



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

Oct 2011

Issue 4

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Lord's faithfulness during the 60 years of knowing Him

Pastor Tony Hall

Bob invited me to a boys camp at Pheghan's Bay which is near Woy Woy. What impressed me was that the invitation stated "we would have lots of fun". One of the items we had to bring included a Bible. "I thought how could you have lots of fun by bringing a Bible. I had a Bible given to me by my grand parents some years before but I had not read it.

We had to meet at Central railway station to catch the stream train. I was greatly impressed by how one of the leaders took special care of us both. He had something special in his life and whatever it was, I wanted! During the week after having a great deal of fun, I heard a message from one of the leaders where he shared the story about a man called Jesus Christ who came to earth and paid the penalty for my sins. I had not heard of that before and this impacted me to act on the invitation of receiving Christ. I went to the room where the speaker had invited us to go if anyone to follow Christ, so that's where I headed. The door was closed, and while waiting outside I encountered what I now know was my first experience of a "spiritual battle" whether I should go or stay for the door to open. Some time passed before I was able to speak to Mr. Davis, where I asked Jesus to forgive my sin and to come into my life. I thought this must have been why Graham as a Christian wanted to help us on Central Station.

What I learnt from this was the impact and importance of caring for others.

That was in January 1951 when I was 14 years old that I became a follower of Jesus and started to go to Sunday School and church where I had teachers who encouraged me in reading the Bible which I loved to do. During these years the second coming of Jesus was spoken about often, so I became interested in the subject for myself.

During my teenage years the Lord challenged me for missionary service for which I attempted to enter the Anglican ministry but this was not the plan that God had for me.

My employment was in the area of selling and marketing. One of the spiritual highlights was the Billy Graham Crusade in 1959 where I participated in the choir and in counselling, where I witnessed night by night hundreds of people respond to the messages.



Church Address:
3/340 Pennant Hills
Road, Pennant
Hills NSW 2120
Australia

Website:
www.hillscac.org

E-mail:
admin@hillscac.org



I met Margie when I was 22 and married her a year later. We set up home at Gladesville and it was here where we were to learn our first big lesson of trusting the Lord. Our timber house was destroyed by fire after 18 months of married life, but this was part of God's plan as within two years he gave us a brick home at no cost.

The Lord was faithful in meeting our needs and we certainly relied on Him in those early years of married life and again we were both challenged about missionary service with the Red Sea Mission Team. We looked to the Lord and prayed for guidance. The answer came that He wanted us for different work.

We were committed to our local Anglican church as youth leaders and trained with Lay Institute for Evangelism, during which time we met people from the Christian & Missionary Alliance resulting with the first service starting in our home on the 26th January 1969. The family benefited greatly by the outstanding teaching of our leaders as we were introduced to the Four Fold Gospel of the Alliance. Jesus Christ as Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King.

These were years of challenge and excitement where we saw the hand of God perform miracles of grace in the hearts of many and our Alliance Church grew with new converts, including our 5 children.

We witnessed miracles of healing and the warm nature of fellowship drew people to the services. I was blessed by seeing some men come to Christ as a result of a Saturday morning prayer meeting for unsaved men. I have been praying on and off, for some 50 years, for one man but who is still not a follower of Jesus.

During my working years there were several times of unemployment but we praised the Lord for seeing us through those testing times, by provisions of money and food and Margie's willingness to work at night in hospitals. I am thankful for having a supportive wife and the caring of our 5 children.

Let me share with you one particular event of God's guidance to me.

During 1989 and while unemployed for three months the NSW Bible Society advertised for a marketing manager. I was encouraged by Margie and two friends from Ku-ring-gai Alliance Church to apply for the position. At first I resisted but with pressure from the Lord, found me being

interviewed and accepting the position without knowing the salary as I knew this was the place for me to be. During the 8 years at the Bible Society I was able to introduce to the churches of NSW a programme of Bible listening through "Faith Comes By Hearing" instigated by Hosanna Ministries. One of the highlights of the programme brought an invitation by Commissioner Bath of the Salvation Army in March 1993 to speak to 600 officers, for 10 minutes during their Annual Congress, to promote the "Faith Comes By Hearing" programme. It was Salvation Army policy not to have a speaker outside their denomination. The S. A. in Eastern Australia embraced the programme among their people and had a wonderful impact. The work at the Bible Society was most satisfying and rewarding until nearly eight years later I was made redundant, due to change in management. But the Lord was in this move as the next day I was told about a job at Wesley Mission so not being disobedient to the Lord made an application straight away. For the next nine years the Lord gave me opportunities for blessing. Through me He brought in millions of dollars from the donors that I visited for the work of Wesley Mission.

I was also involved with a missionary organisation, Action Partners (now Pioneers) and while the chairman visited Egypt (Cairo), Sudan (Khartoum) and Nigeria (Jos) and while visiting Khartoum spoke to a congregation of 1000 people. I was humbled by the response of the people to the message through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Since retirement from full time paid work, I have been teaching Scripture in the local public school, taking a service at a retirement village and attending Bible Study Fellowship each Monday night but desired to do more. I have had times of preaching mostly Chinese congregations. As a result of praying for opportunities of service we were delighted when Rev. Li approached us to help with the Youth at the Hills Christian Alliance Church.

We then remembered the promise that the Lord had given us from Psalm 92:13 & 14, which partly says, "they still bare fruit in old age".

Both Margie and I are grateful to the Lord at this time of our lives that He has found us worthy to be servants.

It has been good for me to reflect over some of the events and experiences of the years where I can say we have a faithful God, who will never leave us or forsake us, thus giving confidence in old age.

English Translation: 鄧志仁 Bosco Tang





God's power is made perfect in weakness

陳蕭健忻 Susanna Chen-Xiao

God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
----- 2 Corinthians 12:9

Plum blossoms, oh, beautiful plum blossoms! The tree branch tops are decorated flawlessly by these delicate little pink flowers, just like how music notes are artistically put on their stave, making lovely melodies. What a magnificent message of spring! Spring in Sydney is especially charming. The sun is shining through the trees from the blue sky and it goes perfectly with the big white clouds floating lazily nearby. This is an amazing piece of art work, so brilliantly crafted by God! Green leaves have started to grow back on lonely tree branches. All of the flowers also cannot wait to show us their beauty. Standing in front of this marvellous picture, I have to praise our Creator's wonderful work!

When the flowers were in blossom two years ago, Lina Chan invited me to join our church's music ministry for the church's 10th Anniversary celebration. After I had quietly prayed to God for His will, the Holy Spirit gave me a positive answer. Then I became one of the executive members. I initially thought that the ministry would require a tremendous amount of time and effort from me. However, I have come to realise that the blessings I received are so much more than my contribution.

This ministry is divided into three sessions. They are song composing (song book preparing), music concert sharing and CD producing. In the first executive meeting, the name of "HCAC Hymns and Testimonial Presentation" was created by the leading of the Holy Spirit. This was our first time organising a music ministry like this, and most of us did not have any expertise in music. Naturally, we were a little fearful in the beginning. Hallelujah, praise to the Lord! He gave us encouragement and strength through His words. When we felt spiritually weak, He granted us with certainty, and He also confirmed with us that this was His will. Our hearts were touched by the Holy Spirit, and it had inspired us to write the theme song with its title of "God's Love Changes My Whole Life", which led to the completion of the entire song book.



CD producing is the last session of the whole ministry. Give thanks to the Lord! We are extremely thankful for Lina and Paul purchasing the recording equipment, and opening their home for recording session. Every song in the CD was sung by different brothers and sisters of our church, with different voice combinations. Each voice and every musical instrument was recorded as an individual track. Then the corresponding tracks were combined to complete the songs. After all the songs were completed, Lina emailed them to Crystal who was in Hong Kong. Crystal then worked with other musicians for the final mixing and printing process.

It was Lina who informed me that the final version of the CD had arrived, one and a half months ago. The songs were so touching, that I could not hold back my tears, and obviously they were joyful tears. It was like witnessing the arrival of a new life that I had long been waiting for.

This ministry is a witness of God's great work and guidance; it witnesses the unity between brothers and sisters; it witnesses that God's power is made perfect in weakness; it also witnesses how He has made impossible things become possible.

I believe that our Lord will lead us to go another step toward spiritual maturity when the beautiful flowers are in blossom again next year. Pray that we will have a humble heart and are willing to be used by Him. May God give His blessings on all of these CDs and song books and use them to be His instruments to guide His Gospel, let the Living Water flow to dry lands; flow to people's empty hearts; flow to the ends of the world. And this is also the main purpose of this ministry. May all the glory unto the Lord!

English Translation: 陳蕭健忻 Susanna Chen-Xiao





The paths to become mature

Rev. Almon Li 李智峰牧師

Hills Christian Alliance Church (HCAC) is a church plant from Northside Chinese Alliance Church. The first worship service was held at Pennant Hills Community Centre on 1 October 2000. After two years, HCAC became independent. However, this does not mean that HCAC has matured into an adult. Just by looking at numbers, you can say that we have 'matured' into adults, but spiritually we are only children.

Ephesians 3:11-13 says, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

A mature church will have each member doing their part to build the body of Christ. If each member is willing to give and sacrifice for God's family, the church will grow and mature.

Someone once asked what the definition of 'mature' is. We are all aware that a child is self-centred and only cares about their needs. When a child grows and matures, he will slowly begin to see things from other people's perspective. He will care about others.

A church is the calling of God; chosen to be holy, so therefore, to see whether a church is mature, we have to first look at whether the congregants are mature. A mature person will behave how Paul has mentioned in Philippians 2:4, "not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." I agree with this as Jesus has also mentioned that the most important commandment is to love God and your neighbour. A Christian who loves God will naturally

care about Him and he will also use the gifts that God has given him to build the church. A Christian who loves God will naturally give up their time for God, serving Him with their gifts talents, and finances. If all Christians were like this, the church will not be lacking in resources. A Christian who loves God will also love others, and when non-Christians come, they will see the love of God through us and be drawn to our church. Christians who love God will also care about the spiritual lives of others, and so they will naturally evangelise to non-Christians.

If you asked me whether I think our church is mature, I would say that our church is moving towards maturity. This is as long as all the members in the church is offering themselves to serve Christ, learning how to love God and others, being caring, being united with others, and working hard to build the church.

I hope that all members, whether he/she is a church worker, deacon, cell group leader, those who are serving in church or not yet serving yet, will listen and obey God's Word, faithfully carry out your duties in God's Kingdom so that our church will continue to grow. Amen!



英文翻譯: 李樂恆 Rachel Li





Cell Group Sharing - Amos

鄧立標 Henry Tang

"We're gathered here because we all love Jesus. We're in this place to glorify His Name. Our hearts reach out to touch the living God. Because we love the Lord, we're gathered here today..."

I think most of you are familiar with the lyrics above. The lyrics come from the song, *We're gathered here*. Whenever we have a visitor coming, we will sing them this song. Through this song, they will better understand the meaning of cell group.

Thinking back, our members in the group have experienced the grace and love of God, and through these experiences, we grow together. There were many joyful experiences.

One of the most exciting experiences was the baptism of Janet Lau, and she later married Allan Lau. Now, their lovely daughter, Isabella is growing healthily.

3 years ago, one of our members unfortunately passed away. However, his optimism and courage to face the illness left a strong impression for us.

In cell group, our members actively participate and look forward to our next meeting, and we also experience the presence of God through praise and worship. We also learn more about God and ourselves through the Bible studies led by Jennifer So. We also try to let new comers hear about the Gospel through cell group. We have sharing and intercessory prayer to build our relationship with one another and to promote personal growth. We also get involved in church camps and outings, and if there is conflict in the group, we would use songs to remind us of how to love one another.

We ask brothers and sisters to continue to pray for the health of Annie Poon.

Each family comes with a dish of delicious food, and Michael Wong usually brings a bottle of wine to complement the delicious food. He is also a great chef. Our four hours of cell group meetings are full of joy and laughter.

English Translation: 李樂恆 Rachel Li



Members of our church family



Amos

Russell Ho 何瑞楊, Cal Chan 陳梁星, Andy Yu 余偉明, Elaine Yau 邱玉蓮, Janet Yu 余黎慶玲, Rebecca Tang 鄧楊婉芬

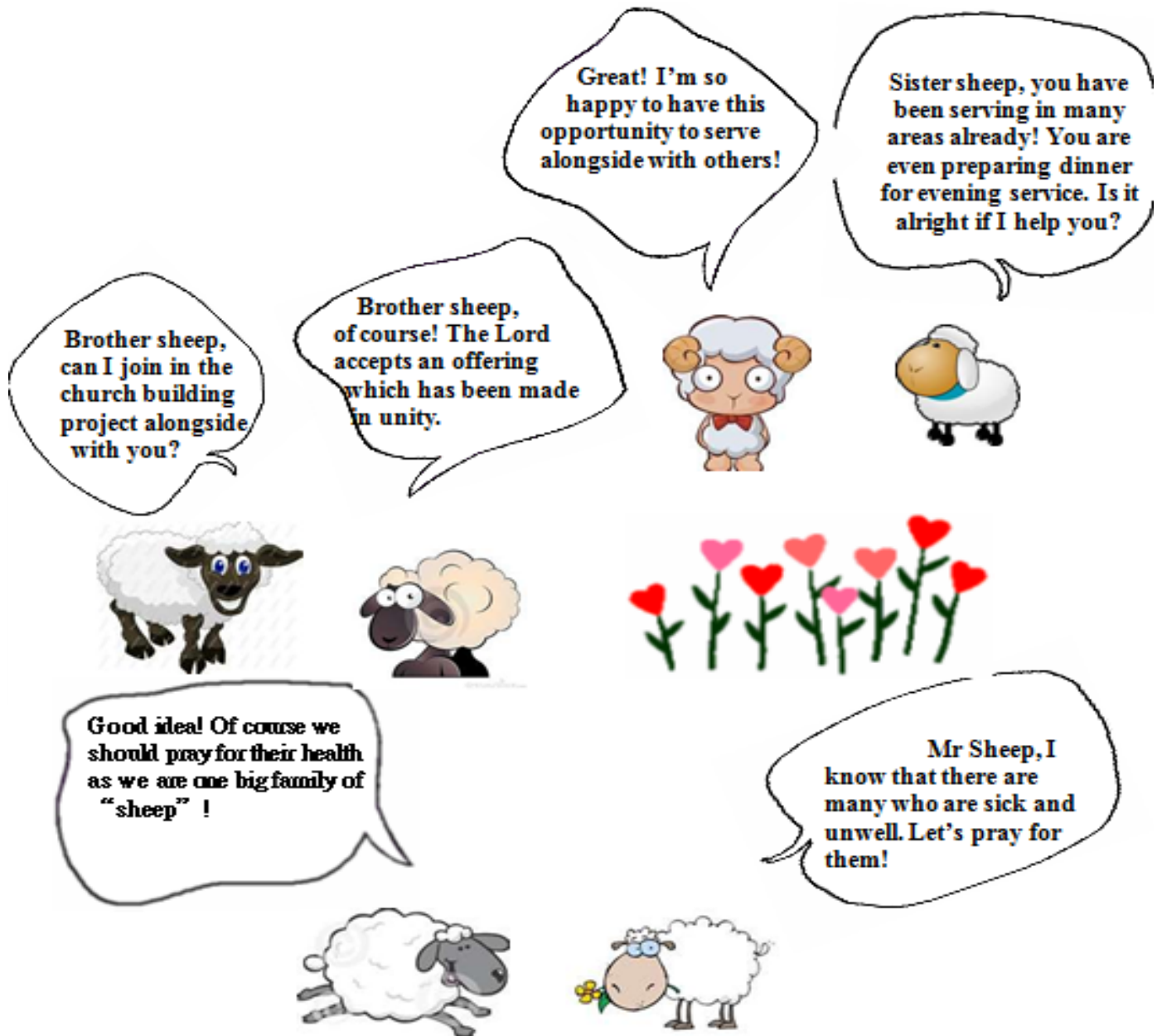


Jonah

(Back row) Kitty Tang 鄧白芷君, Henry Tang 鄧立標
Allen Huang 黃勁良
(Front row) Michael Wong 黃慶權, Amy Wong 黃徐香,
Jennifer Wong 黃佩儀, Annie Chen 陳艷玲, Fione Kelly 鄭
婉貞, Janet Huang 黃劉家惠, Baby Isabella 黃康穎



Theme of the year:
Armoured and prepared, fighting the battle for God
Oct - Dec subtheme: Unity



English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol 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.