

Fourth Quarter Newsletter



Have Mercy On All The Parents

Pastor Henry Mak

In March of this year, I have taken the two weeks of annual leave, flown back to Hong Kong and survived the quakes on airplanes. I thought in my heart, "That's it. I will not purchase any more torture by flying on an airplane." However, when I learned about the depressive symptoms of my son, lack of persistence in his work, as parents, my heart has already gone to be with him. After much consideration and prayer, we decided to fly back and visit our son after the conclusion of 20th church anniversary celebration activities. This is what all parents would do.

Supposedly, my son will meet up with us at the airport, but he did not show up, due to arranged meeting with his friend, thereby unable to spare time. The next day, I visited him, in the hope of renewing the expired passport, just to find that both the passport and citizenship card were lost in moving. Apart from healthcare card, all documents were nowhere to be found. We have to report the loss to police station, bring the police report to embassy to get applications for replacement citizenship card and passport.

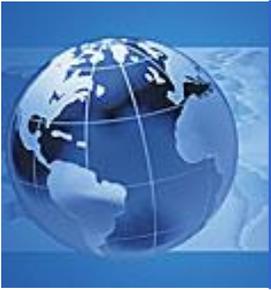
On the third day, I filled out the forms with my son, take passport photos, citizenship card photos and find guarantors. Unexpectedly, the accountant we have could no longer serve as guarantors of application. The photos we took were not available until the day after. We labored a whole day with no gain.

On the fourth day, I picked up the photos of my son and discovered that the photo store information was not printed at the back of citizenship card photos. The size of the photos failed to meet the requirement, in need of additional manual processing that would take another day. Without photos, I could not submit the applications. After lunch with my son, he went to work in the company. There goes another day.

The fifth day happened to be a Saturday. In order to spend quality time with my son alone, with better space and atmosphere, we purchased a three-day Shanghai vacation package covering hotel and airfare. God motivated my third sister to generously contribute all traffic and accommodation costs.

Surprisingly, this son who seldom gets up early in morning managed to arrive at the airport shortly after 8 AM. He looked good in a black jacket, with great spirit. Since this was weekend, the airport was jammed with people. There was a long line for breakfast purchase. Yet, the serving staff was highly efficient. You did not have to wait too long for the food. We boarded the plane with a full stomach. But amazingly, even on such a short flight, a lunch was served.

It only took us slightly in excess of two hours to arrive at Shanghai, landing at Pudong international airport by noon. Quite similar to the Hong Kong airport, we proceeded through immigration in a timely fashion. We try to board a taxi with the English address of our hotel. The customer service agent took a look



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at the address “Xizang Road”, then asked us where we wanted to go. We replied in Mandarin. Without further questions, he let us get on a taxi. The taxi driver could neither read the address nor understand what we said. Hearing his phone call to the hotel, inquiring whether it was located in Shanghai, we became very concerned. He seemed unfamiliar with the routes. The taxi kept wavering on the road with the driver always on the phone. Distracted by conversation with his friend, the car crossed over to the left lane. A speeding car knocked out the left rearview mirror of the taxi. Thank God. The fragments did not break through the windows of our seats and there was no major collision. The speeding car did not stop after the accident. We told the taxi driver to stop his car on the roadside, finish his phone calls before getting back on the road. We did not dare to talk to the driver at all, just let he take the lead. We prayed silently for God’s guidance and a safe trip to our destination.

After an hour on the highway, we finally entered a city and before long, we saw the hotel we booked. Only then did we find out that the street address “Xizang Road” actually means Tibet Road, not Xi Shan Road. This minor accident taught us the lesson to always use Chinese while traveling in China, do not count on English address or assume that our Mandarin pronunciation is accurate. It is also evident that the public service staff in our home country is seriously in need of training in English.

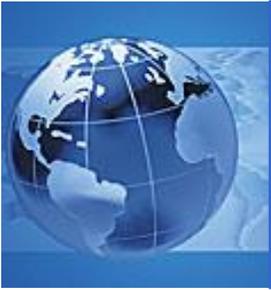
Settled down in the hotel room, we set off to tour the city. Shanghai is really densely populated. Streets were filled with throngs. Waves of people rushed through subway

stations. We have to force our way out of the train. Having said that, the subway system was actually quite comprehensive, providing efficient transportation within the city without resorting to public buses. There were good connections leading to stops within short walking distance to major destinations.

We got off the train at the tourist spot called “Old Street”. We strolled through town square, souvenir mall, pedestrian park, City God Temple, enjoyed Xiaolongbao, soup dumpling and all kinds of scrumptious cuisine, visited vintage buildings, totally absorbed by the colorful night scene. It was mesmerizing. The distance we walked on this day equaled the total we walked in Quincy for half a year.

The next morning, two buffet breakfast were furnished by the hotel. It was sumptuous beyond imagination, include Japanese Sashimi, Sushi, multitude of Chinese dumplings, Chinese dishes, western style beef, ham, salad bar, innumerable varieties of eastern and western cuisine. We only sample a small portion of each of our favorite food items. When the meal was finished, the server brought us the check and it was a whopping 600 RMB! I was pretty certain that this should be covered by the hotel, but still signed the bill with anxiety. Later on, it was confirmed that the breakfast was really covered by hotel. We could relax and fully enjoy the meal next day carefree. After breakfast, the three of us read a bible passage, prayed and shared with each other, in the hope of encouraging my son.

We visited the memorial of Lady Soong Ching-ling, also known as Madame Sun Yat-sen before noon, to gain some knowledge and



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admire people of the old days. Before entering the former residence of Lady Soong, we have to change over to plastic slippers, to prevent contamination of the place. This also reminds us to put on holy and clean attire every time we worship God.

Coming out of the former residence, a native Shanghai eatery came into sight. We did not miss this chance of sampling native cuisine, great taste at a low price, especially the fried buns. They even turned down gratuities (not because of small amount offered).

We then walked to the main street, heading to the famous Shanghai waterfront (the Bund). Once again, it was swarmed with people. The name brands we could not find in Hong Kong were all available in Shanghai. We could also take pictures in front of the well publicized peace hotel previously seen on TV.

The Bund was jammed with people. We were not well satisfied with the experience of riding the tunnel of time. After spending about two hours on sight seeing at the Bund, we returned to the hotel neighborhood for a dinner in a Hong Kong style bistro.

We woke up to a foggy and rainy morning on our third day in Shanghai. Our return flight was scheduled at 6 PM. We have to take our time to visit Shanghai Science Museum and Art Museum, take pictures at tourist spots. After a satisfying meal of Shanghai noodles, we rushed back to the hotel and took a taxi for the return trip.

This time around, the young taxi driver was really a sports car racer, speeding

ferociously on the highway in heavy rain. The transit police cars on the road side did not pose any interference. My heart really sped up with the acceleration of the taxi. We made it real early at Pudong airport, even able to make the 4:30 PM flight, much earlier than the original schedule. Looking back, this three-day journey was exciting, broad spectrum, jam-packed and meaningful.

Back in Hong Kong, I would embark on the return trip to United States in two days. There were still matters of concern, but we could only entrust them in the hands of God. I will defer the sharing of our adventure from Vancouver to Boston under the threat of superstorm Sandy to the next time.



20th Anniversary Celebration

Jennifer Cho

The big day had come. Sunday September 16th was the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston. We hosted a banquet for 13 tables at the Quincy China Pearl restaurant. In addition to the brothers and sisters from church, there were friends and family, and of course the leaders from the Central Baptist church! Happiness permeated the atmosphere that night, set in three languages of Cantonese, Mandarin and English, coupled with the concerted efforts of the youths from church to help decorate, colorful balloons flowed elegantly above the tables, it can be said to be



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very impressive and bustling! Thank God for blessing us with sunny weather that day, even heaven and earth seemed coated this happiness and came along for the ride, arguably an icing on the cake.

The evening's Masters of Ceremony, Brother George Chan and Sister Angelina Xu, echoing each other in Cantonese and Mandarin, introduced that night's entire program methodically and with a commanding presence. The program began with a song "We Cry Out" from Deaconess Donna Yung and Deacon Derek Chow, opened a prelude to the annual dinner that day. According to information provided, the song was the theme song for the 1907 Hong Kong Global Day of Prayer. A beautiful melody, wordings from the hymn can be found in 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Romans 8:15, you will have a deeper appreciation of the composer's mind after reading them. Then I, Jennifer, sang the song "Lord, Where Are You?" chosen by Brother David Lee, to the guitar accompaniment by my son, Ryan Wong. The lyrics have profound meanings, the more the practice, the deeper the feelings put into it, and tears flow more with liberation. God's love and grace covers every one of us, how can you not be moved by God's blessing? Finally the song "The Road of Grace" was sang by the Mandarin female chorus, led by Angelina, Cara, Flora, Mrs. Salina Mak and Brother Joe Yang, with all the guests joining in at the end. Hope our meager voices reached God.

Then the pastor of the Central Baptist church appeared and as usual in his strong voice, delivered his congratulatory message to our church, followed by a short message from Rev. Mak. Of course there's the cake cutting

ceremony afterwards. Because this year is the 20th Anniversary, our church gave every one present a pairs of chopsticks as souvenirs. Last to appear were the delicious cuisine, people at each table were chatting away, it was very lively. After the blessing prayer by Rev. Mak, the Anniversary tea reception came to an end. See you next year.



Recollection of the Church Anniversary Revival and Evangelical Meetings

Donna Yung

A revival meeting entitled "Lord, what should I do" was held on September 14, 2012, to celebrate the 20th church anniversary. Through Apostle Paul's encounter of Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, Rev. Mak exhorted us, as believers, to learn a threefold lesson.

Firstly, we have to get up and take action, submit to the will of the Lord.

Secondly, we have to leave our comfort zone, lay down our personal bias, and listen to the Lord's instruction.

Thirdly, we have to go out and work, without delay, and stop daydreaming. We should start witnessing to people, preach the gospel, and tell everyone how Lord Jesus changed our lives. We have to seize the opportunity, for we do not know about



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tomorrow, the span of our lives or when Jesus will return. Therefore, we have to witness today so that we will not meet our Lord with empty hands.

On September 15, 2012 the following night, we have the Mandarin evangelical meeting, preached by Elder Jin Sang Liang, entitled “Understand Christianity rationally”. In a lively humorous way, reinforced by audiovisual presentation, Elder Liang sought to prove that Christian faith is based on truth, relevant to us and provides the way and answer for our lives. The meeting was attended by more than seventy people who enjoyed the talk very much. Thanks be to the Lord. We have five attendees responding to the altar call, raised their hands in commitment to the Lord. After the meeting, we stayed behind to enjoy refreshment and fellowship before bidding farewell to each other in a joyful atmosphere.

God
IS
LOVE



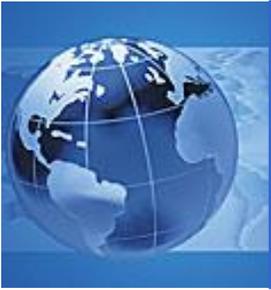
Checkpoint Sharing

Peng Cheng Li

On the night we arrived to Checkpoint, we entered the room and joined our brothers and sisters of Christ. In that room we were assigned places to sit so people from the same church wouldn't sit in the same table. The point of this was so that we could meet and talk to new people. We started off with an ice breaker, everyone got an index card and we would write something unique about us whether if it's a secret talent or something you've done in the past. Then the cards were collected and everyone was given a new card. The goal was to find the person who wrote the card.

After this activity we proceeded to the discussion about how to improve our youth group and how to make it more fun for the youths while still learning about Christ. Each table got a giant piece of poster paper and we began brainstorming different ideas that would make it better. All of the ideas were really great; each table had their own ways of making youth group more fun.

On the next day, we ate breakfast in the dining room and headed to the room to where the sermon was taken place. I learned that God can really change a person's life. It may take a while to see the change but you will definitely see them. Through prayers and everlasting faith in God, the man's calls were answered. Checkpoint was a wonderful experience for me. Not only did I learn many things but I also met lots of other people. I would definitely go again.



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Rejoice for the Birth of Christ on Earth

Lo Sung Yau Kwan

Great news for all nations comes with joyful music everywhere.
 The birth of our Lord in Bethlehem brings great happiness for the world.
 Birth of our savior is celebrated by all people with chanting and songs.
 Magi came from the East, guided by the brightly shining star.
 They followed the guiding star to worship God, offer their gifts in treasure chests.
 Shepherds are enlightened by majestic glory and the heavenly hosts and angel have arrived.
 Songs of praises were sung in one accord and glory be to the one true God.



Riddle on a historical character

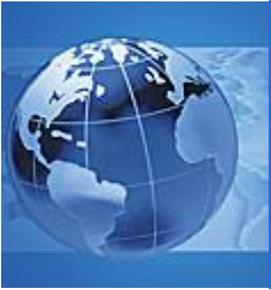
Jonathan Li

They gouged out his eyes
 and the scene was unbearable to me.
 It was so vacuum, bloody and cruel.
 I could not bear to look at
 the empty eye sockets,
 for I knew that
 he would never see again.
 I saw him dropping his shaved head,

making rounds and rounds of movement
 pushing the grinder,
 following the rhythm
 of the grinding stone.

Looking at the redundant
 and heavy shackles
 biting into his body of flesh,
 the greatest pain
 was inflicted in his heart.
 Losing both of the eyes no longer matters,
 for I could fill in as his eyes.
 He could see through me.
 As matter of fact,
 he could only see through me.
 There is no other option.
 I frequently wept for him with tears
 that did not flow,
 in regret for the reckless years
 of the past.
 I have learned to love this broken man
 who finally learned how to fear God.
 Therefore, I am not afraid of death,
 willing to be his eyes one last time,
 taking him by his hands as usual.
 Step by step, he was led to a place
 where he could pray.

Dear Lord, the most supreme God!
 At the fall of the pillars, I chanted, "Amen!"



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Church News

Fourth quarter church events:

1. Members of the 2013 church council have been elected uneventfully on November 4th. The complete church council is now in place with assigned leadership positions.
2. Various fellowships all have hosted their individual Thanksgiving celebrating events.
3. On December 22, we returned to Kam Man Supermarket for our annual Christmas caroling, witnessing and handing out gospel tracts.
4. We enjoyed a scrumptious Christmas banquet on December 23.
5. On December 24, we are back on the road to visit different families to bring them Christmas hymns and messages of saving grace.

Upcoming church events:

1. We have a chance of reaching out to the Chinese community through the Lunar New Year booth at North Quincy High School on February 24.
2. The 2013 care group fun day will be held on March 3, 2013.
3. Preparations are made for the Christmas festivities.

Keep up with the mission of supplication:

1. The main theme of the church for the year 2013 is "Manifest the love of Christ, proclaim His salvation". Let us encourage each other in spiritual growth.
2. The goal of church building fund raising for 2013 is \$60,000. 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.
4. Supplicate for the youth group and English ministry, the series of national youth meetings participated by our teenagers. Ask God to fulfill our dream of having a Sunday school class for working young adults, college students and high school seniors. Pray that our college boys and girls will maintain their attendance at their mother church and inspire the younger members.



Prayer Requests

1. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters in keeping up with daily Bible reading and prayers, fervently pursue spiritual growth.
2. Pray for new vision and ministry direction for the year 2013, with main theme of "Manifest the love of Christ, proclaim His salvation". Ask for the help of Holy Spirit to jump start the work of church and give us a unified spirit.
3. 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.
4. 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.



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5. 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.
6. Intercede for the Mandarin ministry. 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.
7. Ask God to use the adult English class to draw more people to the church and learn about Christ.
8. Ask God to watch over Gary Lok and Amenda Wong throughout their short term mission trip from February 13 to 23, 2013, give them peace and effective witness for the love and mighty power of the Lord.
9. Intercede for our church members:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Pray that the arthritic pain of Sister Koon Wan Chow Wong will not progress.
 - iii. Pray that God will stabilize Sister Suk Yee Chan's symptoms of Parkinson's disease and obviate any progression of illness.
 - iv. Intercede for painful back condition of Sister Wai Wah Chan Wong (mother of Brother Tony). Pray for God's healing.