



# Hills Christian Alliance Church

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

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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](mailto:admin@hillscac.org) or to Marianna, Grace, Juanita, Wendy, 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.

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## Pastor's Words – A Committed Life

Rev Almon Li 李智峰牧師

From July to September, the theme for our church is "commitment". The church hopes that all brothers and sisters live a committed life. Without committed believers, it does not matter how many high quality gatherings or trainings the church has, the church will not revive or grow. So what is a committed life? A committed life includes both a commitment to God and to the community. Today, I want us to focus on the commitment to God.

### Committed to God

Many believers who have decided to follow Jesus realise a few months later, that their lives are no different to (if not worse than!) the ones they were living when they were still non-believers. So they come to a false conclusion that they are not sincere enough. But in fact, the real reason is that they do not know the meaning of being committed to God. To receive the abundant life that God has promised, we have to be wholly committed to God, and that means that we have to hand over our entire lives to God. Let us think carefully about what Jesus said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

Take note that there is no place for negotiation. Jesus said: "My commitment to you is wholly. I have forsaken everything for you, including my life to save yours. Will you do the same for me? I can promise you that you will not regret to say yes, but there is a great price that comes with it!" Jesus asks for the centre of our lives to be renewed and changed. Being self-centred is the nature of our earthly lives. But Jesus asks us to "forget about it" and "put ourselves aside". This is like placing all your money into one bank account and giving God a blank cheque. God can use the cheque in 24 hours, take away all your funds, and at the end of the day, ask you to be a martyr for Him. But God will not do that. He will lead us step by step to live a committed life. For example, the first step is for us to be determined to pray, read the Bible, and leave time aside to build a relationship with God every day. The second step may be for us to be determined to farewell our bad habits or environments. The third step may be for us use our gifts to serve God, etc. God will lead us step by step until we begin to understand that our lives have already been offered up to Him as living sacrifices. But how many of us are willing to be committed to God like this and have the courage to put God above everything else?

Experience tells me that God has demands for all of us. But he is definitely patient and kind, and He will wait until we are ready.

A pastor and his wife drove past an unattractive town, and they said to each other: "Hopefully, we will never ever have to set foot on this town again. It will be miserable." But a few years later, God called them to work in this town. They were surprised that not only do they have the determination to move forward with the idea, they were able to settle down happily after their arrival. This is living a committed life.

To be committed is to be completely obedient to God's Word, His guidance, and His arrangement. This is not being obedient out of helplessness, but being obedient with a joyful heart. Brothers and sisters, the church God arranged for you may not be your

favourite church; the work or ministry that God puts you in may not be one that you like; your family and the brothers and sisters in Christ God wants you to serve may cause you discomfort; but if we are really committed to God, we have

to be completely obedient and joyful in the church and position that God places us in, and accomplish the mission, entrustment and the work that God has given to us. Brothers and sisters, are you ready to be committed to God?

English Translation: Carol Li 李佩恩

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## Committing to Christ

Margie Hall

Life is full of commitments. Think about it. There are commitments to Parents, Family, work, politics, etc. and those types of commitments are universally expected. Nothing unique about that. Some are more committed than others depending on the nurturing and environment of an individual.

We live in worlds within worlds. There is a sporting world, entertainment world, university world, medical world, and many more. Commitment is found within these worlds too. There has to be a focus to that commitment to achieve results but it does not change the character of the committed one and it profits nothing in or for Eternity.

It is the Holy Spirit that reveals Jesus Christ to an individual. It is necessary to explain who Jesus is and the reason for Him coming to earth. The challenge is given by the Holy Spirit to explain the need of confession and repentance of sin. The amazing love of God sending His Son to take our punishment and to become a follower of Jesus Christ. These are the claims that Christ makes upon the life.

There must always be given a clear exposure and explanation about who Jesus Christ is and the purpose of His 33 years on earth. There cannot be an expectation of anyone responding well to the Gospel without clearly telling the complete story of who Jesus is.

There is an obligation to the hearer to give a clear message about Jesus and Eternity, from the Word of God (the Bible) that there is no doubt, in the mind, that truth has been spoken and heard. To clearly explain what being Born Again by the Holy Spirit means.

The Holy Spirit then works on the Inquirer from what has been shared in the Word of God, that He draws the sinner to repent, forgive and commit their life to Christ. A sinner has accepted Jesus by the Holy Spirit and is now saved for Eternity by the Grace of God.

A transformation should take place. Moving from Darkness into the Glorious Light of Jesus. This is the first step of Commitment to Jesus Christ. Reading the Word and praying should become important. The commitment to Jesus should give to the one, (now a sinner saved by Grace), an improvement on other commitments or responsibilities affecting the life. The real purpose for being on earth will become clear. Christ will now live His life in and through the new follower to reach the people who are still in darkness. There will be a challenge from Satan to try and defeat the believer in subtle ways, so a strong commitment is needed to stay focused on Jesus.

Those who claim to be born again, a sacrificial commitment is needed, so that the evidence is seen by being overcomers, victorious, steadfast and faithful in this life.

1 John 5 -4, "for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Rev. 3-21, "To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne."

Revelation 21-7, "Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Chinese Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

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## A Resounding Worship

Flone Kelly 鄭婉貞

Few weeks ago, a brother from church asked me how long I have been serving as a worship team leader. I have never counted until now. It has been around 4 years. Not a long time, but not a short time either!

From the time when I started leading, feeling scared and solely focusing on what to do on stage, until now where I am able to

enjoy worship and give consideration to the congregation, there has been improvement but more is needed. Therefore, whenever an opportunity arises, I would attend trainings and observe how the talented and



experienced leaders lead worship, in order to learn new techniques and to effectively achieve 'reviving worship'.

Recently, I had an opportunity to share my experience in worship leadership with the pastor of the Herald Crusaders. He mentioned that the worship team not only worships together with the congregation, but also has a role in creating a good atmosphere when leading people into worship. It is important to have both beautiful singing and fine music.

I had this experience at a Christian conference in May. The skilled song interpretation of the singers and musicians with a suitable sound control, along with the sermon, drew me closer to God as I was immersed in His presence. This experience was resounding in my heart throughout the whole week!

Without a doubt, the worship team is responsible for leading songs, but the cooperation with others such as sound team, power point team and members of the worship team are essential in creating a good atmosphere.

In a recent meeting of the Worship Ministry, we discussed how to provide a better worship experience, how to improve the quality of music and singing, and the coordination with the other ministries... etc. The congregation could actually participate in this ministry indirectly by providing us feedback. We value and love to hear your opinion as it will be helpful for the future worship sessions.

I really hope that we can all work together to please God every Sunday, and at the same time help every member of the congregation experience a resounding worship in His temple!

English Translation: Reyland Szeto 司徒睿朗

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## Sharing on “Discipline to Pray”\*

Edith Ip 葉謝美玲

The first sub-theme topical course, “Discipline to Pray”, has been completed satisfactorily. This is one of the courses under the Believers’ Equipping Program for Spiritual Maturity. Rev. Li trained us, in 3 sessions, to discipline our praying.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Session: “Spiritual Men and Praying”

The spiritual focus of modern men is on “themselves” i.e. they are always concerned about their inside worlds and ignore other people. Rev. Li told us that we should focus our spiritual discipline on the Christ Himself. We should find a quiet place to relax, breathe deeply and unload all our worries and burdens to God. We should pray that Jesus would enter into our lives and vice versa. We should encounter God by ourselves, follow His instructions, live as children of light, lift up Jesus in our life and witness Him. A person who has truly experienced God would fear God, know His will and let the Christ control his life.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Session: “Praying with Love”

Love and relationship have to be nurtured. We need to take time to be with God so that our and His hearts will be closer. We will long for God when we realise that we are so poor and our hearts are so desolate. If you really love someone, you would spend time with this person and would be thirsty to be closer to him/her. Likewise, we must have the motivation to come closer to God, because His love is so deep and wide. After listening to God’s word, we should spend time to reflect,

to pray and to live out His truth in our daily lives. We should also spend time to communicate with Christ spiritually, like the bride who deeply longs for God.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Session: “Praying & Self-counselling”

We should give ourselves as Jesus did. This does not mean that we should be detached from the real world and practicing penance and abstinence in our daily lives. We should truly deal with our “self”, give up our self-centredness, take our cross to follow Jesus, and discipline our spirituality daily. At the end of each day, we should take time to reflect and practice the “Prayer of Examen” in the following 3 steps:

We should give thanks to God for the daily guidance by Holy Spirit, and for our willingness to obey God and live a God-pleasing life.

We should unload our pressures and burdens to God and pray that He will lead us to go forward.

We should reflect if we have any self-centred behaviours and any sins against God or other people. If so, we should admit our sins and repent.

Through self-reflection we inspect our strengths, spiritual gifts and shortcomings for improvement. We should accept ourselves so that we can have a true and close relationship with God; accept others so that we get along well with others.

\*Reference: Rev. Li’s handout

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和



# Testimony of Uncle Lee

Lee Hing 李興

After my retirement, I left Hong Kong for the United States and lived there for 10 years (from 2001 to 2010) until a sudden change in my family – my son died in an accident when he was diving. Therefore, I migrated again to Australia to reunion with my daughter and son-in-law.

In 2008, I was suffered from prostate cancer. Being a citizen of the United States, I received free medical services including treatment, tests, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, under the care of 3 doctors. After all these procedures, the doctors said that they could not guarantee a complete elimination of all cancer cells. However, the test result revealed that the cancer cell count was almost zero. Therefore, the doctors said that I was recovered and should be under observation for 5 years. I am now 89 years old, living beyond the observation period of 5 years set by the doctor.

Now I have liver cancer, which has been existing in my body without any pain. This is God's blessing. I am still able to have

leisure walking and eat what I want to eat. All these are God's graces. For brothers and sisters who have suffered from similar illnesses, I hope that you can rely on the power and peace given by God to overcome your physical problems like me.

Thanks to Rev. Li, Mrs. Li, brothers and sisters for your caring messages and prayers. How wonderful is the power of prayers! I pray that God will give me more chances to serve Him. As I was not highly educated when I was young, I am willing to learn God's word from brothers and sisters. It is my wish that I can continue to know God and serve Him.

May all glory be to our God!



Editor's Note: This article is the testimony made by Brother Lee Hing at the "Joyful Life" Evangelistic Meeting held on 29 March 2015, before he passed away on 26 May 2015. May he rest in peace.

English Translation: Sherwood Kwok 郭兆和

## Testimony – God is always with me

Reena Yeung 楊惠雅姊妹

I first learnt about God at school (at scripture class) and so did my siblings. After some time of convincing from the three of us (my sister, my brother and I), my dad agreed to go to his friend's church. It was about 7 years ago when I started going to church. Church brought me closer to God. I learnt more about him every week and the questions that I was busting to ask-were answered. I finally understood what Jesus did for me. His everlasting love for me. At scripture I prayed to open my heart to let God in. I wanted God to be the centre of my life.

It was three years ago, when God made it clear and reminded me that he is God. My sister was watching a sermon about "GOD IS LOVE" on the computer. When I sat down and joined her, the man who was explaining God's love and the fact that he is love; made everything clear. Everything 'clicked'. Like the last piece of the puzzle that I have been looking for all my life had been found. Everything was put together. Everything made sense. Knowing God had changed everything. This

reminder especially, changed my whole entire perspective on the purpose of life. I was no longer living for myself, I was living for God. To this day, I try my best to do everything for God.

God has been watching over me my whole life. I learnt that everything he does has a purpose and sometimes, you just have to be patient. Sometimes it's not what you want, but He always seems to have something even better planned for you.

Whenever I am afraid, I would pray to God and this bible verse would always come to my mind "The Lord is with me, I will not be afraid" Psalms 118:6. My sister wrote this verse on a piece of paper and stuck it on the back of my room door. From that day onwards, I knew that there was nothing to be afraid about because God is always with me.



Chinese Translation: Janet Yu 余黎慶玲

# Major Events in Brief

## “Joyful Life” Evangelical Meeting

Organised by the Women’s Group for the first time, the “Joyful Life” Evangelical Meeting was held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm on March 28 2015 (Saturday) at the Church Building. Apart from an evangelical message delivered by Rev. Almon Li, the program included worship, Chinese dances (by HCAC Dancing Class), Cantonese gospel songs, testimony (by Uncle Lee Hing) and tea gathering.

## 26<sup>th</sup> Baptism Services

The 26<sup>th</sup> Baptism Service, officiated by Rev. Almon Li, was held on 18 April 2015 at the Epping Gospel Church. On this special occasion, a total of 6 brothers and sisters were baptised, namely, Natalie Wong, Matthew Wong, Lavender Tze, Erica Tang (English Congregation), Penny Giang (Cantonese Congregation) and Winnie Ching (Mandarin Congregation). As before, the membership ceremony for new members on transfer to HCAC was held in the Sunday Service immediately after the Baptism i.e. 19 April 2015. The 9 new members joined the HCAC are : Carmen Chan, Mandy Lian, Tom Li, Anna Kwok, Sherwood Kwok, Wendy Wong, Rosa To, Aiki Ho and Simon Yeung (Cantonese Congregation).



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## 2015 Mandarin Church Camp

Mandarin Church 國語堂

Thanks to God for His grace and to brothers and sisters for their participation and support! Mandarin Church Camp 2015 was successfully completed and we have still talked about it in chat groups. God gave us good weather and beautiful surroundings. Thank God that He let all of us, who joined the Kiah Ridge camp, had a joyful heart to participate in every activity -- sermon, spiritual meeting, talent shows, games and sporting events – and enjoy every happy hour each day. We wholeheartedly give our praise to our Heavenly Father. Appended below is the sharing by Pastor Leung and some participants:





**Pastor Kenneth Leung:**

Hills alliance mandarin church camp, three days two nights together;  
 Beautiful weather and wonderful scenery, birds singing and kangaroos hopping.  
 Great food physical and spiritual, lovely people and good fellowship;  
 Both indoor and outdoor activities, peaked at tug-of-war and apple dancing.  
 Brothers and sisters one family, hate to part at last;  
 But give thanks to God, lives inspired with many blessings!



**Nancy Xie:**

I was happy at the church camp. There were no life troubles.  
 There were Tug O war, table tennis, talent show, jump ballroom dancing, sermons, testimony sharing, colourful activities. The adults and children were all participating.  
 Especially the "little apple" collective dance, everyone was high in spirits. Thanks to the organizing committee for the camp. Let yourself be a blessing to others, hoping that the spirit of the camp can accompany you to go further.



**Helen Wu:**

Good location, Good environment, good information and activity arranged.  
 Thanks to speaker, thanks to all of the brothers and sisters participated.  
 Hallelujah, praise the Lord!



**Coco Zhang:**

Didn't want to leave camp while carrying luggage. But the luggage held all the wonderful moments and memories. It's very hard to forget God's love. Let us be like spiritual candles that ignite each other's life. Let us walk in the journey of faith and joy again.