

Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

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Priest, Offering and Worship

Pastor Henry Mak

Certain parts of the bible are frequently overlooked, especially the Old Testament scripture on sacrificial rituals. We often skipped over them. In our Tuesday Bible study, we are still studying the Exodus. On Mount Sinai, God instructed Moses to lead Israelites in the construction of tabernacle for sanctuary, as well as the items and decoration of the sanctuary. This served as the meeting place between God and man. Moses was also instructed to anoint Aaron and his sons as priests of God. They communicated with God on behalf of the Israelites. There were also detail records on the attire for the high priest and other regular priests that were complex and lengthy. It scares people away after a brief look. However, if we are willing to study them conscientiously and meditate, these ancient scriptures would still have implications on our life.

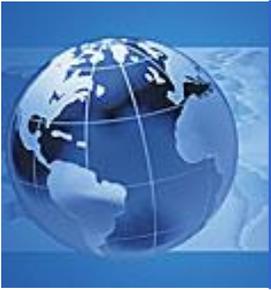
In Exodus, the priest was a very prestigious position. This was appointed, called, blessed and set apart as holy to God; considered glorious and rewarding, enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit. This was also a total offering to God as a living sacrifice. Today, everyone saved by Jesus Christ and become His disciple has the same identity, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you

out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

When we study meticulously how a priest should live his life, we shall develop a profound respect. This would make us examine whether our way of life and our deeds measure up to our identity as a priest. Actually, Paul has depicted this in our familiar verses in the book of Romans, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2)

In today's words, my brothers and sisters, I urge you to seek God's help to put every facets of your daily life: your sleep, meals, academics, job, entertainment and exercise...etc. before God, present it as an offering to Him. Embrace what God has done for you, do your best for Him in return. This is the life of a Christian.

Do not take it easy and lightheartedly get drowned in your world culture. You have to put your focus on God so that this living sacrifice could be integrated into your life and become your second nature. You need to be renewed from inside out. Anytime you learn of what God wants of you, respond promptly. The world culture frequently drags you into her foolish ignorance, and suffocates your spiritual growth. God wants to bring out the best of your life so that you could grow up in a great way. Don't get Him wrong. God does not ask



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you to erase all the past from your memory. Instead, God can take all we have now and rearrange in a new order. In His hands, everything can be made anew.

Romans 12:1 used two words: "body", which means "life" and "living sacrifice", which means "offering of life". Paul pointed out that the life of a Christian is a continuous offering of living sacrifice; gave new meaning to both words.

"Life": Sin offering is no longer effective. God demands your whole life. Bulls, lambs and birds are no longer accepted. God wants to receive your life, which encompasses the entire you, feelings, action, thoughts, mind, nervous system, muscles, subconscious, instincts and concepts...etc. You offer your whole life to God.

"Living sacrifice": The blood of a sacrificed animal may leave a lasting impression. However, the slaughtered animal is no longer good for anything other than for food. This is the end of its transient life. On the contrary, we offer a living sacrifice. Our blood stays in the blood vessels and continues to nurture life. As such, a new life gives birth to another life and continues to perpetuate. This kind of whole person offering is pleasing and accepted by God.

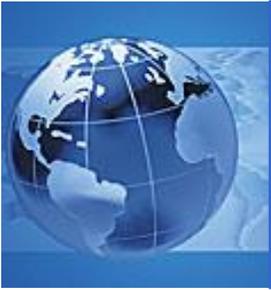
Christians offer their life to God everyday as a living sacrifice. This is a "service" and a worshipping lifestyle. Worship and service are integrated parts of our everyday life.

Our usual venue of worship is the temple and altar. Priests will usually take the lead. During worship, we focus on God; engage in an interactive relationship with Him. The worship depicted by Paul refers to the offering of our whole self, is a living sacrifice.

The basic difficulty here is that we limit our worship within the confines of temple and the activities inside, including sermon, prayers, announcement, hymns and the Lord's supper...etc. However, God wants us to expand our worship into our home, our work, our neighborhood and our entertainment. Worship is a lifestyle, through which, we present ourselves as living sacrifice to God.

We have different skills, different strengths and different feelings. God assembles us into one body so that we can share our lives. Nobody can live a full life all by himself. Selective collaboration and sharing only with certain people of our choice will not glorify God. Everyone is the creation of God, made to be a member of this body. We exist as a family, a unified body, not an individual. God regards this family His residence, where He is worshipped.

Life is filled with uneven distribution of wealth. The act of worship also involves responding to other people's financial needs. This is fundamentally conflicting with our human nature. We all considered our estate as what we worked hard for. It is our accomplishment, the fruit of our success. In response to the needs of others or the church, a little step-up offering should suffice. However, worship demands more than this. For the glory of God, the financial offering has to be



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complete, meaning that we must generously take care of the needs of others without constraints. We should be aware that our income and capability to earn are the gifts from God. Complete offering should be our obligation.

The other aspect of worship is presenting our heart, our thoughts and mind, including evil intentions, sins hidden deep in our hearts, such as hostility, wicked intentions and slander against people who offended us. We refuse to wish them well, but demand vengeance. Worship is to turn such bitterness and vengeful heart around. Replace cursing with blessing, vengeance with pardon and conflicts with peace.

Worship is not a religious show for our entertainment at leisure. It demands our participation, submission to the correction by God.

Worship is presenting our entire self as offering to God, to be used by Him. We are either rectified by God or corrupted by the world. Either we conform to the pattern of this world or be transformed by renewing of our mind.

God uses worship to transform and renew our life!



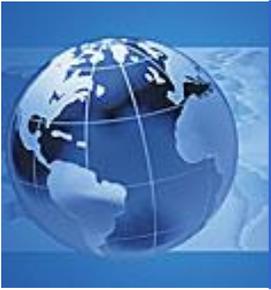
Gospel Pamphlets Distribution Day

On September 2, 2011 Friday, it was a sunny day with beautiful blue sky when we had our church gospel pamphlets distribution day

near the Red Line Wollaston T station. The event was organized by our Mission department and it was planned for two shifts: 4:00pm to 5:00pm and 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Our goals for this event are threefold: 1) Take this opportunity to introduce our church to our neighbors. 2) To practice evangelism and spread the gospel to non-believers. 3) To extend the invitation to our neighbors to join our "Who is Jesus?" musical meeting at 7:30pm on October 15, 2011.

Through this event, I was able to meet some of our church neighbors. When I was first stepped near the T station, I came across with an American who told me that he was glad to see our church being established in the community to witness God. Thank God for such positive feedback. In another instance, I met a woman who told me that she knew some of our sisters like Jennifer Wong and Mei Ping. But she had not been attending for the church for a while. I encouraged her to go to our church and invited her and her family to join our "Who is Jesus?" musical meeting. I am sure other brothers and sisters have some other stories when they met with our neighbors on that day.

There were a total of 13 brothers and sisters participated in this event. The materials we distributed includes a gospel pamphlet, a brochure to introduce our church and a flyer as invitation for "Who is Jesus?" musical meeting. We have distributed about 180 copies and I hope God will use these materials to make impacts on people's lives and draw them to God. I would like to thank for all brothers and sisters who had participated in this event. Please be reminded that Jesus Christ had given us the great commission to spread the gospel.



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If you missed the opportunity this time, make sure you would join us in the next evangelical event - "Who is Jesus?" musical meeting at 7:30pm on October 15, 2011.



Memories of the Church Picnic 2011

Priscilla Yeung

On the Friday right before the scheduled picnic, it had been raining all day, even into the evening when we started the Jacob fellowship gathering. I worried about what to do with tomorrow's church outing. How to deal with the many people who had signed up for the activity? Rev. Mak had a confident smile on his face; pretty certain that rain will come to an end on the next day. This church event would be held as planned. Isn't it true that "the prayer of a pastor is powerful and effective"?

To my surprise, it really stopped raining on Saturday. I remained very concerned about throngs of mosquitoes swarming the picnic site. In spite of that, I decided to give it a shot and see what happened. By the time I arrived at the church, many brothers and sisters were already waiting to set off. Quite a few new faces showed up among the enthusiastic crowd. Our venue is a nearby national park. The organizer had reserved a spacious pavilion for the congregation. We rearranged the tables in the pavilion so that everybody could sit comfortably together. Mrs. Mak led us in singing songs of praise to God. Women's fellow performed the hymn with work out routine entitled "Never grow old". We all sang and praised God at the same time, drown in the

refreshing experience of appreciating God's magnificent creation in nature. This was followed by enthusiastic participation in fun games for all ages, led by Brother Tony. Happy time passed quickly and we were unaware that it was already time for lunch.

Lunch was provided by individual care groups and therefore especially sumptuous; complete from appetizer to dessert. There were all varieties of Asian and Western cuisines, congees and noodles, fried and steamed items. We all ate until full, with a thankful heart for God's provision. After lunch, every care group presented their group chants. They were judged by the two pastors on their degree of cooperation and elegance of presentation. This church outing successfully drew care group members closer together. Their spirit of partnership was well demonstrated right from beginning, in the discussion on food items for the picnic and collaborative creation of representative group slogans. We thanked God for the great weather and the sweet fellowship between brothers and sisters. Amen.



Recollection of the Mid-Autumn Festival booth

Irene Ho

Our church has been participating in the annual Quincy Mid-Autumn Festival booth event for several years. In the past, we were having Sunday worship services in the afternoon, only a few brothers and sisters could be spared to attend the event, handing out gospel leaflets. There was just limited participation with a small scale operation,



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without much fanfare. Things are vastly different this year. It is the first full scale public event since we moved into the new church site, reaching out to multitude of Quincy residents.

Derek, the head of evangelical and visitation department considered this a great opportunity to preach the gospel, introduce people to God and showcase our new church venue. He conferred with brothers and sisters to cook up some refreshing ideas for more effective ministry. After thoughtful and detail planning, they came up with a booth backdrop bearing the theme of "a fulfilled life in Christ" to attract more visiting guests to stop by and take photographs. To make it work, the booth must have an attractive decoration requiring the work of our multi-talented sister Jennifer, who was enlisted as the designer. Without letting us down, Jennifer built a backdrop of an adorable colorful house with three windows, allowing people to stick their heads out for picture taking. Brother Edward made the supporting frame to fix the backdrop in position. Derek prepared many balloons to attract children. Adrian brought the camera and installed a TV screen for the participants to instantly view the picture taken. This was fun and attractive. I am very grateful for the participation of the youth group, directing guests for photo taking and distributing gospel leaflets and souvenirs. Our brothers and sisters held conversation with visitors to share the gospel and invite them to attend our church meetings, in particular, the evangelical concert on October 15.

Thanks to God, our booth has successfully attracted many visitors. In response to our enthusiastic invitation, a couple

actually attended our Sunday worship service two weeks later. This is exciting and cheering; a shot in the arm for our future evangelical endeavor. God shows us that willing service is always valued by Him. The seeds of gospel we sow will not return empty.

Brothers and sisters, we have an upcoming chance to preach the gospel in the October 15 evangelical concert. Let us join forces to invite many friends and family members to the meeting. Step up our efforts!

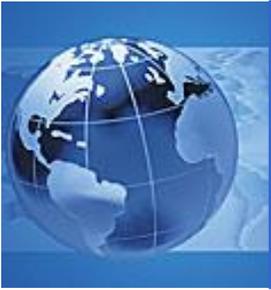


Fellowship lunch with Central Baptist Church

Babington Yung

This is a long overdue gathering with our fellow brothers and sisters of Central Baptist Church. They have been our close fellow workers in Christ for almost two decades, courteously accommodating our congregation in their premises. It is natural and fitting for us to invite them over to catch up with fellowship and share the blessings of God.

It was on July 2nd of 2011, immediately following our monthly church council meeting. Apart from our regular council members, Rev. Mak, Rev. Yeung and Deaconess Donna also participate in this occasion. Council members quickly got into full throttle setting and arranging tables, picked up the ordered food and laid out the prepared side dishes and dessert. A special pack of gluten free bread was freshly prepared in oven for Rev. David Martinez who is allergic to the wheat protein.



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Everything was quickly set in order, awaiting the arrival of our guests.

The important moment has come and Rev. David and Debbie Martinez led the Central Baptist Church diaconate delegates through the doors of our new church. First in the agenda was serving of a delectable and healthy lunch. Everybody sat comfortably at the tables and strike up a conversation instantly. In this conducive atmosphere, we easily caught the feeling of being one in Christ with our American brothers and sisters. They enthusiastically inquire about the status of our congregation, the conduction of worship service and utilization of the new facility.

After everyone was satisfied with the scrumptious meal, we sang a couple of hymns together and had more time of sharing. Then we broke down into small groups to take a guided tour around our relatively cramped but well furnished sanctuary. Rev. Martinez was always joyful and seemed to pick up this contagious spirit of fellowship. He promised to invite us back to his church at the completion of their fellowship hall renovation. Well, we certainly look forward to that day and most importantly, our continuous partnership to further the gospel in this community.



VBS – Vacation Bible School

Ellen Chow

VBS this year was a great experience for me. I unfortunately did not get a chance to volunteer last year so I was really happy to be

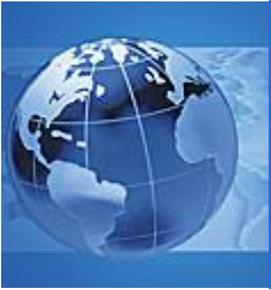
able to volunteer this year. I had the job of teaching the kids the songs and also exercise. It took a lot of hard work for them to be able to remember all the hand motions but seeing them perform it on Sunday was worth it. They were really fun to work with and I loved every minute of it. Most importantly it was the first time we held a VBS in our new church building. Although this building is much smaller than the old one, this year proved that we can run a successful VBS here. It was also a great opportunity for the parents as well as the kids to see what our church can accomplish through God.



A Day at Crosswalk

Ryan Wong

At Gordon College, we spent our first time at Crosswalk. We did a lot of fun stuff there. We made a lot of new nice amusing awesome cool fantastic magnificent friendly Christian friends. Every morning, we eat a wonderful delicious scrumptious sweet day-starting breakfast. Afterwards, we have a morning celebration to start off your day. It includes fun fun fun fun games, activities, and skits. We get into our own groups filled with total strangers. Our bible studies are very enjoyable and comprehensible. All the groups go to recreation at the gigantic, immense outdoor field at Gordon College. We played a lot of exciting games. We then have our delectable mouth-watering incredible energizing lunch. After getting all fat, we start our activity time. The guys all went to competitive sports. We enjoyed lots of tiring,



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aggressive, gung ho sports there. After burning all that fat, we finally have free time, which allowed us to meet even more people and do whatever we want. Finally, we have our appetizing, extraordinary, hot, out-of-this-world, tummy-filling dinner. We have fellowship afterwards, and usually we do fun stuff with the whole camp. We then finally have our nightly worship with our amazing intelligent preacher. The theme of this year's Crosswalk is "Director's Cut." We learned to allow God to take place as our director, directing our lives. All the different churches separate and have group discussions about the day. The day ends and we go to sleep in our dorms. The next day, it starts allllllllll over again. It was a really fun week, definitely a highlight of my long busy summer.



Crosswalk

Wilson Wong

During the month of July the youth group went to a camp called Crosswalk located at Gordon College. It was an amazing experience. The boy's dorm where I stayed at was very comfortable. The food we had was absolutely delicious. My favorite meal was the country fried steak. The bible studies were good. We would get together in our movie groups and talk about the message from the previous day. After the bible studies, there was recreation. Recreation was fun because you hung out with your groups and played games. For activity time I had competitive sports. It was one of my most favorite times of the day. We got to play many sports like volleyball, soccer, kickball, cricket, ultimate Frisbee, and

flag football. At Crosswalk we met lots of new people and made many friends. The best part was the messages the pastor gave. They were great and very inspiring. Overall I liked the camp very much.

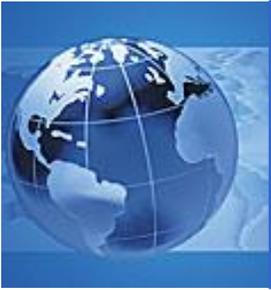


The Story of an Old Man

Yau Kwan Sung Lo

As the evening sun is sinking low, a faint beam of light falls on an old guy with grey hair, illuminating his lonely solitary body. He looks toward the deepest part of clouds in a faraway place. There used to be his home town. He has been wandering round the world for half a century, lived through ninety years of ups and downs. He thinks of his childhood playmates, classmates at school and colleagues at work. Where are they now? What has become of the home country and his house and courtyard? Looking back, the past years are like a dream or puff of smoke, blown away in the wind, leaving behind a long sigh.

Dear old man, you don't have to sigh. Let go of the past. Come to the house of God and listen to His word. The church is our cozy home. Brothers and sisters in Christ are our family. Lord Jesus Christ is our savior. Come, repent and trust in Him. "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters." God is our refuge, our rock, our salvation and our stronghold. We should trust in Him always. Through Him we can go back home in heaven.



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College Entrance

Jennifer Li

My four years at high school flew by and before I knew it, I was at my own high school graduation receiving my diploma. This past year has been full of application filling, test taking, and decision making. Being the first person in my family to apply to college, it was a very confusing and overwhelming experience. In my heart, I knew accounting and finance would be a successful path for me to take. So I researched for months of colleges that I was interested in going to. After many changes and contemplating, I came up with my list of seven schools. I haven't really experienced real stress until I saw all the requirements for each school along with close deadlines. Thankfully, God gave me the strength to balance high school work and college applications. I was able to complete everything before they were due. Also, I even applied early action to five of my schools, so I got my results from them a couple months earlier than the regular applicants. This was a huge advantage to me because before Christmas, I had already received my acceptance letters from those five colleges while most of my friends were still waiting for theirs. God has really blessed me because I was accepted into all seven of the colleges I applied to. So next came the hardest part, choosing which one to actually go to. My top three choices were Northeastern, Boston University, and Babson College. I went to their open houses, asked many people for their opinions, and discussed it with my parents for at least three months. Finally, I had made the decision to attend Boston University's School of

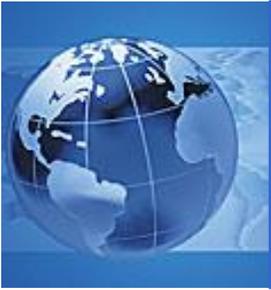
Management in the Fall. Looking back at this difficult journey to where I am today, I realize that I couldn't have done any of this without God's help. From taking SAT's to opening my college acceptance letters, God never left my side. I know that this is God's plan for me. This whole experience has really built my trust in God. As I start classes at BU, I am really thankful to know that whenever I am in doubt, I will always have God here to help me.



Sharing on My College Entrance

Hillary Wong

As I fill out applications and forms for college, I realize I'm one step closer to being on my own. It's time for me to take responsibility and take care of myself as I enter college. The thought of this scares me because I lived home my entire life with my parents who take care of me. But another part of me is excited as I enter college because it will be a whole new experience waiting for me. But no matter how busy I am, I will find a church in Boston to attend to every Sunday. I must keep faith with God and honor him for everything he has given me in my life.



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Church News

Our events during the third quarter:

1. On July 2, 2011, Rev. David Martinez and the Central Baptist Diaconate delegate visited our church for the first time and have lunch with us.
2. On July 9, 2011, we have the church picnic at Ames Nowell State Park at Abington.
3. On July 25-29, 2011, we have successfully held the first Vacation Bible School in our new church.
4. On August 28, 2011, our church participated in the Quincy Mid-Autumn Festival booth.
5. On September 2, 2011, brothers and sisters form various groups to hand out gospel leaflets to Chinese residents at Wollaston T-station.
6. On September 24, 2011, Brother Adrian Leung and Sister Rita Yeung tie the knot in the Marsh Chapel, Boston University.
7. Our pastor emeritus, Rev. Raymond Yeung has left to be with the Lord on September 20, 2011. Wake was held on September 26; memorial service and burial committal were completed on September 27.

Upcoming events in the next quarter:

1. The big dates are October 15, 2011 when we celebrate the 19th church anniversary by hosting an evangelical concert.

2. On October 16, 2011, we will enjoy a sumptuous church anniversary banquet at China Pearl Restaurant.
3. 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.
3. Choir and evangelical department are in full throttle, gearing up for the October 15 church anniversary evangelical concert. All believers are mobilized to intercede, invite guests and play supportive roles in the event.
4. Pray for the election of 2012 church council members in accordance with God's will.



Prayer Requests

1. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters in keeping up with daily Bible reading and prayers, 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.



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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. 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. Pray for God's healing of Sister Sheung Or Au (Aunty) who is suffering from attacks of constipation and diarrhea and dizziness.

vi. Intercede for the heart condition of Sister In Ping Au. Ask God to stabilize her health.

vii. Intercede for the unemployed brothers and sisters in their job search. Ask God to provide their daily needs and employment opportunity.