



Second Quarter Newsletter



Offering brings Blessing

Pastor Henry Mak

Introduction: What kind of business could always bring profit and no loss? I believe that it could only be offering to God. You may consider offering as a bargain with God that always gains and never loses. As Paul depicted in Acts 17:24-25, "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else." As such, why do we need to offer to God? Obviously, offering is not for satisfying God, but for human needs.

I. Why is offering necessary?

1. Offering is the demand of God.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Proverbs 3:9-10. In modern language, it means "Offer the best of your possessions to God and He will provide everything you need with overflowing abundance.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10.

For me, these two verses represent real life experience. Ever since my conversion, I have been tithing to God with a pure and simple heart. Whatever my income is, I set aside one tenth to be offered to God. After marriage, my wife and I remain in unison on the faithful offering to God. When we formed a new family, we lived on a finite stipend. In spite of that, whenever we offered with a willful heart, our income actually increased, so much so that we ended up making twenty times our initial income. More than a decade ago, when we immigrated to Toronto, I offered the remuneration of my first job as the firstfruits to God. Since then, God has given us more than a hundred fold reward.

2. Lord Jesus makes us wealthy.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Lord Jesus was the master who created heaven and earth and everything on it. He owned all the everlasting abundance. Yet, he came down to earth as human being, limited by time and space, born as the son of a carpenter, to rescue us from sin and death, reconcile us with God and make us God's children, the heirs of eternal estates. Lord Jesus took up the punishment in place of us, was crucified and died, raised from the dead on the third day, proving not just that he is the true God who conquered death, but also the truthfulness of his promises which would all be fulfilled. Today, every one of us in Christ shall possess all the everlasting abundance of



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God. Therefore, all our abundance comes from the Lord and we have no excuse to be stingy.

3. Believers should learn to care for each other.

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality.” 2 Corinthians 8:13-14.

Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians in a time of economic prosperity and comfortable life. They have adequate resources to aid the financially strapped churches in Antioch and Jerusalem. However, less than twenty years after Paul wrote this epistle, Corinthians were hit by a big earthquakes which turned them into beneficiaries of donations, lending support to Paul’s principle of equality. Therefore, brothers and sisters, do not hold back while we are capable of helping others in need, especially concerning the needs of God’s household. Today you utilize your plenty to supply the needs of others. In the future, your needs may be supplied by others in turn.

II. Whose offerings can please God? (2 Corinthians 9:1-7)

1. A cheerful giver- “Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.”
2. A well prepared giver- “but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.”

3. A well planned giver- “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give.” Begin with prayer, let God direct us to donate for a certain purpose, then decide on the amount. That way, we will not regret or feel compelled.
4. A correctly focused giver- Be reminded that offering is an expression of love. Do not defer offering till you build up a sense of gratitude nor harbor a selfish purpose in your donation.

III. The outcome of a cheerful offering (2 Corinthians 9:8-15)

1. God makes all grace abound to you (9:8).
2. Having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (9:8, 10).
3. Made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion (9:11).
4. Able to supply the needs of God’s people (9:12).
5. Glorify God (9:13).
6. Unite believers (9:14-15).

To summarize, offering comes from the teachings of the Bible. It is a mandatory lesson. Let us start from tithing, and then learn to make additional donations to evangelical missions and other charity work. We need to discipline ourselves to take up a godly perspective of life and be sensitive to the needs in missionary works, evangelical projects and expansion of God’s kingdom. Our donations supply the needs of others and at the same time, makes us coworkers of God. God will be pleased with our holistic, willing and cheerful offerings without regrets or reservation. Offerings that unify believers bring glory to God. God will



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abundantly provide all our needs. Our donations to God will accumulate principal and interest in our eternal life. God emphasizes on our attitude, not the size of our offerings. Therefore, God requires us to first offer ourselves as a living sacrifice before making monetary offerings, the offerings that are pleasing to God.

Life applications:

1. Donate to the church building fund.
2. Supply the needs of members in Christ.
3. Support a missionary organization or individual missionary.



New Year Celebration

Yvonne Chan

Just shortly into the month of February, spring festivity comes already. Women Fellowship had the annual New Year celebration on February 9th, that night a lot of families brought elaborate dishes to share with every one. Looking at tables full of foods and warm conversions amongst fellowship members, we really thank God for blessing us with such a big family, allowing us to learn God's Word together, encourage one another, and bare each other's burdens.

There were no dish competitions this year but they did not diminish the unique qualities of the food, which were colors, smells, tastes and beauties. Worth mentioning was Emily Chow's creative desert, the "Snow Spring Festival", Mrs. Yeung's traditional new year dish "Kung Hei Fat Choi", Irene Leung's special concoction called "Spring Abundance",

Mrs. Ha's "Grand Future" and Mei Ping's carefully designed "Beauty Abound". All the New Year dishes were a sight to behold.

After the delicious meal, sister Priscilla led us into the main event for the night. Starting with a spirited lion dance by two lions, then presented a pair of poems which states "love and caring from Women Fellowship demonstrate God's Love" and "Chinese Baptist church members plan new church to witness God's grace." Then we had a game of riddles and it was to guess the bible chapter, bible name or character from the riddles affixed to the wall. The riddles were so ingenious and the difficulty level was so high that everyone had a good laugh. Then we divided into four groups for contest, to see which group could come up with the most phrases that have the word tiger in it. The two groups led by Irene Ho and Mei Ping Lee were tied in first place. That evening's activities were extremely successful; everyone had a very good time. If you did not come this year, I can only say "you missed it." But remember not to miss such a good event next year.



Baptism Testimonial

Katie Lam

Before my conversion, I was a stiff-necked person who hated to apologize to people. I frequently found fault with others, maintained my correctness and seldom examined myself. In the summer of 1986, I attended a summer retreat and committed to Christ right there. It was when a television actor gave a compelling testimony of faith, convinced me of the



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miraculous acts of God in this world. As such, I trusted in Jesus Christ.

Thereafter, I started attending church and Sunday school. Probably due to my deficiency in knowledge of Lord Jesus, I was quite irritated by the sloppy character and behavior of other participants of my age. For this reason, I gradually drifted away from church.

Not until a few years ago when my mother started attending the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston did I have another chance of knowing Lord Jesus better. To start with, I did this only for my mother, with the purpose of giving her a serenity of mind. Therefore, we went to church and listened to sermons together. With time, I became comfortable with the congregation. My heart calmed down and I came to terms with my mistakes. As I studied the bible, I found the greatness of Lord Jesus Christ, His crucifixion for human sins, raised from the dead in three days, cleansed the sins of mankind. I want Jesus to be the savior of my life, trust in His guidance for my life on earth. In my weakness, I especially rely on His listening to my supplication, granting me peace in times of trouble. I continue to trust Him even though He cannot be seen with human eyes. Through the bible, I can feel His mighty power; develop a strong conviction that He is the only true God.

Since my conversion to Christ, I become aware of my mistakes, I am able to apologize to people offended by me, live a proactive and purposeful life. The greatest change, however, is on the relationship with my husband. In the past, I acted on my own and made decisions without consulting him. He may feel that he is

slighted by me. Through the word of God, I learn of the need to humble myself, respect my husband as head of the family, and assist him in every matter. Though these changes cannot be all accomplished at one time, I will continue to submit to God's word. This is the greatest goal of my heart.



With Every Click I Give Thanks to God

Priscilla Yeung

I am responsible for typing all the scriptures of the Sunday sermon on the presentation slides so that the congregation can see them from the projector screen. I do not actually type each character by character. With internet, everything becomes simple. The whole union version of Chinese Bible is available on the internet, so I can simply search for the scripture and copy and paste them to the slide.

It sounds simple but it still requires a few things before it can be done efficiently. For example: it needs a good computer. With my few-year-old computer, sometimes for some unknown reasons, it takes some waiting time when I click the mouse to execute a command. With every successful click, I give thanks to God.

Even though I am only copying scripture from the internet, I often have to wait, too. From the book of Matthew, I click to go to the book of Romans. From chapter 3, I click to chapter 7. While clicking back and forth my way, sometimes I click and it goes to the spot instantly. But sometimes it takes some waiting time before it finishes. It is especially



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annoying when I am in a rush and try to finish the slide presentation quickly. Again, with every quick click, I give thanks to God.

Finally, one very important step is saving all the typed slides into what we called in Chinese "the thumb", USB memory stick. Sometimes "the thumb" is full and cannot save anymore new files. So when the whole working process is successfully complete, I give thanks to God with my final click to save the file.

I am thankful for God to provide me the opportunity to serve Him in this work assignment. I am thankful for I can complete the slides presentation each week. I am thankful for our congregation can easily view the scriptures via the projector. I want to give thanks with every click I make. I want to give thanks with every step I take in life.



The Girls Retreat

Emily Chow

The girls retreat hosted by Katelyn in Conway, New Hampshire was lots of fun. The two speakers we had were KC Yoon and Katelyn's mom Nina. The cabin we were staying in was in the middle of the woods. It also had a lake next to it, with a trail leading to a small beach. KC talked about Queen Esther and her bravery to save the Jews. Nina talked about the armor of God and how God is our potter, shaping our lives. In addition to the speakers we also had games, crafts, and other activities to do. Some of the games were balancing balls on a spoon and making a gum sculpture. Crafts we did were collages and boxes with pictures from

magazines glued on them. Also, the activities we did were things like scavenger hunts and making a movie. Every day we cooked our own food and started a fire (the cabin had a fireplace). The girls retreat was really fun.



The Lord has Risen

Mrs. Lo

On the first day of the week, a great earthquake stroke.

Angels in white robe descended from heaven.

The stone was rolled away from the tomb.

Lord Jesus had risen.

The women greatly rejoiced.

Disciples flocked to Galilee to meet their resurrected Lord, then preached the good news to all people and all nations, so that sinners of all generations could be saved.

Lord Jesus has ascended to heaven, seated at the right side of God, continues to intercede for us, declares us righteous, gives us rebirth and hope.

I will shout joyfully and praise you, my Lord.



What is the Symbol of Friend

Jonathan Lee

What is the symbol of a friend? Is it to let you know all the hidden sadness? Or it is to let you know all the hidden joy? A lot of people will let out their sadness to others, but sharing all their joy is the most intimate and the highest expression. Do we let God expresses his joy, or so we continuously telling him all that is in



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our heart without giving God a chance to speak to us?

When I first believed in God, I asked God for a lot of thing and said it “in the name of Jesus” loudly and clearly. Later on with the help of different channels, such as Sunday school, Bible study, prayer meeting, gospel websites and spiritual books, I discover that all God is looking for is to build a relationship with his believers, and to have them realize his will. A lot of times I mediate the concept of Jesus’ prayer (do it according to your will). Have I followed it closely in order to receive the mystery of the Lord? Sometimes I pray for big things; but now, the feeling is that the most precious things are in every ordinary thing that happens everyday, every little detail in live; all these represent the wonderful relationship between God and us since he knows every little detail in our lives.

The fire in our heart
Cannot be lit up by people
The spirit move and rest
People’s heart hides in the most secret place
But the obedience that is generated in this
secret room
The big mission is quietly completely by the
hard labor



The Inspiration of Good Friday

T.C.

On Good Friday this year, our choir prepared some hymns to present during the worship. One of the hymns inspired me very much, that was

“A Purple Robe”. It reminded me about the joy I had on Good Friday last year.

On Good Friday last year, my wife and I, Carol served God as worship leaders in the Good Friday worship. We needed to prepare the run down together. Although we had some argument on how to lead the worship, like who and when should read the script, we shared our ideas and came up with a plan. It was a very good experience. I really enjoyed serving God together with my family.

During the Good Friday worship last year, the choir group sang “A Purple Robe” which Carol and I liked very much. We were not in the small group and did not sing that hymn. After the worship, Carol asked our pianist to play and record this song’s music so that she can sing it at home. Carol sang it happily at home and asked me to record it in the CD so that she can listen while she is driving. She also asked me to sing together and we sang together. We practiced a few times, recorded the song and put it on a CD. Every time when I listen that recording, it reminded me about the joy I had to praise the Lord together with my Carol.

My Lord not only sacrificed Himself to save me, He also brought me joy in various ways, this time through a hymn which glorified His own name. I thank Him whole heartedly and confident that His grace will let me serve Him more, especially with my family.



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Church Building in Progress

Deacon Derek Chow



Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

38 Weston Avenue N. Quincy, Massachusetts

Give thanks to God as our church building initiative is entering into another important milestone. Our church building is under the renovation stage. On June 9, 2010, the building department of the City of Quincy issued the permit for our building renovation. Our general contractor, Ng's Brothers Construction Company was able to start working on June 11, 2010. Now the renovation is in progress and our target completion date is mid October. Take notice of the weekly renovation status on the slide show presentation before the start of Sunday worship.

As the renovation is underway, we must pick up our church building fundraising campaign and the five years interest-free church building loan program. Our 2010 goal for church building fundraising campaign is \$200,000. As of June 27, 2010, our pledged fundraising amount is \$174,260 and \$106,612 has been collected. Our goal for the five years interest-free church building loan program is \$150,000 to be deposited into our church account by

August 31, 2010. We encourage our church members to loan out whatever amount of money and our church will repay them in 5 yearly installments starting December 1, 2011. As of June 27, 2010, our pledged loan amount is \$92,500 and \$42,500 has been collected. We hope to collect all pledged amount by the end of August.

If you are financially able, I encourage you participating in our fundraising campaign or our loan program. As the scripture from Malachi 3:10 says, "Let your tenths come into the store-house so that there may be food in my house, and put me to the test by doing so, says the Lord of armies, and see if I do not make the windows of heaven open and send down such a blessing on you that there is no room for it." All of us have been blessed by God as we are united together in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. With your participation, we can experience the abundance in Him.

Since the completion of the building purchase in December 2009, we have worked closely with our architect Brian Saluti and the South Shore Engineering Company to finalize all the architectural drawings and take them for the application of the building permit from the City of Quincy. Now we are in the renovation stage. I have seen how God is leading our way. We have overcome many hurdles and I am sure there are more ahead of us. Surely your support and prayers is very important to our church building. Let us keep on and we will see God's wonderful miracle. It is lifetime experience for each of us.



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Church News

Our events during the second quarter:

- 4/2/10 – Good Friday service.
- 4/9-11/10 – Youth Retreat.
- 5/1/10 – Women’s Fellowship hosted the “Healthy Happy Day” and Dim Sum with the elders.
- 5/16/10 – New Church Ground Breaking ceremony.
- 6/12/10 – Jacob Fellowship’s picnic at Blue Hill.
- 6/26/10 – Church’s annual picnic.

Upcoming events in next quarter:

- 7/26-30/10 – Vacation Bible School.
- 8/6-8/10 – Church’s Summer Retreat.

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.
- 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 keep all the workers safe and free from injury.
 - ii) Pray for the smooth completion of the project.
2. Remember in prayer the fundraising for church building project. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters to contribute willingly so that we will not be short of funding.
3. Ask God to strengthen the faith of brothers and sisters in their commitment to daily bible reading, focus on knowing God better and spiritual growth.
4. Intercede for the youth ministry. Ask God to use Katelyn, our youth counselor in a great way, helping our teenagers to be better involved in fellowship. Also petition God to provide preachers for the English worship service and lead the youth group in their worship of God.
5. Remember the church-wide summer retreat to be held from August 6 to 8. Ask for God’s blessing for all participants, leads brothers and sisters to commit themselves to follow the Lord and be His effective witnesses.
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) Thank God for Sister Xu Gui Yun’s uneventful delivery of baby



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Renewal in Word and Prayer

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on May 26, 2010. Both mother and child are well.

- iii) Intercede for the unemployed brothers and sisters in their job search. Ask God to provide their daily needs and a suitable new position.
- iv) Pray for God's traveling grace for those who are on the road to visit family or sightseeing during the summer vacation.