



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

2013 Theme: Missional Life

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1. Pastor's sharing
2. Deacon's sharing – Walk with God
3. Chinese Youth Ministry Sharing
4. The Previous Gift is Time
4. Special Cell Group Sharing - Barnabas
5. 13th Anniversary and Food Carnival
6. Corner of Newsletter Team

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Pastor's sharing

李智峰牧師 Rev. Almon Li



Last Sunday I saw Cee-Horne very upset and crying, so I had a chat with him so see what was wrong. He told me he was really sad because his friend has left him. I thought his good friend has passed away, so I tried to comfort him by telling him that his good friend is probably in heaven so you can see him again in the future. I wanted to pray for his friend so I asked for his name. However, Cee-Horne said that it was not just one (*The Chinese language do not use plural so one can be mistaken to hear 'friends' as 'friend'.*). I was really surprised so I asked him why so many friends have passed away?

He replied that because he's graduating, he wouldn't be able to see his friends from school. He was still very upset as he was telling me this. I really admire this pure and innocent love that Cee-Horne has. This is a treasure that modern people have lost. I remember when I was young, I also had this pure and innocent love. I cried for ten days over the death of my dog; I cried when I worried for my late mother's passing; and I was teary when the cousins I grew up with migrated overseas. But this pure and innocent love I had gradually faded as I grew older.

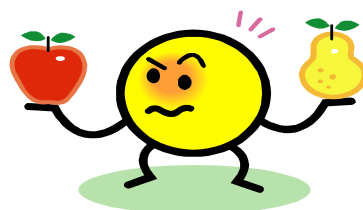
This is a loss for modern people. Today many of us have different goals we pursue. Our will becomes focused on these goals, and hence, we lose sight of relationships and love that are important to us.

If our church does not value the importance of brotherly and sisterly love in Christ, then it is even more depressing.

Jesus reminds us to be like children. I believe Jesus appreciates the innocence of children. We really need to learn from how Cee-Horne values relationships.

Church is about relationships and love. When Hills Christian Alliance Church was established, I stressed that we are building this church with love. But are we truly living out this love? May we listen to God's Word, "... You have forsaken the love you had first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first..." (Rev. 2:4-5).

English Translation: 李樂恒 Rachel Li





Deacon's sharing – Walk with God

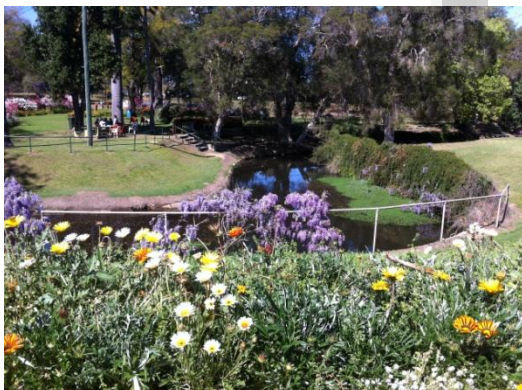
陳志勇 Bowen Chen

"This is what the Lord says – I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."

-- Isaiah 44: 2a; 22

These Bible verses have been my help in the past years. They show me what a blessing it is to walk with God every day and answer upon His calling. Because of love, God had saved me, and had blotted out my transgressions. Because of His mighty power and His amazing grace, I am now called God's child and am selected by Him to be His servant!

Time goes by unbelievably fast. It has been twelve years since God led my family and me to HCAC. I accepted Jesus as my own savior in this church, and then I was baptized. I have been growing with this church by relying on God and the lectures of church pastors. By following the lead of the Holy Spirit, I became one of the deacons last year. This position is beyond my comprehension for I am neither a person who has very strong leadership, nor deserve to serve God. Praise the Lord! His grace came upon me again, and He called me through these Bible verses to seek Him and to serve Him. There were many difficulties I had to face during this period of time. However, God helped me understand that He would not let everything go in our way, and He promised that He would walk with us no matter what the circumstances were. He sometimes throws road blocks in our way to test us and train us how to be better ourselves and for our spiritual



growth. More importantly, God has taught me a precious lesson to accept others' opinions and to focus more on what others do well.

My wife wrote a poem in Chinese recently. Here is the translation:

Beautiful spring with colorful flowers in Sydney,
Lakeside green grass under blue sky I see,
Butterflies flying around while bees buzzing busily,
We all enjoy it freely indeed.

Writing poems is not one of her expertise. But she expressed her feelings to appreciate God's beautiful creative nature when she was inspired in a park. This poem reminds me that this is our Father's wonderful world. The truth is that we have been living in this sinful world for so long that we have shifted our focus on negativity. God's church is different than our world. However, there are still things that are beyond our control. But remember, the most important thing is to please God and to seek His will! Do we appreciate what our brothers and sisters do? Or do we only focus on things that are not set in our way? Let me encourage myself and also encourage you here to learn together to be someone who is always dedicated to God and walk with Him!

English Translation: 陳志勇 Bowen Chen



Chinese Youth Ministry Sharing

柯麗芳 Connie Or

It has been more than a half year since I joined the Youth Ministry. Once again, I experienced God's lead. God's grace is always more than what I offer. When I thought it was time to pay, God blessed me even more and drew me closer to him. Once again, my life is renewed and changed.

Life influences life:

I still recall how unwilling I was to take up this role due to the lack of ability and time. But God reminded me of those mentors who gave me unconditional love, time, and guidance, nurturing me. It was the grace and kindness of God and people who had shaped and built my life. All these marks of grace encouraged me to follow God's calling and have become an example for me to follow. I deeply believe that the One who called me would accomplish it.

Christ's love:

When I thought about how Jesus remembered to entrust his mother to his disciples as he suffered on the cross in pain (John 19:26-27), I understood that in Christ, they are all like my children (Matthew 28:20). It is God's love which ties us together. His love surrounds us. Even if our time together might not be long, I believe that in God's eternal kingdom, we will always be a family.

Inheritance of commission:

Spending time with these young people allowed me to experience God's unique and incredible creation. Each child harbours a different temperament. Their intelligence, abilities and vitality have infinite potentials

in our Lord. In the near future, they will be scattered to different places, with different careers. I believe that the Lord has wondrous plans for each of them. I hope that in their youth, they will search for their commission in life (Matthew 28:19), bless those around them, and bring glory to God.

As we build God's family in unity, let us not forget to build people's lives, so that more young people will become Christian soldiers.



Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Chinese Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li





The Precious Gift is Time

范美華

Time is the most precious gift given to you as you only have that many days in your life. You can earn more money, but you cannot earn more time.

Luke 12:20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"

No one knows about tomorrow or when our last day on Earth will be. Then, with all the money in the bank and yourself in heaven, your children and grandchildren on Earth will laugh at your foolishness.

How many decades does one have? I am now 70 years of age. How much time do I have left? As I enter into old age, I cherish the present and enjoy what time I have

left on Earth. With money to spare, go travel and take a look at God's creation. The skies, the lands, the stars, the moon, the sun, the ocean and the sea are all so beautiful and lovely!

Do not wait until the eyes could no longer see and the limbs could no longer move. It would be far too late for regrets.

If you have the money, help those in need and offer more in your offerings. God knows and He will bless you with much more.



English Translation: 李佩恩 Carol Li

Special Cell Group – Barnabas

趙馮惠玲 Ling Chiu

This 'special cell group' is for those who are not in an existing cell group or are newcomers.

The leaders of the group are Rev. Li and Marianna Li, but we are really thankful to Paul and Lina for supporting this group too. As for my husband and I, we open our home up for this cell group, and we also organise food arrangements and caring.

We meet on the fourth Saturday of every month from 6pm. After dinner, we have praise and worship, and then Rev. Li or Paul will lead the Bible Study. Then we have sharing and prayer time.

I am really happy every time we meet because we get to know one another and share with each other. It is always a happy evening.



Our regulars are: Cindy Chan, Grace Leung, Christine Leung, Irene, Doris, Jessica, Tommy and Nancy. Sometimes we have newcomers visiting. I really appreciate how our regulars are loving and patient towards welcoming our newcomers.

May God continue to use our cell group, and may more newcomers or those in need find Jesus in this group as well as continue to grow spiritually.

English Translation: 李樂恒 Rachel Li

13th Anniversary and Food Carnival





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 Ronald, 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.