



# Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

2012 Theme: Committed to Christ  
Jul – Dec Subtheme: Spread the Gospels

Issue 7  
Jul 2012

## Letter from Pastor Derrick

Pastor Derrick Hooper



Hello Hills Christian Alliance Church,

Rev. Li has asked me write a letter of introduction to the church, and so here it is.

### Derrick – my long story short.

I grew up in the multicultural South West suburbs of Sydney. I have always enjoyed learning about other cultures and especially the food. My father is a Pastor and taught me the gospel from a young age, I was baptised at 14. After school I served in the Australian Army for four years, including a 6 month tour of service in East Timor.

This was a very difficult experience as I was the victim of bullying and harassment due to my faith in Christ. I became very depressed and blamed God for allowing the bullying to happen, and to my shame I walked away from Christ at this time. I proceeded to fall deeper into the world of sin and ended up as a drug addict. I was very confused and depressed and felt lost and alone. I cried out to God and prayed “God if you love me then will you save me. I cannot save myself, I have tried to fix myself - to break the addictions and heal my hurts - but I cannot. I give up. I’m not going to try anymore. If you want me then you save me I will not even try anymore.” That night God visited me in several dreams through which He broke through the confusion and helped me to see the truth of His gospel and His love. I prayed a prayer of confession and laid down everything I owned and everything I was at the altar, and gave everything back to God. I spent 9 months in a rehabilitation clinic run by Christians and have never again touched any drugs.

I have spent the last 5 years at Morling College studying the Word of God and training for pastoral ministry. I have completed a Bachelor of Theology, and am currently working on a Masters of Arts in Theology. It is my long term goal to serve as a cross cultural missionary. I hope to teach theology in the less developed parts of the world.

### Derrick and Julie – A love story.

In my first year at Morling we were assigned into teams for partnership mission, a short term mission trip to assist local churches around the state, I was assigned to the team heading to Jervis Bay Baptist. When we arrived we were informed that the senior pastor was away due to an unavoidable prior arrangement but that the youth and children’s worker (Julie) would help facilitate the mission teams’ visit. I took little notice and proceeded to unpack things from the car and enter to church for the meeting to plan the mission activities. Then I saw the most beautiful young women enter the room, with dark curly hair and big brown eyes and I said to my friends, “who is that!” And they said, “That’s Julie.” From then on I had a new mission – to get her phone number.

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Julie ran the mission team like a tight ship; she bossed me around all week and I knew this was the girl for me. Somehow God tricked her into liking me as well and at the end of the week she gave me her phone number. We spent the next year talking on the phone, until finally she moved to Sydney and began studying and living in the women's block at the same College. In 2009 I proposed, and Julie made me the happiest man alive when she said yes. We were wed in Nov 28 2009.

### **Derrick, Julie and Joab – the love grows.**

After two years of marriage Julie and I thought that it was time to begin our family and by God's grace on December 1st 2011 Joab Jim Hooper was born. He has his mother's eyes and beautiful face. We named him Joab after King David's general in the hope that he will be a mighty warrior for God, and Jim after my grandfather who passed just before Joab was born. I never fully understood God's love for us as his children until I looked at my own son, now I know that God would do anything to help us.

### **Pastor Derrick – of the English congregation.**

Since starting at HCAC I have greatly appreciated the work that Tony and Margie and the fellowship committee team do. They have all been working so hard and giving so much for this church. Coming from a western (Caucasian) church context I was surprised and excited to see so much enthusiasm and energy from the team to be involved and help out with running the church.

The fellowship committee is very good but also young. I don't want to stifle the energy and enthusiasm that they have but I to provide them with some guidance. I will be running some training courses through the Alliance

College, to give the team some more ideas and knowledge about how to do the things they are already doing even better.

Rachel Li had been coming back to Friday youth once a month to help out with some of the preaching, but she has finished this and now has her own ministry to be attending to. We pray that God would bless her in her new role. To fill the extra place each month I have begun inviting some people who I know are good teachers, to come as visiting speakers.

The preaching at the Sunday services has been going well, but I noticed that there has not been much structure to this in the past. Each preacher would pick their own passage or topic, so that one week the sermon could be from Isaiah while the next week it was from John. So I have commenced organizing some teaching series. We are currently doing a series on Leviticus.

One group I feel has been getting overlooked a bit is the junior high school aged students. Though the older kids love and welcome them, they are simply different stages of development. The teaching and activities that are suitable for junior high and the teaching and activities that are suitable for senior high are simply different. To address this and provided suitable teaching and fellowship for the junior high aged kids I have been speaking with the parents and deacons about starting a new second fellowship at an earlier time for junior high, separate from the current fellowship which is aimed at senior high. This I hope to start in fourth term this year. It would be for years 7-9, though we would welcome the year 6 students to join the junior high fellowship in fourth term and encourage the year 9 students to join the senior high fellowship in fourth term.

I am excited about the journey ahead with HCAC.

May God bless our church.

Chinese Translation: 蘇納 Lup So





## Children Ministry Sharing

李文舜 Ronald Li

“It takes ten year to grow a tree, but a hundred years to nurture people.” This old Chinese saying pointed out that it takes a lifetime to mould a person’s character. It is vital for the church to nurture future leaders from the next generation. Living in Australia, a western society, we are able to enjoy a lot of freedom. In schools, individualism is strongly implemented and individual rights far exceed that of the workings of our society. Morals and standards are now shaped according to one’s experiences. People can do whatever pleases them as long as the law of the country is not broken.

I have already been working in the education profession for 30 years. Young people are like pieces of white paper that can be painted with different colours, and giving totally different results. Two years ago when I was chosen to become a deacon, I accepted this ministry with a heart full of joy. At that time, we faced a decrease in teaching staff. Initially, I wanted to solve the problem by finding an alternative curriculum which suits our church. But this has been suspended due to the diverse opinions from our teaching staff. In the end, the original problem only intensified. In the same semester, three teaching staff left with only one month’s notice, each with their own reason. This complicated the roster and other arrangements. We appealed to the congregation for our needs, but only a few brothers and sisters responded.

Looking back over the last two years, children ministry has been met with all sorts of obstacles, one after the other. But in the end, we weathered through them. Apart from thanking all the brothers and sisters for their prayers, I really have to give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ. Once, the twelve apostles and Jesus faced a terrible storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee. After Jesus was woken up by his terrified apostles, he calmed the storm, and said, “Do you still have no faith?” (Mark 4:37-40)

As a servant, it is vital for me to learn to have faith in Him wholeheartedly and to look up upon Him consistently. The Lord has His own timing. All we need to do is to serve Him faithfully, handle things step by step, and the Lord will definitely finish His work.

I sincerely hope that more brothers and sisters in our church will participate in children ministry, causing Hills Christian Alliance Church to become a lamp stand for Christ. Let us all work towards the nurturing of spiritual lives and the spreading of the gospel to other Chinese in Pennant Hills area.



English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li and 蘇思敏 Sylvia So







## Cell Group Sharing –Malachi B

蘇思敏 Sylvia So

Due to expansion of our group and recruitment of new members, Malachi cell group has been split into A and B groups since March last year. Apart from existing members (Sylvia, Ronald, Wylie, Juanita, Lily, Jessie, Jessica and Agnes), Julienna, Lincoln, Amy and Winnie joined our group as new members. One characteristic of our cell group is that we have children of all ages, from primary, to secondary, to university, and even to adults. (Of course, every member is as “young”.)

Over the past year, we have studied the Bible together. We were also involved in fundraising for our new church building, and got together a short play for Christmas last December. In the course of the above activities, we have

increased our understanding of one another. Thus, this has led to a deeper and more open sharing. I could still remember that in one of our meetings, someone shared with us their painful experience. We then prayed earnestly and supported one another spiritually. I believe that all of us were comforted and healed by the Holy Spirit strongly in this incident. Thank the Lord!

Hopefully in the future, apart from spiritual growth and bondage in Christ in existing members, we can invite more newcomers to join us so that we could share the gospel with them. We hope that our cell group would have both inward cohesion and outward vitality and vigour.

English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li and 蘇思敏 Sylvia So





## My Prayer

范美華

Ever since my son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren moved back to stay with us, my spouse and I were fairly worried that two generations living under the same roof would make things difficult.

We were also worried that there would be a conflict of words. For the first few weeks, we were not used to it at all and it was very hard for us to get a good night's sleep without worrying.

Ah! On one particular night, the Lord spoke to me: "My daughter, there is no need for you to worry. Heavenly Father will not leave you alone."

It is vital to read more of God's word. No matter what your need is, you can always come before the Lord in petition. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." – Philippians 4:6

The Lord has taught me how to be a better person and how to deal with things. He has also taught me the art of being a mother-in-law, and to be diligent in household chores in order to provide a clean and tidy environment for the family. Furthermore, He has taught me to face everyone with a smile, to be joyful, unfastidious, to pray constantly, and to give thanks in all things.



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." – Proverbs 3: 5-6

Lord, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" – Psalm 119:105

Thank you, Lord for Your wisdom. Amen!

English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li

## HCAC 611 Church Outing



「One by one」



「Our church's future hope」



「On your mark...」



「Wait for me!!」







「We Won!! Hurray!!」



「Tasty!!」





			
Caring Department 譚潔嫻 Amy Yau	Education Department 陳劉雪芬 Anita Chan	Multimedia Team 陳志勇 Bowen Chen	General Affairs and Church Building Maintenance 李光 Carter Li

## 2012 -2014 Hills Christian Alliance Church Deacons



			
Worship Ministry 何智聰 Roy Ho	Treasurer 李何桂卿 Nicky Lee	Communication Team 李文舜 Ronald Li	Church Building expansion and development 王耀全 James Wong

## 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](mailto:admin@hillscac.org) or to 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.