



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

2014 Theme: Reviving Worship, Spreading Gospel

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Pastor's sharing - Obedience

Annie Lin 林劍雯

God's work is wonderful. Though we had all along been serving in the Cantonese Ministry, we had numerous contacts with Mandarin-speaking friends. Even in the Cantonese-speaking cell group led by us, one half of the members were Mandarin-speaking. Recently we have taken part to serve in the Mandarin Ministry. God has refined me, helped me and changed me through my services in the Mandarin Ministry.

The church has decided to change the time of Mandarin Sunday Service. There is a pressing need to set up a Mandarin children ministry. I have never thought of serving in children ministry. I remembered that, in the first year of my conversion to Christianity, I did decline the invitation to help in Sunday school of the church, for whatever excuses I could think of. After joining the Hills Christian Alliance Church, our children Sunday school did once ask me to help but I was unwilling to do so because I considered that I really had neither talents nor gifts in serving children.

Knowing that the Mandarin Ministry would change the time of Sunday Service and set up children Sunday school, some brothers/sisters repeatedly persuaded me, "Annie, it is time for you to stand up, to establish the children Sunday school of the Mandarin Ministry." I was still unwilling to take up the task. I replied that I was incapable. I even recommended a sister to take up. But for no reason, the sense of urgency in setting up children ministry had



become stronger and stronger in my heart and the importance of children ministry clearer and clearer too. Eventually, I rang Amy and told her that I was willing to take up. I pleaded the Lord for a confirmation on this and, with His grace, it came quickly. I knew that I could no longer hide again this time and I said to myself that I must submit to God. I believed that He would help me because this was His order. I should rely on Him instead of my own ability and cleverness.

From the time I promised to take up the children Sunday school till now, I have walked my every step humbly and prayed much more for His guidance and preparation. I pray that the children ministry will be set up and developed in accordance with God's will; that each and every child will know God through the children Sunday school; that the children Sunday school will grow rapidly with God's grace; that the children ministry will glorify His name. Amen!

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman wake but in vain." (Psalm 127: 1)

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

My Thanksgiving Testimony

Ella Liu 劉鳳賢

My name is Ella. I have two sons, Jack and Henry.

I was living in the Mainland China when I was young. One day I passed through a family church. Being attracted by a very melodic song sung by the congregation, I attempted to go into the church to join the gathering, but was rejected because I was too young.

When I grew up, I got married and then migrated to Australia with my husband. Unfortunately, my marriage ended on a bad note and I was heart-broken and sad.

In 2008, I first attended the Sunday Service at the Hills Christian Alliance Church but I was late due to a parking problem. When I stepped into the hall, Rev. Li was preaching the sermon entitled "Dead Flies in Perfume" (Ecclesiastes 10:1). At that time, I realised that this was the place to which I should go; this was the home where my broken heart would be healed and comforted. I shed tears while listening to Rev. Li's sermon. I decided to have the dead flies in my life removed. With the guidance of the pastors and brothers/sisters, I came to know the Lord and was baptised to be a member of the church.

On December 22, 2013, my elder son, Jack, told me that he felt dizzy, his neck spine was painful, and one half of his body was numbed. Then on December 26, he told me that he was very uncomfortable. I asked him to seek medical advice the very next day. On December 27, Jack went to see our family doctor alone as I had to work. Then I received his call, being told that he should be hospitalised immediately for examination as advised by the doctor. I was very upset at that moment but I was not free to meet him right away. I told him that I would go to the hospital with his younger brother in the afternoon. After hanging up the phone, I prayed to our Heavenly Father immediately, asking for His protection and cure on Jack, and for His grace that all of the family members were healthy.

Having gone home in the afternoon, I picked up Henry and rushed to the Hornsby Hospital. When we saw Jack, he was having an MRI examination. The diagnosis was "Cavernoma in Spine". Jack was transferred to the



Royal North Shore Hospital immediately. At that time, my mind was blank and I was very scared, worrying that Jack's life was at great danger. On the way home with Henry, I was praying to the Lord continuously, asking for His cure and peace.

Henry and I rushed to the Royal North Shore Hospital after taking a light dinner at home. When I was driving to the hospital, my mind was so un-concentrated that I drove my car straight ahead at the entrance/exit of Pennant Hills M2 despite the red traffic light being on. All the cars on the 2-way road stopped at the junction and let my car through. Not until that moment did I realise that I had driven dangerously. Immediately I prayed to the Lord with Henry for His protection as I was His child. I prayed that Jack, Henry and I could meet safely at the hospital and we could celebrate the coming of the Year 2014. Then I got lost twice on the way and my car nearly collided with a 4-WD car at Beecroft Road. I believed that, without the protection of our Heavenly Father, Henry and I might have lost our lives in these two dangerous episodes occurred subsequently within the same day.

Having returned home late at night, I kept on praying. On the following day i.e. December 28, 2013 (Saturday), I called Rev. Li, informing him of Jack's hospitalisation. Rev. Li prayed with me right away. After the Sunday Service held on December 29, 2013, Rev. Li invited me to the stage for a group prayer with brothers and sisters for Jack. It was so touching. I had the comfort and peace which I had never got before. I called Jack and told him that he should not worry because brothers and sisters did pray for God's healing. In the afternoon, Rev. and Mrs. Li visited Jack while I went home with Ruth for certain matters.



On the next Monday, I met Calvin in the hospital, who visited his father hospitalised there. Calvin told me that Jack decided to follow Jesus when Rev. and Mrs. Li visited him yesterday. I was very happy because our Heavenly Father really loved me and my sons. I was grateful to my cell group, Pastor Vincent and Charis, Ruth and Edward, and Pastor Freddie's family. I also thanked Sue's family for their visits, comfort, and preparation of food for Jack. All these are the graces of God.

It was very uneasy for Jack in the hospital because of numerous blood-taking, X-ray examinations and laboratory tests. He told me that he really wanted to go home. What I could do was to comfort and encourage him, and keep on praying for him.

On December 31, 2013 (Tuesday), Jack called me, telling me that he could have a home leave because an examination scheduled for December 27, 2013 was

deferred to January 2, 2014 due to hospital's tight schedule in the year end. Then a miracle happened. The hospital arranged the examination for Jack on that Tuesday (December 31, 2013) so that Jack could go home with us to celebrate the coming of the Year 2014.

I was indeed thankful to God for all He had done on my son and me. He wiped my tears and I experienced His great love. I would give all the glories to Him and decide to follow Him in the rest of my life.

Amen!

(Post-script: There is a net-shape blood tumour on Jack's neck spine. He has kept on receiving medical treatments. Brothers and sisters are invited to pray for Jack so that God will heal and remove his tumour. Thank you for your care. May the Lord reward you.)

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

Senior Sunday School

Daniel Li 李兆球

Many years ago, a book by Hemingway, "The old man and the Sea" changed my view of elderly people. Elderly people are not people who are waiting for death to arrive. They are not useless, without common sense, and clueless about the way of the world. In fact, they still possess an immense amount of energy, a longing heart to pursue and improve, and an uncompromising spirit. They are also not resigned to setback. They are just younglings with a bit of age!

The book describes the experience of an old fisherman out at sea in order to kill an 18-metre Marlin. To keep his catch, he fought with sharks for three days and three nights. Finally, he returned to shore with bruises and scars, a beaten boat, and remnants of the Marlin. His persistence, bravery, tactics and stubbornness left a lasting impression on me.

- A 97 year old man, Dr. Allan Stewart acquired the title, Doctor;
- A 102 year old lady, Ruth Frith is still competing in javelin;
- A 93 year old man, Vic became the champion in

wood chopping;

- A 104 year old lady, Peggy McAlpine is paragliding even though she is confined to a wheelchair. It makes her feel as free as a bird to be able to fly;
- A 100 year old lady, Ya Li Zhang still continues to be a medical volunteer and choose to make life-saving her responsibility.
- Old Santa Claus is still participating in men's 100m race for 80 to 84 year olds;
- Richard Hughes declared to break the record for men's 4 x 400m at the age of 80





As I look back on a handful of older brothers and sisters who always sit quietly in the corner, waiting for pastors' sermons at church, I realised that they have no interaction with others. They neither have expressions of restlessness and melancholy, nor do they have expressions of joy. In just one quick hour, they return to their own "world" in silence!

As I slowly advance into this "elderly" stage, I do not want to become one of them! From being an infant, to a rebellious teenager, to a sensible young adult, to a weary middle-aged adult, to a relaxed matured adult, to a retired elder, they should be fighting to the end and never give up just like me! Not only do we have thorough Western and Chinese knowledge, we also have decades of experience and hardship. Are we just going to leave all of our victories buried here in silence? Impossible! Let us move forward together with courage and give it all our best!

Year after year, I have been the Senior Sunday School teacher. I am always there as I watch the elders arrive on time whether the sky is overcast or clear. I thank the

Lord for blessing them with good health and peace to live each passing day. I can be a teacher not because I am versatile. I am not able to explain every single word in the Bible to them. I share only the message of "Love and be loved" which I have learnt from my cell group and fellowship, and the sweetness of God's word with them. Nevertheless, some elders became weak and moved to nursing homes; some declined in health and left us; some even asked who Jesus is and what He had done for us year after year. As they seek enthusiastically without negligence and laziness, I ask God to give me more wisdom, smiles, patience and sincerity to face them. When we talk about the birds of the air, crops and barn animals, children and grandchildren, and our reflection of life, there is a mixture of tears and laughter. That moment made me feel very warm. Therefore, I would like to thank all the elders who have helped me grow. I would also like to thank our all-rounder assistant, who is also my other half, Mrs Hau Chun Mok, and other assisting brothers and sisters.

English Translation: Carol Li 李佩恩

Giving Thanks Everyday

It has been more than 6 months since I came to the Hills Christian Alliance Church in August 2013.

I really think that I should be thankful to God because I am still living and breathing when I wake up every early morning.

My job in my last organisation was very toiling. It seemed that on each working day I had no time at all to take a break. I did convey my concern to the management but in vain. I could do nothing but continue to do my own work diligently. Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." I prayed to the Lord for a job that would be suitable for me. However, the Lord did not answer to my prayer; He taught me that I should always be patient.

I had kept on praying for this perseveringly for more than one year. Eventually, I found a new full-time job in

February 2014. My new job is still busy but it has also given me much job satisfaction. I thank the Lord for hearing my prayer.



Edith Ip 葉謝美玲

In fact, it is my practice to recall what I have experienced during the day before I go to sleep every night. When I see that I am still healthy, living safely, and experiencing God's presence, I cannot help giving thanks to God from the bottom of my heart. I wish that you may also experience God's grace every day.

May glory and praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ!

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

Chinese New Year Thanksgiving Gathering Report

Ruth Yu 余黎志蓮

2nd February 2014 is the second day of Chinese New Year. On that evening, brothers and sisters of all ages shuffled into the church building as they ready themselves to give thanks and praise to the Lord.

The Thanksgiving Gathering commenced with the hymn “The Gift of Knowing You” led by the worship team as a prelude. It was followed by hymns, psalms, and words of thanksgiving by eight cell groups to offer their gratitude and thanks to the Lord.

Starting from cell group Hosea to Barnabas, everyone recounted with sincerity and genuineness the protection and care that God had manifested in their lives.

A summary of each group’s performance:

Hosea Cell Group	Hymn: I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
Amos Cell Group dressed in traditional Chinese clothing	Hymn: The Endless Love of God, Thanks to God
Joel Cell Group	Hymn: Road is still beautiful
Elderly Group	Read out thanksgiving fai chun (New Year Messages)
Malachi A, B Cell Group	A Chinese New Year Hymn along with a video
Zechariah A, B Cell Group	PPT, background hymn –

	Going Forth
Testimony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Sue Xiao who witnessed the process of how her mother came to believe in God and the amazing works of God in her mother’s life. 	
Testimony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ella Liu sincerely spoke of God’s care and guidance in the life of her eldest son. 	
Habakkuk Cell Group	Used the hymn “The Gift of Knowing You” as background music whilst the members read out a Psalm to praise God
Barnabas Cell Group	Hymn: God’s Grace

Now I would like to use the thanksgiving fai chun (New Year Messages) “Serving – incredible and joyous” by the seniors of the Elderly Group to encourage all brothers and sisters to let “Serving – incredible and joyous” become our attitude in serving God.

English Translation: Carol Li 李佩恩





Corner of Newsletter Team

The church newsletter is to provide a place for brothers and sisters to share. This is not what our weekly bulletin or church website can achieve. The continuation of newsletter is solely relied on your support. We hope to see your sharing in our next issue. All articles can be sent to admin@hillscac.org or to Ronald, Grace, Juanita, Lincoln, Simmy or Sherwood. Articles can be either in English or Chinese. We'll translate your articles so that your sharing can reach every member of the Church family.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Carol Li (李佩恩) for her service and support in the newsletter ministry. For over 3 years Carol has been a faithful servant translating articles since the first issue. Her service has made the newsletter possible to be published in both Chinese and English. As Carol is going to move to Hong Kong in the near future may God bless her and her family in all ways everyday!