of his sins, God forgave his trespasses (2 Samuel chapters 11 & 12). In a similar way, we used to ignore God, sinned and defied God. God pardons our sins through the salvation of Jesus Christ and gives us a new life. After conversion to Christ, we will still have moments of weakness, stumbling and in debt to the grace of God. However, God

never fails to rebuke us through the Holy Spirit, brings us back to confess, repent and submit to Him, so that we could be useful to God again. For this we should give thanks to God.

2. God heals and saves. Many people believe in the Lord because of God's healing. It should be clear to us that healing of disease per se does not bring eternal life. We are saved only because Jesus died for our sins, buried and raised from the dead. When believers supplicate in faith before the Lord, He will heal them according to His will. Hezekiah pleaded with God and received healing. Many sick people came to Jesus and got cured. By the authority from the Lord, disciples were able to heal all the people who came to them (Acts 5:16). Therefore, believers can also pray for healing in the name of the Lord, as depicted by Apostle James, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16).

Salina, my wife went through a major operation in her right eye. If not for the grace of God, she would have turned blind. A few years ago, in a car accident, she



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had several rib fractures, and suffered injury from head to toe. Her life could not be sustained without the protection, salvation and healing of God. Just in the last year, she went into a hospital to block off a vascular tumor. The procedure successfully shrank the 9 cm tumor. This is also the healing from God. I have chronic nasal blockage causing headaches. This condition which needs medication to control has been mostly relieved now. I no longer depend on the medication to facilitate breathing. We should all give thanks to God for His healing.

3. God provides and empowers. For a middle age immigrant in North America, finding a job to earn a living is no easy task. Yet, God never stop providing me with job opportunities and life essentials. The problem was, many a time I failed to value the provisions of God and lived a modest life on a balanced budget. I was too used to an affluent lifestyle. Entering theological seminary, God gave me a chance to scrutinize my life format, got rid of some bad habits, and learned to live a simple frugal life. Now, as a minister, I am accountable to God on every facet of daily life. God's provisions remain very

abundant and full. I am so grateful. In the past, I felt that my physical strength and memory were fading and my back was hurting. Since I started serving the Lord, God gave me extra strength and improved memory, capable of handling the work. Thank and praise the Lord. I really wish that you could also "renew your youth like the eagle's" through your service of God.

How should we praise and give thanks to God?

1. Proclaim the love of God with our mouth and our heart. "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust." (verses 11-14). The love of God is beyond measure. He never disregards our weakness, but protects us. "As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children- with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts." (verses 15-18). God is everlasting. In sharp contrast, man's



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days are short like that of grass. Out of sight, out of mind. Very few people can leave a long lasting impression. We should thank God for granting us an everlasting love.

2. Fear God, follow His instructions. "But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children- with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts." (verses 17-18). We must be aware of God's presence, acknowledge Him in our daily life. Even when there is nobody around, we still live a holy life in the fear of God. This is the life format of God fearing people. However, we must realize that a holy life is not a means to exchange for God's grace, but a proper response to the grace of God. The reason is, keeping the covenant of God represents the correct response with our whole life. It is the most practical expression of our gratitude towards God.

How should we spend our thanksgiving day?
Use your heart, your mouth and your life to respond to God's grace.



Give Thanks to God

Deaconess Donna Mok

I am an ordinary home maker, of no significance in anybody's eyes, yet cherished by God. God is so good! Allow me to describe in detail the abundant grace of God in my life during the past year.

Thanks be to God. Even though I frequently suffer insomnia, God still gives me strength to face a new day in the morning when I wake up. Thanks be to God. He gives me serene time everyday to read the scripture and be close to Him.

Thanks be to God, for giving me a lovable husband and daughters with great chemistry in our family.

Thanks be to God, for the opportunity to prepare meals and take care for their everyday needs.

Thanks be to God. In June, my two daughters graduated with high honors from college and high school respectively. They move on to a new milestone of their life.

Thanks be to God, for making me a mother, a watchman for my children, able to intercede for them in all times.

Thanks be to God, for providing my husband with a stable job. In spite of the stress in his position, God still grants him strength to sustain.

Thanks be to God, for giving me a spiritual home, allowing me to enjoy a cozy fellowship, sharing the joy and pain of brothers and sisters, intercede for each other.

Thanks be to God, for the opportunity to serve Him, as well as brothers and sisters.



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Thanks be to God, for the joy of preaching the gospel, the chance of visiting guests and sharing the love of God.

Thanks be to God. He grants me the power of supplication, so that I can learn to trust in Him on everything, lay down my worries and anxiety.

Thanks be to God, for filling my heart with His love all the time.

Lord Jesus, you are so good! You demonstrate your magnificent power and great love in the life of an ordinary person. I will always give thanks and praise you.



Thanks for God's Guidance

Kathy Wong

Our church received many blessings from God in this year. First during the mid year, we heard the good news on our church building because we found a site that everyone believed was suitable for our church. The church building project was successfully approved after two public hearings. Because God answers our persistent prayers, our church building process is in good progress. May God take care of everything in our church building process!

For our youths who grow up in this church, God has continuously guided them for their faith in believing Jesus Christ as their savior. Therefore, seven youths has been baptized in Christ in September.

In the past several years, we have been searching for a youth minister. Now with God's guidance, we have successfully hired a suitable youth minister who serves in ministries like Sunday school, English worship and youth fellowship.

Thanks to God for giving the faith to each of us! We can do everything and we have the hope of everlasting life. We can share with others God's love and enjoy the peace and joy from God.



Lord is Coming

Lo Sung Yau Quan

Look! Listen!
Mountains and earth are shaking,
Heavens are moving,
A big loud noise,
Fire shoots up to the sky,
Burning the whole world.
Dark smoke is everywhere,
The elements will be destroyed by fire
And the earth and everything in it will be laid bare (II Peter 3:10)
Furious sea,
Fierce wind,
High wave,
Darkness covers the land,
Stars are falling,
Unrighteous men crying,
False prophets and false christ are getting crazy!

Be alert! Be alert!
Be prepared! Be prepared!
Remove our sins that easily entangles,



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Arm us with strength,
Cleanse our hearts,
Get ready for the coming of the Lord.
Look, He is coming with the clouds
And every eye will see Him. (Revelation 1:7)
Behold, I am coming soon! (Revelation 22:12)
My reward is with me.
and I will give to everyone according to what
he has done.
Then they will go away to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life. (Matthew
25:46)
Alert! Be alert always!
Pray! Pray continuously!
To welcome back the Son of Man!



Christmas Party

David Lee

December 19 was the church's Christmas party and thank the Lord some brothers and sisters came back early to do the preparation work. Santa arrived around five-thirty, all the guests and the congregation were eager to get in line to have their pictures taken with Santa. Dinner began at six thirty shortly after Pastor Yeung's prayer. Our brother, Harris had arranged for a rich dinner which was placed into dishes by our Women's Fellowship and distributed by our youth. Coincidentally it was also Wendy's birthday. We had a birthday cake and oranges given by Kam Man Supermarket.

The program officially started after dinner with praise songs, we sang joyfully to our Lord. Then there was the message from Pastor Mak, he invited all the non-Christians to accept Jesus Christ as their precious gift. During the

message, Pastor Mak said "my time is different from your's". Although this was unrelated to the message, it did serve its purpose. At the same token, how does one measure God's time? We really need to get a hold of our time and prepare ourselves to spread the gospel. After the message, it was time for the Church Council Moderator to present our gratitude to our pastors and pianists.

Then it was time for the splendid performances. First we had Deacon Chow's three daughters and Priscilla perform their musical piece. Then it was our brother, Harris, and his family. Ryan and Hillary played their guitars while Harris and Jennifer sang together. Under Katelyn's guidance, the Youth group performed a show with their glowing gloves. During the show, the youth used their glowing gloves to make the word, JOY. The Women's Fellowship then performed an exercise dance with a praise song. Although the music went out during their performance, they were able to follow their own rhythm to continue with the song and dance. Lastly, there was the skit by the Jacob Fellowship. The devil was having a meeting with his followers. They were trying to think of ideas to prevent people from believing in God. This skit really served as a wakeup call to all of us.

Then we had the annual drawing, our party ended with Pastor Mak's closing prayer. The party ended with joy. We had to thank our Lord because there was a warning of snow for that day but the Lord guided our footsteps and the snow did not come down until midnight.



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Baptism Testimonial (1)

Ellen Chow

I have been in church for all my life. I never really thought that I would ever get baptized before college because after college I would be an adult. Then people started telling me how they got baptized at my age. My ideas and thoughts about baptism changed but not yet enough to actually do anything about it. I think God began to speak to me this year when he brought in all these messages from speakers, telling us how we don't have to be perfect to get baptized. I thought about what they said and I realized that they were right. No one can ever be perfect. Everyone slips sometimes even if they love God. That was how I decided to get baptized. Another sign was when my sister, Emily, got baptized. As she went in the water, I felt some tears coming down my face. I was really surprised because I never cried when someone got baptized before. This also made me realize that I was ready to be baptized.



Baptism Testimonial (2)

Flora Hu

Growing up in a church setting my whole life, I was always taught to do the right thing. Do not steal; love your neighbors as yourself, etc. I believe that if you hear and practice these enough, they become habitual. Because I was taught this at birth, this came naturally to me, which helped me be a better person. All of my

thanks go to God, who provided me with family and friends that helped pave the way for me to become a sole believer and follower of God.

God has helped me in many different situations. When I was very young, I had reoccurring bad dreams. Then, one day in Sunday school, I learned that God is and always will be there for you and will help you in your time of need. That night, I prayed to God before I fell asleep, that he will help me not have these bad dreams and also to let him know how much I love and am thankful for him. When I woke the next day, I was extremely surprised! I did not have a bad dream! At that moment, I knew that God was real, that he is the all powerful one. After that day, I continuously prayed to God thanking him and asking that I would not have a bad dream, and he answered my prayers every night.

Not only has God provided me with wonderful people all around me, helped me be a better person, and rescued me in sticky situations, but he also changed my life. The 16 years I have been living would have been different and way more difficult without him. Not knowing which path was right and which path was wrong, I would've just been torn in between the two, lost and confused. I have always known that I wanted to follow Christ for the rest of my life. Getting baptized is not a very hard decision for me to make, since I already feel a connection with God. He will always be number one in my life on earth and in heaven.



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Baptism Testimonial (3)

Hillary Wong

I have been attending the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston with my family since 1997. Church has always been first priority in my family. When I joined the Church, I didn't understand anything yet because I was 3 years old; but as I grew up with the Church members, I began to learn about God, His creations, and His miracles.

I've learned many things at Church that helped me throughout my life. Praying to God helped me get through tough times. Whenever I need help or just want someone to talk to, I pray to God and hope he gives an answer somehow. I believe God is our Savior because most times he answers my prayers, especially when I need help.

I believe getting baptized in December is a wonderful gift for God. It is the perfect date because this is my gift to God and I picked this date because my Dad was baptized in December too. I know I am ready to be baptized because I can trust God with my life and wants to be His forever. God has always been there for me, and it's time for me to confirm my faith in him.



Baptism Testimonial (4)

Jennifer Li

I've known God since I was a little kid. Growing up I heard many Bible stories, messages, and even personal experiences about God. Ever Sunday I knew I had church on my schedule and so did my friends. I never really doubted that God didn't exist even though I heard about other religions as years past. There is a difference from saying you are a Christian and actually being a Christian. I have realized that being a Christian doesn't only mean attending church regularly, giving offerings every week or just believing in Jesus Christ. Being a Christian also has responsibilities such as witnessing to others and spreading God's word. In a Christian's life, God should be the number one priority. I now understand these things and I'm willing to accept them. Getting baptized would allow me to be able to let others know as well. I'm very thankful for having God in my life because there are many unfortunate people in the world that doesn't know about Jesus and everything he's done for us. Being a Christian, I hope that God would use me to reach out to others because Jesus Christ is a precious gift that I think everyone should know about.



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Baptism Testimonial (5)

Jonathan Li

Dear brothers and sisters, Greetings! May peace and happiness be in your hearts always. Thanks be to God. I was moved by the Holy Spirit to do a little bit of witness for God. One day when I was reading God's Word, a scripture in Psalm 27 which said "Seek his face" has jounced my heart to this day.

On Monday, my wife (Jennifer) received an invitation card from a car dealer, inviting her to go choose a car. Although I know that we couldn't afford one with the current financial situation, I still went with her anyway. She went into the car dealership once we arrived and I stayed in the car to pray, relying on God, obeying His will to accomplish things. During the prayer, something that has never happened before occurred. (Please do be nervous, it's not a miracle.) Numerous fragmented pieces kept appearing in my mind so that I can not concentrate. Then I changed to reading the bible, in the hopes that it will focus my mind. But the situation did not improve, so I tried to find other things to do. Hoping that would calm my mood. Unknowingly, Jennifer was back and said, "Let's go, we're not buying it". In that moment, I saw God's face, I knew the ever-living God was there. According to His will, He fulfils things that are beneficial to us without a word.

Another day, a lady was taking a driving lesson because the day after was her road test. Since she wasn't skilled in parking, she was irritable

and felt things were not going smoothly. Then she complained about all the driving teachers. She then tried again but mixed up all the methods she had read from the books and still couldn't park the car any better. At the time, I knew she was worried, so I used a gentle and positive tone, to explain to her the method for parking. Later, she understood the method during another practice, what a wonderful thing, her mood started to calm and she used the remaining time to become more familiar. In truth, everything that was taught that day she had already known. Because of this, I experienced more of God's great ability. Felt more of His presence with us. I indeed know that it wasn't because of my teaching, but the Holy Spirit's guidance to help her understand! He will grant success to things beneficial to others when done with a loving heart and is good in His view.

The two testimonies above are ordinary. But they allow me to understand that God's arrangements are perfect, even down to all the small details relating to the matter. They far exceed all thoughts and expectations. There are a lot more of God's grace and will in these testimonies but for the sake of getting too boring I'll let dear brothers and sisters find them for themselves!

Dear brothers and sisters! Are you willing to seek God's face? Are you willing to enjoy the happiness that comes from God? It's very simple, just open your heart. Our God who is and who was and who is to come, the living and true and omnipresent God will show His promise and the compassionate, loving and redeeming Lord Jesus Christ will show the way



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and the truth and the life before your eyes. My testimony is honest. May Glory be to the Lord.



Church News

Our events during the second quarter:

- 11/1/09 – Church Counselor Election.
- 12/19/09 – Christmas Caroling at Kam Man Supermarket.
- 12/20/09 – Christmas Worship.
- 12/24/09 – Christmas Caroling.

Upcoming events in next quarter:

- 01/23/10 – Annual members meeting.
- 03/20/10 – Mission Department will have the “Create a New Heart Together” gospel training

Pray fervently and share the mission:

- For 2010, our church theme is “Renew with Word and Prayer.” Let us encourage one another and support our church.
- For 2010 Bible Reading campaign, our goal is to complete reading the Old Testament from 2 Chronicles to Malachi 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. Thanks to our Lord, we

collected \$36,785.13 the whole year. Keep up with the work for church building.

- 2010 Church Building Offertory first installment is \$200,000.00. We urge brothers and sisters to support this offertory wholeheartedly to build God’s home.



Prayer Requests

1. Please pray fervently for the church building project.
 - i) Ask God to provide suitable contractors to complete the various renovation projects.
 - ii) Ask God to keep all the workers safe and free from injury.
 - iii) We need to raise a fund of twenty thousand dollars for the renovation project. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters to contribute willingly.
 - iv) Pray for the unity of brothers and sisters, collaborating zealously for building of the church.
2. Remember in your prayer the candidates for baptism on December 20, 2009. They are Ellen Chow, Flora Hu, Jennifer Li, Hillary Wong, Robert Leung and Jonathan Li. Ask God to keep their faith strong, excel in their spiritual life.
3. Remember the bible reading campaign and ask God to strengthen brothers and sisters in their commitment to daily bible reading, maintaining a close relationship with our Lord.



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4. Intercede for the Mandarin fellowship. Ask God to edify Mandarin speaking brothers and sisters, encourage them to keep gathering and worshipping God.
5. Intercede for the Brother Cedric Cheung and his wife, the missionaries supported by our church. Pray for God's guidance for the family of four, their quick adaptation to the new environment at Chengtu, provide all their needs so that they can be effective witnesses of the Lord.
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 Koon Wan Chow-wong's arthritic pain.
 - iii) Pray for the safety and God's protection of our traveling brothers and sisters, including Deaconess Irene Chen, Sheung Or Au (Aunty), Lisa Choi, Elders Kwun Chiu Lee and his wife.
 - iv) Intercede for the unemployed brothers and sisters in their job search. Ask God to provide their daily needs and a suitable new position.