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Follow in the  
Lord's steps and become  
His real disciples

# Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

October 2017 – Issue 27

## Pastor's Sharing - To live a life worthy of the calling received

Rev. Almon Li

The church theme for this year is "Follow in the Lord's steps and become His real disciples". As we have become Jesus' disciples, we have to conduct ourselves in such a manner as to mimic His. Paul reminded us clearly in Ephesians 4:1 "to live a life worthy of the calling you have received". He also taught us the principles in 1 Corinthians Chapters 6 and 10 on how to conduct and behave ourselves:

1. Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial. (6:12a)
2. Everything is permissible for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. (6:12b)
3. So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (10:31)

**The foremost principle in guiding Christians' conducts is not to do anything non-beneficial.** We need to pay a price to be rewarded for doing something. If what we get is not beneficial but harmful, then the Bible teaches us not to pursue such deeds.

As an example: some believers would ask if they could play mah-jong. On one hand, the Bible does not state clearly that playing mah-jong is not permitted; and on the other, Christians have their freedom and see no reasons why they cannot do so. However, we have to weigh if there is any benefit to play mah-jong. Playing mah-jong involves four people spending their time as well as exploiting their health for no productive value out of the game.

Let us put in a bit of humour to the above scenario: Four people each bringing along \$500 for the game and have played for ten hours. We can then work out the following equation: 4 people + \$2000 + 40 hours = \$2000. In other words, four people spending 4-fold the time, but in the end not adding a cent of productive value to their life. In term of money, it is still \$2000 from start to finish with no added value. The game is wasting away of life as well as health, and may be even harmful to friendship. It can be concluded that playing mah-jong is non-beneficial and something we should not do.

You may oppose to what I am saying, arguing that playing mah-jong is just a game with Western style of scoring method which does not involve winning or losing money. Is it not the case that doctors would recommend the seniors to play mah-jong in order to prevent them from getting dementia or degeneration of the brain? So, it is an activity with benefits.

We have to acknowledge that some games are designed with gambling as its core purpose, and playing mah-jong is one of these. It is a human instinct to involve win/lose or wealth in spending time on such a game as playing mah-jong, otherwise it is not stimulating enough or being played to our hearts' content. If playing mah-jong is just for the sake of playing or for passing time, then many people would feel it not in harmony with the essence of the game. Likewise, when people come in front of godly idols with burning incense in their hands but claim that it is not their intention to worship idols, still in other people's eyes, theirs is a gesture of idols worshipping clearly seen and understood without excuse. Though chances might be that money not involved at the start of a game of mah-jong, yet little by little was put in as stimulants with snowballing effect to the point of trapping into gambling and one would then fall short of the testimony as a disciple.

Let me also ask you this: When you are playing mah-jong, do you have some sort of funny feelings of unease deep inside your heart? Are you hoping that the church leader is not going to appear at that moment? I heard that in Australia, there is a church where brothers and sisters would play mah-jong prior to their cell group meeting until the pastor arrives, they quickly pack up. If they have to do so in secret, then will such activity be pleasing God? Moreover, what will others think of you when you, as a Christian, are seen playing mah-jong? Is it possible for disciples to preach the Gospel while they are playing mah-jong? Can churches adopt mah-jong games in the preparatory process of preaching Gospel in order to attract newcomers?

Therefore, brothers and sisters, even though many activities are not designed in such a way as sinful and we could participate; yet as the Lord's disciples, we have to exercise our choice with care. We need to conduct and behave ourselves in accordance with God's principles to see if we could participate in certain activities.

I hope that each and every of us who has received God's calling is to become His real disciples. We will conduct ourselves in ways worthy of His grace. Then through us and by us, His name will be glorified and magnified.

So much for now in this edition and we will share the other two principles in the next edition.

English Translation : Winnie Chan

(Over the past 17 years since planting our church, we have used different approaches to spread the gospel and to get into contacts with non-believers, with one single aim – to let them know Jesus, who is the one we believe in and who is the true God creating the universe and all things and human beings.

One of the aims of the Women's Ministry is to attract non-believers through different activities and classes. So far the most stable program of the Women Ministry since its establishment is the Chinese Dancing Class. Every time when we have tea break, Rev. Li will tell a short story to share with us God's love. Although some participants are non-believers coming from other churches, we still consider that it is worth doing so if the gospel can be spread in this way.



We did once hold an evening Chinese dancing and musicals evangelistic meeting, which was however not so attractive to our targets perhaps because it was held at the night time. After review, we decided to suspend this for one year, hoping that we can do better in the future.



As women's ministry is important to church development, we have started the Genesis Bible Study Class since March 2016. The Class is held on Friday in the first, third and fifth weeks. Rev. Li has spent much time to prepare the notes and all the participants have benefited a lot, understanding more clearly about God's creation plan and His salvation.

The purpose of the Promotion Team is to tell, clearly and vividly, the congregation the coming events and programs of the church so that they will understand the church's ministries more and support the church's ministries and activities in their prayers.

We are thankful to God though we are not good enough. We thank also to brothers and sisters for their participation in these ministries, knowing that "your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Cor 15:58).

**English Translation: Sherwood Kwok**

## HCAC Choir

**Sylvia Li (Choir Conductor/Leader)**

Music is an integral part of a Christian's life. "Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people." (Psalm 149:1 NIV) "Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD." (Psalm 150:1-6 NIV) "... speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord..." (Ephesians 5:19 NIV) Music and praising God are inseparable.

Whenever we think of church music, we will think of the choir and the choir members in white gowns, singing majestic hymns. The Choir system was established by King David, and at that time, only Levites were allowed to serve in the Tabernacle. David selected 288 talented singers from 38,000 Levites to go through intensive training, roastered into 24 teams to sing praises to the Lord. Choirs perform the duty of priests, offering the fruit of lips; they also perform the duty of prophets, warning, comforting and consoling the congregation through lyrics.

The HCAC Choir currently has 10 members. We have regular practices on the first and third week every month after service. We have previously invited Pauline Chan to provide the Choir with basic vocalisation and music theory training. Currently, we are focusing on improving music sheet sight reading, toning and harmonising skills. In previous years, our choir mostly performed during festival season;

and from this year onwards, the choir starts to perform during the Holy

Communion. Not only does it give us an opportunity to serve more, but also to practise our skills and sing different songs. The temporal arrangement is for Lina to sing the melody and other members to harmonise. We hope the choir will be able to lead and harmonise the performance as a team.



As HCAC is a church which has adopted the mode of "hymns and praises", worship teams are established to lead the congregation during services. Some brothers and sisters may ask, "Do we need both the worship teams and the

choir?" Worship teams have different instruments -- keyboard, guitar, bass and drums -- and adopt a modern approach. Choirs, on the other hand, utilise human vocalisations and pianos. The choir and worship teams demonstrate different musical methods and combinations, they make use of different musical styles and elements to worship the Lord and equip brothers and sisters. The key is for a church to have sufficient resources, e.g. musicians and vocalists, a venue to practice, sound systems and visual output support.

We are grateful that HCAC has both the choir and worship teams. However, we note there is a shortfall of talents. We hope that brothers and sisters may keep our music ministry

in your prayers and that more brothers and sisters gifted in music may join us in this ministry. As a member of the music ministry, not only shall we strive in musical knowledge and skills, we shall also become a living example of Christ and live a life worthy of the calling we have received.

In the new heaven and the new earth, all believers will partake in the heavenly choir and sing new songs day and night to praise the Lord.

**English Translation: Iris Chau**

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## C&MA Australia position on same-sex marriage

**Rev. Ken Graham**



*Dear Alliance Family,*

*The Australian Government plans to conduct a postal vote seeking the opinion of Australians on redefining marriage. Ballot papers will begin arriving at our homes on 12 September, just a month from now.*

*Without binding consciences, please read the following as a request from the C&MA National Board that when the government asks for your opinion that you consider supporting the "NO" vote. This is in line with our C&MA statement on Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriage (below).*

*The C&MA Australia opposes the introduction of legislation for so called 'same-sex marriage'. We affirm that the true definition of marriage is found in God's Word: the life-long union of one man with one woman, voluntarily entered into, excluding all others.*

*We encourage every C&MA member and attendee to engage in the process and vote, and to "support the NO case", and then seek to persuade as many of their family and friends to do likewise.*

*We believe a postal vote can be won in favour of the current definition. There is a large number of Australians, many of whom have not had their say, who affirm the common view of marriage as God-given and God-blessed.*

*Your participation will make a difference, but we need you to be earnest, active and in prayer about it. The church must not be silent on this.*

*While we speak up and have our say, we do so with a gracious engagement and with respect for those with whom we disagree. While it should grieve us to be vilified by some members of the community for taking this position we should always respond with love and grace.*

*We do need to be engaged in the public square and speak up and ensure we use our freedom of speech, and speak the truth in a reasoned and respectable way. Other resources can be obtained from:*

*The Coalition for Marriage [www.coalitionformarriage.com.au](http://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au)  
The Marriage Alliance [www.marriagealliance.com.au](http://www.marriagealliance.com.au)  
The Australian Marriage Forum [www.australianmarriage.org](http://www.australianmarriage.org)  
ACL has many good articles [www.acl.org.au](http://www.acl.org.au)*

*As you may know the Electoral Role will close tomorrow (Thursday). Please check you are enrolled to vote, or register to vote now.  
<https://check.aec.gov.au/>*

*As we are able we will pass on to you further information.*

*Pastors and church leaders, please circulate this to your church members and attenders on behalf of the C&MA National Board.*

*Blessings,*

*On behalf of the C&MA National Board  
Rev Ken Graham  
President, C&MA Australia*

## **II HOMOSEXUALITY AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

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The basis for this statement of The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Inc ("**C&MA**") of Australia is:

- article [4] of its Doctrinal Statement:

*The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of his will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.*

- its published Objectives; and
- its Purpose Statement.

The purpose of this statement is to avoid the religious susceptibilities of members of the C&MA and the members of churches affiliated with the C&MA being injured and to maintain and provide for adherence to the doctrines of the C&MA.

According to Genesis 2:10-24 God created human beings, male and female, in His own image. In the New Testament, Jesus confirms the heterosexual creation of human beings: *"God made them male and female"* (Matthew 19:4). Throughout Scripture heterosexual families are the norm of society. Through this family unit the human race finds its survival and men, women and children find their home. The New Testament reinforces the teaching of heterosexual love and sexual relations within marriage alone (Ephesians 5:22-23; Hebrews 13:4; I Corinthians 7:1-5).

Alongside this clear biblical teaching on God's design for heterosexual marriage are found specific instructions in Old and New Testaments that prohibit homosexual conduct as out of harmony with the purpose for which God created human beings (e.g. Romans 1:18-27; I Timothy 1:9-11). Homosexual conduct, like all forms of sexual behaviour that violate God's original design, is sin.

Although homosexual conduct is sin, it is one sin among many by which we have been separated from God (Romans 3:23). Further, God has called His Church to be hospitable to those who are different, to the stranger, neither agreeing with behaviour contrary to God's will nor rejecting people created in God's image. The Church has been called therefore to be hospitable toward those of differing sexual orientations and behaviour while not condoning such behaviour.

The C&MA will therefore not tolerate any language of hate toward those who hold to a different view on homosexuality. C&MA churches, pastors, workers and members will treat persons who experience same-sex attraction, those who engage in homosexual conduct and their relatives with respect and compassion. Likewise, those who engage in homosexual conduct should be encouraged to attend Church services or activities in order to hear the good news of repentance, forgiveness and transformation through Jesus Christ which is available to all people. We affirm that *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* and that each of us is in need of the grace of God. The Scriptures strongly affirm the liberating power of the Christian gospel from all former sinful patterns of life, including homosexual behaviour: *"Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God"* (I Corinthians 6:9b-12).

The highest standards of life and conduct are required of those who serve in official and ministerial capacities in the Church of Jesus Christ, including the C&MA, and also of those who are received as members of local churches affiliated with the C&MA ("**C&MA Local Churches**") (Galatians 5:16-26; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-12). Homosexual conduct is one example of conduct that is not compatible with the orthodox interpretation of Scripture as set forth in the Doctrinal Statement of the C&MA and cannot be condoned. Therefore, persons who do not accept and adhere to the beliefs and doctrines of, and the standards and conduct consistent with the beliefs and doctrines of, the C&MA, which include, but are not limited to, persons who engage in, or promote, homosexual conduct and/or relationships shall not be qualified or accepted as candidates for ministry in, or licensing by, or appointment to serve in, the C&MA. Neither shall such persons serve as officers in C&MA Local Churches nor remain as members of, nor be admitted to membership in, a C&MA Local Church (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-11).

On the basis of Genesis 2:18, 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6 and Romans 7:1-3, marriage is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. Further the C&MA's Statement on Marriage-Divorce-Remarriage, states that *"...in no case ought any person to enter into any so-called 'marriage' with a person of the same sex..."*. Further no licensed worker or staff member in a C&MA ministry or C&MA Local Church shall, bless, or officially participate in, a marriage ceremony otherwise than in accordance with the beliefs and doctrines of the C&MA as set forth in Doctrinal Statement, its Objectives and its Purpose Statement nor are C&MA Church facilities to be used for the conduct of a "marriage" ceremony otherwise than in accordance with those beliefs and doctrines or in a way that would result in a marriage or civil union contrary to those beliefs and doctrines. It is the C&MA's statement that a "marriage" or "civil union" of persons of the same sex is contrary to the beliefs and doctrines of the C&MA.

This statement is to apply in Australia, each state of Australia and each territory of Australia (each a "**jurisdiction**"). To the extent any provision of this statement which in any jurisdiction is unlawful, or requiring compliance with its provisions in any jurisdiction would constitute unlawful behaviour or action in any jurisdiction, the provisions of this statement shall be read down in any such jurisdiction, to the extent necessary, such as to avoid any provision of it being unlawful and/or to avoid any behaviour or action, required to be taken in accordance with it, constituting unlawful, or discriminatory, behaviour or action.

A few years ago, I undertook a mission training course on how to spread the gospel to other people. This course was conducted by a guest speaker Rev. Lai. I was deeply moved during these sessions, but I never got the courage to take the first step, and as time goes by, I felt a sense of guilt within me.



HCAC later instigated the Dubbo short-term mission ministry. About 3 years ago, Anita, Connie and Calvin poured themselves into God's ministry in Dubbo, a rural suburb 5-6 hours' drive away from Sydney. The mission team visited Dubbo 4 times per year for the past 3 years, which they went up to the local Chinese community. From getting acquainted to building a friendship, we have gradually developed a bond of trust. We share God's love and the Gospel so that more people know God's great love.

This year, I joined the March 26 Dubbo short-term mission trip, accompanied was Anita, Connie and CCMHK Orange Missionaries Rev. Tong and Mrs. Tong. This three-day trip was quite intense and having met the local Chinese community was an exhilarating experience for me.

The first missionary experience is to be cherished, it gave me the confidence to go on, the conviction to commit to God's work. It also allows me to see that this is a blessing

from God, not only does it bring blessings to the local new and non-believers, but also blesses the missionary and its fellow brothers and sisters. We serve, experience and share the work of gospel together, utilise everyone's abilities and humbly take part in God's work. This sense of gratification and joy comes from the heaven above.

During our May mission trip, with the power and grace of God, this ministry bore its first fruit – Uncle Ho, a 94-year-old elderly. He has determined to accept the salvation from our Lord Jesus Christ and to profession his belief. This is such a bliss!

May God continue to look over our Dubbo ministry. May it grow abundantly. May our brothers and sisters be inspired and participate in our mission trips to spread God's gospel. Not only in Dubbo, but also other rural places, to reach the Chinese community there and let them know the Good News and experience God's great love. Hallelujah!

*[Editorial Note: According to the latest message from Connie, a young brother from the English Congregation joined the short-term mission trip to Dubbo in August 2017 for the first time. Also during this trip, another non-believer decided to believe in the Lord Jesus. Thank God for letting the team experience His power and faithfulness as well as the joy of sowing and harvesting. May all glory be to God.]*

**English Translation: Iris Chau**

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**Christianity Explored – Exploring the Christian Faith****Pastor Kenneth Leung**

*(Editorial Note: Volunteer Pastor Kenneth Leung has left his post since 1 July 2017. "Christianity Explored" was the last ministry before his departure. We thank Pastor Kenneth and Amy for their faithful service at HCAC. May God continue to bless and oversee their new ministry.)*

Knowing Lord Jesus is the greatest blessing in my life! Knowing, believing and leaning on Jesus is the most significant turning point in my life, I was made alive in Christ, so I would grasp every opportunity to introduce Christianity to friends who do not share my belief, and hope they will be able to experience this great blessing that I have come upon.



Thank God for allowing me to lead the course "Christianity Explored" <sup>(Note)</sup> alongside 7 fellow co-workers under the church's Evangelism Department! There were eight meetings throughout the course, held every second Saturday night at the Church Building, spanning from March until June. Participants included 5 non-believers, 5 new believers and 4

accompanying believers. This course focuses on the Gospel of Mark with discussions revolving around the 3 core questions in Christianity: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus come down to this earth? What does Jesus expect from His followers? For me, this was memorable four months which we shall give thanks to the Lord.

Why was it memorable? We began each gathering by having dinner together. Although it was not anything fancy or exquisite, we get to try an array of cuisines from everyone's hometown, different soups and various kinds of fruits and desserts. I truly thank God for His abundant provision, and thank brothers and sisters for their loving hearts and service, so that everyone can enjoy such scrumptious and delicious dinners.

Besides from dinner, our meetings also consist of the sharing of the Bible and the exploration of the Christian belief. We first gather and go through the main topic as a large group, then we would divide into 2 smaller groups for

discussions. During our sharing sessions, different queries on arises, though we each may have different views and opinions, this is how we get to know more about each other and our friendship grew fonder, most importantly, we get to see how marvellous God's word is, it is immersed in truth and power. As the author of Hebrews says, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 NIV). Through God's way, not only will us gain a better understanding of Lord Jesus and come to face God's perfection and holiness, but also to realise the lacking and sins of man. "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple." (Psalm 19:7-14 NIV). The Word of God is very true!



At our seventh meeting, we finally finished reading the whole Gospel of Mark. We went through Jesus' death, resurrection and His amazing grace on the cross. Although no participants responded to my calling on the day, the Holy Spirit has started its mystical work. At the last meeting, a non-believer professed his decision to become a Christian. What a great news! Such an amazing grace! "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10 NIV). Angels rejoice over one sinner who repents, we

certainly cannot suppress the joy and gratitude within our hearts.

Praise the Lord for letting us explore Christianity together for 8 weeks! During this journey, there were sparks between companions, there were witnesses to God's great love and the power of Gospel. I hope the church will consider doing similar courses in the future because while it is relaxing, it also pays extra attention to the message of Christ. May God continue to bless all participants, may the love of our Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! And may God greatly bless HCAC, may this church be the lamp on the stand, the light in darkness and shine before others, may this church continue to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations!

*Note: The "Christianity Explored" Course published by the China Alliance Press is similar to other general "Alpha Courses", with the aim to read into theological facts and FAQ in a relaxed environment, so that it is easier for participants to get involved and understand the Gospel and the Christian belief.*

**English Translation: Iris Chau**

## Knowing HCAC (7) – Church Administration

**Sherwood Kwok**

The word "church", which is originated from Greek (ekklesia), can be understood from at least four perspectives as below:

1. She is an organic body: She is composed of a number of believers. This organic body is called by God and Jesus Christ and connected by the Holy Spirit. This is the most essential component of a church (1 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13-27; Romans 12:5).
2. She is a church building: She is a place for believers to gather. It has been built by substantial materials on a well-defined boundary, visible, touchable, with a concrete shape and space. (Matthew 16:18)
3. She is an organisation of people: In this organisation the interpersonal relationship, roles and functions are defined.
4. She is a social organisation: A church must have certain relationship with the external world. She is a member of a society, with an appropriate relationship with the society.

Therefore, not only a church is a community of believers and of love, it is also an organisation in the world. Taking HCAC as an example, she is a member church of the C&MA, Australia, with almost 200 members. She has Cantonese, Mandarin and English Congregations, attended by almost 200 people weekly. HCAC has to follow the rules and

regulations of the C&MA, Australia as well as the Australian and local laws. As an organisation, HCAC has been operated through various units and ministries: Senior Pastors, pastors, deacons, Church Administrator, Pastoral Committee, Deacon Board, advisory committees, departments etc.

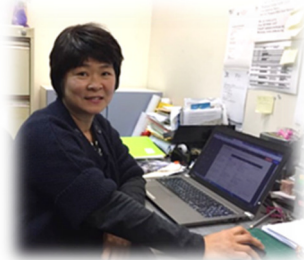
In the Early Church days, there were complaints by the Grecian Jews to the Hebrew Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. (Acts 6:1-4) This reflects that when the number of disciples was increasing, there were chaos and defects in their management system. There must be regulations and a good management on the catering function. Therefore, a church should have an organised operation to deal with matters arising from its growth in membership.

Church administration is a kind of spiritual ministry. God demonstrated his wisdom, ability and organisation in His creation so that we know that He Himself is the greatest administrative leader. The New Testament somehow revealed the embryonic form of church administration. There are a lot of things, big or small, simple or complicated, arising from ministries and general affairs of the church that have to be handled. Although the full-time Senior Pastor of a church is the top person responsible for both

spiritual ministries and church management, he must be supported by deacons and even salaried administrators because he cannot take up all things by himself.

As HCAC was not too large in scale with limited number of members at the early stage after its establishment, most of the administrative matters were taken on by pastors and deacons. Not until September 2002 was there a part-time church administrator. Ruth Yu, the present Church Administrator, has taken on the post on part-time basis since March 2003 (when there was only one congregation) till now (there are three congregations in one church).

The Church Administrator is mainly responsible for assisting pastors in church activities and in daily church operations, which can be categorised in the following three major areas:



#### 1. Executive and clerical

- Responsible for general clerical duties and daily administrative matters;
- Word processing (including weekly bulletins), designing flyers, printing items for church-use-only items (such as offering envelopes) and publications (such as bulletins, newsletters);
- Assist in managing and updating the church web page;
- Responsible for renting the venues for Sunday services;
- Liaise with the National Office of C&MA, Australia on matters related to compliance.

#### 2. Facility/property management

- Arrange repairs services under the directive of the Deacon i/c Building Management or report to the Deacon items requiring repairs services;
- Liaise with the National Office regarding the church building;
- Handle venue bookings according to the prescribed procedures;
- Manage notice boards and update notices displayed;

- Manage the offices, keys and equipment items such as computers, photocopiers, printers, telephones); arrange the uses, storage and maintenance of such facilities.
- #### 3. Accounting/purchasing
- Assist the Treasurer in handling financial matters and Petty Cash of the church;
  - Prepare books and financial reports for the Treasurer and the annual financial statements to AGM;
  - Submit the quarterly attendance and offerings statistics to the National Office;
  - Arrange the purchases of stationery, cleansing and miscellaneous items required by the church or as approved by deacons.

Although HCAC is now a church with 3 congregations each manned by a full-time pastor, the Church Administrator post has been on part-time basis due to limited resources. At present, Ruth has always worked overtime at home (for example, printing newsletters, bulletins) beyond her conditioned hours, i.e. 20 hours per week. Thank God for calling Ruth to serve at HCAC for over 14 years. She serves God faithfully because she is a HCAC member who regards the church as her own home.

A church is an organisation as well as God's home. Believers have their own obligations: to attend services, to give offerings, to grow in spirituality, and to serve zealously. There are many ministries and affairs in a church that require not only the pastors, deacons, leaders and church administrator but also each and every believer to participate and share the responsibilities. In the New Testament, all believers are stewards who are required to be faithful in all respects including serving God. One common phenomenon in today's church is that 20% of her members take up the workload that 80% of her members should do. We hope that all HCAC members can take up their own obligations to love and build up this home.

*Sources: Reference was made to articles on church organisation and administration written by Rev. Almon Li, Rev. Peter Wongso, Rev. David Cheung and Equipping for Christ. Thanks to Ruth Yu, Church Administrator, for providing relevant data.*