

- Pastor's Sharing – Rejoice in God
- 2019 Christmas in Hills Christian Alliance Church
- 2020 Church Prayer Meetings
- HCAC Facebook Pages
- Heritage of Alliance Spiritual Tradition: Fourfold Gospel in Simpson's Hymns
- Testimony
- Knowing HCAC (14) – Nominating Committee and Congregational Ministry Committees

Rejoice in God, Live for the Lord



February 2020, Issue No. 36

Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

Pastor's Sharing – Rejoice in God

Rev Almon Li

The church theme of this year is "Rejoice in God, Live for the Lord". I want to share with you what "Rejoice in God" means.

In the book of "The Westminster Shorter Catechism", the first question is: What is the chief purpose for which man is made? The answer is: The chief purpose for which man is made is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

King David declares in the Book of Psalms 16:5-11 that "Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.....Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secureYou make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

Dear brothers and sisters, may we affirm like the psalmist, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:24-26)

Today, let us learn how to enjoy God like the psalmist.

1. **Believe in Jesus Christ, Be reconciled with God** – In Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." We all have sinned and do not meet the holy standards of God. For example, we are proud, envious and self-centered. We do not forgive others' offenses. We are angry and judgmental. All these are sins which result in enmity against God and separation from God.

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was a price paid for all sinners. Those who are willing to accept Jesus Christ as Savior are forgiven of all sins, and they are sinless in the sight of God. Therefore, Christians are justified because of faith in Jesus, not because of their good works. The result of justification by faith is to change us from enmity against God to reconciliation with God. Reconciliation with God is the grace that God

fulfilled for us and gives to every Christian, which is the foundation for us to enjoy God.

2. **Hope for God's Glory** – Hebrews 9:27 "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." Each person will face God's judgment in the future. If we admit that everyone is sinful, we will know that according to the holy standards of God, we will separate from God because of our sins and we will fall into eternal destruction. In fact, this ending is very terrible. However, for those who believe in Jesus and accept Him as savior, they will not fear the Last Judgment, just like a well-prepared student is not afraid of examination. We are all ready. We know that Jesus has paid the atonement for our sins; all sins are not counted against us, and God has promised to be with us forever.

Christians are looking forward to being with God forever. This is what "we joyfully look forward to sharing the glory of God" means. The accurate translation of "joyfully" is: "to boast in hope". "Boast" is not because we deserve it, but because of God's grace that we have. It is God who gives us strength, courage and comfort, and leads us to rejoice and boast in God even in our sufferings and trials. As we are hoping for the future eternal glory, the present temporary sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory. Also, it is because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Just like some people want to build their ideal body, they will do lots of exercise in the gym and eat less food. After getting a few muscles, they will be happy to do more exercise and stay on a diet. However, can doing exercise and being on a diet really help? It all depends. In fact, the hope that Christians joyfully look forward to sharing the glory of God will definitely come true for it is God's promise. Therefore, based on this promise of sharing the glory of God's presence, our character can be shaped in the sufferings, our faith can be tested and we can still keep being happy and rejoicing in God.

3. God's love in our hearts

We have such hope because the Holy Spirit has poured out God's love into our hearts. The Holy Spirit that lives in us reminds us God loves us so much. Like what Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

When we were still enemies of God, God did not deal with us according to our sins, but rather sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Jesus gave up his life, saved us from transgressions and sins, and has given us new life. Now, we are children of God, don't we also live in God's love? Doesn't God protect us until we are with Him in the glory? God promises us to love us to the end, and nothing can separate us from His love.

Because of God's promise and His presence, we can be happy in all circumstances and rejoice in Him.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord Jesus Christ bled and died on the cross. We, sinners, can then be reconciled with God through faith in Christ. Therefore, we are no longer afraid of the Last Judgment. Moreover, because of the eternal life that God has given us, we can joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory, and the Holy Spirit has also poured out God's love into our hearts which reminds us God loves us so much. Let's pray to God for His help that we always remember the grace of the Lord Jesus, keep the hope of eternal life, receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and live a rejoicing life in Him.

2019 Christmas in Hills Christian Alliance Church

21/12
English Christmas
Meeting



24/12
Christmas Eve
Evangelistic Meeting



25/12
Christmas Combined
Service : Cantonese
& English



2020 Church Prayer Meetings

As from November 2018 the church's monthly (1st Sunday) Prayer Meeting has been led by different pastors. Worship, led by different teams on roster, has also been added. Then since April 2019, the 3rd Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting has been started. Appended below are the rosters of these two Church Prayer Meetings for 2020:

1 st Sunday (Cantonese & Mandarin)			
Date	Worship Leader	Prayer Leader	Remark
5 January	Marianna & Rev. Li	Rev. Li	
2 February	Suspended		EGM (By-law)
1 March	Vivian & Leo	Paul	
5 April	Roy	Paul	
3 May	Luva & Kenneth	Rev. Li	
7 June	Suspended		AGM
5 July	Eve & Ivan	Pastor Don	
2 August	Anna & Sherwood	Pastor Don	
6 September	Fione	Paul	
4 October	Suspended		20 th Anniversary
1 November	Marianna	Rev. Li	
6 December	Paul & Lina	Paul	

3 rd Wednesday Evening	
Date	Leader
15/1	Rev. Li and Marianna
19/2	Annie & Anna
18/3	Annie & Anna
15/4	Annie & Anna
20/5	Paul & Lina
17/6	Luva & Kenneth
15/7	Eve & Ivan
19/8	Rev. Li and Marianna
16/9	Pastor Don & Annie
14/10	Paul & Lina
18/11	Fione
16/12	Rev. Li and Marianna

HCAC Facebook Pages

Since October 2019 the HCAC Facebook Page has been reactivated. Posts regarding church activities and courses have been uploaded to the HCAC fb page, apart from being published in the church bulletins. The English Congregation has also created its own fb page, The Pathway, which is a Private Group. In this Issue, the reactivated HCAC Facebook Page is presented so that our congregations may know more about it.

HCAC's fb page, created in or before 2017, has been administered by the Church Administrator under the direction of the Promotion Team. However, it had not been frequently used as a platform to promote church activities or a media for communication after August 2017. In 2019, Luva Kwok, being a new church member using fb frequently, was invited by Rev. Li to co-administer and reactivate the church's fb page with the aims that church members may pay more attention to our church's activities and that the public may know our church.

At present the HCAC Facebook Page covers only the Cantonese and Mandarin Congregations because the English Congregation has its own fb page. Apart from promotional information regarding activities and course, photos of church activities (e.g. the Christmas Eve Evangelistic Meeting) will also be posted in the fb page.



Since the reactivation of the HCAC Facebook Page in October 2019 and after the promotion in the church bulletins, more and more church members (including Daryl who is now in Japan) as well as outsiders have visited the page and given likes. Brothers and sisters may find our church's fb page by keying in "Hills Christian Alliance Church" in the Facebook's Search section.



Heritage of Alliance Spiritual Tradition: Fourfold Gospel in Simpson's Hymns

In the first of a series of talks organised by the ACACC in October 2019 to commemorate its 30th Anniversary, Rev. Leung Ka Lun, Honorary President of the Hong Kong Alliance Bible Seminary, delivered a talk entitled "the Heritage of Alliance Spiritual Tradition". He talked about the origin, biblical foundation, reflection and application of Dr. Simpson's "Fourfold Gospel". Particularly Dr. Leung mentioned that these thoughts and ideas could be seen in the following hymns created by Dr. Simpson – My Trust: Launch Out; Yesterday, Today, Forever; and Be True.

1. Jesus Christ is our Saviour

Dr. Simpson believed that at least a chance should be given to everyone to hear the gospel. Believers have the duty to spread the gospel – be faithful to the Lord's trust to tell the story.



My Trust (Hymns of Life 271)

Lord, Thou has given to me a trust, a high and holy dispensation,
To tell the world, and tell I must, the story of Thy great Salvation;
Thou might have sent from heaven above, Angelic hosts to tell the story,
But in Thy condescending love, on men Thou has conferred glory.

We all are debtors to our race; God holds us bound to one another;
The gifts and blessings of His grace were given thee to give thy brother;
We owe to every child of sin one chance, at least, for hope of heaven;
O by the love that brought us in, Let help and hope to them be given.

Chorus:

Let me be faithful to my trust, telling the world the story;
Press on my heart the woe, put in my feet the go;
Let me be faithful to my trust and use me for Thy glory.

2. Jesus Christ is our Sanctifier

Dr. Simpson emphasised that believers should have a deeper life and practise in action. Therefore, believers should launch out into the deep, in the ocean divine where full tides flow.



Launch Out (Hymns of Life 371)

The mercy of God is an ocean divine, a boundless and fathomless flood,
Launch out in the deep, cut away the shoreline,
And be lost in the mercy of God.

O let us launch out on this ocean so broad, where floods of salvation ever flow;
O let us be lost in the mercy of God, till the depths of His fullness we know.

Chorus: Launch out into the deep, O let the shoreline go; Launch out, launch out in the ocean divine, out where full tides flow.

3. Jesus Christ is our Healer

A great portion of Christ's time was dedicated to healing the sick. Dr. Simpson believed that miraculous healings still occur today – evidence that Christ is still our Healer. All may change but Jesus never.



Yesterday, Today, Forever (Hymns of Life 279)

O how sweet the glorious message simple faith may claim,
Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same.
Still He loves to save the sinful, heal the sick and lame.
Cheer the mourner, still the tempest – Glory to His name!

O let us launch out on this ocean so broad, where floods of salvation ever flow;
O let us be lost in the mercy of God, till the depths of His fullness we know.

Chorus: Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same;
All may change, but Jesus never! Glory to His name!
Glory to His name; Glory to His name;
All may change, but Jesus never! Glory to His name.

4. Jesus Christ is our Coming King

Dr. Simpson accepted the doctrine of Premillennialism. Believers should try their best to evangelise to the unreached people groups. Therefore he launched overseas missionary work. Churches should give adequate input and support to missionary work.



Be True (Hymns of Life 346)

We are going forth from the school of Jesus, We have sat at His blessed feet,
We have drunk from truth's celestial fountain, We have tasted its honey sweet.
We are witnesses for our blessed Master in a world where friends are few;
And He sends us forth with the watchword holy, whatsoever it costs, be true.

We are going forth with a glorious mission as ambassadors for God,
We are sent with heaven's last word of mercy over all the world abroad.
We are sent to save from the blight of sorrow, and the curse of sin undo;
With a work so grand and a trust so holy,
O what heart would not be true?



Chorus: Be true to your trust! Be true to your glorious King;
Be true! Be True! Whether friends be false or few;
Whatsoever betide, ever at His side, let Him always find you true.

In this world we will have trouble. But the Lord Jesus has overcome the world.

To my whole family, 2019 was quite a difficult year. Looking back, I must thank God, count His blessings (how He looked after and protected my family) and testify Him (how He loved and cared for us).

In January 2019, I had a car accident when I was on the way to work. My car was hit by a truck from behind and found “total loss” after the crash. But the Lord Jesus really protected me – I had no any injuries. I know that it was His mighty hand that protects His children anytime and anywhere.

In March 2019, my elder son would sit in the Selective School Test. However, he had a toothache one week before the test. He was so scared to see a dentist due to a bad experience during a previous dental treatment. His toothache got worse despite that he had taken some pain killers. We had no other choice but brought him to a dental clinic. After checking, the dentist recommended that some of the teeth should be extracted in order to avoid infection and resulting fever. I tried to persuade my son to undergo the extraction so as to stop the toothache and avoid any adverse effect on the coming test. But my son was not willing to take the treatment. I felt helpless and began to shed tears because I could not convince him. Then I closed my eyes and prayed silently, “O Lord Jesus, please help me and my son too. In this situation I do need his cooperation. Please give him wisdom to understand that he needs to cooperate with the dentist’s treatment.”

When I opened my eyes, I saw that my son looking at me and then he talked to the dentist, “Alright, go ahead.” The extraction process was very smooth. During the following days, he was well and sat in the Selective School Test as scheduled. Afterward, I asked my son, “Why were you willing to undergo the surgery?” He said, “Mom, because I saw that you cried and you prayed with tears. I know that you love me very much and I love you too. I don’t want to hurt you. Therefore I told myself that I should not scare. I have to do what my mom asks me to do.” I was really touched by what he said. Thank God for giving my son an obedient heart, thank god for listening to my prayer -- to relieve his tension in his heart and to help him overcome his inner fear.



TERRY & JOCELYN & TOM & NATHAN

Then in May 2019, a nodule was found in my mom’s lung when she had a body check. At that time the doctor diagnosed that it was a suspected malignant tumor and an operation was recommended. All my family were very shock and could not believe because there were no any symptoms.

However, all the second opinions we sought from other experts were the same: to have an operation. My mom was arranged to wait for operation. All of us were sad and anxious. During that period of hard time, brothers and sisters of our church cared for us and prayed for my mom. When all of us were in this difficult situation, we deeply felt that we were so small and weak. What we could do was to pray God humbly and look upon Him whole-heartedly. At that time, we prayed, “O Lord, please have mercy on us and you yourself heal my mom so that she can recover without any operation.”

When there is no way out, He will make a way through (because men would not rely on God completely until there is no way out). As the Lord Jesus said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” When we entrust whole-heartedly and wait silently, we start to see God’s work, God bless us by making a way through. Our hearts changed from uncertainty to peace and confidence. In August, a pre-operation CT scan revealed that the size of the nodule reduced from 9 mm to 5 mm. The doctor excluded the possibility of a malignant nodule and concluded that it might be caused by pneumonia. Therefore, no operation would be required. Our hearts really flied from the valley to the heaven. Thank God! My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.

Our lives are having ups and downs as before; but in difficulties we see that God is with us and He cares for what we need. Therefore, we are not afraid in whatever situations. We cast all we care upon Him and trust Him whole-heartedly. We are confident to seek God’s kingdom and righteousness, to spread the gospel, to love my neighbour as myself, to do our best, and to glorify our God.

English translation: Sherwood Kwok

Knowing HCAC (14) – Nominating Committee and Congregational Ministry Committees

Nominating Committee (NC)

The Articles 8 and 9 of the C&MA of Australia's model Constitution for Local Churches (which is also the HCAC Constitution) provide that:

ARTICLE 8 – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

... The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Pastor, two Elders and two selected by the congregation, and shall be appointed at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall place in nomination one name for each office to be filled in the Annual Meeting.... Nominations in addition to those of the Nominating Committee may be made by Church members... Such nominations shall be in writing, duly seconded and contain the consent of the nominee....

ARTICLE 9 – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

9.4 Churches with Multiple Congregations

Where the Board of Elders recognise multiple congregations within the church, consideration should be given to the local church's need for congregational representation within the leadership structures of the church.

According to its Constitution and By-Laws, HCAC must set up a nominating committee, which shall be an annual appointment. Nominations for election must be made for lay Elders, Deacons, Treasurer and the Missionary Treasurer. The By-Laws stipulates that two members of the NC must be selected by the congregation at a General Meeting in order that the congregation's views can be reflected in the NC. Therefore, the role of the selected members is very important. The Nominating Committee shall also serve as the election office to ensure fairness and confidentiality of the election.

Before the annual general meeting, the Board of Elders (BoE) must decide the numbers of elders and the offices of the Board of Deacons (BoD) for the coming year. The NC shall place in nomination one name for each office of the BoD to be filled. Before the adoption of the By-Laws, HCAC has run the deacon elections without any NC; all nominations are made by church members according to the nomination rules. According to the By-Laws, nominations in addition to those of the NC may be made by church members.

Congregational Ministry Committees

The Article 9.4.2 of the Constitution also provides that a congregational leadership team (which may be called

Congregational Ministry Committee) may be established for each congregation in a church with multiple congregations:

(2) Congregational Leadership Team

In Multiple Congregational Churches, the Board of Elders may also consider establishing congregational leadership teams. Such teams would have the day to day responsibility for coordinating the ministry of their given congregation but will also work closely with and remain under the authority of the Board of Elders. The process of appointment or election of such teams shall be detailed in the church by-laws. The pastor of that congregation or their nominee shall be the chair of the congregational leadership team.

HCAC has in fact established, under the BoD, an Advisory Committee each for the Mandarin and English Congregations. Each of these two committees, chaired by the Senior Pastor, consists of the pastor and deacon as well as ministry leaders of that congregation. After the adoption of the By-Laws, the BoE may establish a congregational leadership team for each congregation. The pastor of that congregation shall be the chair and the Elder as well as the Deacon representing the congregation shall be ex-officio members of the team. All other members are to be appointed by the BoE. The structure and number of members shall also be decided by the BoE.

According to the Constitution, the church governance will be a 3-tier structure with clear delineation of roles and responsibilities as follows:

- Board of Elders: responsible for the spiritual work and leadership of the church.
- Board of Deacons: under the authority of the BoE, responsible for the financial and property matters of the church and the provision of those ministries designed to meet the physical and material needs of people.
- Congregational Ministry Committee: under the authority of the BoE, responsible for the day to day operations and coordinating the ministry of the given congregation.

The new church governance structure shall be able to care the spiritual work and meet the physical needs of each congregation more closely and to train up church members for leadership through a wider participation in governance.

May God bless our church that, in the year to come, members may be able to adapt to the new structure, the church governance improved, spiritual work more prosperous and members' participation more proactive.

Publisher: Hills Christian Alliance Church
Editor: Sherwood Kwok
Proof-reading: Sherwood Kwok, Anna Kwok

Advisor: Rev. Almon LI
Translators: Eve & Ivan Kwan, Iris Chau, Sherwood Kwok
Design/Printing: Ruth Yu