



Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

2015 Theme: Reviving Worship, Spreading Gospel

Sub-Theme: Jan-Mar: Praying; Apr-Jun: Rekindling Passion to God; Jul-Sep: Committing to Christ; Oct-Dec: Spreading Gospel

Issue 17

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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.

Pastor's Word – Looking backward and forward

Rev Almon Li 李智峰牧師

When reviewing our ministries in the past year, we were really thankful to God for a lot of things. We witnessed that His grace was sufficient in our ministries such as worship, offerings, cell groups and outreaching services. Though we had encountered difficulties and problems in the past year, He guarded our church with his abundant grace and countless love. As Paul said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor 12:9)

Brothers and sisters, I hope that we will continue to work hard in unity in the coming year, to build up a church which is led by Jesus, which is willing to share and serve, and which loves to spread gospel. The theme of the church for the next year remains unchanged -- reviving worship, spreading gospel -- under which there are four sub-themes, namely, praying, rekindling passion for God, committing, and spreading gospel. We cannot revive our worship and spread gospel without a healthy and strong spiritual life. We will focus on the following in our ministries in the coming year:

1. Encourage and help brothers and sisters to discipline themselves in praying. We can do nothing without the power from God. Lord Jesus reminded us in John 15:5 that "apart from me you can do nothing."
2. Encourage brothers and sisters to commit to God and re-ignite their passion for Him, through bible studies in cell groups, topical bible courses and



sermons. Our ministries and workshops will be superficial and unacceptable to God if we do not have a committed life. Without the passion for God, we cannot endure and stand firm to serve God and spread gospel. As Paul said, he was motivated by God's love to serve -- "for the love of Christ controls us". Despite that he encountered thousands of difficulties and was under great pressure, Paul served God with peace and joy and had never given up.

3. Push brothers and sisters to take part in missionary ministries through the joint venture with Chinese Christian Mission.
4. Strengthen outreaching and evangelistic ministries; encourage brothers and sisters to spread gospel.
5. Enrich brothers and sisters' spiritual life through systematic bible equipping courses.
6. Strengthen pastoral care through cell groups, newcomers' fellowship and home visits.
7. Plan the expansion project so that we will have a larger accommodation for gospel gatherings, outreaching services etc.
8. Taking the opportunity of the church's 15th anniversary, organise spiritual and

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

Website : www.hillscac.org

E-mail : admin@hillscac.org

gospel gatherings, so as to enrich brothers and sisters' spiritual life and to stimulate them to spread gospel.

The new year is like a piece of unoccupied land which God has promised to give us. Though we are uncertain about the future, we should not be afraid, just standing outside the "door". What we should do is to enter into God's promised land with the belief that God is with us. Therefore we should not be afraid or dismayed; but strong and courageous" represents our inner belief. If we have both faith and action, we will overcome all difficulties and

enter into the promised land.

Brothers and sisters, when our church is entering into its 15th anniversary, are you willing to join us to live out the great commission by witnessing Him at this place? I hope that we can stand up and work hard together to fulfil the task entrusted to us by God.

Lastly, we should know that praying is the source of our power that can help us achieve the goal. I hope that more and more brothers and sisters will join our prayer ministry.

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

HCAC Senior Soccer Team

Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

In HCAC, soccer can be regarded as the most popular and "successful" team sport. Since its setting up in 2010, the HCA Soccer Team, comprising mainly young men from the English and Cantonese Congregations, has participated in the soccer competition (Premier League) each year hosted by the In-Christ Sports Ministry. From the first 3 seasons with nil point to the last season finishing third on the table, the team has made satisfactory improvements over the years.

During a casual chat in a birthday dinner gathering in October 2014, there was a suggestion that the senior brothers should form a soccer team and have a fund-raising game with the HCAC Soccer Team as part of the celebration for the 15th Anniversary of the HCAC. Through Deacon Carter's efficient liaison and with Rev. Li's support, the HCAC Senior Soccer Team (SST) was formed in last November; more than 10 senior brothers from Cantonese and Mandarin Congregations (and their family members) had been enlisted to join the team. The SST is also known as "Happy Uncles" Team, meaning

that "Uncles get together to play soccer happily".

We have planned to organise one training match in every quarter before the church's 15th Anniversary. The first training match, against the HCAC Soccer Team, was held on 7/12/2014 at Harold West Reserve, Carlingford. It was very encouraging that more than 20 players and family members of both teams were present. All the players, of whom some were fathers and sons, brothers and even children, enjoyed the game with interactions, despite that there were intermittent rains.

It is our wish that the soccer sport can be one of the means to build up the relationship between male believers, between fathers and sons, and between believers and non-believers; and to strengthen their communication. We hope to encourage brothers to participate in team sports after their work and church ministries. Let the football "fly" among brothers, connecting members of the church and cheering their hearts.

Let the Football Fly
(Words rewritten from "Let Praise Arise")
As we come into this place,
As we gather face to face,
We can feel the grasses embrace,
And joyful sound fills this place.
Let us pass the ball in our pace,
Let us score our goals in the race.
As we clap hands and shout hurray,
All who've made efforts shall be praised.
Let the ball fly, let praise arise,
Connecting all brothers on this day.
We raise our hands with smiling faces.



English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

God's countless grace

Wingsze Li 李葉詠詩

Thank God that we experienced plenty of grace and love in the past four years; I had never stopped thanking God and all people around me. God has put my family in a very special and lovely place, in which we can be shepherd but, at the same time, can serve Him whole-heartedly.

Over the past years, Rev. Li and Marianna have given us a lot of support and encouragement, especially when I was in spiritual depression. Through their practical help, God led me through the dark valley. We were invited to join a cell group in which we got much support from the group members. We shared our happiness and bitterness of life in bible studies; we encouraged each others in prayers. Brothers and sisters have never stopped giving their love and care, rendering their helps and supplying what we need in our daily living.

At times, I did have frustrations. However, God would supply what we need whenever we seemed to be in shortage. This is one of the greatest graces in our life. The physical as well as spiritual difficulties and attacks have not deterred us from serving God; on the contrary, they have become the evidences that we are relying on Him in prayers. I know that a branch not remaining in the vine can do nothing. I also believe that the trials God has given me should not be beyond what I can bear.

It is true that I am tired in looking after my family/kids and I have no spare time to take rest. But nothing is comparable to the joy of living with my family members together. I cannot help giving thanks to God for His love and power whenever I see that my kids learn to know the Lord Jesus and that they love the Gospel and everyone around them.

God's grace comes upon to my family again -- our 4th kid was born in last November. We thank God for His love and mercy; we have accepted this blessing with much joy and happiness.

It seems that we do not lack anything because God has abundantly given His grace to us without any limit.



English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

Children Sunday School



Children Sunday School has been going well, under Gods grace and provisions. Since the change of time, the number of children has decreased by approximately half (to ~12) and this makes it easier to manage.

Recently, congratulations to Tristan Chen, who has graduated from Sunday School and is currently taking part in the English service. We pray that he will settle in well; and Eugene (his younger brother) continues to enjoy his time in Sunday School.

Currently, all the teachers are from the English

Deacon Quincy Cheuk 卓昆浩執事

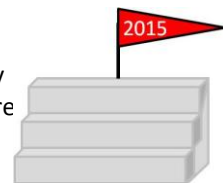
congregation. We highly welcome and encourage members of the Cantonese congregation to play a role in the Children Sunday School. Most of us are still young and it would be wonderful to have even more mature minds in our team. Possible roles are teaching, helping and leading worship.

We are really grateful for all the brothers and sisters that have helped and currently help in Children Sunday School. Your efforts are definitely not in vain and it is truly a blessing to be a diligent servant of God.

Chinese Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

Entering into the 15th Year

Thank God that, in last October, the HCAC celebrated its 14th Anniversary and, at the same time, was entering into its 15th year. It was our pleasure that Rev. Rev. Rod Russell-Brown, the C&MA President was present to preach in the Sunday service on 19 October 2014.



Ending the Marathon Love



Congratulations to Brother Enoch Li, the elder son of Rev. and Mrs. Almon Li, and Sister Winnie Leung of the English Congregation, who ended their 11-year Marathon love and had their wedding held on 18 October 2014 at the classic All Saints Anglican Church. Rev. Rod Russell-Brown officiated and preached at the wedding. The bride and groom were greeted by over 300 guests, relatives, brothers and sisters.



A new Member in Li's Family

Congratulations to Pastor Freddie and Wingsze for their 4th child, who is also the first baby boy of Li's family. The baby was born smoothly on 25 November 2014 at the Westmead Hospital.



25th Baptism Service



In the 25th Baptism Service held on 29 November 2014 at the Epping Gospel Church, a total of 16 brothers and sisters were baptised and joined the church. Rev. Li officiated the baptism while Pastor Tony and Pastor Kenneth were responsible for preaching sermon and presenting souvenirs respectively. Brothers and sisters baptised include: Lisa Yu, Wendy Zhao, Rose Zhou, Jocelyn Zhao, Rita Sze, S Y Chan, Terry Tang, Alfred Chung, Christy Kao, Renee Young, Veronica Giang, Vivan Cheung, Victor Zhang, Sean Chen, Jermyn Young and Martin Leung.

Worship Ministry Gathering

The Worship Ministry, comprising Worship Teams, Sound Team and PowerPoint Team, held a joint meeting cum sharing gathering on 30 November 2014. Rev. and Mrs. Li were also present. Under the chairmanship of Deacon Roy Ho, members shared their views and experiences in the Worship Ministry. Members generally agreed that the teams had made improvements in various aspects in this year.



MEN'S MINISTRY IN 2015

Pastor Freddie Li 李道賢傳道

Topics for 2015 :

Mar : To talk about Dads
Apr: To be an "iron" man
May: Today's single Dads
Jun: His beauty diary
Jul: "P"-licensed Dads
Aug: Retired but not retreated
Sep: Maltreated men
Oct: Lonely men
Nov: Gathering with families



The monthly gathering of the Men's Ministry in 2015 shall start from 15 March and the day of gathering shall be changed to the third Sunday of each month while the time (6:00 to 9:30 pm) and venue remain unchanged. The main theme for 2015 shall be

"Men are from Mars"

", which was inspired by a 2014 TV programme of the Radio Hong Kong with the same title.

In each of our monthly gatherings, we shall have songs, dinner, video on topic of the month, bible study and prayer time. All brothers are welcome to join us.

English Translation : Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

2015 Chinese Youth Fellowship

2015 Theme : Love one another

Gathering begins on **27 February 2015**
every Friday night **7:15pm – 10pm**
at our church building



English Translation: Grace Li 李明恩

"STUDYING ROMANS" COURSE

Equipping Program for Believers' Spiritual Growth

Had you missed the "Systematic Theology" course held in last year? Whether or not you had done so, you should not miss Rev. Li's course "Studying Romans" to be conducted in 8 classes starting from 25 February 2015.

The importance of Romans can be reflected by the fact that it appeared as the first of the Paul's letters in the New Testament. Martin Luther regarded Romans as the digest of the gospel; he also said that the Christianity would not be eliminated if the "Gospel of John" and "Romans" could be retained. He encouraged believers to study Romans because the more one studied it, the more treasures he would find from it. John Calvin also testified that anyone who was well conversant to this book had found the key to understanding the whole Bible.

In fact, Romans is the most influential one among all books of the Bible in the church history. Augustine was converted to the Lord after he had read this book; Martin Luther's doctrine of "justification by faith" had been inspired by this book before he initiated the Reformation;

John Wesley realised his "insurance of Salvation" when someone was reading out Martin Luther's commentary on Romans.

In conclusion, Romans is the major book of books; no any other book in the Bible is comparable to this book in terms of topics covered, the scriptures quoted from the Old Testament, the range of things described, and the richness of God's predestination salvation.

Date: 25/2, 4/3, 18/3, 25/3, 1/4, 15/4, 22/4, 29/4 (8 classes)

Time: 7:45 – 9:30 p.m.

Lecturer: Rev. Almon Li

Venue: Church Building

- Requirements: 1. Minimum attendance: 70%
2. Active participation in class discussion

Remarks: This is a Level III course suitable for those who have been baptized and are willing to be equipped to serve or to grow in spirituality. Other brothers and sisters are also welcome. Please return your completed enrolment forms to Mrs. Ruth Yu, Church Administrator.

Date : 28 March 2015 (Saturday)

Program : Chinese dances, Cantonese songs, message, tea

Time : 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Venue : Church Building

Fee : Free admission

Enquiry : (02) 9484 6374 /
0414 600 732 (Mrs. Li)



Chinese Dancing Night

DISCIPLINE TO PRAY COURSE

Equipping Program for Believers' Spiritual Growth

To tie in with the theme and sub-themes of the church for 2015, Rev. Almon Li will conduct a talk or a bible course on one specific Sunday each month. As the sub-theme for the 1st quarter of 2015 is "Praying", the first topical bible course will be on "discipline to pray" as follows:

Spiritual men and praying
Praying with love
Praying and self-counselling

Date: 18/1, 15/2, 23/3 (3 classes)

Time : 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Venue: Church Building

