



Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

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A New Milestone of Thanksgiving

Pastor Henry Mak

Once again, the thanksgiving festivity is approaching, bringing frequent association with feasting on turkeys. It is not because of my appetite for turkey, but for the joyous occasion of family and friends reunion. For Christians, this is a time to give thanks, focus on counting the blessings of God.

Right at the first anniversary of my ministry at this church, council member initiated the inquiry into finding an attorney for my immigration proceedings. A preliminary consultation showed that it was too early to start the process. We should wait for at least two full years of service at church to qualify. Yet, this action of the church council demonstrated their appreciation for me as their minister. This is the grace of God.

Time flies and I have complete the second year of my ministry. Church council brought back this issue of applying for permanent residency. By then, I had some hesitation and felt perplexed. In the past, so much effort and time have been spent on filling out the application for immigration. It took so many years to attain Canadian citizenship. On top of my busy church ministry, how can I find time and energy to do this all over again and work on an even more complicated procedure for immigration to United States? My other consideration is whether United States really represents the place of my long term residence. All these concerns are wiped away by the

enthusiasm and whole hearted support of the church members.

Following discussion in the church council meeting, a decision was made to allocate \$6500 for my legal fees, to cover part of the immigration cost. I will be responsible for the remaining expenses. This proposal by church council was unanimously approved on the monthly general assembly meeting. Once again, this is the grace of God.

After thorough comparison and consideration, we selected the legal counsel out of four immigration attorneys. He was highly recommended by a council member. Immediately after consultation and signing of a contract, I will have to fill in my personal and family information. Ten sets of forms for all three family members were filed. Then I was swarmed with the burden of finding the suitable place for taking photos and physical checkup. When all the documents, paperwork and application forms were fully prepared to the satisfaction of the immigration attorney, the official filing to US immigration service took place by the end of March. I fully appreciate God's grace in His provision of a suitable legal counsel.

Actually, at the time I was busy with application for immigration, the general congregation has voted in support of ordaining me as pastor on October 10 of this year. In the process, there were two opposing votes. Knowing that I am not, and will never be perfect, it is all by God's calling and grace that make me a servant, a position that I am neither qualified nor capable. Truth of the matter is, I had become the shepherd of the congregation



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since the first day of service. This ordination process simply represents the reaffirmation of my calling and assignment from God. The opposing votes served to humble me, warn me not to be self-conceited, not to misconstrue the special privilege as a pastor. God has used this congregation to assert my duty as a shepherd, reminds me of this solemn position. This also represents the grace of God.

The church has invited six pastors together with the three deacons from this church to form the ordination body. September 15 was chosen to be the day of my ordination interview. Dr. Jim Wideman, the chief executive of New England Baptist Convention served as the chairman of the ordination body. Being really serious about the matter, Rev. Paul Hubley of the Northeast Baptist Association solicited the participation of several more pastors from the same organization. I was required to prepare testimonies of my salvation and calling, my concept of ministry and personal declaration of faith, compiled to more than twenty pages of literature. Two weeks before the interview, I have to get these papers ready and distributed to all participating pastors beforehand to give them a perspective on me. This was a very stressful process by itself. In addition to the back and forth correspondence with the pastoral body, I have personally designed, printed and mailed out the invitation cards, prepared the ordination service program. All these workload are taking a toll on me.

The important day of interview finally arrived on September 15. Our group of twenty including invited pastors enjoyed a sumptuous dinner in China Pearl restaurant. Heading back to the Baptist Center for the interview, we

found that some brothers and sisters have already been waiting there. I was deeply moved by their heartily support. After three long hours of grilling question and answer, the pastoral body unanimously approved the motion of ordaining me as pastor on October 10. This is really the grace of God.

During this interview, brothers and sisters have given me great encouragement and support. They put their love into practice by contributing money; effort and time, even spoke out in appreciation of my ministry during the meeting. This is the grace of God.

Getting close to the day of ordination, I am filled with gratitude for God and for the love in Christ demonstrated by brothers and sisters. I hope we could maintain this unity in heart, care for and encourage each other, partnership in the gospel, bring glory to the holy name of the Lord!

For this reason I kneel before the Father,¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all



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generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
(Ephesians 3:14-21).



Church Annual Picnic

Nancy Wong

Praise our Lord for what a wonderful day for our church Annual Field Trip! Everyone was so excited to go on the field trip to Hopkinton State Park on Saturday morning, the 26th of June. The weather not only was beautiful and sunny, it also came with a gentle breeze. We traveled by assigned small group of cars led by a lead driver and we arrived safely in a timely manner. Give thanks to our loving brothers & sisters in Christ, Kathy, Irene, Sam, and Adrian who went extra early that morning to find us a great location to meet! When we arrived, they have already settled & hung up our purple Church flag that no one can miss.

Everyone brought in delicious food to share. We had different kinds of noodles, cold cuts, dumplings, tea eggs, chicken, congee, fruits, a lot of watermelons & desserts. We sang songs of praise in three different languages; Cantonese, Mandarin & English! We played various group games led by Tony. Everyone was having a great time! The kids enjoyed playing in the water, laid under the sun, and making sand castle. Timothy made an awesome sand fortress. Trust me, it was not easy to make. Some of us were enjoying a comfortable nap under the shade or having a gentle walk around the park. Some of us played card games or simply enjoying each other's company. The last but not least, our finale was celebrating our

dear sister Priscilla's birthday! Just like what the bible said: "And we know that in good things God works for the good of those who love him..." Romans 8:28



VBS

Grace Wong

With a blink of an eye, we have spent another fun week of VBS together! I was able to engage myself this year as the game coordinator for VBS and notice again, how VBS is able to change these kids' lives. Every year, new students come, as well as students from previous years, and we are all able to have fun learning about Christ and growing in Him together.

I have been attending this church for many years, and every summer I am involved in VBS. When I was in elementary and middle school, I was one of those students who participated in all the activities VBS had to offer me. I had the chance to make new friends and create closer bonds with the staff and volunteers there. Not only did I grow a closer relationship with the people around me, but also with God. I've always wanted a better connection with God and VBS helped me do this. My participation in VBS as a student helped me appreciate God in a fun, loving environment.

Although I am no longer a student anymore, I still attend VBS as a volunteer. I feel really fortunate that I can see these kids go through the same experience as I did. I do as much as I can to make them feel at home and to understand that, in VBS, they can be



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comfortable and learn about God as much as they want. As a game coordinator, I like seeing them loosen up and relax after class and just having fun together. I love eating and playing with the kids, it's surprisingly not tiring, but energizing! VBS is a great program that gathers kids together, teaches them about Christ, and having fun in the summertime!



Summer Retreat

Salina Lau

Always hear that, "You are so weak, you need to strengthen up your body." Have you tried food therapy? Sure we have to nurture for our body, but we also have to nurture our spiritual life. Every time I attend retreat, it is my greatest moment of nurturing my spiritual life.

The theme for this retreat is "Lord, I will follow you." Through the four sessions from Pastor Mak, it brings out the meaning of following the Lord in life. God gives us reminders and encouragements through the teaching and warning from the Bible. My Holy Spirit guides me to repent, God's forgiveness flows through me, the burden in my heart is lightened. I also make a promise before God: I want to be more obedient and depend on God, to be closer to God, wait for God's arrival with awareness, and try my best to lead people to God. Thank you Lord! I feel the power in my heart is strengthened by the Holy Spirit, God's love pushes me forward.



Church News

Our events during the second quarter:

- 7/26-30/10 – Vacation Bible School.
- 8/6-8/10 – Church Summer Retreat.
- 9/15/10 – Interview of Pastor Mak before Ordination.
- 10/2/10 – Jacob Fellowship's to Maine for Maple leaves.

Upcoming events in next quarter:

- 11/7/10 – Nomination of Church Councilors.
- 12/18/10 – Christmas Caroling at Kam Man.
- 12/19/10 – Christmas worship and Baptism.
- 12/24/10 – Christmas Caroling.
- 12/25/10 – Christmas party.

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



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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. Thanks be to God for the go-ahead ordination of Pastor Henry Mak to be held on October 10, during our anniversary celebration. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide Pastor Henry with wisdom, love and power to lead our brothers and sisters, unified to serve God.
2. Please pray fervently for the church building project.
 - i) Pray for God's facilitation of the contractor in the completion of all the renovation projects.
 - ii) Ask God to keep all the workers safe, free from injury.
 - iii) Pray for the timely passage of inspection and issuance of occupation permit for our new church site.
 - iv) Pray for the on time delivery of the worship chairs we have ordered.
 - v) Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters to join hands in the offering of funds and effort for church building.
3. Supplicate for God's provision of suitable preachers for the English worship service, to facilitate the devoted worshipping of God by our youth group. Intercede for Katelyn Saylor, our youth counselor. Ask God to grant her love, wisdom and patience in leading the youth fellowship, to edify their spiritual life. 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.
4. Intercede for the Mandarin fellowship. Ask God to edify Mandarin speaking brothers and sisters, encourage them to keep gathering and worshipping God.
5. Remember Cedric and Wendy Cheung, the missionary couple supported by our church in your prayers. Ask God to grant peace to their family of four in China, richly provide all their necessities, and enable them to bear great witnesses to God.
6. Remember the bible reading campaign. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters in their perseverance on daily bible reading, maintenance of a close relationship with the Lord.
7. 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 Koon Wan Chow Wong fell down and broke her left upper limb. Pray for God's healing and early recovery.
 - iii) Sister Katie Lam and Lisa He are both pregnant, with expected delivery in November. Intercede for uneventful delivery of babies.



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- iv) Intercede for the unemployed brothers and sisters in their job search. Ask God to provide their daily needs and a suitable new position.