



# Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

2014 Theme: Reviving Worship, Spreading Gospel

Issue 16  
Oct 2014

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## A Note on the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Looking Backward and Forward

Rev. Almon Li 李智峰牧師



Unnoticeably, our Church has been established for 14 years. I have a lot of mixed feelings when looking backward. Undeniably, the Church had gone through both down streams and up streams; but in all situations, we experienced the presence of God. Starting from a single congregation of less than 50 persons, our Church has now expanded to three congregations (i.e. Cantonese, Mandarin and English) of over 200 persons totally. This is definitely God's grace and blessing. God's grace has never been reduced even our Church was in weaknesses or difficulties. What we experienced are that "God sits enthroned over the flood" and "my power is made perfect in weakness".

How should we respond when we have experienced God's unlimited love and uncountable grace? With a time span of 14 years, a small child shall have grown up to a youth. For Jew, a 12-year old person will celebrate his/her Mitzvah (Jewish coming-of-age rituals) which signifies him/her becoming an adult in religion. Anyhow, our Church, at the age of 14, should be mature enough, as the author of the Book of Hebrews reminded that "therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity" (Hebrews 6:1).

I really hope that all our brothers and sisters are mature, not infant, believers, who are able to feed themselves. Bill Hybels, a renowned senior pastor, said that, "a church that God will bless and please is the one which is full of self-feeding believers".

Believers should not expect to be fed by someone else because it is their own responsibility to feed themselves. Believers should not ignore this responsibility because pastors, cell group leaders or Sunday school teachers can only help, teach, train and encourage us. No matter what they do, they cannot satisfy you if you have no appetite.

A man who values his health will proactively do exercises, eat healthy food, have meals regularly, drink water and take rest. Likewise, if we value our spiritual health, we will proactively nurture our spirit by, for example, listening to God's word on each Sunday with a longing heart, attending Sunday school or theology courses, reading bible and having quiet times with God. The logic is very simple. No matter what the pastors do (such as organising theology courses, training classes, bible studies), they can do nothing to make you matured spiritually if you do not want to. The most important thing is that you must be determined to be a self-feeding believer. On this special occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I hope that we can offer a gift to God, which is our determination to be a self-feeder, so that our life can be growing continuously and pleasing Him.

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和



## Deacon's Sharing

Deacon Karen Hui 陳許雪玲執事

Dating back to more than 10 years ago, I knew Rev. Almon Li at the Northside Chinese Christian Alliance Church. Later I came to realize that Rev. Li had a vision to plant a church in the Hills district which will adopt, among other things, contemporary style worship in Sunday services. I followed him and joined the core group to prepare the establishment of the Hills Christian Alliance Church (HCAC).

With God's grace, I had known Him and been converted since I was very young. I grew up in a very small church in which I had a lot of chances to serve the Lord. I was baptized one year after my conversion. Since then, I had never stopped serving Him in various posts.

When the HCAC's Advisory Committee was set up, I had no hesitation at all to accept the appointment by Rev. Li as a committee member. Over the past years since I joined HCAC, I have served faithfully in the Advisory Committee/Deacons Board intermittently. I clearly know that the gifts and talents which God gave me should not be reserved for my own use, but utilized to build up the church, in joint efforts with others. Therefore, I served Him willingly in whatever posts which needed me and suited my ability. I was once touched by the hymn "Give of Your Best to the Master" and I decided to serve the Lord with all my strength when I was still young and physically fit.

For three years I had left the HCAC reluctantly because I needed to assist my husband in his business in South Australia. When I came back to Sydney, I prayed to God, asking for His will on my services. I was willing to serve Him in whatever posts that my gifts and talents could be used by Him.



In the 2012 election of Deacons Board, I rejected the nomination to the Deacon post in view that my job was unstable at that time and my husband had just returned to Sydney from South Australia. In this year's election, I had no any excuse to reject and hence I accepted the nomination willingly. Through the voting in the AGM, I rejoined the Deacons Board in this July to serve our Lord, brothers and sisters.

Being a deacon, I have always reminded myself that I should be careful in my words and deeds. I should not boast how experienced I was, but be humble to please God and serve brothers and sisters, as the Lord Jesus did.

Apart from my musical talent, I think that "caring" is also a strong talent that God has given me. I have prayed to the Lord for a "heart" that is sensitive to others' needs so that I can show my care, from the bottom of my heart, to those brothers and sisters whenever they have needs. More importantly, I have also prayed for spiritual growth and breakthrough so that I will not just work busily but always come close to God and long for His Word. I will ask for His will on all matters concerning the Church. I hope that all my life surrendered in serving God will be used by Him.

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和



## Aged Care Ministry

I feel that it was God's calling that I got involved in the Aged Care Ministry. In the beginning (I do not even remember how I got involved); I had to struggle every Saturday morning on whether I should go and visit the aged care facility. When I did go, I would say to myself "luckily I went or else I would have regretted". Each time we visit the elderly, whether they are dozing off, sleeping or talking nonsense, our team of brothers and sisters will still continue to sing hymns and share the gospel with them sincerely. Although sometimes we are shorthanded and limited in our music skills, our excitement is indescribable when someone accepts Jesus Christ as their saviour. Every single one of us will gather around the elderly and pray for him or her. We thank God for His grace. This is my feeling towards this ministry.

– Lee Duong



Elaine Li 李張玉玲

I became involved in this ministry after I heard a calling made by sisters at church. I am filled with love and a sense of calling every time I see the joy on the faces of the elderly when we visit them; and the love, care, and evangelical hearts of our brothers and sisters.

English Translation: Carol Li 李佩恩

## "One Circle" Revival Meeting and Worship Training

Marianna Li 李劉德麗師母等

The "One Circle", a Hong Kong-based worship ministry, was invited to lead a music revival meeting and worship/sound training workshop in HCAC on 13 July and 14 July 2014 respectively.

### "Offering to You" – Music Revival Meeting on 13 July (Marianna Li)

The "Circle One", led by Mr. Thomas Fok, held the music revival meeting in our Main Hall with a strong team comprising a total of 14 co-workers and volunteers. We were deeply impressed and encouraged by their unity and enthusiasm in serving

God. I really hope that our brothers and sisters would have the same dedication, commitment and passion.

With Thomas' sharing on the visions and ministries of the "One Circle", brothers and sisters in Australia knew more about the gospel organizations in Hong Kong. May our Lord continue to bless the ministries of the "One Circle".

### Worship/Sound Training Workshop on 14 July

(Various members of the worship teams of Cantonese and Mandarin Congregations).



Thomas used John 4:23-24 to start the whole program which was very touching to me. Focusing on God is the main point of worshipping. He reminded us to be found by God. Let ourselves be ready to seek Him. Technically in leading worship, we need to be full of power that is from the Holy Spirit. But not just singing the songs. Work together with the same Spirit to help the congregation to seek God. Worship is not a performance. So, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Having good communication with the whole team is very important. Be specific how long you would like the keyboardist to play between songs, and what kind of feelings you would like to express, etc. Serving as vocalists, words pronunciation is very significant. Listen to other vocalists, blending in, not to stand out. - **Susanna** 蕭健忻

The training was really a good reminder that we have to be well prepared ourselves for the worship: preparing our heart to seek God has to come first. I look forward to having some training on the keyboard accompaniment & music arrangements when there are more than one instrument, which the present training did not cover. I hope in future we can have separate classes for the music instrument training. - **Lina**

Some areas were interesting but I don't think we have the technique and skills to achieve at the moment. Hope that we are gradually able to carry out in the near future. - **Fione**

Training on sound system and leading worship was very useful to Mandarin Congregation. It would be better if the trainers spoke Mandarin as well. - **Vivian/Jennifer/Leo**

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

## Submitting to God Wholeheartedly

Deep in the heart of mankind, the greatest resistance to God is his self-centredness. When Adam and Eve, the ancestors of human beings, sinned purposely, the seeds of rebellion and disobedience were planted in the soul of mankind. The Israelites, who are God's chosen people, repeatedly forgot the graces of God. It was entirely God's presence and protection that the Israelites were able to get rid of Pharaoh's control and leave the strong-armed Egypt. However, the Israelites broke God's heart by making and bowing down to the golden calf as they wished. In the eras of Judges and Kings, the leaders had not set good examples for the Israelites to obey God, and hence the Bible described that at that time in Israel "everyone did as he saw fit".

Today people are unwilling to obey and be loyal. In a society dominated by realism, materialism and self-centredness, most people want to pay less and get more, and behave in their own ways. Being loyal to an organisation, a governments or a church would result in ridicule, resistance, rejection, or even antagonism. What should you, being a Christian, do if you are living in

a generation which disregards loyalty and obedience? Would you introspect how much you know God and how close your relationship is with Him? I believe that "God's word" and "submission to Him" are the most important foundations in building up a close relationship with God.

I recalled that, when I first joined the church after conversion 13 years ago, I knew nothing about serving God, praying and the Bible. The church has provided a wide range of training courses: new believers' program, spiritual maturity course, Sunday School, prayer meetings, bible study groups, discipleship training, cell group leader training, Christian Training Program (CTP), leadership training, Alliance Theological Seminary Cert 4 course. Thank God and the Holy Spirit for His guidance that I could complete the above training courses; I must also thank the instructors for their hard work. Through

Pastor Paul Chan



this long training process, I not only learnt biblical knowledge, but also realised, as enlightened by the Holy Spirit, that I should be humble because I am limited. The greatest reward is that a close relationship with God has been built up.

In mid March this year, Rev. Li encouraged me to teach in the Adult Sunday School (now known as “Equipped with the Bible” Program). Apart from feeling stressful, I needed to learn to be submissive to God. Thank God that I broke through this barrier very soon and I was willing to take up this ministry, knowing that God must have His plan.

I was tested on my submission again in June this year because I was assigned to lead the Education Department in the new term of Deacon Board. This is more challenging than serving as a Sunday School teacher because I had neither previous experience nor qualification in teaching. I am the most junior and inexperienced one as compared with other committee members, namely, Rev. Li, Anna Kwok (Executive Director of 3C Centre), Connie Or (Mentor of Cantonese Youth Fellowship), Cal and Anita Chan (Adult Sunday School teachers), and Daniel and Petraine Li (Seniors

Sunday School teachers). How could I lead these “strong people”? For this I have prayed earnestly. Thank God for His arrangement because it is much better to have a team of elites to work with.

I take this opportunity to encourage brothers and sisters to join the “Equipped with the Bible” Program as your responses to God’s calling. Thank God that He has prepared this team of elites to serve in this ministry. Please pray for this spiritual battle; pray for the teachers so that they have good example in their Christian life, and are willing to serve in this ministry with unity, humility, love, sacrifice and commitment; pray for the trainees so that they are eager to learn, willing to refresh, and submissive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Appended below is a brief introduction of the Believers’ Spiritual Maturity Programs of the HCAC:

**Aim:** According to the Lord Jesus’ teaching (Matthew 28: 18-20), to equip and train believers to become disciples with commitment to serving the Lord and fulfilling His Great Commission.

Please check out from flyers, posters and bulletins for dates, times and venues.

<b>Equipping Courses</b> <b>Other selective programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate Program: “Equipped with the Bible” (must complete 3 books each from the Old and New Testaments)</li> <li>• Certificate Program: “Equipped with the Old Testament”</li> <li>• Certificate Program: “Equipped with the New Testament”</li> <li>• Systematic Theology (certificate course)</li> <li>• Christian Training Program (CTP)</li> </ul>	<b>Level I:</b> “Beginners’ Growth” Program <b>Targets:</b> New believers/ believers not having been equipped before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six Lessons for Foundation: individual or in group</li> <li>• Studying the Book of Gospels</li> <li>• Spiritual Maturity 101</li> <li>• Knowing the Bible</li> </ul>
<b>Level II:</b> “Preparing for Ministry” Program (Certificate courses) <b>Targets:</b> baptised members who are willing to be trained for ministering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Testament - Overview</li> <li>• Old Testament - Overview</li> <li>• Training on Evangelism Explosion III</li> <li>• Gifts and Ministering (placements in different ministries as arranged)</li> <li>• Compulsory courses on selected books of the Bible : two each from the Old and New Testaments (such as Genesis, Exodus, 1 &amp; 2 Samuel, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 &amp; 2 Timothy)</li> </ul>	<b>Level III:</b> Advanced Program for Ministering (Certificate courses) <b>Targets:</b> Those who are willing to commit in ministering on long term basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personality and personal growth</li> <li>• Praying and Spiritual Practice</li> <li>• Leading a Group (e.g. how to care and minister, pray and serve)</li> <li>• Training on equipping new believers</li> <li>• Compulsory courses on selected books of the Bible : two each from the Old and New Testaments (such as Nehemiah, Romans, 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians, Hebrews)</li> <li>• Leading bible study</li> <li>• Principles in church leadership and management</li> <li>• Compulsory retreat camp for ministers</li> </ul>

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和



## What's on in Christmas

The 2014 Christmas Evangelical Meeting will be held on the Christmas Eve, 24 December, as usual.

**Theme:** Classic Oldies' Night – "Nothing New Under the Sun"

**Objectives:** To celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus on this festival day; to let people gather together joyfully to know Him who will give us a joyful life

**Program:** 5:00 pm – Agape Dinner (Bring a Dish); 7:00 pm – Part 1: Classic Oldies

7:45 pm – Part 2: Worship and Message: "Nothing New under the Sun"

8:45 pm – Part 3: Classic Oldies Karaoke – Happy Christmas Eve

**Venue:** Church Building, HCAC, 3/340 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills 2120 (Railway St. )

**Fee:** Free of Charge (admission by ticket only)

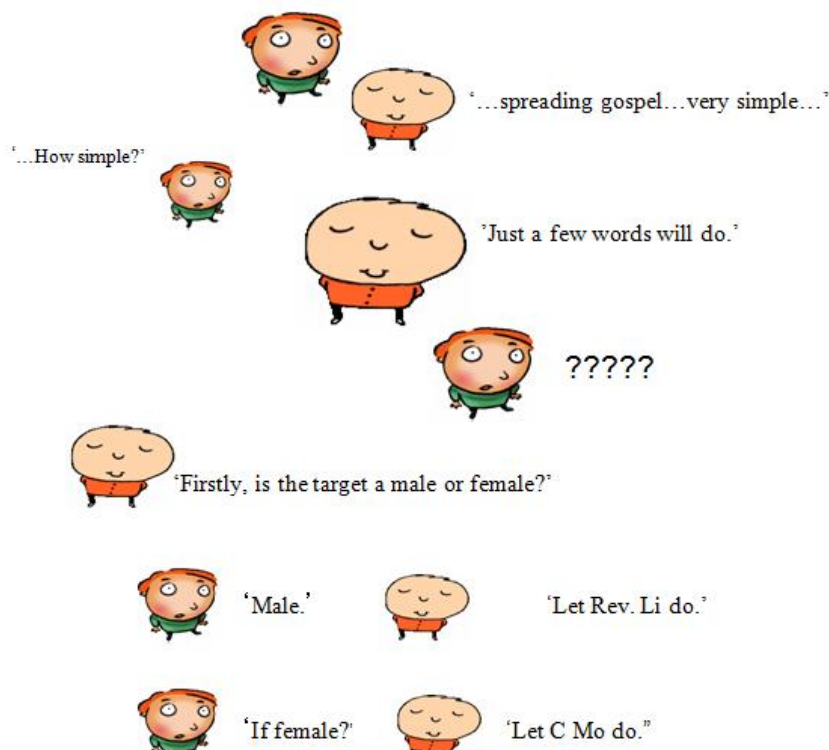
**Enquiry:** 02 9484 6374/0414 600 732

Brothers and sisters are most welcome. Please also invite your not-yet-Christian relatives/friends to join to have a joyful Christmas Eve.

## Comic

The Theme for 2014 is "Spreading Gospel"

What can I do if I have not yet attended the Evangelism Explosion III training?



## 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 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.