



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

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Issue 1

Pastor's Sharing

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On 1st October 2010, the church celebrated its 10th year anniversary. Looking back over the years, the Lord has blessed us thoroughly and abundantly, just as Corinthians 1:17 says: "Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gifts".

Celebratory activities and events took place between October 2009 and October 2010. One of the events that took me by surprise was "Living testimony, songs of praise". It was an event in which hymns were composed and shared. The Lord has truly touched the hearts of these brothers and sisters, who turned their living testimonies into beautiful songs of praise, exalting and glorifying the Lord. On the evening of the event, we were joined by numerous new comers and friends. Shortly after, the hymns were all put together into a songbook – Lives changed by God's love, as a memento.

Over the past celebratory events, including our church camp, poetry competition, hymns composition, making of our 10th year anniversary newsletter, thanksgiving service and dinner, etc, we can see that the Lord has blessed us endlessly. It is even more thankful to see that our brothers and sisters were giving their best in preparation of the different events and activities, employing their creativity and using their different spiritual gifts to serve God. I deeply and truly believe that it is God's love that encourages and drives them on to serve Him as they did.

Communication amongst brothers and sisters has always been deemed important in the church. But due to the lack of manpower, our

church has only been able to publish one bulletin consisting of the different ministries we have in our church at the end of each year since 2005. On 27th January 2010, on the day of our church retreat, we are very thankful to God for moving the hearts of some brothers and sisters who were willing to join in the ministry for the publication of the newsletter. This ministry has been developed to improve the communication between the church and its congregation. Now that our first newsletter has been able to be published smoothly, all thanks should be given to our Lord. We should also thank every single brother and sister who has participated in the publication of this newsletter.

God is a faithful God. He has promised that He will lead us through the work He has begun, and will guard and keep it until it is finished. Philippians 1:6 says "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Over the last 10 years, God has been blessing Hills Christian Alliance Church profusely, keeping and guarding our church, and leading our church forward. I trust that in the future, as brothers and sisters continue to love the church, serving God together,

God will continue to bless, and bless us even more than before. May our church be used by God, and may our brothers and sisters be willing to stand up and become soldiers for Christ, allowing Him to lead us into triumph into the future!

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Celebrating the Reflection of the Past Ten Years

陳梁星 Cal Chan



There are many things to be thankful for our 10th year anniversary.

Firstly, it is the poetry composition event which turned out to be a great success. Praise God!

After that, we went to Wisemen Ferry for our church camp. There were many memorable moments. We did lots of team building activities and ate till our bellies bulged out!

Then we have a song composition event too, led by Lina Chan. Our church composed 24 songs. Through

the organisation of this event, I saw the power of God in our lives.

Afterwards, we had to get busy preparing for our 10th year anniversary dinner.

And finally, one which I almost forgot, is the book that Rev. Li wrote.

Looking back, I think we all felt the grace and blessings of God in the past year as we prepared for all the big events in our 10th year celebration. Throughout this journey, Rev. Li, Marianna, the deacons, and the brothers and sisters of our church showed love, humility, and cooperation. Even though it was a lot of hard work, we all received joy from our Lord.

I will continue to serve my God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength.



Evening Cantonese Service

陳梁豪 Paul Chan

In the year 2000, God has chosen Pastor Almon Li, Marianne, and more than 10 family members to establish Hills Christian Alliance Church at Pennant Hills Community Hall. Since then, 10 years have flown by. In 2005, our mandarin church has also been planted. In that same year, God has also prepared for us a small building at Thornleigh, and it has even become the starting point for our English ministry. All these have been God's blessings.

As early as 2 years ago, Pastor Almon Li had already had a vision of setting up an evening Cantonese service. But due to the lack of manpower and venue, this has been postponed. Until earlier on this year, on 26th January 2010, we finally have a few brothers and sisters who were willing to commit wholeheartedly to serve the Lord. This must have been the Lord's work in their hearts. In May 2010, God has prepared for us an even more ideal building, in which can be used for developed and developing ministries. Let all glory and praise be to our God. When Pastor Li designated me as the chairman of the committee for the Evening Service, I felt quite pressured by it. It was

like asking me to plant a new church. As my mind raced through all the ministries I'm already serving in the morning service, and the new responsibility given to me regarding the evening service, the thought of drawing back is inevitable.



In our first committee meeting, I suggested that the service be held twice a month as a trial. But in all unison, the committee members felt that it should be held weekly instead. Praise the Lord! God has given me a group of keen and diligent believers who wholly put their trust in Him. Apart from Pastor Li and Marianne, the group is comprised of Henry, Bowen, Rachel, Cal, Anita, Amy, and a troop of warriors serving behind the scenes. Of course, the Lord Jesus Christ is also fighting side by side with us!



Approach: a simple but Godly worship, singing praises to Him

Content: Use of everyday life messages (evangelism, discipleship training), personal testimonies, dinner, etc

Type of attendees aimed at: They can be of any age and gender. They can include unbelievers, new believers, spiritual pursuers, relatives, friends, online friends, or

brothers and sisters who have missed the sermon due to certain ministries in the morning service.

Lastly: We need you to support us in prayer, and to bring your friends and family who are non-believers to the service so that they can have a chance to hear the gospel. 2 Timothy 4:2 "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction."



Cell Group Sharing - Hosea

李兆球 Daniel Li

Why did we choose 'Hosea' as our cell group's name?

Hosea's name means 'rescue'.

Everybody says Hosea is an ignorant, unwise and crazy person. He has totally lost his self-esteem. His whole life was arranged to be a prophet, to get married with the adulterous wife, to show his love to his wife and to accept his unfaithful wife again and again. In fact, Hosea is not crazy; he only does his loyalty to his Lord. His marriage let him know more about God's planning. With his whole life he recalled the Israelites to remember their evil deeds, wished them to return to the Lord and asked the Lord to forgive and save them.

Hosea cell group should learn to obey, understand Lord's planning, repent and be faithful to God.





Mission of Church Website

李文舜 Ronald Li

Before Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection He commanded, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

In today’s technology-driven society, true and false information is on the Internet. As disciples of Jesus, we have a responsibility to tell others about the salvation of Jesus Christ on the Internet.

I once read a story. In a town there’s a textiles business that has been running for over a hundred years. Due to their high quality materials, they have a lot of customers, but because of this, the staff have grown accustomed to the prosperity of the business, and hence, gradually forgot their manners to their customers. They thought because their products are good enough that customer service is not important. However, one of the managers of the store saw that they have to incorporate new methods to keep their business up and running, however, the owner disagreed, insisting on the way they have been doing business. As a result, the manager left and started his own textiles business with new methods whilst the owner continued his traditional ways. Over time, the new business became successful with better customer service and new innovations, whilst the other business slowly died out as a result of the owner’s unwillingness to change.

To refurbish the church website, it would take a while. When I think back to 2005 when I first arrived in Australia

from Hong Kong, I was able to understand Hills Christian Alliance Church’s theology in faith and the structure of the church through their website. I was very busy during that time as I had to find a job and look after my family, so I wasn’t able to serve much at church. I always thought that it would be better to let others manage our church’s website so to not busy myself in this matter and prevent misunderstanding that people might think I am doing this to glorify myself. However, when I accepted the position to be a deacon, my heart began to stir at the thought of refurbishing the church website. I understand that Christ’s name will be harmed if I have selfish motives, and Hills Christian Alliance Church is not a building but a place where God resides – it is a place where people come to worship and know God. I have a responsibility to refurbish the church website, to make it a place where people can come to know the Salvation of Jesus Christ.

After prayer and discussing with Rev. Li, we established a website group. Ruth Yu is responsible for text and writing, Lincoln Leung is responsible for the layout of the website, Fione Kelly is responsible for managing photos, and I am responsible for the technical things. Through everyone’s efforts and team work, we were able to get the site up and running in two months.

I feel that the website is not supposed to conform to society but as a tool to tell others about God’s Salvation. I hope readers of this site will not focus on the appearance of it, rather, read the contents with a thankful heart. I also hope brothers and sisters who read this church will know the ‘latest’ news of our church, as well as praying for those who need your prayers.





The challenges and trainings brought by a tiny little life

鄭君旭/范子偉 Crystal Cheng/Chris Fan

Life is so miraculous! The creation of life is God's amazing work!

Time flew by in the blink of an eye. The baby God has blessed us with is already 7 months old!

The arrival of a tiny little life has brought us endless surprises and joy!

The intervention of a new life has caused our marriage to face many changes and challenges!

The freedom of a duo's world changed enormously. We are now always busy looking after our BB "FEED, CHANGE, PLAY, SLEEP" from morning till night, repeating this 5 to 6 times a day. We even have to wake up in the middle of the night to do so. Without enough energy and effort, this is impossible to sustain! Sometimes, the baby just never stops crying. This really affects our emotions. Our gentleness and perseverance were definitely being put to the test. But a smile from the baby, all sorts of pressures and emotions would melt away. Nowadays when we go out, we have to take account into the amount of distance and time the journey would take so that we can prepare all necessities for our little one. At times, we don't even have the time to care about our own appearances. All we know is that we have to finish our meals as fast as possible. Our precious baby is "FULL ATTENTION WANTED". As parents, we have to constantly observe our baby's needs. Her every single movement sends out messages, waiting for us to decipher. When the baby is fast asleep, it is time for us to read more books, browse through the internet, watch DVDs, or approach experienced people to understand more about the bringing up of babies and their development. We hope that we will be as ready as possible to meet all our baby's needs and changes. Every now and then, it's so exhausting that we don't even have the energy to converse with our loved one.

Honestly, our hearts beam with joy and thankfulness as we watch our baby grow day by day. Being able to become parents and moving into another stage in life and marriage, we give thanks to God. A lot of people decided not to have kids because they know that a lot of sacrifices and commitments have to be made. Not only until we have moved onto this phase, that we finally understood the love of parents. We can give up our interests, time, and rest willingly for our own flesh and blood, so that we can have a relationship with her. This is unconditional love. The whole process we've been through has given us a lot, and enriched our lives. Such beauty and joy!

Our daughter is named Sum Ning. It means to follow the Lord's heart. Her English name is Elise, which means devoted to God. May our daughter become a person whom the Lord takes joy in! Because of this, we as parents have a very huge responsibility. Prayers and words from the bible are very important in our lives. We constantly pray to God for wisdom in teaching and raising our daughter. It is not easy to maintain our relationship in the marriage, to live in harmony, to love God and the people around us while setting a good example, may the Lord bless us with strength!

As we looked after our baby, we began to understand more about the bible's teachings:

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." 1 Peter 2:1-2

"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." Hebrews 5:12-14

A child is very simple. All he needs is milk to satisfy his basic needs. If a child only drinks milk and cannot consume any solid food when he is older than 6 months, he will lack the training for mastication, and will be malnourished. Thus, it will affect his growth and development. It is the same for our spiritual lives. If we only consume milk in the long run, it is not normal. No one wants to be a child who can never grow up. Thus, we really need to pursue in truth, long for God, and train ourselves to become a Christian with tough foundation.

Caring for our child never ends as it is a lifelong process. I believe that there will be many more new surprises for us to experience. Lastly, I want to make use of this opportunity to thank our pastor, and brothers and sisters for your concern and support. You have given us a lot of encouragement. Thank you for all your love!





The meaning of the Women's Fellowship to the Church

李劉德麗師母 Marianna Li

There's different kinds of ministry in church, as well as various cell groups. It seems like the Women's Fellowship in our church is more 'quiet'. Numbers participating are also not many.

Different ministries have different functions. All the ministries in the church is to cooperate together to help the expansion of the church. However, the main source for the expansion of the church is through evangelism and training disciples. This is the purpose and direction of the establishment of the church.

When Jesus was on earth, He preached everywhere. Among Him was a group of women, serving Jesus and providing for His food and living. They also helped Jesus care for those who are in need, and even when Jesus was crucified on the cross, a lot of women were there to witness it.

When Jesus resurrected from the dead, the first people to see Him were the women (John 20:1).

In the early church, there was a group of women who quietly serve the Lord without grumbling or complaining. I believe that Jesus knows of their hard work, and their reward would be great.

Women's Ministry is very important, and cannot be lacking in the church. Many times, when a member of the church is sick and needs to eat and drink soup, a lot of women in our church will offer to cook for them. When someone is getting married, or there's a feast gathering held at church and there is a need for catering, the women would also willingly



take up the responsibility to help.

Not only is helping out in functions or those in need, but Bible Study is also an important aspect in the Women's Fellowship. This is because women need to grow spiritually mature. It is beneficial to the individual as well as the church.



Not only what I have mentioned above, but this ministry also brings non-believing females to the Lord.

Today, I hope the Women's Fellowship is not just limited to the church, but is outreaching, spreading the Good News. Unfortunately, many women in our church do not see the importance of our Women's Fellowship, so not many women are willing to commit themselves in the ministry. There are many attractive courses and activities in society. They rather go to those courses and events than realise the needs of our church.

The expansion of our Women's Fellowship today requires everyone to come together with one heart and mind. The Women's Ministry is like a lubricant, assisting the other ministries in the church.

I really hope our Women's Ministry will be a big blessing from God, and that more and more women will come to know the Lord through us.

My dear sisters! The Women's Ministry needs you to participate and commit in. May we come together to serve in the church and also learn about God's Word and spread His name. Amen.

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.

