



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

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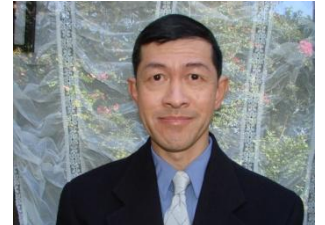
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The Mandarin Ministry on the Hills

許友為傳道 Terry Khor



I lift up my eyes to the Hills –
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

(Psalm 121:1 & 2)

The vision of having a Mandarin Church on the Hills, close to the train station and the library, is certainly from the very heart of our Heavenly Father. Rev. Li and a few of our Mandarin speaking brothers and sisters captured this vision and planted Hills Christian Mandarin Alliance Church about five years ago. This was not an easy road to travel, yet through their persistence and much prayer, the church stands as it is today. It is the grace of God that sustains the church all these years and by His grace alone we shall move into the next phrase of our church life.

Equipping the saints for the service of the Lord shall be our focus; and worshipping the Lord with all that we are and with all that we have shall be our objective. Most of the church members came from Mainland China, and some from Taiwan, where the opportunity to worship God and to live for His glory was not part of the daily routine, but rather looked upon as "unusual", and sometimes even life threatening.

Enjoying the fresh air of the Hills, the trapped souls are liberated. Such freedom in the Spirit is to be treasured and protected, not only for ourselves, but also for the many, to which the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their hearts is still a foreign concept. Coming from a culture that is full of turmoil and uncertainty, to have Christ as our firm foundation and to anchor our faith on the saving grace of Jesus Christ's sacrificial death, is a spiritual reality too blessed to utter. Yet to utter we must; so the Mandarin Church is to be an equipping centre to train disciples to walk on the big wide ancient land of China, until the Ancient of Days is the Lord over the beautiful Chinese land which He has created for His glory and honour.

It is a great honour and a delightful privilege to be part of God's work in the Hills for the Mandarin speaking Chinese. May God continue to bless this Church, and may our Lord Jesus Christ be rewarded by the many souls saved through this community.



Sharing of Overseas Missionary Work

周傳道 Pastor Chu

A few days ago I received news from a weekly newspaper. The article is about looking at China through the Bible. It is true that China's economy has been rapidly rising, the society is opening up more now, and the country has also gained prominent standing in the international arena.

The Church is in desperate need of revival, as under famine, humans are desperate for food, and especially in Christian Faith in a culture of spiritual deprivation, they are desperate for God.

Praise the Lord that I have come to know the mission team whom I'm serving with. This is a team that does not receive any support from overseas. God has called a faithful and loving brother in Christ to start this mission in China. He was a businessman and had his time of fame and glory, however, until one day God's light shone on him. He saw the need in China, so he decided to start this mission to train up disciples to teach the Truth to the Chinese in China. So far, the team focuses on systematic training, Bible classes, worship training, outside evangelism, etc.

I'm so honoured to join this team. During the training period, not only are we required to serve the needs of fifty to a hundred people, we are to use the Scriptures to encourage, support and care for many problematic students. Through sharing our own personal experiences, many received healing from the grace of

God. Watching so many faces drenched with tears reminded me of the joy that we can receive from the grace of God. This is all worth it.

After the training, my colleagues and I was sent out to the mission field up north. We went through four towns and five ministering spots. It was a very cold experience. There were many experiences when we gathered together at church in the extreme cold weather – our fingers almost froze! There we listened to the Word of God and sang hymns. I saw deeply the presence of God amongst us.

The most unforgettable experience was during Christmas. Many came without any money, so we gave some money to support them for Christmas. They were so happy and even came to help decorate the church. On such a cold Christmas Eve evening, we made the church into a very bright and beautiful place full of lights and balloons. The next day on Christmas day, everyone came holding a peanut lolly in their hands... we were all so happy.

God is raising up China. We often hear of Jesus' second-coming soon. If in a place of over a billion people where Christian missionaries are being called to spread the Gospel there, I believe, Jesus' return will not be very far away.

English Translation: 李樂恆 Rachel Li





“Start anew and be empowered to live out God’s love” – 2011 Chinese Christian Alliance Churches camp

蔡黄玉婷 Shirley Cai

There was a camp held by many Christian Alliance Churches in April this year. To those who participated, were the camp just three brief days or three enriched days? To me, it is indeed once again another experience to “start anew and be empowered” by God.

I already cannot remember how I was appointed to serve in this ministry. From the day of our first meeting in the beginning of last year, I have thought of quitting on countless occasions. Apart from Reverend Li, others serving in this ministry are all deacons, pastors, etc. Deep inside, I kept asking myself “who am I to serve”?

But the Lord did not let me refrain from this ministry. Through His words from the bible, He gave me strength to continue and finish this ministry. In 2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” Yes, though we are like jars of clay, the Lord still loves us. All we need to do is to obey, and He will use us to finish the work He wants us to do.

From deciding the theme, direction, form of meeting, venue, speakers to deciding the little details of the camp, a beautiful and touching picture appeared before me. A group of committee members who were once strangers became united in the Lord, humble and gentle, placing themselves wholeheartedly in the Lord. Although it is important to accomplish this ministry faithfully, it is even more important to look upon God together throughout the ministry and experience Him. On many occasions, our meetings finish at around 10pm. The few who live in Rockdale and Hurstville

never grumbled, and continued serving God in humility!

Our speaker, Reverend Young Man Chan, came all the way from Hong Kong. In his short stay of a period of ten days, his schedule was fully packed. When I first saw Reverend Chan, I saw a man never tire of working for the Lord. The reminders behind every sharing and joke were full of “Young Man”. The three topics include “encounter God’s love”, “experience God’s love”, and “live out God’s love”. Reverend Chan openly shared his own life and experience in his family and church. He also shared with us how to live out God’s love as Christians in our encounters and surroundings. Before the camp finishes, a lot of brothers and sisters openly shared their feelings. Their laughter and tears were life’s most genuine response. Thinking back the preparation we have done over the year, a committee member has once half-joked that he or she was “willing to die doing this”. Isn’t this what the Lord wants?

“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

“Start anew and be empowered to live out God’s love” is every Christian’s goal and hope, especially those who are very busy in life. When we are too tired to serve and take care of those around us, I hope that we will go back to the Lord and wait for him to fill us with his power and strength to love those around us.

English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li



HCAC and Rev. Young Man Chan



Camp - Worship Time



Dinner after camp

Cell Group Sharing - Amos

Anita Chan

In the blink of an eye, my husband and I have already been in Hills Alliance Christian Church for over three years now. Under God's care and guidance, I have already served the Amos cell group for about two years as the cell group leader now. I really thank God for the chance to learn and grow with my group members. There have had been many problems, but I still trust in the Lord, handing them over to Him, and praying for them every day. I pray that the Lord will take good care of them. I also pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them, that their spiritual lives will grow, that they will follow the Lord daily in love and glorifying Him.

I always lead the cell group with a thankful, joyful, and trembling heart. I keep reminding myself to be cautious of my own actions and words as I might hurt my group members unconsciously. I also keep reminding myself to remember God's words and project them in action, such as accepting and forgiving others. At the same time, I try to know my group members and build a positive and healthy relationship with each of them so that we can share our lives, whether for the good or for the bad.

For the following, I give thanks to God:

1. Simmy as an assistant cell group leader, working and walking with me, while sharing and carrying the responsibilities.
2. Rebecca encouraging Bosco, and serving the Lord together with Him.
3. James has risen to serve God, becoming a faithful deacon.
4. Lee Duong's increasing love for God, living in harmony with her husband, and producing patience and gentleness.
5. Elaine as a living testimony to God, living out Christian's peace and joy.
6. Janet and Andy becoming closer with other members in the cell group.
7. Russell handing over his life to the Lord, and is now living a peaceful life. He also has the ability to look after his family, working daily as per normal, and letting the Lord lead his life.
8. Lastly, I give thanks for a husband who loves and serves the Lord, and his brothers and sisters. I also give thanks to the constant changes in his spiritual life.

English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li





Source of the stream of grace

吴宗琦 Helen Wu

I still remember the day when I left my country and people around me asking me “why?” They sized me up as they asked with an envious and jealous tone. To them, it is as if I am going overseas to make a large fortune or start some sort of business. Deep down, I understand that taking this step can either lead me to a smooth sailing life or to an abyss. Even so, I just wanted to go nevertheless.

When I first believed in Jesus Christ, I wanted to share this treasure with others desperately. The Lord wants those who believe in him to love him with all his heart, soul, and mind. God did not gift me with eloquence in speech, but I was reminded that I can use my pen. Although my writing skills are limited, it is much better than my oral skills. To me, writing enables me to convey my feelings within me. With this simple thought, I hope that through my writing, the Holy Spirit who has touched my heart will touch others in the same way too.

With God’s grace, and the support from Pastor Xu, and many brothers and sisters, “Stream of Grace” has

finally been accomplished. After two series, there is a shortage of manuscripts. My heart raced with anxiety, so I prayed to God. The Holy Spirit let me see the anxiety in me, and showed me the fear that was in me. I was afraid that people will doubt my ability, and cannot continue on with this work. Then the Lord helped me to understand that this is the church’s current spiritual condition, and removed the anxiety in me.

God’s creation is ever so miraculous and wonderful. Even the vitality of a small tuft of grass is so strong that it can grow through the tiny gaps in concrete. The Lord has sowed the seed of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, is this no match against the vitality of a small tuft of grass? If God wants to accomplish something, what and who can stop it?

I hand “Stream of Grace” over to the Lord, and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and lead us. May the Lord bless and use it.

English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li



Members of our church family



何西阿组

(Back row) Don Huang 黃衛東, Roger Du 杜學永, Carter Li 李光, Johnny Li 李始奇, Calvin Hsu 徐光岩, Daniel Li 李兆球

(Middle row) Joanne Ou 李歐雪蓮, Annie Lin 林劍雯, Marianna Lau 李劉德麗, Almon Li 李智峰, Elaine Zhang 李張玉玲, Zhang Yan 徐張艷

(Front row) Sharon Liang, Julie Wu 吳海清, Betty Li 李碧虹, Petraine Mok 李莫巧珍, Amy Wu 吳玉華

约珥组

(Back row) Joong Yan Young 楊頌仁, Cecilia Young 楊曾佩蘭, Hilda Mok 莫黃瑞鈿, Penny Lim 林好祐, Lori Lo 盧玉娟

(Front row) Steven Mok 莫寶興, Nicky Lee 李何桂卿, Jerry Hui 許方珠, Leo Lee 李永源





Theme of the year: Armoured and prepared, fighting the battle for God Jul – Sep subtheme: Offering



Offering is to give our sovereignty to God, obeying God's Word everyday.
But how can I protect my heart?



Oh, Lord, the weather is quite cold today. I will wait till it gets warmer first before I participate in church activities.

Oh, Lord, I understand what the Reverend is saying, but let me go to DFO for some shopping first before I ponder deeply into this topic.



Praise the Lord for giving me so many gifts, that I may do well at work. I hope I can continue to do well at work, and then after I retire, I will help serve at church.

English Translation: 李樂恆 Rachel Li

Corner for 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 hcac10@gmail.com or Simmy, Elaine, Grace, or Lincoln. 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.