

## Second Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

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### Ten Days of Dire Danger

Pastor Henry Mak

I left for Hong Kong with my wife on March 21st on a vacation trip. A few days before our journey, northeastern Japan was hit by a major earthquake, and the accompanying tsunamis killed tens of thousands of people. Multiple sets of nuclear power plants in the hard hit areas were damaged, leading to leakage of radioactive material. One of the nuclear plants exploded and later on confirmed to have a meltdown. Radioactive water seeped into the ocean, causing major contamination. By the time disaster was announced by the Japanese government, I was already in Hong Kong.

Report on the severity of Japanese radioactivity leakage made the headline news every day. The level was always described as within acceptable limits and should not constitute significant hazards to people's health. Even so, we still felt that Hong Kong was no longer safe. As expected, it did not take long before the Hong Kong Observatory recorded above normal radioactivity. Fish and vegetables imported from Japan had been polluted by radioactive substance.

Another hot issue in the news was the people's campaign for political reforms in the Middle East. Their demonstrations on the street were brutally suppressed by government forces. Confrontations leading to blood shed spread from Tunisia to Egypt, then to Syria and

Yemen. Political conflict in Libya had continued for many months. Pro-government forces and rebels crashed with each other. United Nation intervened against Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, with ferocious bombing of the capitol aiming to bring him down.

In addition, there had been preceding calamities including the earthquakes in Szechuan, China; Haiti, New Zealand, and Turkey....etc. All these made me think of the prophecies and signs of the end times recorded in the Bible.

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. (Matthew 24:3-8)

Political instability in the Middle East brought about surge in oil prices, pointing to energy crises. High amplitude fluctuations in stock markets of the world, financial turmoil and on top of that, natural disasters really make people panic. Take Japan earthquake as an illustration, the rumor of water pollution by radioactivity already triggered waves of people scrambling for water and salt. Dietary salt is



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thought to be useful in defense against radiation hazards. Price of dietary salt was pushed up ten times and Hong Kong people were inflicted by irrational voracious salt acquisition syndrome. Many Japanese restaurants and eateries were seriously affected by radioactive contamination of Japanese aquatic and agricultural products, resulting in close down of some stores.

As for the people in Hong Kong, they looked helpless in the middle of crises. All they could do was to continue entertaining themselves with gambling on horse races, enjoying sumptuous meals or dim sums in restaurants. As a result, all Hong Kong eateries, big and small, thrived very well and showed tangible improvement in neatness of their places as well as quality of service by their waiters. For instance, major fast food chains like Café de Coral and Fairwood both used high quality utensils to replace Styrofoam products. The eating places looked tidy and hygienic. Even though hygiene level within the kitchen could not be assessed, we can count on high level of vigilance of the food store owners, having been through so many waves of lethal infection. High level of cleanliness is beneficial both to food workers and general public, as well as financially rewarding.

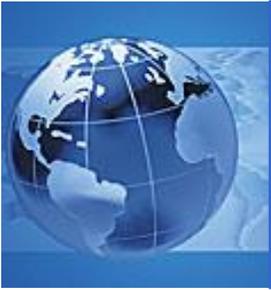
The main purpose of our trip to Hong Kong is to visit my aging parents. My mother had previously been pushed down on the street, resulting in fracture of the femur and initial loss of motility. During her recuperation in covalence home, I called to inquire about her and prayed for her recovery. Miraculously, she felt the strength of prayer, made a speedy recovery and returned home. Throughout the

little more than ten days in Hong Kong, I had morning teas and evening dinners with my parents, kept them company and chatted with them; even taught my mom to pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Their elation was well expressed on their face. It is a pity that they have not yet resolved to trust in Jesus Christ wholeheartedly.

Coincidentally, we came across the birthday of my father. We invited several tables of friends and relatives to celebrate this occasion. This was a great opportunity to meet family members, including some I have not seen for a long time. When they learned that I am a pastor, many questions were raised. This was a great chance to share my testimony and preach the good news provided by God. In spite of that, many of them have been bewitched by the idols of this world; have great resistance in accepting the gospel. It was pleasant surprise to learn that my cousin has already believed in Christ and her faith is strong. God opened my eyes to see that the saving grace has been bestowed on yet another family among my relatives. I am convinced of the grace of God, and He will save us to the end. It may take a major crisis to bring about the turnaround of some people at the moment of God's saving grace.

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” God's promise is true.

Apart from the daily tea gathering with family and friends, I enjoyed morning exercise in the reservoir area the most. There I could recollect the long missed affections and scenes of the great time at the water reservoir with



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classmates that seemed like yesterday. I also greatly appreciated a hot sweet cocktail bun and Hong Kong style milk tea.

My ten days of relaxation when major calamities struck the rest of the world really flew by. I discovered that my heart remains connected to Boston. The feeling of home is no longer in Hong Kong. Even though I surely know that my eternal home is in heaven, God still gives us special feelings and enjoyment on earth. The goal of our life should be bearing witness and bringing glory to the Lord.

The crisis feel hit me as I boarded a plane. I am not that confident in airplane reliability, but I can trust in God, the heavenly Father of savior Jesus Christ. Once the plane landed at Logan Airport, I immediately felt like at home. Praise and thank the Lord!



### **Hallelujah, The Lord Is Risen! John 11:25**

Nancy Wong

This year's Good Friday Worship Service was a very special one because we had it at our own new church. Praise our Lord! I still remembered the song that Choir sang on the night of Good Friday was "Lord, teach me not to ask why". It was a very unique song. Although, the melody was not the typical kind of hymns that I've always heard, I paid extreme attention to what the lyrics really meant. For many people, it is very easy for them to ask "why me?" when they are faced with adversities or challenges. I dared not to ask God "why". I simply obey because I know God

is my creator. He is the king of kings and the Almighty.

Every year Easter reminds all believers once again how much God loves us. 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. John 3:16 As I recalled the movie, "Passion of the Christ", it showed how Jesus was persecuted, beaten up, tortured, and humiliated. Many believers who saw this film were so emotionally moved, including me. Jesus willingly carried all of our sins and died for us on the cross, so that He was buried and He was raised on the third day. It is so important that we not only remember what Jesus did for us on Good Friday but every single day

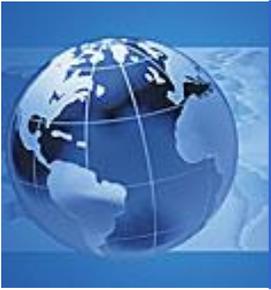


### **The Caring Groups Fun Day**

Derek Chow

Our first meeting to bring all of our church caring groups together was a great success. Give thanks to God for such wonderful event on 3/22/2011 which enabled us for sharing and caring for one another. Applause to the caring group leaders and each of you who attended this event as the attendance was well over 100 people.

The lunch being organized by each caring group leader came out with great variety. I was amazed with the variety of delicious foods for some groups, ranging from appetizers to desserts. Even some groups had simple lunch but I could see food being shared



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among caring groups. That kicked off our sharing and chatting with one another.

The hymns we sang during the event remind us that we are bonded by the love of God and we are one family in Christ. Accompanied by our pianist Priscilla and guitarist Ryan, we sang joyfully with the hymn "In Jesus Christ" and "We are one in the bond of love".

The sharing by Rev. Mak lightened up our minds how we should care for one another. He cited the examples of Boaz cared for Ruth and Jesus cared for the Samaritan woman. We should learn four things: 1) care for a person's living needs. 2) care for a person's spiritual needs. 3) listen to a person attentively and 4) share the caring needs of members among group leaders and pray for them.

The games consist of the group with the highest attendance, the group leader presentation of each member and the final memory game. Each group demonstrates their creativity, collaboration and participation. Everyone enjoyed the games very much and I was impressed by each group's enthusiasm. My caring group happened to be the champion and the group under Nancy Eng was the runner-up. Each group was awarded with a prize. We did have a great time and was able to know each other better.

The blessings from our God are tremendous. We have experienced the awesome gift from God now that we have our church building where we can freely worship and pray to God. Most important of all, God has given the salvation through our Lord Jesus

Christ so that we are right with God and inherit the eternal life. We love because He first love us. Together we witness His love through our church caring groups.



### Jacob Fellowship Retreat

May Li

Thanks be to God! Jacob Fellowship Retreat was held on 6/24 – 6/25 in our church this year. This being the first time having the retreat in our own home, there's a particularly warm and comfortable feeling. Even though the time was short, we all felt it was meaningful, having spent an extraordinary beautiful weekend.

The theme for this year's retreat was "You create the happy family!" Pastor Mak was the speaker. Pastor Mak presented five types of language of love in the lecture. The reason couples have misunderstandings and friction is because they don't understand their own language of love, the box of love is not full. Through the bible, examples, sharing and practice tests, Pastor Mak helped everyone find their language of love as well as their spouses'. I believe that through their efforts, their box of love will definitely overflow. Pastor Mak also introduced a number of ways to resolve family crisis.

Deaconess Donna hosted "Couples' time corridor" where everyone spoke freely, sharing their own experiences. It was very beneficial.



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Games were designed specifically for couples. A total of six couples participated. Whether it was singing, dancing, solving bible verse puzzles or answering questions, they took part in it wholeheartedly. During singing time, Jennifer sang "This song is for you" and dedicated it to her other half, Harris, who was surprised and smiled from the heart, especially from the affectionate embrace after the song was over, that had the audience visibly moved. Tony and Nancy dressed to match each other, Tony sang "Love for life", which moved Nancy to tears. Tony, who usually gives the impression of being tough, surprisingly also has a tender side. The other couples also sang a song that expressed their feelings. Lastly, Babington and Donna won by answering all the questions correctly, they took away the prize for the most in sync couple. Congratulations! Well deserved.

Before leaving, we had a cake to celebrate Priscilla's birthday. The birthday girl was so happy she posed for the cameras. Derek immediately used the language of love and gave his wife a big kiss. Their box of love right away filled up a lot. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!

Thank you, God, for giving Jacob Fellowship this wonderful retreat. May God bless each couple and renew their fire of love so that they can serve God more effectively, demonstrate the glory of God!



### Youth Group Retreat

Christine Li

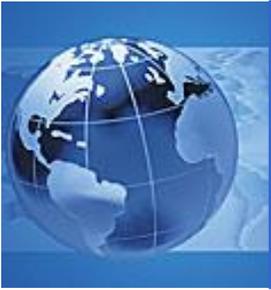
In the camp retreat, there were various different events and moments I enjoyed. First off, we had delicious foods which we took turns making. Since eating and cooking are probably my most favorite hobby, I enjoyed it all. Secondly, we had great teachers: Katelyn and Angela. Thirdly, the games were also great. Plus, we had a lot of free time to go out and play ourselves, which I really enjoyed. And lastly, the couple crafts we did.



### Youth Group Retreat

Ellen Chow

I had a really great experience at this retreat. We had many fun activities throughout the whole weekend including a relay race, outdoor games, playground time, and crafts. We also each had an opportunity to cook a meal for everyone and the food was really good. The Bible studies were very interesting and I learned a lot in just one weekend. The bedrooms were of an OK quality. There were a few bugs found in the room but otherwise it wasn't really that bad or good either. Overall the retreat was really fun and I am interested in going again next year..



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## Youth Group Retreat

Ryan Wong

I thought it was fun with bugs. It was one of the best retreats. It was really free and gave us a lot of time to just hang out and stuff. The bible studies were really good too, especially from John, who we became really good friends with. The cooking part was fun too. We acted like one big happy family since the lodge was like a big house. The free time let us play a lot of fun games. They were memorable even though I lost. I liked the park, where we played in the playground, swings, and basketball. The court was the best, with a hoop I can actually dunk on. The only bad part of the retreat that I didn't like was the bugs. They are so irritable! I also liked the fact that there were barely any adults, especially in our rooms. So free, it adds on.

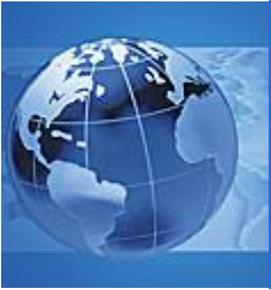


## Praise and adore God

Yau Kwan Sung Lo

God created heaven and earth.  
 The gentle smile of the sun gently warms up the land.  
 The moon and twinkling stars brightens up the sky.  
 The four seasons, storm and thunder are all subjected to their schedule.  
 Mountain beasts and wild animals dwell in the hillside or plains.  
 Birds soar in the sky.  
 Fishes playfully swim in the waters.  
 Flowers display their splendor and trees cast their shadows.  
 Adam and Eve perpetuated the human lineage.  
 God created everything in the universe according to their kinds.  
 His creation is well coordinated, full of wonders, great and awesome.

The LORD is ruler of heaven and earth, the God most high.  
 We should praise and adore Him.  
 The grace of God is higher than the sky and deeper than the ocean.  
 He pardons our sins, redeems us from death, heals our sickness and provides us all our daily needs.  
 Dear Lord, I praise and give thanks to you.  
 God is the king of kings and the lord of lords.  
 God is the greatest, the highest, the most honorable and most glorious.  
 Blessed is everyone who walks in His light.  
 All of us should confess and repent from our sins and trust in the Lord.  
 Follow the Lord, from now till eternity.



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## Church News

Our events during the second quarter:

1. On April 22, 2011, we had the Good Friday worship for the first time in our new church site.
2. On April 24, 2011, we had the Easter Sunday worship service.
3. On May 15, 2011, Brother Zhi Qiang Yu and Sister Ri Ming He were baptized into Christ and became members of this congregation.
4. On May 15, 2011, our teenagers had a bake sale to raise funds for the Crosswalk camp.
5. Jacob fellowship held a retreat day camp in the church on June 24 to 25, 2011 with the main theme "Blessed family starts with you".

Upcoming events in the next quarter:

1. The first Vacation Bible School in our new church site will be held on July 25 to 29, 2011.
2. On August 21, 2011, our church will participate in the Quincy Mid-Autumn Festivity, show case our Christian faith in a booth with artistic presentation and fun activity.
3. On September 24, 2011, our acquainted members Adrian Leung and Rita Yeung will tie the knot at the Boston University chapel.
4. Choir and evangelical department are in full throttle, gearing up for the October 15 church anniversary evangelical music night. All believers are mobilized to intercede, invite guests and play supportive roles in the event.

5. Preliminary discussion is under way for the composition of church council for the year 2012 and nomination of candidates.

Keep up with the mission of supplication:

1. The main theme of the church for the year 2011 is "Fellowship and spiritual revival, to manifest God's grace". Let us encourage each other in spiritual growth.
2. The goal of church building fund raising for 2011 is \$100,000. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters to make generous offerings.



## Prayer Requests

1. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters in keeping up with daily Bible reading and prayers to fervently pursue spiritual growth.
2. Intercede for Reverend Henry Mak. Ask God to fill him with the Holy Spirit, empower him to lead brothers and sisters in unity to build up the congregation and spread the gospel.
3. Pray that the love of the Lord compels brothers and sisters to keep on offering for church building, to enable timely paying off of church debts and mortgage.
4. Pray for God's provision of suitable preachers in the English worship service, to enable our youth group to worship in unison.



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Remember Katelyn Saylor, our youth instructor in your prayer. Ask the Lord to equip her with love, wisdom and patience to lead the youth fellowship, to edify their spiritual life.

5. Intercede for the Mandarin fellowship. Ask God to build up the Mandarin group, enable the brothers and sisters to love, care for and serve one another, and invite more Mandarin speaking friends and relatives to join the fellowship.

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. Intercede for Deaconess Irene Chow Kan Chan, currently residing in the South Cove Manor Nursing Home, so that she could regain normal strength.
  
  - iii. Pray that the arthritic pain of Sister Koon Wan Chow Wong will not progress.
  
  - iv. Pray for the speedy recovery of Sister Mo Ping Wong, following her ankle surgery.
  
  - v. Intercede for the unemployed brothers and sisters in their job search. Ask God to provide their daily needs and employment opportunity.