



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

2014 Theme: Reviving Worship, Spreading Gospel

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Trusting in God; Having Joy in Him

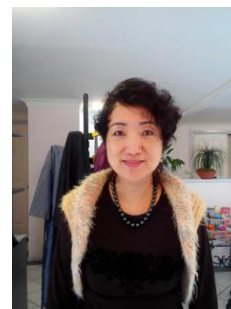
Angelina Tulio 杜麗娜

In our life journeys, there are inevitably ups and downs though we always want to have everything smooth. Many a time we encounter difficulties which we do not know how to overcome, and there are plans that we cannot implement as we wish. We will worry with anxiety, and then we will lose the peace and joy in our heart.

More than one year ago, I experienced this kind of emotional state when we started to build a new house and sell our old one. At that time, the difficulties and problems came one after one consecutively. That is exactly what the Chinese idiom says that "before the first wave subsides, a new wave arises". Under such great pressure and frustration, I was suffered from Trigeminal Neuralgia again which caused me a lot of pain. Medicine could not help relieve my pain at all. My emotion was very unstable and my temper to my family members was bad due to my headache and back-pain.

How could I find peace and joy in my heart? I am thankful to God that I found the answers from the Bible:

"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God." (Psalm 42:5)



"I have the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure." (Psalm 16: 8 – 9)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

His word reminded me that I would have peace only if I let go and trusted in Him with faith. Looking back, I did experience God's grace and guidance in the process though there were twists and turns. The renovation works for the garden have so far been outstanding for 6 months simply due to the non-availability of an approval document. However, I will learn to be patient and trusting in God to win over temptation. I believe that God is faithful and His grace is sufficient for me.

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和



Compete in games, Remember the aims

Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

“Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.” (1 Cor 9:26)

Kenneth, Enoch, Timothy, Matthew, Gabriel, Thomas (youth of English Congregation), Alan, Herman (Chinese Youth Fellowship), Alan Wong (a parent of Cantonese Congregation). Do you know them? They are of different ages gathered together from different units of the HCAC, but they have a common interest and identity -- the HCAC Soccer Team (HCACST). All of them are the core members of the HCACST, of which Kenneth is the Manager and player, Enoch is the Coach, while the rest are players.

HCACST is currently the only sporting team under the HCAC Sports Ministry which, according to Kenneth, the Manager, “aims at using sports as means to outreach to the sport-loving non-Christians, and then further bonding through our fellowship and common interests.” Therefore, there are some members in the HCACST who are non-Christians.

The HCACST, formed in 2010, has joined the In Christ Sport Ministry soccer competition, also known as ICSM Premier League, for five years. The League, which runs from April to August annually, is a 11v11 soccer competition in the double round robin format. The champion will be the team with the most points on the table (3, 2 and 1 points for a win, a draw and a loss respectively for each match). There are a total of six Chinese churches in Sydney joining the League this season. The HCACST got no points in the first three seasons and got two points last season. However, it has made a remarkable improvement in this season and so far in the first round their results were 2W, 1D and 1L with 7 points, ranked 3rd from the top of the table.



Being a soccer-loving parent of one of the team members, I would watch the matches of the HCACST whenever I stayed in Sydney for holidays in the past few years. This year, apart from witnessing the improvements of the HCACST, I could see that the Manager, Kenneth, was really devoted and hardworking; that the Coach, Enoch, was always positive to reinforce the players; and that all the players were courageous and united as a team. The skills of the HCACST, as a whole, are just average; but I have been impressed that these young men are practical, serious, faithful players with good sportsmanship. They are positive in facing each challenge; they also enjoy each match.

The HCACST would require the continued support of the brothers and sisters. You can pray for the Sports Ministry (Soccer Team) so that the believed members, while enjoying the soccer games, will not forget the aim of outreaching to non-believers. Brothers and sisters can support them by sparing your time to watch their games at the main venue (Wilson Park, Newington Road, Silverwater) in certain Sunday afternoons. Male adults of the Cantonese and Mandarin Congregations who love soccer are also encouraged to join the HCACST so that more adult non-believers can be approached and the young team members can have role-models. Last but not the least, if it is God’s will, may the HCAC set up a children soccer team in the years to come so as to reach out to non-believing parents.

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和



2014 Systematic Theology Course – Trainees’ Sharing

The following is a compilation of the sharing by a few brothers and sisters who have completed the above course, aiming at encouraging other brothers and sisters to take the course next time in order to better equip themselves in God’s word.

Name	Sharing
Leo Lee	Though I could not fully understand all the notes of the course, I learnt from the course that there were different schools of thought in the Christianity, that how each of these interpreted the Bible, and that why believers of different denominations behaved differently. Hence I know how to learn God’s word and study the Bible correctly.
Amy Leung	Upon completion of the course, I realised that the course covered a wide range of topics as well as some principles in apologetics. All these were not touched on in bible studies I attended before. I learnt a lot from Rev. Li in the course because of his fluent and vivid presentation in layman terms. In conclusion, it is worth taking the course if you want to have a better understanding on Christianity.
Hang Lau	Systematic Theology allowed me to touch on and think about some questions we might have ignored in the past. It also allowed me to have more in-depth understanding on the Bible and some theological issues.
Carol Li	Systematic Theology allowed me to understand more of God’s will and plan for us. I have also been reminded that sometimes we placed great emphasis on ourselves and forgot God’s absolute sovereignty.
Sherwood & Anna Kwok	<p>“Do you understand?” “It is very important that you understand!” These were what the lecturer of the course, Rev. Li, used to say in the classes. Systematic Theology is a discipline which addresses the major doctrines of the Christian faith. The theological topics covered, though important to believers, are difficult to understand because different theologians, each with their own supporting biblical views, have different perspectives on the numerous doctrines covered. From a lot of arguments and verses criss-cross in this discipline, Rev. Li was able to summarise and highlight the main points in each of the topics. The course may be too advanced to new believers but is very useful to “senior” believers in consolidating their biblical foundations and strengthening their abilities in evangelism/apologetics.</p> <p>p.s. You should not miss this course if held again as the course fee (\$80) will be waived for brothers and sisters of HCAC.</p>

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和





English Parenting Lunch Fellowship

Tony and Margie Hall

On 18th May 2014 the English Congregation gave an opportunity for parents to hear testimonies from some of the young people who are ministering to their children.

We provided lunch which was to be made by us and not the parents. There was a variety of delicious food with tea, coffee and hot chocolate completing the meal.

On the platform sat Jovian, Rainbow, Jane, Timothy. Ceewing was responsible for the format of the following program. In turn each teacher shared why and how they believed they were to minister to the children at the Cantonese Church and what it meant to them and how they were involved in other activities in the our Church.

Ceewing summarized and then an opportunity was given to parents to ask questions to those on the platform.

One parent said that she had heard from a young person that they found it "boring". We're not sure how we could alter the activities to accommodate a statement such as that, but thought it was more of a reflection on the person rather than the activities.

As a Congregation we convinced that every opportunity should be given to all young people to know about Christianity in order to believe in Jesus Christ and understand what life is all about. Provision is made through the programs offered. There is no other institution that will consistently provide this life giving education to our children.

Children need to be exposed to Christian Doctrine especially at this time in history as we are living in the Last Days and our Enemy is wanting to destroy our children before He is.

We have provided at HCAC English Congregation the chance for your children to be taught about the greatest and most important message ever told. Parents with children and young people in your care, you can encourage them to take time to attend.

Chinese Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和





Meeting Point

Anna Kwok 郭李慧妍

Meeting Point is a new ministry of the HCAC set up in May. You might have learnt from the Sunday Services or Bulletins that the inauguration meeting was held on 18 May. I take the opportunity to elaborate this ministry to you.

Meeting Point aims at the following:

1. To care the new comers of HCAC;
2. To let the new comers know more about HCAC;
3. To act as a facilitator : to encourage non-believers to join gospel bible studies/gathering; encourage and arrange believers to join cell groups and spiritual life equipping courses so that they can be cared and nurtured on a long term basis.

The gatherings of Meeting Point are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays :

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Program: Singing, testimonials, special topics, sharing, games

Dinner (optional): 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Three gatherings have been held so far with positive responses from participants as follows:

- felt warm, friendly, welcomed
- liked the singing in worship
- liked the sessions on sharing and testimonials
- enjoyed the sharing, videos on testimonials, games and food
- knew some new friends and knew more about brothers and sisters
- Christian faith strengthened through sharing by each other; felt satisfied by trusting in God
- very meaningful and thankful that I had the rare chance to share and discuss on topics like “eternity” with others

It is very encouraging to know that the participants have had positive responses in their Christian faith. We pray that, under God’s guidance, the Ministry will continue to witness God’s grace, so that His name will be glorified while people get nurtured. Regardless whether you are new comer or not, you are welcome to join the Meeting Point if you have not joined any of existing cell groups.



**Here are the new comers, How energetic they are!
Meeting together to share,
What the grace of the Heavenly Father!**



English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和



Ping Pong Ministry Report

余黎志蓮 Ruth Yu

The Saturday Ping Pong was launched in April. The volunteers help prepare the venue for the activity and chat to the participants in order to build up relationship.

The most important part of this activity for the participant is to listen to the gospel message delivered

by Rev Li.

We would like to request you to invite a non-believer friend to this friendly and healthy activity. This will lead them to a healthier and wiser lifestyle.



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 Marianna, 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.