



Second Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

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The Church should be Vigilant of These Things

Pastor Henry Mak

The common things the church should be vigilant **of** and prevent include conflicts among brothers and sisters which could lead to splitting of the congregation. However, let us be clear of one thing: Skirmishes are common in human interaction. No church or organization could be exempted. The issue is not about whether there will be disputes, but how to handle disputes. When Lord Jesus came across issues, he always took them head on, with a positive approach. The Lord taught his disciples **on the mountain** how to handle conflicts **on the mountain**. We could be offended by others or we are the offenders ourselves. Lord Jesus has provided us with solution and guiding principles.

Matthew 5:23-24 told us, "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 18:15-17 said, "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

First and foremost, go to the person involved in dispute **and**; bring up the issue with him face to face. Avoid propagation and worsening of the situation by not involving other persons. Slanders and gossips about the issue arising from distortion of facts are detrimental to both sides, **which will** further deepen the difference and ruin the relationship.

Secondly, whenever you go to worship and serve God, if you have offended someone, you should set your plan aside and promptly seek reconciliation with that person. Lord Jesus emphasized the importance of mending human relationship. Reconcile first before worshipping God. If someone is not at peace with brothers and sisters, how could he have good relationship with God?

We should not ignore conflicts, but create the favorable circumstances to handle them. Both parties must resolve the issue face to face. Only when this fails, then the other people could mediate to achieve reconciliation. Disputes are unavoidable, but we have to handle properly. This is a mandatory lesson for us, as children of God.

God must intervene in conflicts

The church should be aware that we are living in the age of major spiritual warfare. This is a battle between light and darkness. The opponents are fighting to capture the souls of human. The Bible has given us a proof. This spiritual warfare is real, but transitory. God will resolve this universal conflict in his chosen moment in history. The book of Revelation in the Bible depicts that Lord Jesus,



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the king of kings, the lord of lords, will certainly put a deciding touch to this historical event in human history.

Revelation 19:11-21 told us that “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.” 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the

horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”

Where should we stand in handling of conflicts?

Neither fight nor flight, attack or avoid are the most effective long term solution to conflicts. We have different personalities. Some of us prefer not to face disputes head on. However, our response should be based on the teachings of Lord Jesus. If necessary, we should stand up to tackle the issues that are causing the conflicts. Improper handling of the situation could produce dire consequences. We can learn from the example of Absalom, recorded in 2 Samuel 13:1-15:37. Amnon, the son of David fell in love with Tamar, his half-sister. Following the plot suggested by his friend, he raped Tamar, but then he dumped her. When his father David learned about this, he kept the anger in his heart, but did not handle the situation. Absalom, the brother of Tamar harbored hostility in his heart, planned and successfully assassinated Amnon, then fled for his life. At the urge of Joab, the commander of army, he passively allowed the return of Absalom, but kept ignoring Absalom after his return. This poor handling eventually led to a coup-d'état by Absalom. David had to flee Jerusalem with his men. After exchange of plots, Absalom was killed. David's family was devastated, losing two sons, and brought the country into civil war. These all stemmed from improper handling of family feuds, ending in catastrophes.



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Better handling of disputes.

Ephesians 4:1-3 told us, “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Matthew 5:43-45 said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

Thank God for protecting the church through the recent crisis, when someone crept into our congregation to divide us. It appeared to be God’s answer to our petition by sending us a pastor. In order to build up his personal power and benefits, he blatantly attacked the pastor, deacons and church council leader of this church. He further challenged and criticized the established rules and regulations of the church. He also announced his intention to stir up the congregation to alter the bylaw, not in good faith, but with wicked intention.

I offer my thanks to God for every deacon, church council member and all brothers and sisters with spiritual discernment. Once the one who crept into the church had exposed himself, we all united to face the conflict and handled it properly. I am also grateful that the entire incident (to me, this was an experience of suffering in troubles) lasted

only one month. Through it was like a fire, but it had not inflicted significant damage to our church. Now that the Mandarin worship service has started, God willing, we will keep it running. Your intercession is vital, especially for ministering to the Mandarin congregation. I petition God to grant me strength from above. If not by Him who gives me strength, I can do nothing. Our dear fellow workers in Christ, brothers and sisters, keep it up!



Baptismal Testimony

Suk Yee Chan

Before my conversion to Christ, I was pessimistic, always thinking of the worst. Once, my daughter confronted me, “Why are you always thinking of the worse aspect of everything?” Many a time, my daughter warns me beforehand, “If you are going to bring up only the bad side of the matter, you’d better off keep silent.” I don’t know the reason, but I have to admit that negative feeling about everything is rampant in my life.

I have a great relationship with my friends, enjoying much better conversation. Comprehensive federal government support should conceivably take away any worries in daily living. However, my daughter still remains critical of my negative attitude for everything. This is incredible.

All my life, I have not been into any religion. While attending the social functions of a senior service center, I talked with Mrs. Lam, the officer of the center. Just like my



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daughter, she also told me to stop considering the negative side of everything. What a coincidence! She has exactly the same criticism of me as my daughter. Mrs. Lam strongly advised me to attend some sermons at church. Another elderly lady even said to me, "Among our consorts, you are the only non-believer. Come on, you must attend a church so that we can stick together happily in heaven, how wonderful!" Her comments really hit me. Mrs. Lam told me that if I am not willing to follow her, I can attend church gatherings with Ah Fung. In the end, I really end up attending church with Ah Fung, and listen to illustration of the Bible by Rev. Mak. In spite of my poor memory, with Rev. Mak leading the way, Dr. Yung's detail explanation of the Bible, as well as the care and support of many brothers and sisters, I gradually get a cozy feeling in this extended believers' family. I have finally believed in Christ and was baptized on April 8th, 2012. This was the most unforgettable day of my life, feeling that I have come to believe in Jesus too late. On that day, I was baptized with a teenager, Gary Lok. So, I teased myself that we were like grandma and grandson. Gary is young and smart. I am late in coming to Christ, not intentionally, but already missing quite a lot of years.

Before believing in Christ, I have limited mobility due to my painful knees. Trusting in Lord Jesus Christ, I have become optimistic, learned how to hand all my concerns to God. In my prayer, I asked my heavenly Father to heal me, grant joy and health to my children and myself. I have resolved to serve God every Sunday in the church. God does listen to my sincere supplication. Frequently, He took away the

pain in my knees, so that I can walk without the cane. Even though until now, the total cure has not come, I trust the Lord with all my heart. It is just a matter of time that God will heal my bodily ailment. Thanks be to my Father. Praise be to God. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



Baptismal Testimony

Gary Lok

I first met God and Jesus in 1999 when my mom brought me to Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston. I went to Sunday school and my teacher taught me lessons about the Bible. I learned about salvation and many parables in the Bible. These stories intrigued me and every time I heard a new one, I wanted to learn about Jesus.

When I saw people getting baptized, I knew they were doing it for a reason and it mean something. My curiosity led me to ask a person that was baptized to tell me what it means. He told me that it is a public confession to the church that you have accepted Christ as your Savior and that you are willing to follow him for the rest of your life.

After learning the definition of Baptism, I started to pray and read the Bible more often. When I went to Crosswalk, an overnight event for young adults to gather to learn about Christ, my faith increased dramatically. I started to really believe that God is our Holy Father and he watches everything we do. After the enriching experience, I accepted with all my



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heart that Jesus is my Savior. I immediately told my teacher I was ready for the baptism.

After I got baptized, I became a true Christian. I perform deeds that I know are pleasing to God's eyes like helping those in need. I remember his words and try spreading to as many people as possible. Every day of my life now, he is guiding on to the right path. When I ever feel emotionally distressed, I would remember God's love to cheer myself and to regain the strength to carry on.



Baptismal Testimony

Timothy Chiu

“Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.” Psalm 91:14-16

It all started when I was a little boy. I was born into a Christian family, and I went to church with my parents at an early age. We went to CBCOGB down in Quincy. However at that time I was very young and unfamiliar with Christ's love. I did not take seriously what I was learning in Sunday school nor did I understand the purpose of it all. Eventually I fell away from God and avoided church. By the time I was going to middle school, my parents gave me a choice, either I continue to go to church with them, or I stop going to church completely. I chose to stop going to church.

And so, for over 5 years I lived a life without God, and my life declined through that choice I made. My attitude and behavior was horrible. I would constantly argue and fight with my parents. It led to the point where everyone in the house would be crying. I would cry so much that there would be no more tears to even cry out. I ended up being depressed over my actions and suffered deeply. But then I realized how I was making my whole family suffer. My parents soon didn't know what to do anymore, and they decided to get outside help. One night, after an argument, I heard knocking on the door. My parents opened the door and two police officers were standing there. They said they would like to have a word with me, and so I let them spoke. I was afraid that they were going to put me in jail, but they were kind enough to let me go with only a warning. Even though I got lucky that time, I must admit to myself that I needed help.

The summer was quickly approaching and my cousin suggested that I go to this Christian day camp in Chinatown, called Project Destiny. Through that camp I was reintroduced to the word of our Lord, and I strived very much to learn more about this great man named Jesus. I met so many nice people who cared for me and listened to me. I felt a sense of happiness during those moments for the first time in months. But then when camp was over and I had to go back home, I was scared. I didn't want to go through all the suffering again. So instead of going home, I sat in the park and watched the clouds. I remember that day very well. It was quite warm and sunny outside. I was all alone. There was no one nearby, but then this bright figure appeared



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before me, it was an old Asian man wearing a suit. There were many other benches in the park, but he chose to sit next to me. At first I was scared, for I had never met this man before in my life. But then he asked me, "Do you know who Christ Jesus is?" And I said I wasn't too sure. He then took out a little pocket-sized Bible and read a few scriptures to me. We talked for hours. Then he prayed for me, and we both went on our own paths. I never saw that man again.

Months would go by and I still had so many unanswered questions on my mind. Soon I started attending Teen fellowship with my friends; I became part of a small group, and began to open up myself. My life was slowly turning around. Eventually, I went to my first Teen Conference and truly have I experienced God calling me. Never have I felt so loved for by these people who I've never met before. It was on the last night of Summer Teen Conference that I was talking to one of the shepherds. I told him about my time at STC and how much I enjoyed it. We shared our stories with each other, about how God changed our lives. Then he prayed for me, and when he finished, I broke down in tears. I was not crying because I was sad, I was crying because I was happy! My heart was overwhelmed by the love and grace of our Lord, that through all of my life, he was all that I ever needed and will need. I realized I was a sinner, and that I needed the Lord to save me. It was on that night that I decided to pursue our Lord through the ministry at fellowship and through my life at home, with my family that God had blessed me with. I want to tell the whole world that I love Christ Jesus, because

He is worthy of everything I could possibly give to Him!

No longer am I afraid, for my trust and confidence is in Him alone. For every sin was laid on Him, as Jesus Christ died on the cross so that whoever believes in Him, will not perish but have eternal life. This is the story of how I met the Son of God, Christ Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. Praise The Lord! Amen!



Serving God in the Sunday School Department

Rita Yeung

For 2012, I am taking over the torch from my husband, Adrian Leung, as the new leader of the Sunday School Department. I am humbled to be elected in the general council meeting as part of the council board and this is my first time serving our Church as a council member. I understand that I still have a lot to learn from my fellow brothers and sisters who have more experiences in the past with serving God at Church. I often pray to God that he gives me the strength and knowledge to serve him in righteous way and spread his work and gospel to the others in the community.

On March 11, we had our first quarter Sunday School Teachers meeting. Many of our current teachers and the rotating teachers attended the meeting. My goal with the meeting was to try to identify and understand the various issues that the Sunday School teachers may come cross through each of their classes. The meeting was very informative with guiding



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me to better understand what the various details that I need to look into to uphold the appeal and participation of the Sunday School students. Whether it was the topics of the books that we use to teach our students to the environment in which we hold our classes, we strive to explore and improve ourselves to effectively spread the learning of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year is not only my first time being the leader of the Sunday School department, but it will also be my first time being the Vacation Bible School's principal. This is a big leap for me in my spiritual service and I want to take this opportunity to learn and excel myself with the various planning and execution that are involved with VBS through the knowledge that Jesus Christ has bestowed upon me. I recognize that this will be a big challenge for me but I am ready to take on what's ahead and perform my duty and responsibility as the VBS principal. I pray to our Lord that there will be an increase students' participation of VBS this year and that he will help them and their families to find love and acceptances at our Church.



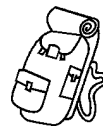
Youth Group Spring Retreat

Johanna Yu

The spring retreat our youth group went to was on April 20 to 22 at Rice Lodge. This was my 2nd year of going to this retreat. This year's theme was growth between us and God. Like a plant, we start as a seedling (our faith) and as we continue this nourishment, our faith and connection begin to grow rapidly. For the girls

Bible study, we were glad to have met Katelyn's friend, Itamar.

Not only were we able to have a stronger connection between God, but we also had some great activities throughout the trip such as the water balloon fight. I liked creating the game the first night with Emily Chow. Also, I really enjoyed our awesome jamming session that we had on Friday night. Overall, I really like this amazing, awesome, terrific, exciting and spectacular trip.



Youth Group Spring Retreat 2012

Yannis Lam

The Spring Retreat was a fun and interesting experience. We went to the Rice Lodge in Northborough, MA on April 20-22. There, we worked together as a youth group to learn and understand more about God and the Bible. From the beginning on Friday night to Sunday morning, we had a fun time with each other. We split our chores of cooking, cleaning, and resetting Rice Lodge. We learned a lot about God's messages and strived for our own perfection during our Bible studies. We also played games, decorated plant pots, and sang songs throughout the retreat. Everybody enjoyed at least one activity and we made the best of the little time we had together. This Spring Retreat really brought us together and I look forward to the next Spring Retreat!



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Wait No Longer

Yau Kwan Sung Low

Why are you still waiting?
Why keep wandering?
Hurry up, enter through the narrow gate!
(Matthew 7:13)

No way.
Through the narrow gate, the path is wide.
Look, the enticing beautiful girl
is beckoning to me.
Bundles of money are waiting for me to count.
Gold, silver, pearls and jewels
are there to be received.
High ranking official positions
are ready for me to take up.
I will stay in this entertaining world;
pamper myself with glamour and wealth.

Oh no, you are wrong.
Promptly turn back from the path of the stray.
The wide gate is leading to the depths of sin;
converging into the abyss for the fallen,
the lake of burning brimstone.
Quick, turn back.
“Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”
(Acts 2:40)
Seek the help of the Holy Spirit.
Let the Holy Spirit light the way.
Ask for salvation of the Lord.
Enter through the narrow gate
and have eternal life.



Sunday Service Attendance

(Weekly average attendance)

	Apr	May	Jun
Cantonee Sunday Service	92	77	86
Mandarin Sunday Service	0	40	37
English Sunday Service	22	22	22
Combined Service	130	94	110
Children Service	7	7	5
Sunday School	69	64	64



Finance

April

Income	Expense	Surplus
33,207	13,024	20,184

May

Income	Expense	Deficit
17,808	20,320	(2,511)

June

Income	Expense	Surplus
12,516	12,092	424



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Church News

Second quarter church events:

1. Brother Edward Ha was ordained as deacon on April 1st worship service.
2. We have an edifying Good Friday worship service on April 6 with a great turnout.
3. Teenager Gary Lok and adult believer Ms Suk Yee Chan were baptized on April 8.
4. Our teenagers enjoyed an exciting spring retreat at Rice Lodge on April 20-22.
5. First Mandarin Worship Service was held on May 6.
6. The annual church picnic was held on June 30 at Cochituate State Park at Natick.

Upcoming church events:

1. Vacation Bible School will be held on July 23-27. There will be graduation ceremony on July 30.
2. To celebrate the church 20th anniversary, there will be a revival meeting 9/14 Friday, an evangelical meeting on 09/15 Saturday evening, and a special worship service on 9/16.

Keep up with the mission of supplication:

1. The main theme of the church for the year 2012 is "Extend the blessings of God to all nations". Let us encourage each other in spiritual growth.
2. The goal of church building fund raising for 2012 is \$50,000. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters to make generous offerings.
3. Fervently lift up the Mandarin ministry in prayer. Intercede for the Mandarin ministry

committee, as they persevere in their effort to sustain Mandarin worship, Sunday school, prayer meeting and fellowship.



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.
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 continuous 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 newly started Mandarin worship service. Ask God to provide us with suitable Mandarin pastors or ministers, to help out with preaching in the Mandarin worship service. Pray that God will guard the mind of our Mandarin congregation, to remain thirsty to know the Lord, caring for each other, build up the love and faith in the Lord, and have spiritual growth.
6. Give thanks for the 20th church anniversary celebration; supplicate for the worship service on 09/16/2012, especially pray



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for the revival meeting on 09/14/2012, Friday evening and evangelical meeting on 09/15/2012 Saturday evening. Ask God to keep the unity in partnership of brothers and sisters, be zealous in preaching the gospel, bring more people to receive the saving grace.

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. Intercede for Deaconess Irene Chow Kan Chan, currently residing in the South Cove Manor Nursing Home, so that she could maintain or gain mobility and strength.
- iii. Pray that the arthritic pain of Sister Koon Wan Chow Wong will not progress.
- iv. Remember Sister Irene Ho as she goes through another round of chemotherapy involving 12 treatments over the span of 3 months. Ask God to grant her physical and spiritual strength to face the situation with trust in the Lord.
- v. Pray that God will stabilize Sister Suk Yee Chan's symptoms of Parkinson's disease and obviate any progression of illness.
- vi. Intercede for painful back condition of Sister Wai Wah Chan Wong (mother of Brother Tony). Pray for God's healing.