

Pastor's Sharing—Thanksgiving for the 14th Anniversary of HCAC

Rev. Almon Li (5/10/2014)



It has been 14 years since Hills Christian Alliance Church (HCAC) was established on 1 October 2010. From the outset, the vision that God gave us was to set up HCAC with love. As His children, we know very well that it is important for us to love one another. The Lord Jesus had given us two instructions before His ascension. One is the Great Commission, which instructs us to spread the gospel. The other is that we should love one another. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 34-35) Jesus also said that the greatest commandment is that “you shall love God... and... love your neighbour”.

It is very clear that God will put much emphasis on our love to Him and other people. The church in Ephesus was a very good one but God was against them because they abandoned the love they had at first.

Rev. Wayne Cordello, a famous American pastor, said that, “God will bless a church which is filled with love”. If we love God, then it will be very natural that we will serve Him and people with joy and dynamic. Apostle Paul also said, “...for the love of Christ controls us...” (2 Corinthians 5:14). The church will definitely grow if believers love God.

Over the past 14 years, God has guided many people who needed help to our church. We thank God that some of these people knew Jesus Christ and were converted after they had got help from the church.

Nowadays, we are in time that people are under pressure and being hurt. Many people are helpless, without other people's love and care. A church should be the place in which they can find help, love and care. I hope that the brothers and sisters of HCAC can work hard together to build up our church which is filled with love and care, so that it becomes a church that pleases God.

Believers' behaviours that will please God:

1. Let us help the needy enthusiastically, and love one another in our church. We should avoid arguing for something that is not absolute in Christian doctrines, as this might result in pin-pointing one another and rejecting those with different views. Neither should we feel hatred for those who do things in ways different from ours. We should not be in conflict simply for very minor things (such as, to buy anniversary gift or not, to install air-conditioners or not). God's will is that we should pay more attention to caring one another, getting along well and sharing happiness and bitterness together.

Some believers might say that, as they are not professional counsellors, they do not know how to care or help others. In fact, the most important thing in caring is not the skill. If your care to others is from the bottom of your heart, they can feel your care and get your help even if you do not have the caring skill to help; otherwise, they cannot feel your care even if you are a Ph.D. in counselling.

2. More importantly, we should love God, apart from loving people. Loving means giving, not taking. If we love God, we will be willing to try our best in our daily living to express our love to God, so that we are willing to serve Him with joy and excitement.

Entering into HACA's 15th year with abundant grace that God gave us in the past years, I hope that we can be compelled to rise up to serve our God who is full of grace and mercy, so that our church will be growing prosperously. I also hope that we are determined to love God with all our heart, that we have the same attitude as Christ's, and that we follow His example of sacrificial love. Knowing that love without actions is not perfect, we should start right now from our home: to love our spouse faithfully with actions, to love our children sincerely, and to love our brothers and sisters and our neighbors truly.

Let us live a life which demonstrates Christ's love so that we can glorify God and do good to others. I hope that we can present this as our gift to God on the church's 14th Anniversary. Amen!