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2016 Church Theme: Renewing the mind, Revitalising the spirit

Sub-theme: Jan-Apr To know Jehovah; May-Aug: Remove old self, build up new self; Sep-Dec: To serve Jehovah

Hills Christian Alliance Church Newsletter

Issue 22

Pastor's Sharing - Remove old self, build up new self

The church's sub-theme for this season is "Remove old self, build up new self", aiming at encouraging brothers and sisters to continue to grow spiritually and be renewed. This sub-theme was originated from Ephesians 4:22-24, which says: "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

By God's grace, we are able to "put on the new self". But since we are still living in this sinful world, we need to pursue holiness and the renewal in the spirit of our minds. The "new self" is a spiritual creation, therefore we need to obey the guidance and control of the Holy Spirit. By doing this, our minds will be renewed and changed, thus leading to consistent growth. If not, we will gradually become insensitive and even unresponsive to God's will, resulting in the emergence of our old self.

If we are to avoid becoming like gentiles who have given themselves up to licentiousness and are filled with lusts derived from self-centredness, we need to constantly learn to be imitators of Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us not to be greedy to practice every kind of impurity because we have "learned Christ" and have received the truth in Jesus (v.21). Lust causes the old self to gradually corrupt. So similarly, the pursue of holiness is also chronic and gradual. Although Christians are "once saved, always saved", our minds and hearts need to be renewed and changed. "Changing" is a present continuous tense, so therefore we need to seek and pursue God daily to ensure that our minds are changing and renewing.

The "new self" is created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. This "new self" indicates the birth of our spirit in Christ, rather than the body. Originally, humans have some attributes of God. After rebirth, Christians also receive true righteousness and holiness. If we want to grow spiritually, we need to have a disciplined pursue and knowledge of the truth and live according to it. So how do we face lust, trial and temptation? The answer is to be imitators of Christ and allow our minds to be consistently renewed according to what we have been taught.

What does the "old self" mean? The Revised Standard Version (RSV) translated "old self" as "old nature" in Ephesians 4:22. There is no doubt that the old self includes the old nature, but there is more to that. Here, the definition of the "old self" is related to how Christians live their daily lives, and it includes the social life and social group.

I believe that the apostle's definition here is pointing to what we were, what we did, and what we did to survive. So you have to put off all these things. What you once were, did, and did to survive are damaging to the church life. The church will never be ideal as long as there is still one old self. We must put off all that we were, did, and did to survive.

Human reasoning and rules, what you were, did, and did to survive are all negative things that damage the church life. If you and I could remove the Pharisaic rules, human reasoning and old selves, would the church still split? I believe that it would be like heaven on earth, the kingdom of God exemplified!

The opposite of the old self is the new self. What then is the "new self"? The new self is not an old self covered with new clothes because the actions of the old self still exists; an old self covered with new clothes is still an old self. The new self is clothed with Christ and is meant to restore the likeness of God, which was given to humans at the start of creation. The new self needs to be gradually renewed in knowledge.

The new self must be ready to suffer in order to live as a new self. This new self should be reconciled to God, which is a demonstration of "true righteousness and holiness". In other words, our manner of life must be governed by God and our actions deemed right by Him because Leviticus tells us to "be holy, for I am holy".

As we pursue growth in our new lives, we will face three big enemies: Satan, the world and our old selves. Out of the three, the old self is the most difficult to confront. So brothers and sisters, by the Holy Spirit, we need to put to death our old selves and the evils of the flesh, and live out the new life. Amen!

Author: Rev. Almon Li English Translation: Carol Li

The Third Evangelism Explosion Course

The third Evangelism Explosion (EE) Course held by HCAC started from July 2015. Apart from 5 trainees (Carmen Chan, Miranda Chow, Susanna Li, Agnes Lung and Susanna Xiao), the people involved in this ministry included: Rev. Almon Li as Advisor; Anna Kwok as Trainer; Cal Chan as Administrator; Anita Chan, Paul Chan, Angelina Tulio and Cecy Chan as Leaders; and a number of brothers and sisters as prayer partners.

All the trainees had completed the 13-lesson classwork by April this year and then passed the written and oral examinations with excellent results. Subject to their satisfactory completion of at least 10 evangelism practices, the trainees will be accredited as EE Leader.

Thanks be to God for His guidance. All 30 team members of this evangelism ministry work in different posts in unity whenever there are operations to fight for the souls of non-believers. The results as at mid May this year are as follows: in 17 evangelistic operations performed, 6 persons decided to believe in the Lord, 3 persons confirmed their faith.

The EE trainees have learnt how to introduce the gospel to the targets and find out their spiritual statuses; how to deliver a complete version of the gospel; how to guide the targets to make a decision to believe in the Lord; and how to link the new believers with God's family.

At the early stage of the course, all trainees encountered the difficulty in memorising the gospel outline. With prayers and repeated revisions by using various methods to memorize, they gradually overcame the fear and difficulty. One of the

trainees said, "To me Evangelism Explosion is a very challenging ministry because I had to work hard to memorise the gospel outline and make effort to spare time for the evangelism practices. However, I have got a lot through the training process."



I am pleased to note that not only have the trainees learnt a systematic approach in evangelism, they have also grown considerably in spirituality. Before the course, some trainees were ignorant to non-believers. Now they would pray for the non-believers; some have become sensitive to seize any opportunity for evangelism in their daily lives; some have reset their priorities of life by cancelling some personal activities for evangelism; some have taken up the challenge to nurture new believers.

The following is the sharing of another trainee: "I have experienced God much more during the EE training than before. Recognising my own weaknesses and God's great power, I have realized that I have to learn to be humble and submit myself to God. May glory be to our God!"

Author: Anna Kwok English Translation: Sherwood Kwok

What I learnt at Kids Ministry...



time in providing copious amounts of patience to sharing the gospel to these kids. This year in "Kids Church" we are really thankful to have a dedicated area at the Church Building. It's been put to good use and has made such a welcoming atmosphere. We have also decided to try something new. Previously, we had been following pre-made material but though they were great resources, the idea of creating our material to specifically cater for our range of kids was something we thought would be worth a try.

With children ranging from pre-school to year 6, sometimes we would have a full house, sometimes less. Those moments

when you only have a few children, there's a little sense in you that feels a bit deflated. I am reminded, however, that numbers aren't the most important. It shouldn't be a measure of 'success' by attendance but more importantly, focusing on the people and building the relationships. There are times when children may become restless and quip out the most brutally honest remarks such as 'this is sooo boring!' Other days can be much more rewarding, seeing their eyes lit up as they discuss different stories or when we sing songs and they project their angelic loud voices full of praise and joy. These are the moments I thank God that no matter how young a person is, they are able to experience what it is like to have Him in their lives.



Kids Ministry may require lesson plans and goals, but sometimes it is what we learn from the unplanned. From teaching the children, we discover a lot about the children as well. A leader once shared at Kids Church that they had an opportunity to talk to a few older children who were less engaged in the lesson. Leading on to talk about the bible, the child presented to point out and read a whole chapter making his fellow friends interested too. The little unexpected conversations that come out may not always be fruitful but are continually uplifting to see, this certain child was so engaged because he had a similar conversation with his dad. Kids Ministry isn't just about the internal team of leaders; it's a partnership with parents as well. We may have an influence on the kids, but more so it's the influence parents have.

Sometimes at the back of my mind I wonder if these children actually know who God is or are they drilled with 'textbook' answers from being immersed in church from such a young age. Or will they continue to grow in their relationship with God as they become a young adult in a place where worldly

desires and temptations are at our door. Being part of Kids Ministry has taught me to see those classic songs that I once sung as a child with a whole new understanding and has taught me how to share the gospel in simpler terms. And as *Matthew 18: 10* says, "See that you do not despise on these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my father who is in heaven." We are to be reminded, that it's not by our own doing but God's alone who can change the hearts of people. But we definitely do have a significant impact on their lives in one way or another. The privilege I have in serving in kids and youth ministry is that I get the joy of seeing them grow and becoming involved in ministry opportunities and who knows, hopefully to become future student leaders too!

Whether a child decides to share their last biscuit, gives a prayer of thanks or whether comforting another child who got upset with a simple hug. As leaders, we are to share the good news, assist and encourage a child to participate in an activity. A certain song we sing in Kids Church says, "This little light of



mine, I'm gonna let it shine..." It is the smallest things that God sees. A child's innocence and creativity reminds us that all people are made in God's image, and even encourages us to see what it is like to

have a childlike faith.

Author: Rainbow Tam Chinese Translation: Janet Yu

2016 English Church Camp – Participants' Sharing



This year's church camp was really fun, providing us a great environment to have fellowship with all our brothers and sisters through different kind of activities, like the Tug Of War and skit acting. We had a chance to know someone new, to understand them. And I personally like to play with young kids, and we always get a chance to play with the kids at the kids' room.

The food was really good! Everyone including the young kids enjoyed the food as well! Also at the canteen, while everyone was sitting together and eating, we were discussing about the sermon, what we had learnt and what we thought about it. I spent a really fruitful and meaningful time there at church camp.

~ Annabel Hui ~

Church camp was an enjoyable and fulfilling experience as we got to spend the weekend away at Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort with our brothers and sisters. Our vision statement this year was "To IMPACT The World Through Walking With Christ" -- how we could carry out missions such as standing firm, serving with the whole heart and sending out in power. Our first mission statement was to stand firm (Corinthians 15: 50-58).

As an icebreaker activity each cell group had to prepare a skit about a story. Our cell group chose Daniel 6 -- Daniel in the Den Of Lions. The skits were entertaining and taught us the message that God is sovereign and that His will exceeds every aspect of life.

On the second day, there was an "Amazing Race" where each cell group had to complete missions and compete against other cell groups. We ended the weekend with sermons, singing and worshipping our God and sharing in our cell groups. It was an amazing time getting to know God more and to experience God's everlasting love.



~ Charmaine Lee ~

Church Camp was undeniably an awakening spiritual encounter to begin the year with. The three-day retreat was an experience that renewed the faith of each of us. Over these three days, God's will manifested itself in the activities partaken; worship, praise and games all shared a central focus on Christ and His love for us. Pastor Fredrick's series of teachings highlighted the congregation's new vision. New implementations to different areas of the ministry, such as the changes to the high schooler's youth group program and the introduction of cell groups, were revealed and foreshadowed during the course of the three days.



The camp's activities helped grow the relationships between each member of the congregation, developing new bonds and strengthening old. The familial connections with our integral Cantonese congregation were also firmly bounded during the camp. As one whose parents do not attend the Cantonese service, I was blessed enough for them to be interested in the event and attend; through this, we have formed new connections with members of the Cantonese congregation. Overall, the 2016 Church Camp was a spiritual encounter that allowed me personally, and the church together, to strengthen our bonds with each other and God, and revealed the direction we would be taking this year.

~ Edmond Gao ~

The church camp was really fun. Spending three days and two nights together helped to strengthen relationships with others and with God. Listening to three messages and doing two devotions helped me to grow spiritually.

The venue was beautiful, and the weather was not that bad, allowing us to continue with most of our activities. There were the Tug of War with the Chinese congregation, the barbeque and the Amazing Race. The beginning of cell groups also happened during the camp, and we all enjoyed activities in our groups. I enjoyed having meals with everyone, because it allowed us a lot of time to talk to each other and share. Thanks to God for giving us such a great place for our camp!



~ Zeke Yu ~

Chinese Translation: Sherwood Kwok

Short-term Missionary Trip to Dubbo



Since the day being blessed to be called God's child, I have been until now receiving God's grace for His care, provision and guidance. However, whenever responding to His call, I

would use numerous reasons to evade, such as family, work, health, ability and so on. Yet God reminds me why to worry, why only care about the physical body. *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."* (Romans 12:1) Therefore when the church decided to plan for the second missionary trip to Dubbo, God gave me an opportunity to respond to learning. I followed the team to set off.

At the time of departure, though it was led by the experienced brother from CCM (Chinese Christian Mission) and accompanied by sisters of the church, I still felt trembled and somehow relied on my own mood. Yet God reminded me, *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."* (Philippians 4:13)

During that trip of three days and two nights, obviously I felt God's guidance and work. Whether it was the journey,

weather, environment or even the visits, all went smoothly. During the visits we even experienced the warmth, sincere hospitality of the recipients. This was out of my expectation. Among them we could see their loneliness of being far away from home, the emptiness in spirit and somehow different extent of worries. They were truly those who needed the gospel. How amazing was God's arrangement. More was that about a lady (non-Christian) there we had longed to visit but were unable to get in touch. It was not until the last day before our return without any appointment we could still meet each other at a friend's home there. This let us once again see God's personal work. *"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."* (Psalm 127:1)

Finally, we thanked God who gave his guidance and care to our team members. In this trip God not only blessed the non-believers but also provided essences like fellowship, encouragement, or care in learning to believers. I really got a valuable lesson.

Hope this blessing can reach even more brothers and sisters. I believe this Dubbo missionary trip is only the beginning, it needs to keep on and



to visit perpetually in future. I wish more brothers and sisters will work together in future. Thank God.

sister have any opinions or enquiries about HCAC's missionary work, please contact Rev Li or Calvin.)

(Editor's note: Calvin Hsu is the convener of the newly established Missionary Ministry of HCAC. If brothers and

Author: Calvin Hsu English Translation: Janet Yu

The 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) cum the 4th Deacon Board Election

The 15th AGM cum the 4rd Deacon Board Election was held on June 5 2016 (Sunday) at the Main Hall, Pennant Hills Community Hall, after the Combined Service. The AGM, with an attendance of about 70 members, was chaired by Rev. Almon Li, Chairman of Deacon Board. The agenda of the AGM included, among other things, the election of 7 deacons and the acceptance of the 2016/17 Financial Budget.

Before the AGM, a total of 7 candidates were qualified through a nomination process, which included nomination, selection based on the criteria, and consultation with the nominees. After voting by the members present at the AGM, all the 7 candidates were elected: Roy Ho, Nicky Lee, Kenneth Chiu (re-elected), Anita Chan, Ling Chiu, James Wong and

Anna Kwok (newly elected). Under the accepted 2016/17 General Fund Budget, the estimated total expenses will be \$186,242 (whereas the estimated and actual total expenses for 2015/15 were \$186,433 and \$168,684 respectively).

Arrangement had been made for the pastors, deacons, ministry leaders and all members to attend our church's Planning Day (for both Cantonese and English Congregations) scheduled for 13 June 2016 (from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm) at the Church Building to think about our church's way ahead and renew our ministries.

Knowing HCAC : The Musical Works of HCAC

I have joined the Hills Christian Alliance Church for about two years (since early 2014). Not until this year when I took part in the worship ministry of the church camp did I realise that a considerable musical works had been created by HCAC members. Can you believe that over the past 15 years, HCAC has had more than 30 musical works and more than 20 HCAC members have participated in composing music and/or writing lyrics?

Thank God for His provision to HCAC. As far as music ministry is concerned, HCAC has never been short of brothers and sisters who are talented in music and willing to serve in the music ministry. They have been active in participating in HCAC's musical meetings/activities (e.g. church camps) and in learning or practising how to create musical work. According to the sources, HCAC's musical works can be categorised into four groups as follows:

The first group is comprised of songs composed under the "Living Testimony: Sing and Praise" Song Composing Activity, which was an event of the HCAC's 10th Anniversary Celebrations. A lot of HCAC members participated in this activity and some of them were in fact not knowledgeable about music. The final 13 songs were collected and printed as an album entitled "God's Love Changed My Life" Booklet. Then 7 out of these 13 songs were selected and included in a musical CD of the same title. (Please refer to the Appendix for details.)

The second group consists of 10 songs specially composed for the musical "Rhythm of Life" staged in October 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for details). DVDs of this musical have been burnt.

The third group covers 10 songs composed for various church camps of both Cantonese and English Congregations of HCAC (please refer to the Appendix for details of 9 songs; the details of the remaining one are to be verified). The latest camp song is "God's grace always follows me" composed by Reyland (English Congregation) and written by Lina (Cantonese Congregation) for the 2016 Church Camp.

The fourth group includes all songs not covered by any of the above three groups. There are currently two songs in this group. (Please refer to the Appendix for details.)



You may be aware that some of these songs have always been sung in Sunday services. Brothers and sisters are encouraged to support the songs created by HCAC members by singing these songs in Sunday services, cell group gatherings or church gatherings if the songs are suitable to the events. The booklet and CD of "God's Love Changed My Life" as well as the DVD of

“Rhythm of Life” can be ordered through the church website or the Church Administrator (please refer to the church website for updated prices). All proceeds from the sale are to be credited to the Church Building Fund.

Acknowledgement: Special thanks to Lina for providing valuable information and verifying the Appendix.

Appendix : List of HCAC Musical Works

Cat.	Title (Year)	Music	Lyrics	Arrangement
I.	“Living Testimony : Sing and Praise” Song Booklet (2010) (Note)			
	原來	Lincoln Leung	Juliena & Lincoln Leung	
	讓我感恩	Pauline Chan	Pauline Chan	
	同路人	Sylvia So	Sylvia So	Sylvia So
	神的話	Annie Lin	Annie Lin	
	How Great is Your Love	Felix Poon	Felix Poon	
	Beauty in the World	Reyland Szeto	Reyland Szeto	Reyland Szeto
	“God’s Love Changed My Life” CD Album			
	神愛改變我一生	Pauline Chan	HCAC 普頌唱委員會	Steph Lau
	自從認識神	Pauline Chan	Pauline Chan	Joyce Tan
	快樂就在神的愛	Reyland Szeto	Reyland Szeto	Reyland Szeto
	憑著信	Joyce Tan	Cynthia Chung	Joyce Tan
	有神就已足夠	Angelina Tulio	Kitty Tang	Steph Lau
	倚靠	Jessica Choi	Jessica Choi	Joyce Tan
	我要稱頌耶和華	Sylvia So	Sylvia So	Sylvia So
II.	Evangelistic Musical Play “Dance of Life” (2012)			
	耶穌拯救你	Tony Yeung (Sharehymns)	Paul Chan, Tony Yeung	Tony Yeung (Sharehymns)
	生活無奈	Angelina Tulio	Juliena Leung	Kenneth Chiu
	Your love for me	Reyland Szeto	Wingsze Li	Reyland Szeto
	若上帝可以	Reyland Szeto	Cynthia Chung	Reyland Szeto
	想當初的誓言	Sylvia So	Juliena Leung, Sylvia So	Sylvia So
	愛的真諦	Reyland Szeto	哥林前前書 13:4-7	Reyland Szeto
	我心歸向主	Sylvia So	Sylvia So	Sylvia So
	惟獨主耶穌的愛	Reyland Szeto	Reyland Szeto	Reyland Szeto
	靠著神	Pauline Chan	Pauline Chan	Rachel Li
III.	Church Camp Song			
	主中相愛 (2004)	Kenneth Chiu	Kenneth Chiu	
	他伴我直航 (2007)	Crystal Cheng	Cynthia Chung	
	靈內承擔 (2009)	Angelina Tulio	Cynthia Chung	
	從新得力，活出主愛 (2010)	Angelina Tulio & Joyce Tan	Angelina Tulio	
	Encore (2011)	Reyland Szeto	Sharon Kan	
	被主愛牽動 (2013)	Angelina Tulio	Anna Lee	
	The Jesus Song (2013)	Reyland Szeto	Sharon Kan	
	Treasures (2015)	Reyland Szeto	Sharon Kan	
	神恩永伴隨 (2016)	Reyland Szeto	Angelina Tulio	Reyland Szeto
IV.	Others			
	無條件的愛 (2010)	Pauline Chan	Pauline Chan	
	願主保守賜福你 (2011)	Angelina Tulio	Angelina Tulio	

Note: The Booklet covered 13 new songs composed/written by HCAC members, of which 7 were later contained in a CD Album with the same title.

Author: Sherwood Kwok English Translation: Sherwood Kwok