

Chinese Bible Church of San Diego

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2013

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From the Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Christmas peace and joy be upon you and your family.

For CBCSD, 2013 was not without a breeze, as many of our brothers and sisters were diagnosed with malignant tumors. Some of them required surgery, chemotherapy, or long-term medication. During these challenging circumstances, many members not only attested their steadfast faith in our Lord, but demonstrated their sincere compassion and care. Our CBC members carried a positive outlook, prayed unceasingly, made food deliveries, and lived out the true spirit of being part of God's family. These trying trials allow us to fully experience the Biblical passage: "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it" (1 Cor. 12:26a). How would one know what God is doing? If something appears to be a disaster to humans, God can still use it to achieve something beautiful. Similar to Moses and the Israelites facing the Red Sea with the Egyptian army chasing them, we should once

again heed Moses' declaration, "The LORD will fight for you; you only need to be still." (Exodus 14:14)

I thank God that CBCSD is a church that pursues "generous giving and compassionate outreach." While there were many internal financial needs, we firmly believe in Jesus' encouragement that it is a greater blessing to give than to receive. This year, we sent out six overseas mission teams to China, Brazil, Taiwan and Mexico. Each team exceeded their fund raising goal – praise God. We also participated in raising funds for the Philippines Typhoon disaster relief fund, Taiwan jail ministry, Operation Christmas Child and 30-Hour Famine by the youth. In seeing how our church has generously used their finances and their energy to bless different communities, let us give glory to God and gratitude to brothers and sisters for their service.

- Pastor Lam

CBCSD 2013 Short Term Mission (STM) and Charity Donations

Church-Wide

- STM in Chiayi, Taiwan \$8,500 raised for the team and donation
- Relief fund for Philippine super typhoon victims \$11,390
- Tainan prison ministry \$22,000 for donation
- Children's jackets collected for Mexico missions trip
- Fund raising activity for Cambodia 2014 is under way

Main Campus (Cantonese)

- STM in Brazil \$6500 raised for the team

Main Campus & 4S (Mandarin)

- STM in Yunnan \$5800 raised for the team
- Operation Christmas Child: 310 Shoeboxes collected
- Youth: 30 Hour Famine fund raising

Central Campus

- Operation Christmas Child: 68 Shoeboxes collected
- English/Youth: STM in Yunnan \$10,000 raised for the team
- English/Youth: STM Homeless and Sunday Homeless Ministry \$1,500



From CBC Council

With tremendous excitement and joy, we are finishing 2013 in awe of God's grace and promises across all campuses and congregations. In looking back, we are privileged to have witnessed all the wonderful baptismal testimonies, life transformation stories, and thanksgiving sharing. We also persevered through new building lawsuit, pastoral transitions, and a host of other events that have made us a stronger, united and more resilient family in Christ.

During the past quarter, our church hired **Pastor Patrick Hall** as the Main campus youth pastor (started in Oct. 2013) and **Pastor Eva Huang** as the Main campus children pastor (will start in Jan. 15, 2014). In the past few years, Pastor Patrick served as the Youth Pastor of Gurnee Chinese



PASTOR PATRICK

Christian Church during his time at seminary and as a mission mobilizer with OMF International. Also, Pastor Eva served in various capacities and ministries including children program coordinator with Chinese Mission Conference and Children Ministry intern at CBCSD.



PASTOR EVA

This year CBC members have been blessed immensely with our loving and dedicated pastoral team. Under the leadership of our **senior pastor Albert Lam**, our pastoral staff had tirelessly ministered to many brothers and sisters' needs, mobilized the church to proclaim the Gospel in expanding God's kingdom, and enlarged our hearts and passion to be more externally focused via mission trips. We also want to express our

deep gratitude to our administrative & facility staff team. Without their unwavering dedication and love for CBC members, our church would not have run so smoothly. With much appreciation and love, we want to thank every single one of our staff members.

Last but not least, we covet your prayers as we continue searching for the following staff members:

- Lord's Grace pastor – praise God, we have few prospects/candidates
- Central English young adult/youth pastor
- Central youth intern/ministry assistant (part time)
- Council admin assistant (part time)

Around CBC Campuses

Main Campus (Cantonese)

Praise the Lord that more than 150 people (Adult, youth and children) attended the **Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Sharing**. We were reminded how much love we have received from God and one another, the evening was full of praises and thanksgiving to the Lord! At the beginning, we also lay hands on one of our sisters and pray for her healing. That is called unity and Love.



The Cantonese and the Youth will have their **winter retreat** before the end of year. We are glad to have two good speakers to challenge us before the beginning of the new year.

Praise the Lord that **8** brothers and sisters were **baptized** on December 22nd!

The Cantonese congregation will have for the first time a **Christmas Day worship**, joint with English congregation. We hope that the worship can draw new people to celebrate Christmas with us.



2014 THEME: Transformed by Christ: Head Starts; Heart Beats and Foot Loose



Around CBC Campuses



Main Campus and 4S (Mandarin)

2014 THEME: "Living out the fullness of the gospel." We will live out the gospel in our worship, personal testimony, fellowships and small groups, and planned activities.

Thank God for the confirmation of **five new deacons** to begin serving January 2014 on the joint deacons board. The new members are **Grace Chang, Lily Chang, Cynthia Liu, Yuyu Su** and **Eileen Wang**. The joint deacon board will work with the pastoral staff to do ministry planning for the two campuses.

On **Thanksgiving Eve**, November 27th, 370 people, including new friends, gathered together for the joint Thanksgiving dinner and sharing night, celebrating God's grace to us.

Praise the Lord for raising up **Jack and Lily Jiang** to be coordinators for our 1-year-old **Second Half Fellowship!** May God grant them wisdom in leading our mature and experienced soldiers in the Lord's ministry!

The joint 4S and Main Campus **Downtown Seniors Ministry** holds interesting seminars for seniors at the downtown library. This has attracted quite a number of seniors. On December 12, over 100 seniors attended their Christmas event, which included a lively program and gospel presentation.

Main Campus (Youth)



The high school youth threw their annual Christmas coffeehouse outreach event this year with a turnout of over 50+ students and friends. The theme for Christmas Coffeehouse 2013 was "**The Way in a Manger**" because Christmas is about more than a manger, it's about the one who was in the manger.

Main Campus (English)

The **pastoral search** process is in progress. We had two applicants who came for an on-site interview, however, the leadership had discerned that they might not be the best fit for our congregation. In the meanwhile, the leadership of LG has sacrificially and courageously taken up many ministries of the church. Please continue to pray for the Lord's guidance over the pastoral search.

Thank God for bringing **newcomers** who are willing to stay and serve with the congregation. The worship attendance is becoming more stable. Brothers and sisters are encouraged to attend the LG worship once in a while to show love and care to them.

Central (Mandarin, English/Youth, Children)

During the weekend of 11/29-12/1, Central Campus held its annual **Thanksgiving and Community Outreach** event. It was organized into five districts with 3-4 small groups per district where they gathered in different locations and time. The total attendees exceeded 500, with more than 30 new families and many long-lost families. During the meetings, many people shared their testimonies. Also, on Nov. 22, we held a youth and parents Thanksgiving dinner event. We praise God for the fruitful and meaningful Thanksgiving gatherings.

Praise the Lord for the wonderful December youth events:

- 12/13- Central and Main Campus Jr. High had a successful **Bible Challenge** competition.
- 12/20- **Christmas Caroling** at the Christmas Card Lane to proclaim the good news.
- 12/21- Central and LWBC had a joint **Christmas Coffee House**, which 90-100 youth attended, including many new friends.

We will begin to search for a **young adult / youth pastor** in 2014 to strengthen our workforce in the ever-expanding English ministry.

2014 Mandarin theme: "Be like Jesus Christ through following the leading of the Holy Spirit". We will seek to bear fruit by being more attentive to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Comments or Feedback?

If you have any comments or feedback, please email either
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Missions

Praise the Lord for calling together 12 members (9 from our five CBC congregations and 3 from two other churches) to participate in our STM to Cambodia Pleroma Ministries in February 2014! Please pray for our spiritual and ministry preparations as well as our fund raising, which began on December 15.

In November, **George Chu** had the opportunity to speak at many workshops in China to train and encourage **Christian entrepreneurs** to manage their business according to biblical principles. The growing number of Christian entrepreneurs in China is estimated at 60 to 70 thousand, and it can be a challenge for Christians to conduct godly business operation in a corrupt business environment. Praise God, many of the entrepreneurs have become major financial supporters of many churches throughout China.

Around CBC Campuses



Temecula (Mandarin, Youth, Children)

Praise the Lord for a wonderful **baptism and thanksgiving worship** on November 24; 5 people were baptized!

2014 THEME: Unity in the Gospel – Book of Galatians

We will have a church-wide **co-worker meeting** on 12/29 to share about next year's vision and hear inputs from co-workers. Please pray for this gathering.

4S Campus & Central (Youth)



Praise God for 8 Central youth and 11 4S youth who were **baptized** on December 14th. May God grant them the faith and strength to live out their lives in a God-honoring way!

Church-Wide

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it." Over 60 brothers and sisters from Central, Main and 4S Campus have gathered to pray for those who are ill, including **Pastor Sue**. This group also committed to a **40 day prayer and fast**.

Praise the Lord for getting our pastors ready for launching **CBC Ministry School** in February 2014! May the Lord use it to equip our people for His Kingdom ministry.



New Building Project

On November 5th, CBC won the lawsuit case by Salvati. Glory be to God! It is our prayer and mandate that we will continue to be a **good neighbor** to our communities.

