



From the Senior Pastor



At first glance, character and thanksgiving do not appear to have any connections, but in actuality, they go hand in hand. Thanksgiving is the source of character development; one's character is the manifestation of a thankful life.

Therefore, **if a Christian desires to progress in character development, he or she should begin with the strengthening of a thankful heart.** How does this come about?

A Thankful Heart Brings About a Humble Character

Corrie ten Boom was among the top one-hundred most influential Christians of the last century. As a Dutch, her spoken English carried a strong Dutch accent, but her message is sincerely touching and full of power. Nevertheless, she often said that a preacher is only a pen in God's hand. If an article was well written, it was not because of the work of the pen, but rather the wisdom and techniques of the writer--- what can the pen boast about? She tells the following story for those who have had success in ministry but are not grateful: There once was a woodpecker that got on a tree to do some pecking. Right when his beak touched the tree, thunder suddenly sounded, and lightning came down and struck that tree, breaking it into halves. The woodpecker was frightened and immediately flew to another tree and with shortness of breath told the other birds, "I never thought that my pecking was so powerful! Right when I touched the tree, the whole tree fell down." Corrie ten Boom goes on to say that all of the successes of ministries come from heaven above. We should be thankful for His blessings upon our ministries, maintain a humble spirit and attitude, and acknowledge one thing--- if we forsake Him, we would not be able to do anything. **A thankful heart brings about a humble character.**

A Thankful Heart Brings About a Peaceful Temperament

The Bible reminds us to give thanks in all circumstances. We should give thanks to God who pours out abundant blessings, as well as remember those whom God had used to bless us, provide for us, and help us. In Romans chapter 16, Paul names the helpers in his life and ministry, for whom

he was thankful in the Lord. Of course, Paul knows that all grace comes from the heavenly father, but he did not let that to cause him to forget the vessels used by God. He sincerely, clearly, and openly gives thanks for what these people have done for him; he is forever thankful for these angels provided by God. From a human standpoint, or humanly speaking, "if it weren't for their hard work, Paul's ministry would have never been the same." Such grateful attitude toward others once again gives us clarity, awakens our souls, and gives us confirmation that it is the **hard work of many before us, the help of many by our side, and the support of those around us, that brought us to be where we are today.** Once we are overflowing with thanksgiving, we may grasp one more thing with a deeper understanding--- the people around us, whether it be many or few, above us or below us, have either directly or indirectly left an imprint of blessing upon our lives. When we view others with a thankful heart, we will grow to have a peaceful heart, and the spirit of conflict and jealousy will gradually fade away.

A Thankful Heart Shapes a Generous Temperament

All that we have comes from God. Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." What do people have that isn't first received? The ability to produce wealth and the opportunity to work are all from God. Therefore, people should be thankful to God. Actually, **the biggest grace from God to people is salvation through Christ**, which allows us to be with God eternally. This is the greatest forgiveness and generosity in all of the universe. Since people have received this grace, how can they not express their gratitude? How can they not become generous towards others? With a forgiving attitude, we can treat those who have offended us with kindness, we can be merciful towards those who have disappointed us, and provide gracious support to those who are weak.

During this season of thanksgiving, may the spirit of thanksgiving fill us, and cause us to bear many fruits of character.

- Pastor Albert Lam



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NEW BEGINNINGS



Pastor Daniel Jarrell became the **4S Campus Youth Resident Pastor** in August.

Pastor William Fu started his position as **Resident Pastor at Central Campus** beginning September 1st.



MINISTRY UPDATES



The **Cantonese Annual Picnic** was held on 8/19 at San Dieguito Park, where over 150 people attended--- what a fun filled day!

TVC's Church Family Camping event was the perfect bonding opportunity among the families in the Lord.



North Campus had a **Moon-Festival activity** on 9/30.



The Cantonese congregation hosted the first **Convoy Prayer Walk** on 9/17. Thirty-four brothers and sister gathered to visit 55 restaurants around the area of Convoy and Mira Mesa.



The **30th Anniversary Mission Conference** in September was successful.

Central Campus' **Carmel Valley Gospel Group** has grown with forty new attendees over the past eight months. Due to space needs, the group has increased the amount of meeting space rented.



MINISTRY UPDATES (con't)



Praise the Lord for bringing more than 30 international students and their hosts for the gospel message and the **Moon Festival celebration at TVC**. May the seeds that were planted bear fruit for the glory of God!



The **Sunday school teacher/helper appreciation night** on 10/14 at TVC was a blessed time of thanksgiving for all the labor and love for the Lord from the Sunday school teachers and helpers.

The Cantonese congregation invited **Dr. Scorgie** to share on the topic of **Creation Care** on Friday 10/13. The invitation for the special seminar was extended to Lord's Grace and High School Youth, and over 80 attended.



The **Mid-Autumn outreach event with Lamb Music Ministry** was held on 10/7 at Main Campus. Brothers and sisters from all campuses and new friends

attended the event, totaling over 200 people. After the event there were mooncake tastings and a good time of fellowship. Thank God that four people accepted Jesus and became children of God.



NEXT-GEN MINISTRY



Bible Character Dress Up for Awana kids on 10/27. There were two King David's, Moses, Bethlehem Star, Ruth, Micah, Rachel, many angels, sheep and shepherds.



Main/4S Campus Junior High had a **Skyzone Trip** on 8/19.

The Main/4S Campus **Game Day** on 9/28 was an afternoon of outdoor field games and board games led by the Youth Core.



NEXT-GEN MINISTRY (continued)



Main/4S Campus High School had a **Paintball Trip** on 8/12.

Exuberance is picking up the steam with its **Basketball ministry** on every Saturday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at Hilltop Community Park in Rancho Penasquitos. They have junior high, high school, college and young adults participating. Anyone is welcome to come and join them. They have been meeting new friends at the park as well. Please pray for the outreach opportunities.

Exuberance' existing ministry teams are kicking in high gear (**Sound, Worship, Prayer and Student Leadership**) – Praise God!! So proud of them all!! The **Prayer ministry** team has been leading Prayer Meeting every Sunday at 9:30am. We prayed for many topics including those who suffered from natural disasters (i.e. Hurricanes) and tragedies (i.e. mass shooting in Las Vegas).

EXUBERANCE's (Central English congregation) theme for this coming school year is **CONNECT**. Encouraging us to **CONNECT** with God and **CONNECT** with one another. Our theme verse is John 15:5 - *I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing* (NIV translation). We desire everyone to strive to build a deeper relationship with God and others in their community.

This coming quarter Exuberance will put more focus on outreach where the youths will have opportunities to build one another and invited friends in a more “chill” atmosphere. Praise God that they have a few newcomers attending the **Friday Night Fellowship**.

The **Exuberance Creative Ministry** team came up with 4 different t-shirt designs to promote the **CONNECT** theme. We have 4 awesome designs. The final two designs are –



Totally praise God for this coming year--- Exuberance has several ministry teams started, including **Production, Creative, and Welcome ministries**. The Production team produced their very first video project – check this out on Youtube – <https://youtu.be/D3opXqLKk9k> . Let's give a shout out to **Joseph Poon** for leading a few of the ministry teams.



MISSIONS UPDATES



An **8-member Brazil STM team** went to serve and reach out to the people in Greater Rio de Janeiro area, a church in Nova Iguaçu, and its sister church in Niteroi in August.



Brothers and sisters from various campuses went on a **one-day mission trip to Mexico** on 10/14.



The **third Tijuana VBS** was held from 8/7-11, there were over 35 volunteers who joined this year to serve over 60 children and their families.

William Chen Wen, son of **Yu Chen** and **Jenny Wen** from Central Campus, has become a **missionary to Japan** and is now one of the missionaries supported by CBC.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **11/17:** Exuberance Thanksgiving sharing (Central youths and parents)
- **11/18:** Thanksgiving is around the corner, it is time to reflect on what God has done in our lives during the past year and count His Blessings! The Cantonese congregation will be having a night of feast - physical and spiritual feast!! Come Join us!
- **11/19:** TVC will celebrate Thanksgiving together and continue to thank the Lord's blessings upon each church member, family, and ministries.
- **12/2:** Come join us for the 2017 Kids Musical "Back to the Manger" at 7:00pm
- **12/8:** Everyone is welcome to join the Awana kids for a Magic Night for Christmas Celebration with amazing magician **Pastor Michael** at 7:30pm in the Main Sanctuary.
- **12/8:** Main/4S Campus High School Coffee House outreach.
- **12/22:** Central Campus and Living Water Youth Christmas Café.
- **12/22-24:** Main/4S Campus Winter Youth Retreat at Pine Valley.
- **12/31-1/1:** Main/4S Campus Youth's New Year's Eve Lock-In.
- **January 2018:** Central Campus Bible Challenge Competition – book of John.
- **6/25-29/2018:** The 2018 Children's Vacation Bible School – reserve the dates!



Comments or Feedback?

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