



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

2013 Theme: Missional Life

Issue 9
Jan 2013



Pastor's sharing

梁平莊 Kenneth Leung



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A young boy grew up in a loving home with loving parents and siblings, so his childhood was very happy. When he came out to society to work, because of his excellent people skills and manners, many called him a good man. Everything was, according to him, 'smooth sailing', which included his family, job and marriage. However, under such peaceful circumstances, this man started playing Mahjong and gambling to pass time.

He claimed to be an Atheist but he would also worship various idols every now and then because somewhere in him felt that there must be a 'Power' somewhere in this big universe. His sister is a Christian and she would often talk about the Gospel to him; however, because of his arrogance and believing that he is really a 'good man', and on top of that, he was living a peaceful life without adversities, one day he told his sister not to talk about Jesus to him ever again because he will never believe in Him. *Who is this man to say such a thing?*

This man was me. A man by God's grace, not only has forgiven my sins and given me eternal life, but He has blessed me to use me as His servant. God has shown me His love and grace in my experiences as a Christian – in my weakness He worked miracles in me. I feel like my serving in church has been like Moses's experience. When God told Moses to tell Pharaoh to "Let My people go", Moses's reply was an excuse that he is not good at public speaking. But God reassured Him that He is the Lord who created mouths, Who can make someone mute and ears

deaf, and eyes to see.

These words from God have motivated me to serve in the Mandarin congregation. For unless the Lord has given me strength and confidence, I would not have this courage and peace to serve here. I know I am not fluent in my Mandarin – and just like a non-athletic person participating in the Olympics, I am like that when it comes to Mandarin. But the God we believe in is a God of Greatness. He said that My grace is enough for you because My power is revealed in the weak. Serving in the church has once again made me experience the greatness of God.

I have been involved in HCAC-Mandarin for almost four months now. I must praise the Lord for accepting and bearing with me. He often encourages me in my lack of Mandarin-speaking skills. I would like to especially thank those who love me and prayed for me. I ask the Lord to continue to give my wife and I faith and joy in serving the brothers and sisters in HCAC-Mandarin. May we be in unity, encouraging one another, and building the church up together. By God's grace, let's fight this beautiful war so that our God may be glorified!

English Translation: 李樂恒 Rachel Li



Deacon's sharing

李光 Carter Li

Looking back on the past two years, I gained so much under the leadership of Rev. Li and working together with our brothers and sisters to build the church. As a result, God has changed me. I was once a self-centred and dominant man but now I have learned to share with others, listen and accept other people's opinions. I have also learned to patiently love others.

Looking after the general management of the church is easy yet challenging. I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters who come help set up and pack up at the church. You are all very dedicated and committed to the church. I would also like to thank my wife, Elaine, who helps out in preparing the Holy Communion on the first week of each month. Everyone's help and initiative makes the general management of the church easier and better.

During these two years, the Lord has also allowed me to experience many difficulties, weaknesses and trials. Even though sometimes I felt helpless, God's grace was enough for me! May God continue to bless our church and that we may continue to hope in the Lord together. The Lord's will is not Man's will. May we continue to live in God's will. May all glory and praise be to our God.



English Translation: 李樂恒 Rachel Li

2012 Christmas Plan?



Once again, it was December, a very special month. Apart from having many days of public holidays and school holidays, the most important thing of all is the celebration of Jesus' birthday!

Every November, I would begin to plan my schedule for December. Over the last few years, I would visit aged care facilities and organise Christmas concerts. Although most elderly would spend their Christmas with their families, a minority would remain at the nursing home. It saddens me every time I think about it. So I want to do something for them and add a bit of colour to their Christmas.

Throughout the last six years, I had visited different nursing homes to hold concerts during school holidays. I thank countless friends and the classmates of my son for their support all the way, making this volunteer work

possible. There were also brothers and sisters from Hills Christian Alliance Church who were involved. Praise the Lord!

This year had been very special. In this December, there were four incidents of "first time"! Firstly, my son, Hayden and I had this opportunity to visit Pennant Hills Aged Care with other brothers and sisters to sing hymns and share the gospel with the elderly. There were even a few elderly who made their decisions to follow Jesus. This type of serving is our first, and we are very happy and thankful!

During the weekend before Christmas, Hayden was invited by his senior to take part in street performance. It was both very nervous and exciting as there was bound to be some pressure in street performance and chances of colliding with classmates were high. In addition to all that, the weather was steaming hot. Fortunately, there were many people who stopped by to appreciate and take photographs, giving them a lot of

鄭婉貞 Fione Kelly



compliments and encouragement. Even though these two days had been hard, it was truly a precious experience.

On Christmas Eve, I held two music concerts in two different aged care facilities nearby. One was in the morning and the other was in the afternoon. Even though I was well experienced with working with arrangements and liaison, organising two concerts in one day had been exhausting. This was particularly true in the second concert as I had included a question and answer game to bring out the message of Christmas and the bible. Although we did not get a lot of reaction, we hoped that the message had been delivered to each person's heart. I will absorb this experience, in hope of delivering more messages from the gospel next year. May the Lord bless me with strength!

Throughout the past, the concerts that I have organised were for pure appreciation of music. This year, one of the nursing homes suggested that I could form a team for Christmas Carol and sing in each ward, with a total of four wards on Christmas day as most elderly who remained at the nursing home for Christmas were either

reduced in mobility or ill. In the beginning, I was lacked in faith because I knew how busy brothers and sisters were on Christmas day. In addition, our church had Christmas service, and time would be way too tight. So who would participate? Thus I prayed for God's guidance and started inviting brothers and sisters. Initially, almost everyone rejected. In the end, I made a decision that even if it was to be just our family of three, we would still go because we did not want the elderly to be lonely and disappointed on Christmas day. Lastly, I want thank those brothers and sisters from Cantonese and English congregation who participated on the day. Even though preparation was not enough, and we had to repeat the same songs in every ward, which was a difficult task, I believe that we had already delivered God's love through the songs to everyone's heart, including the elderly, their families, friends, and all the employees. Thank God for guiding and supporting us all the way. Hallelujah!

(If your family or friends are interested to join this type of ministry, please contact me.)

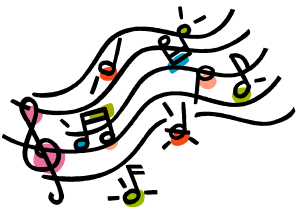


English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li



Musical Evangelistic Event Sharing

杜麗娜 Lina Tulio



We thank God that on the 6th October; our church's evangelical play went smoothly and had ended within two hours. Behind these two short hours, we

had used almost two years to prepare and plan. There were about forty to fifty brothers and sisters on- and off-stage, not including ushers, counsellors and prayer warriors. There was even a sister in Christ who provided food for on- and off-stage workers on the day, playing a part in this ministry indirectly. Through all these, we could see how God touched the hearts of his people to serve in this ministry in unity and finish it smoothly.

Thinking back over the preparation period, I had truly experienced God's grace and lead. Initially, I invited a very talented sister in music to be our music director and be in charge of the musical's songs and music. Having this in mind, this ministry did not appear too hard for me. After praying thoroughly, God touched the committees of this ministry and we finished the script. When we began composing the songs, the sister mentioned above had to recoil from this ministry due to some private issues. At that very moment, I was really worried and scared. I was scared because I could not find anyone to replace her. I was also scared because our music knowledge was limited, and there were so many things that we had not done before. So, I was weighed down by a lot of pressure and there were nights when I could not fall asleep. One night, I even had a dream, which was like a picture which showed me where my problem was. I was in a very dark place. I could not see anything. All I could only feel was a force which drove me against a wall. I could not breathe. I was really scared so I called out to Jesus to save me. But my voice was really weak. After calling a few times, still, Jesus did not save me. At that moment, I pondered why Jesus did not save me. Was it because I was lacked in faith? I



told myself that I had to have faith in Jesus and that He will save me. So I called out to Jesus again, this time much stronger and louder than before.

Then I woke up. The force had disappeared. This dream reminded me that I was exactly in the same situation in reality. I could not see the road ahead of me and I did not know how to face all the dilemmas, causing me to be pressurised. Even though I had come to God in prayer, my faith was lacking. This dream reminded me to have faith in God. Despite the ministry was filled with worries, fears and tears, each time after the tears, I had joy. This joy was from God. He had let me experience his presence, and made a way for me before me. God had also trained me to trust and have faith in Him. Through the bible, God had given me a lot of reminders and encouragement, like the following bible verse in Corinthians 3:5, "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."

The Lord always uses those who are weak, despised and lowly to finish His work so that all glory belongs to Him and not to a human being. So under God's guidance, I learned music production. I also invited a group of brothers and sisters who were gifted with the gift of music and composed music and lyrics. Together, we came up with ten songs for the play. In the midst of our weaknesses, draw backs and failures, God demonstrated His wisdom. In our weaknesses, God's power was magnified. His power was made perfect in the weaknesses of men. In Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I want to give all praise and glory to our Lord.



English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li



Christmas Eve Evangelistic Event Sharing

李劉德麗師母 Marianna Li

We really thank the Glorious Melody (佳韻) music team come to our church to help the meeting. The theme of this Evangelistic "is Love". The team had done well preparation before December. We start intensive promotion in October. Everything seems ready.

However on that night, the Pennant Hills Community Hall was occupied by a dancing group. We had booked the hall, but we did not argue with them because we do not want to loss of Christian witness. We then moved to intermediate hall.

By the grace of God, we still can have a wonderful time. The team members of Glorious Melody (佳韻) can adopt a new environment. Even though the space is much smaller, those performances had not been affected much. On the other side, we feel warm atmosphere in smaller place and could enjoy it. There are a lot of new comers on that night and they enjoyed much. We pray that gospel seed had been planted in their hearts.

May all the Glory go to our Heavenly Father!





November 2012 Baptism Event



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 Elaine, Grace, Juanita, Lincoln or Simmy. 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.