

- ♥ Pastor's Sharing – To Know Jehovah
- ♥ English Ministry – New Year, New Approaches
- ♥ The Role of Deacons – a Biblical Perspective
- ♥ 2016 Combined Church Camp
- ♥ Knowing HCAC (1) : Deacon Board Election
- ♥ Testimony – Jesus Loves Me
- ♥ Church Activity – Church Planning Day

2016 Church Theme: Renewing the mind, Revitalising the spirit

Sub-theme: Jan-Apr To know Jehovah; May-Aug: Remove old self, build up new self; Sep-Dec: To serve Jehovah

Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

Issue 21

Pastor's Sharing - To Know Jehovah

The sub-theme for this term (January – April) is “To Know Jehovah”. Knowing God is the first step in building a relationship between God and a human being. Hosea 6:3 clearly says, “Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge Him.” The prophet clearly teaches and encourages us to press on to acknowledge God even if we have already received His salvation and are already believers. We need to seek to know God deeper and who He is.

We know that Jehovah is the creator of the universe. Not only is He Lord over the universe, He upholds all that is in it. Jehovah is also our Saviour. Moreover, the Bible tells us that the history of mankind is in God's hands and He is in charge. We need to know that the God we worship today not only rules all that is in the universe, He also governs the hearts of mankind.

Today's society is unpredictable and ever-changing. Some people adopt the concept of Deism, the belief that God has created the universe but remains apart from it and permits His creation to administer itself through natural laws, meaning that He is no longer in control of mankind's history. This concept goes against the truth stated in the Bible. The Bible clearly lets us know that since genesis, God has never abandoned its creation to randomly crash or venture out on its own. God is behind every single thing. He cares, protects, nurses, and judges! God is full of grace, mercy and love.

But God also has another attribute, which is righteousness. He rewards the good and punishes the evil. Proverbs 24:12 says “If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this,’ does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?” Jehovah, who we know, is in control of everything, including retribution. We do not need to take revenge into our own hands because God rewards the good and punishes the evil! Knowing the attributes of God naturally

yields reverence towards God. In fact, when a person knows God, he or she will definitely revere God. Proverbs 9:10 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Knowing Jehovah does not just mean to know him in the mind; it means to walk with God, to build a relationship with Him and to know Him through an intimate and personal way. A person only starts to revere God when he or she starts to know God, and it is only when a person reveres God that he or she knows God.

Knowing Jehovah is very important. To really know Jehovah, one must have an attitude of reverence towards God. To revere God means to obey His commands and be part of His holiness. These teachings are plentiful in Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy 5:29 says, “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!” Deuteronomy 6:1-2 says, “These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands so that you may enjoy long life.” Apostle Paul also encourages us to revere God and live a holy life: “..... let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”

It is my hope that we will read more of the Bible, understand more of God's will, obey God's command with a willing heart, seek God with reverence and learn to know Him. Amen.

Author: Rev. Almon Li English Translation: Carol Li

English Ministry - New Year, New Approaches

Today marks the first day of the Year of Monkey in 2016 (at the time of writing this article, 8th of February). At the same time it is the first day to let go of the Year of Sheep. For the new year to begin we ought to let go of the old year like Paul exhorted in Ephesians 4:22-24.

Similarly in the dawn of 2016, Hills Christian Alliance Church English Ministry has launched many new approaches to accommodate the spiritual and physical growth of the congregation. Out of many new changes, there are three things that are significant to the life of the ministry. Firstly starting of the Cell Groups for the first time in English Ministry would bring substantial improvement on how we care for the members of the congregation. After many months of investigation and research, we have initiated a Cell Group model that would suit our needs and cater for spiritual growth. The main emphasis of the Cell Group model is to 'experience the power of God by sharing the lives in Christ.' Before the cell groups were launched we had extensive training for some of the leaders to be equipped better for the task God has entrusted us and to be a spirit filled models for others. From these Cell Group leaders, we have added more leaders to start the Cell Groups late January and early February. We anticipate the Cell Groups will be the vital organs of the English ministry that they provide pastoral care for each member in weekly meetings. The leaders are to be pledged to be involved in monthly trainings and supervisions while all members are strongly encouraged to do their daily quiet time to participate in the Cell Groups.

The second significant change in the English Congregation for 2016 is leadership changes for all of the ministries. For Flashlight (Youth Fellowship), Jane Chiu stepped down from the role of the ministry leader to take up the ministry leader role of the Worship Ministry. Flashlight ministry leader's role would be filled by Cassandra Tang. Subsequently Sharon Kan stepped down from the ministry leader's role of Worship to have a break since she has been serving for many years. Ceewing Tsui also stepped down from the ministry leader's role of Bible Study since the bible study will undergo major restructuring because of the implication of Cell Group model.



The leaders of the English Ministry greatly appreciate all ministry leaders who have been faithfully serving the congregation for many years, particularly Sharon Kan, Ceewing Tsui, Jane Chiu and Kenneth Chiu.

The last significant change in the English ministry is shifting the Kids Sunday School from the care of the Cantonese Congregation to the care of the English Congregation. Rainbow Tam is heading up this ministry now with several great leaders to establish a strong foundation for the future. Currently Kids Sunday School is going through a difficult time but we feel that this ministry is absolutely crucial for the future of our Church. Thus I would encourage everyone in the church to cheer them on and give them a hand whenever possible.

Here are the main changes that are taking place in the English Ministry in the year of Monkey and as the new season is upon us, I charge the entire congregation to pray for the English Ministry and its future that we would stand strong in the Lord, serve one another and wholeheartedly spread the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus we would impact the world through walking in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

English Ministry Committee Structure 2016

Chairman Rev. Almon Li							
	Parents' Representatives	Sunday Services Ministry	Worship Ministry	Cell Group Ministry/ Teaching Ministry	Youth Ministry	Kids Sunday School Ministry	Chairman's Assistant
Sharon Kan Ceewing Tsui	Sylvia Li Edward Yu	Kenneth Chiu	Jane Chiu	Pastor Fredrick Song	Cassandra Tang	Rainbow Tam	Marianna Li

Author: Pastor Fredrick Song Chinese Translation: Janet Yu

The Role of Deacons – a Biblical Perspective

Deacons first emerged in the church in Acts 6:1-6 for two reasons :

1. Negative aspects: The Hellenistic Jews complained against the Hebrew believers because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of food. This was a reflection of the poor church management system at that time, which resulted in the emergence of deacons.

2. Positive aspects: Because the number of believers was increasing in the early Church and they were together and had everything in common (Acts 2:43-47). Under these circumstances, a management system complete with established rules and organisation was needed in order to manage the daily distribution of food. As a church grows, the amount of general affairs generated increases correspondingly. An organisation is needed and deacons are required to share the responsibilities and workload overlooked by pastors.

The essential duty of a “deacon” is to serve others. According to the Today's Chinese Version, “deacon” means “helper”. In the early Church, deacons were appointed to help the apostles who would focus in prayer and the ministry of the Word. So the work of deacons extends beyond the distribution of food and the most important thing for them is to serve others willingly.

Therefore, a deacon's duty is to care for those in need. The pastor needs to be notified, and together, think of ways to help those in need. In addition to the above, deacons have the responsibility to assist with all services and ministries to ensure that they are carried out effectively. Also, deacons should be faithful stewards in the church and do their best to fulfil their duties and serve the church using their gifts so that all ministries can progress according to God's will. This is done to glorify God's name.

It is definitely not easy to take up the responsibilities of a

deacon. Therefore, three requirements are mentioned when the early Church chose their first deacons:

1. Good reputation – relationships with people

To serve others, deacons must build relationship with people. To build a relationship, deacons need to have a good impression on others, and therefore, a good reputation is needed.

2. Full of the Holy Spirit – relationship with God

Deacons serve God so they must build a good and intimate relationship with God. Believers who are full of the Holy Spirit -- let the Holy Spirit be in charge, allow the Lord to be seated on the throne of our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to control our thoughts and actions -- will understand and obey God's will. How can we be full of the Holy Spirit? By studying the bible, praying, understanding God's will, obeying the guidance of the Holy Spirit and living according to God's will.

3. Full of wisdom – relationship with matters

Deacons need to face different people and matters. Therefore, one needs to be full of wisdom to handle these. The bible demands one to be faithful in all things. One needs to pray for wisdom to handle and run each ministry. Some people are born smarter than others; but those who lack wisdom can pray to God. James 1:5 says “If any of you lacks wisdoms, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

On 5th June this year, our Church will be holding Deacons Election 2016-2018. We need to know that deacons are important to our church's growth and they bring about great influences. Therefore, I encourage all brothers and sisters to start praying for this election and nominate deacons who are after God's heart. We pray that God will prepare for us brothers and sisters of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom to be our next deacons.

Author: Rev. Almon Li English Translation: Carol Li



2016 Combined Church Camp

From 24th to 26th January this year the church had held a combined camp for both the Cantonese and English congregations. The theme of the camp is "Fifteen years of God's grace, together we will race". A camp song was specially written by Reyland (music) and Lina (lyrics) for this event.



Looking back the past 15 years, the church had held or jointly held 11 camps. Apart from the church camp in 2001 (at that time I was not yet a Christian), I had attended all the other ten as well as being involved in the camp committees. This time I had the opportunity again to serve the Lord and members. With another brother, Carter, we were assigned to be the church camp committee members. He was responsible for liaison and camp site selection. I was responsible to arrange the camp programmes. We were nicknamed 'couple partnership' – one in-charge the internal affairs whilst another the external. I thanked God at this moment; firstly, the number of participants and rooms required had exceeded the estimates; secondly, we got the promise from some tens of brothers and sisters invited to willingly serve in the camp.

In the first day's evening gathering, Rev. Li led us thank and pray to God as He blessed all arrangements so that all participants could reap from the camp. Cal together with Anita and Lina welcomed participants by leading two old songs with new lyrics; and concluded the worship with the



camp song. Then Daniel and Petraïne brought up an overwhelming game that all people, regardless of their status, well mixed together and the joy ambience filled the hall. Finally the evening gathering was concluded with the refreshments prepared by the cell group Hosea.

The morning worships on the second and third days were prepared and led by two couples Anita-Cal and Anna-Sherwood respectively. We were led to be close to God in the mornings. The worships also endeavoured to prepare and

lead us to sing faithful, thankful and praising songs to God. In accord with the music and projection, the worships sounded perfect. Compliments are hereby sent to the following team members: Sue, Edward, Sylvia, Sherwood, Lina Bowen and Paul.

Besides, we must appreciate the participants for their patience and acceptance during the meal times because they had no grumbles at all on long queues and limited food choices. Of course Wendy had to be thanked for her effective control of the order.

It took less than 13 minutes to complete the group photo-taking. We could see the message of loving God had become effective to make everybody submissive to arrangement and leadership. We had also to salute to the camp photographers, Hong and Ruth. During the free time period, two competition programmes, tug-of-war and soccer, had been organised



between the evergreen (aged over 40) and young (aged below 20). The results were of course Thank God's providence and blessed good weather on that day. Everyone was safe and overwhelmingly joyful to return. It rendered Daniel, this camp's "safety general", in vain.

We had invited Rev Rev. Joseph Thiem to be the speaker. It was really God's blessing to us. The theme of his message was "Love God, Love Man, and Love Church". Rev Thiem quoted 2 Thessalonians 3:5 as the key verse: *And may your hearts be guided by the Lord into the love of God and quiet waiting for Christ.* This taught us to attentively remember God's word. Separately from three messages 1 Th. 1:1-10 (Learn to love God), 1 Th. 4:1-12 (Learn to love Man), and 1 Th. 5:12-24 (Learn to love Church), he reminded us to contemplate God's kindness, how He endured to accept and save those frequently delinquent, unfaithful and disrespectful Israelites.



This is exactly the problem of the lay believers nowadays.

Before leaving the camp site there was a period of sharing and a few members sincerely shared. Finally I also had to thank Ruth for her contribution in publishing the camp handbook -- including design, printing, and binding -- so that each of us could use it for notes jotting and as a souvenir.



Author: Assistant Pastor Paul Chan English Translation: Janet Yu

Knowing HCAC (1) : Deacon Board Election

Praise the Lord for His grace. He is the one who established Hills Christian Alliance Church and has guided our church's growth. For our church to grow continually, it is important that there must be deacons who possess good spiritual *life* and *gifts* to co-work with pastors and lead the church in unity. In HCAC, the term of office of a deacon elected is 2 years. The 2016-2018 Deacon Board Election will be held in our church's Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for 5 June 2016. The nomination process will commence from 10 April 2016 and all the nomination forms should be returned on or before the noon of 1 May 2016. As Deacon is an important position of the Church, the selection criteria for Deacons shall follow the Constitution of the National Board, CMA. Pastors, co-workers and their spouses of HCAC are not allowed on the election list.

The Procedures:

1. Any member (either through baptism in this church or transfer to this church) who is aged 18 or above has the right to vote.
2. Any member who is aged 25 or above and has regularly attended the church for at least a year shall have the right to be voted.
3. Couples may be nominated at the same time. However, if they are both elected, the one with the higher no. of votes will take the position in the Deacon Board.
4. There will be 7 Deacons in this term. The selection of these 7 candidates will be based on majority rules. The remaining elected candidates will be on the reserve list in order of nos. of votes received.
5. The Name List of Eligible Members and the Nomination Form will be distributed on 10 April 2016. Each member may only nominate a maximum of 7 candidates and the completed form must be returned to the Church on or before the noon of 1 May 2016.

Being accepted and commended, the success of this church camp totally relied on God's calling all to join and those who participated in serving. May glory to our heavenly Father. "20 or 30 years of God's grace, together all of us will race".

6. Any member who has 7 or more nominations, with his/her consent, may be qualified to be a candidate for the 2016-2018 Deacon Board Election to be conducted on 5 June 2016.

The Selection Criteria for Deacons:

- (a) A member of the Church
- (b) 25 years or above, and attends the Church for at least a year
- (c) 90% attendance on Sunday services
- (d) Tithing to Hills Christian Alliance Church
- (e) Living a righteous life
- (f) Mature and responsible
- (g) Having a good relationship with God and people
- (h) Healthy family testimony
- (i) Endeavor to attend the Church's prayer meetings and whole-church events

Positions in the Deacon Board:

In the next term, the Deacon Board shall have the following positions: Worship Ministry & Multi-media Team, Treasurer, Education Department & Communications Team, Evangelism Department, Membership & Caring Department, English Ministry, General Affairs and Church Building Maintenance/Church Building Expansion and Development.

HCAC members are encouraged to participate in the Deacon Board Election (nomination and voting) and AGM, and pray for the election so that God will prepare suitable candidates to take up the deacon posts to work together with the pastoral team.

Source of information: HCAC Guidelines for the 2016-18 Deacon Board Election

Testimony – Jesus Loves Me

I started believing in Christ at a very young age. It never dawned on me who Jesus Christ was until my mother told me. I was fortunate enough to have the Holy Spirit guiding me to church but due to my young age I never understood what was going on. I didn't understand the concept of Jesus dying on the cross to wash my sins, so I constantly continued disobeying my parents and lying to my friends. It wasn't until I was 9 years old that my Sunday school teacher told me that in God's eyes no one is good, this sentence lingered in my head for such a long time and I started to realise I was a sinner. I eventually started to read the bible treasuring the word of God and all the stories it contained but I was never 100% sure that God was real and that troubled me deeply. So throughout the next few years I started hoping for miracles, it wasn't until I was 11 it happened.

There was an event at my school and being excited, I ran across the road without thinking. It was the most miraculous split second of my life when I felt a force pushing me back from getting hit by a car. The car literally missed me by a few centimetres. I truly felt like it was the work of Christ that sent

an angel to protect me, that's when I started to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

During these few years I often questioned my love and faith for God and I remembered lying on bed one day and coming across this verse from John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life". This verse brought me to tears because God has so much love for us but we take it for granted. I believe in Jesus because without Him we are nothing, God was so loving that He sent his only son to wash our sins even though we don't deserve it. He has done so much for me even going as far as taking my sins, believing in Him has made me a different person, being much more loving and forgiving. Although I am still a sinner I thank Him for not giving up on me and giving me such a blessed life. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) Hallelujah.



Author: ITeng Tong Chinese Translation: Janet Yu

Church Activity - Church Planning Day

Our church's Planning Day (for both Cantonese and English Congregation) would be held on 13 June 2016 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Church Building. Rev. Almon Li, Senior Pastor, shall hold the proceedings and all deacons, cell leaders and ministry heads will be invited to attend. Brothers and sisters are also welcome to join us to think about our way ahead and renew our ministries. The tentative program of the Planning Day is appended below:

Time	Program	Responsible person
10:00 am -10:15 am	Worship	Cantonese Worship Team
10:20 am -10:55 am	Message	Rev Almon Li
11:00 am -11:15 am	SWOP analysis	Rev Almon Li
11:20 am -12:30 pm	Group discussion and report	Deacons & pastors Facilitator: Rev. Almon Li
12:30 pm -1:10 pm	Lunch	Ling Chiu, Marianna Li
1:15 pm -1:30 pm	Worship	English Worship Team
1:35 pm -2:30 pm	Group discussion on church ministries	Deacons & pastors
2:35 pm - 3:30 pm	Report & planning	Deacons & pastors Facilitator: Rev. Almon Li
3:35 pm - 4:00 pm	Conclusion	Rev Almon Li

Remark: After the afternoon worship, English and Cantonese Congregations will be separated. The English discussion session will be led by Pastor Fredrick Song.