



路德會聖靈堂



11/2014

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

雙月刊

Words from the Pastor

By: Rev. Shiu Ming Lau, Senior Pastor

Grace and peace be to you from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The fall series of the sermon is entitled, "Christian Identity." I am excited to see that each topic can teach us to know who we are. I observed some Christians who don't have a healthy self-image will either boast on what they don't have or underestimate what they have in Christ. Another observation is that some Christians don't know any other ways to express their identity besides saying "I am a Christian".

In the Bible, there is a wealth of description on those who believed in Christ. For example, they are the disciples of Christ, the light and the salt of the world, the ambassador of Christ, the image of God, the soldiers of our Lord, an athlete in the faith, a living sacrifice, and the temple of God and so on. I pray that through such teaching we are able to rejoice in the Lord for His grace and mercy. As we value our identity, we will love to bear a good witness for the One who accomplished the great salvation through His death and resurrection for us. Feel free to approach me or stop by my office to share with me on what you have learned in the sermon so that I can rejoice with you!

This newsletter will continue to share the Lutheran faith and the snapshot of recent Church life with you. October is a month to remember the spirit of Reformation. In 1517, when Luther posted his 95 thesis to the public, it was like an explosion that shook the church leaders and the European countries. The spirit of Reformation is not in the wisdom of politics, but in his honesty to the faith. The spirit of Reformation urges us to go back to the root value of our faith – Scripture alone, faith alone, and grace alone. The spirit of Reformation re-captures the transcendent God in His earthly image, who is our Lord Jesus Christ, incarnated to the world and became the Hope of all. The world is filled with tragedy, hatred, discontent and disorder. By faith, we proclaim that only in Christ we can find the answer for all humankind. Let's stay focus on Him and follow Him until He take us home from this earth.

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58)

牧者的話 - 家事分享

劉少銘牧師 (主任牧師)

願恩惠, 平安, 從父神, 並主耶穌和聖靈歸予你們。

秋季講道系列注重「基督徒的身份」(我稱為「我是誰」系列)。很輕奮看見每個主題可以教導我們認識自己的身份。我觀察到一些基督徒沒有健康的自我形像, 一就過於高抬自己, 其實自己人不如其所說, 一就是過於低估自己在基督裏所有的。另一個觀察到一些基督徒除了說自己是基督徒外, 就不知道用甚麼方法去描述自己的身份。

聖經對我們的身份有很豐富的描述。例如: 我們是基督的門徒; 我們是世上的光, 世上的鹽; 基督的特使; 上帝的形像; 基督精兵; 信仰中的運動健將; 活祭; 上帝的殿等等。我求主透過這些教訓使我們能夠在主裏喜樂, 多謝祂的恩惠和慈愛。當我們看重自己的身份時, 我們會喜愛為祂作美好見證, 祂就是那位為我們死, 為我們復活成就救恩的主。歡迎來找我, 或進入我的辦公室與我分享你在信息中學到甚麼, 以致我與你一同歡欣。

這期的通訊繼續與你分享路德宗信仰, 又向你展影教會生活近況。十月份叫我們想起宗教復原的精神。1517年, 當馬丁路德把九十五條論文公之於世時, 就像爆炸震驚教會領袖組群和歐洲很多國家。宗教復原的精神不建立在政治的洞見, 也在於對信仰的誠實。復原運動催迫我們回到我們信仰的根本價值 - 唯獨聖經, 唯獨信心, 和唯獨恩典。這運動精神重拾超越上帝在地上的形像, 就是我們主耶穌基督道成肉身的形體; 祂成為人類的盼望。世界已經充滿了悲劇, 仇恨, 不滿, 和紛亂。藉著信, 我們宣告: 只有在基督裏我們發現人類想要追尋的答案。讓我們持守對祂清楚的眼光; 跟隨祂直到祂叫我們從塵世返家。

「所以, 我親愛的弟兄們, 你們務要堅固, 不可搖動, 常常竭力, 多作主工, 因為知道你們的勞苦, 在主裏面不是徒然的。」(林前 15:58)

Words from the Pastor

By: Rev. Christopher Ng, Associate Pastor

When am I ready to get baptized?

I received an email from Ms. Cindy that Mrs. Shon Louie had passed away from her struggle with cancer. I had the blessing of being the one to baptize her in the presence of her family and church family members several weeks ago. Originally, Mrs. Louie had wanted to wait for Pastor Lau's return from the mission field, but her health was weakening. Nonetheless, Mrs. Louie been faithfully attending worship and Bible study and she said she was ready for baptism.

What makes one ready for baptism? For some people, it's a changing life situation, or the accomplishment of enough knowledge, or the witness of others' experiences and a desire for the same in one's life. These reasons *also* are what some people say keep them in "wait" or "not ready yet." Our determination of readiness certainly relates to our human conditions, but these variables are not solid enough for what Baptism is.

Baptism is not so much an initiation as it is a reception. What comes before the act of baptism is the call - to trust in the Word of God - trust what Jesus said and ultimately, a trust of Jesus, himself. Jesus was called by God to call people to a relationship, one that is **already shared** between God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This relationship of Trinity is concrete and proven to withstand Time and Eternity – unending, steadfast love and understanding. It is new to us and foreign to us, because we neither experienced it nor wanted it for ourselves. We may have heard the Gospel before and seen how people messed it up by what they say and do. Nonetheless, the call of Jesus through His Word and Spirit is still present and actively seeking us out (through the Cross, the Bible, and the testimonies of believers).

As we hear and respond to the truth of God, my hope is that you will receive Baptism as what Lutherans describe as a “means of grace.” In Jesus’ own baptism, we see the full attendance of God the Father and the Holy Spirit, with the Father’s commentary “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17) Why? Because, the Father’s desire of righteous relationship is demonstrated to us.

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Tit 3:4-7 NIV)

Titus reminds us that in Baptism (“the washing of rebirth and renewal”), the Holy Spirit is the persistent and active agent. The Holy Spirit is the one who pledges to keep us in faithful relationship to God every moment of our lives. And even though we waiver and doubt in what we say and do, the Holy

Spirit is powerful enough to *bring us back*, in forgiveness and mercy. As such, Baptism is God's means of grace for everyone, from now to eternity.

⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

⁵ Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 5:4-5 NIV)

In Baptism, God pledges his everlasting love and support by the gifting of the Holy Spirit and we receive, with joy, a sustaining hope for our earthly journey. We come to the waters of Baptism, not because we have been proven faithful. No, that righteous work has been accomplished by Jesus' death and resurrection. Rather, we come to *be filled with faith*. Are you ready for that?

Mrs. Shon Louie was ready and in the present moment, we say, "She has passed away." But that is only half the picture of a faith-filled follower. We can also say, "She has been called to glory." Baptism affirmed her trust in God's calling and now, she can share that complete relationship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21 NIV)

I pray that you will see the kindness of the Lord and respond according to His good and true Word.

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" (Acts 8:34-36 NIV)

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牧者的話

吳向榮牧師

2014年9月14日

什麼時候我是準備好接受洗禮？

我收到張林雪芬姊妹的電郵，告訴我呂婦女姊妹病逝，結束了與癌症的對抗。幾個星期前，我有幸能在她的家人和教會弟兄姊妹見證下為她施洗。原本呂太盼望等待劉牧師短宣回來，可是她的健康每況愈下。儘管如此，呂太一直勤到崇拜和查經班，而且她說自己已準備好接受洗禮。

是什麼讓人準備好受洗？對於一些人來說，這是一個改變生命的時刻，或是有了足夠的了解，又或者是因他人的見證和渴望在生命中有同樣的經歷。同樣這些原因也讓有一些人說，他們在“等待”或“還沒有準備好”。我們準備的決心肯定涉及到我們個人的景況，但這些都不是洗禮的好原因。

洗禮不是由我們發起，而是接受。在洗禮之前是蒙呼召－去信靠上帝的話語－信靠耶穌所說的話，最終，信靠耶穌祂自己。耶穌受上帝召命去呼召人們進入一個關係，就是天父、和聖子、及聖靈所已經一同享受的。這三位一體的關係是具體的和經過驗證能承受時間和永恆－至死不渝，堅定不移的愛和理解。

這對我們是既新穎又不熟悉，因為是我們未曾經歷過也不想要的。可能我們從前曾聽過福音，也看見過人們怎樣在言語行為上糟蹋了它。然而，耶穌透過祂的話語和聖靈的呼喚依然存在，並在積極尋找我們（藉著十字架、聖經和信徒的見證）。

當我們聽見和回應上帝的真理時，我的盼望是你會願意接受洗禮是正如路德會所描寫的“施恩具”。在耶穌自己接受洗禮時，我們看見聖父和聖靈的同在，還有聖父的稱讚「這是我的愛子、我所喜悅的。」（馬太福音 3:17），為什麼？因為，天父所渴望的公義關係活現在我們眼前了。

⁴但到了上帝我們救主的恩慈、和祂向人所施的慈愛顯明的時候、

⁵祂便救了我們、並不是因我們自己所行的義、乃是照祂的憐憫、藉著重生

的洗、和聖靈的更新。

⁶聖靈就是上帝藉著耶穌基督我們救主、厚厚澆灌在我們身上的。

⁷好叫我們因祂的恩得稱為義、可以憑著永生的盼望成為後嗣。(提多書 3:4-7)

提多提醒我們在洗禮中（重生的洗和更新），聖靈是持久和活潑的媒介。聖靈是那位許諾保守我們一生時刻與上帝的關係中忠心。雖然我們的言行有時不堅定和有懷疑，聖靈有足夠的大能在饒恕和憐憫中使我們轉回。因此，洗禮是上帝的施恩具，從現在直到永遠。

⁴我們在這帳棚裡、歎息勞苦、並非願意脫下這個、乃是願意穿上那個、好叫這必死的被生命吞滅了。

⁵為此培植我們的就是上帝、祂又賜給我們聖靈作憑據。(哥林多後書5:4-5)

在洗禮中，藉著所賜的聖靈和我們的接受，上帝應許祂永恆不朽的愛和扶持及喜樂，使我們在人世的旅途充滿盼望的力量。我們來到聖洗禮面前，來證實我們的信實嗎？不是的，是耶穌用祂的死和復活成就了所有的義。我們到來為要得著信心的充滿。你準備好接受嗎？

呂婦女姊妹已經準備就緒，在當下，我們說，“她已經去世了”。不過這只是一位充滿信心的信徒的片面圖畫，我們也可以說，“她被呼召到榮耀裏了。”洗禮印證了她信靠上帝的呼召，現今，她可以與聖父、聖子、和聖靈一同享受這個完全的關係。

²⁰我們卻是天上的國民，並且等候救主、就是主耶穌基督、從天上降臨。

²¹祂要按著那能叫萬有歸服自己的大能、將我們這卑賤的身體改變形狀、和祂自己榮耀的身體相似。(腓立比書3:20-21)

我的禱告是你能領會主的慈愛，並且對祂的美善和真理作出回應。

³⁴太監對腓利說、請問、先知說這話、是指著誰、是指著自己呢、是指著別人呢。

³⁵腓利就開口從這經上起、對他傳講耶穌。

³⁶二人正往前走、到了有水的地方、太監說、看哪、這裡有水、我受洗有甚麼妨礙呢。(使徒行傳 8:34-36)



The Characteristics of the Lutheran Church

- Part 4

By Rev, Shiu Ming Lau, Senior Pastor

The Uniqueness of the Lutheran Church

This is the last of a series of four articles on the characteristics of the Lutheran Church.

17) **The assurance of salvation**

Although the Lutheran Church is aware of the big temptations from society and how people easily fall into sin, it does not reject the assurance of salvation. The assurance of salvation falls on the believing and reliance on Jesus Christ. Even though there are occasional flaws and imperfections in a Christian's life, in Christ, there is the assurance of salvation and hope in each Christian.

18) **Works are testimonies; it is unrelated to being saved**

Sometimes the Lutheran Church is being questioned by people of lacking good testimonies. This is wrong. The testimony of work the Lutheran Church emphasized needs the clear teaching of the Bible; otherwise it would give a Christian the freedom to choose. In addition, we truly believe that only through the continual hearing of the Word and guiding by the Holy Spirit will lives then be changed. This is neither the result of some rules and regulations, nor the imposing of personal moral expression onto others and turning it into legalism.

19. **Pastors and Elders are male posts**

According to the teaching of the Bible, the Lutheran Church ordains male pastors and installs male elders precisely because of the reason that the husband is the head of a family. However, at the same time, the Lutheran Church continuously explores the roles and contributions of females in the church. Men and women are equally respected and ranked, yet they have different roles.

20. **We do not have the concept of millennium**

The Lutheran Church does not accept Millennium in our belief, that is "Jesus Christ on His second coming will first meet with the saints in the sky, then Satan will be imprisoned for one thousand years. During these one thousand years, the saints will be kings on earth." In other words, the one thousand years in the Book of Revelation is not to be understood as a real number.

Lutherans question the explanation of the number one thousand years which does not conform to the style of the Book of Revelation. Besides, the Lutheran Church interprets the Kingdom of God and the heaven in the Bible as the same. The use of words is different, but the meaning is the same. Therefore, Lutherans believe when Jesus comes the second time, the world will end and the new heaven and earth will then arrive.

21. Commonly used phrases in Lutherans

Lutherans choose their wordings/phrases carefully. The inappropriate use of words may cause confusion while used appropriately will strengthen our faith. The following four commonly-used wordings are used differently from some churches: (1) Receiving/confession of faith, which does not imply decision making because even if a Christian decides to do good, is the result of God and God's Spirit working within. In addition, the phrase "decision making" can be easily interpreted as total reliance of self and not the free gift of the Lord. (2) Law and gospel, not just talking about one or the other but both at the same time because they exert different goals for the benefit of the believers. (3) Means of grace, that is, to view the Sacraments as tools to give blessing. This is not a symbol or something that is dispensable. (4) Believers belong to the Lord through the rite of baptism and not the rite of immersion. Lutherans do not exclude immersion and will receive those who have received rite of immersion from other churches. However, Lutherans will only use pouring or washing of water; baptism does not depend on how much water used, but rather in whose name and into whom being baptized. In addition, Lutherans believe one baptism is sufficient.

22. Lutheran's view of the Holy Spirit

The Lutheran Church does not rule out an individual's experience of the Holy Spirit; however, in order for it to be a universal teaching, it must have more concrete support from the Bible. For Lutheran believers, the work of the Holy Spirit is obvious, important, and cannot be neglected. However, for those who stress on the Holy Spirit yet neglect the harmony, the rigor and the order of the church, Lutherans will have reservation in this area. Therefore the Lutheran Church is very careful; it neither prohibits nor advocates some of the charismatic experiences that don't conform to the truth.

●●● The End ●●●



Harmony Hope Phui was baptized into God's Family on October 19, 2014



路德宗教會的特點

劉少銘牧師 (主任牧師)

在這期雙月刊我們繼續討論最後六點有關路德宗教會的特點。

17) 得救的把握

路德宗教會雖然察覺社會引誘之大，人易於陷在罪中，惟未否定得救的把握。得救的把握在乎對耶穌基督的信賴和依靠，信徒生命中雖偶有瑕疵，不能盡善盡美，但在基督裏的每一位信徒，都有得救的把握和盼望。

18) 行為乃見證，與得救無關

路德宗教會有時給人質疑，欠缺行為的美好見證。這是不對的。路德宗強調的行為見證，須得到聖經清楚教訓，否則，會給予信徒自由選擇。並且，深信只有繼續聽道，繼續讓聖靈引導，才可以改變生命，並不是單單一些規條戒律奏效。也不以自己的道德表達方式強加於別人身上，變成律法主義。

19) 牧者和長老以弟兄擔任

按照聖經的教導，路德宗教會按立男性牧師和委任男性長老，正如看家庭中以丈夫為首的道理一樣，但與此同時，路德宗教會不斷發掘女性或姐妹在教會的角色和貢獻，男性和女性在上帝眼中同尊同等，但卻擔任不同角色。

20) 我們沒有千禧年的觀念

路德宗教會不以千禧年為我們的信仰，即 - 「耶穌基督第二次降臨，先在空中與信徒相遇，然後，魔鬼被囚一千年，這一千年信徒在地上作王。」換言之，啓示錄中的一千年不以實數來理解。路德宗信徒質疑一千年為實數的解釋與啓示錄的文体不乎，另外，路德宗教會看福音書中神的國和天國沒有兩樣，用字不同，含意一樣。因此，路德宗信徒相信耶穌第二次來臨，結束世界，新天新地便降臨地上。

21) 路德宗常用字眼

路德宗著意用詞的運用，用詞不當會使思想混亂，用詞正當我們的信仰會被堅固。下面四個常用的用詞，與一些教會有別，包括：a) 接受/認信，而不是決志，因為信徒就算立志為善，都有上帝和上帝的靈在裏面運行而成就，並且，決志一詞很容易以為全憑自己，而不憑主白白恩典；b) 律法與福音，不是只講一樣，而是兩樣平行，發揮不同的目標，對信徒多有裨益；c) 施恩具，即是看聖禮是施恩的工具，而不是一種象徵，可有可無；d) 信徒經由洗禮，而不是浸禮，成為主的人。路德宗教會不排斥浸禮，接受由別的教會而來曾接受浸禮的會友；但路德宗教會只用洗禮或洒水禮。相信洗禮不在乎水的多少，只在乎背後上奉誰的名和歸入誰的名下。並且，相信一次的洗禮已經足夠。

22) 路德宗對聖靈的看法

路德宗不排除聖靈在個人身上的經歷，但成為放之四海而皆準的教訓，必須得到更多的聖經教訓支持作實。對路德宗信徒而言，聖靈工作是明顯，重要，不能忽視的，但對因強調聖靈而忽視教會的和諧，嚴緊，和條理，這方面，路德宗教會又予以一些保留。因此，不禁止，但不鼓吹一些不合真理的靈恩經歷，路德宗教會認為要加以小心。

●●● 全文完 ●●●



裴美雲於
2014年10月19日
受洗歸主



God's *BIGGER* Plan



By Grace Yuen

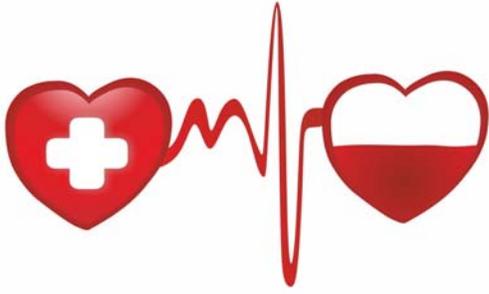
One of my favorite times of the year is summer time. Besides the enjoyment of working with kids, I secretly choose to be a teacher so I could continue my summer breaks even after my college years. But, it was a little different this past summer. I wish I could share with you the fantastic time I had working with the Summer Day Camp staff doing six weeks of camp or of the humbling experience I had on my Mexico or China mission trip. But nope, instead the past three months were like any other months with a 7am-4pm job with the type of weather that teased me of what a summer break could be. I sadly lost my summer break this year and am classified as a “working adult” where summer break are non-existent.

I was a little bummed as I couldn't work full time at Holy Spirit's Summer Day Camp, or even attend any mission trips to Mexico nor Hong Kong/China. These were always the things that defined my summer, and experiences I looked forward to each year. Of course God had better plans for me, actually, way better plans. Now that I think about it, it became something very exciting, but also something very nerve-wrecking. This past summer, I was able to help save someone's life by participating in a blood/stem-cell donation to help her fight Leukemia.

I can't remember specifically when, but about a year ago I registered myself to be on the donor list for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). There was a drive going on one Sunday morning at church, and I was asked to sign up, so I did. In the beginning, I was hesitant of doing it fearing the possibility of actually becoming a match. Then I thought that it would be a “one in a millionth chance”, I would never get chosen. I have never won any raffles or lotto before, so I would never be chosen.

Well, this didn't seem so to God. Even though I thought very little of this act and decision (and even forgot I have signed up), the program didn't. Around the end of May, a doctor deemed me to be a possible match for a 29 year female patient. I was then quickly and persistently asked if I was still considering to be a donor. If so, I would have to do some blood test to confirm the match. Knowing little of what was expected of me, I willingly said yes and started the process of giving away more blood I have ever willingly given in my life time just for "testing" purposes.

To make this long story shorter... after 6 vials of blood given, I was confirmed a match. After that, I drew 21 more vials of blood, to be confirmed healthy and ready to be a donor of white blood cells (this is what was needed to help the patient). During the last two weeks of July, I did a full body checkup along with more blood draws for MORE testing. To help my body boost my white blood cell count, I had to get 5 daily injections of Filgrastim, with the last injection to be administered on the first day of my blood donation. God was definitely merciful and watching over me as I felt minimal pain but a glimpse of what I would feel in my old age from the side effects of the injections.



Although the entire process went smoothly, I did have many fears and concerns. I feared I was a match, but I could not take the time off to complete the donation. I feared for the pain I would have to endure. Also, since I am smaller than normal people. I had to do a two day donation instead of one since I had to donate enough white blood cells to match the patient. I also have very small veins and was told that if a normal IV couldn't be administered, a central line would be used and the procedure would become a surgical process.

I knew I couldn't do this alone. Just like summer day camp and mission trips. I needed a LOT of prayer and support from everyone. Just from one e-mail to friends and family, I received so many encouraging words, but most importantly people telling me that I would be in their prayers. I felt tremendously blessed to have this type of support!

I realized God had better planning and purposes than I had for myself. I really would have never fathomed an opportunity like this! I was told that what I did help saved someone's life, but I really couldn't and still can't grasp that concept. But, I do believe and know that this was my mission this summer. And the funny thing is, it was something I could never prepared myself for. I have been blessed with a healthy, self-sustaining body that can help someone else in need and that was all God wanted. I was once told that God doesn't need me or any human to do any of His work, He can do that any time, any day as He pleases. But, what He truly wants is our hearts, our willingness to serve Him.

Due to the success of my stem-cell donation, I went back to the hospital a month later to do another round of donation. This time it was only a one day process without the filgrastim injections.

I share this with you not to gain your applaud, but as a reminder of how small we all are compared to who God is. I was reminded this summer that God gives me the freedom to dream, plan and desire; but in the end His purposes and timing will ultimately be better and even more awesome than I can ever imagine.

I also ask that you continue to pray for the 29 year old female patient and her family. What I have gone through is minimal, if not nothing compared to what she has been and continue to go through. Pray that God will take care of her and continue to give her strength, endurance and peace as she battles her illness.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." –Jeremiah 29: 11-14

上帝更大的計劃

阮思恩



夏天是我最喜歡的季節之一，除了喜愛教導小朋友外，其實我選擇做教的私心是，這麼一來，在大學生活完結後仍然可以享受夏日暑假。

但是，這過暑假卻有點不同。我希望可以和你分享我和暑期康樂日營同工門共事六個星期，或是我對墨西哥或中國短宣震撼人心的經歷。然而事與願違，過去的三個月好像其它日子一樣，朝7晚4的工作，夏日的天氣逗弄著我。不幸地，今年我被類別為再沒有暑假的“工作成人”。

因為不能夠全時間參與聖靈堂的暑期康樂日，甚至不能夠參加墨西哥短宣，也不能夠參加香港和中國的短宣，我感到一點點不開心。這幾樣向來是我對暑假的定義，是我每年期盼的經歷。當然上帝為我預備了更好的計劃，實際上是非常美好的計劃。回想起來，這是同時令人非常振奮又緊張刺激的！過去這個暑假，我參加了能救人一命的行動，捐贈血液/幹細胞幫助一位女孩對抗白血病（血癌）。

我已忘記實際是什麼時候，但是大約一年前我登記加入美國骨髓捐贈協會(NMDP)捐贈者名單；當時是星期日，我們的教堂正進行登記行動，有人邀請我參加登記，我就登記了。起初我有點遲疑，害怕有成為合配捐骨髓的可能。然後我想這是“百萬份之一的機會”，我一定不會有幸被選中。我從來沒有贏過任何抽獎或樂透彩票，所以一定不會選中我。

上帝卻不是這樣想。雖然我很少想到這個行動和決定（甚至忘記了我的登記），這個協會卻沒有忘記。大約是五月底，一位醫生認為我可能與一位 29 歲女性配合；他們立刻不斷地詢問我是否仍然考慮成為捐贈者。如果是的話，我需要驗血以證實是否合配，在不甚了解對我有什麼期望下，我心甘情願地答應了；為了“測試”目的，我開始了送出更多的血液，是比我有生以來自願所捐的更多。

長話短說...6 瓶血後，證實我是配合人選。之後，再抽多 21 瓶血，用來驗明健康和準備好做白血球捐贈者（這是為保護病人做的步驟）。七月份最後兩個星期，抽更多血來進行更多的測試，同時做了全面的身體檢查。為了幫助我的身體增加白血球，我一連五天接受非格司亭（Filgrastim）注射，我第一次捐血是在最後一次注射的當日。上

帝確實有憐憫並且看顧我，使我僅僅感受到輕微的痛楚，瞥見一點點將來年老時會因這些注射引發的副作用。

雖然整個過程都十分順利，我也有很多擔心和顧慮。我擔心我是合適捐贈者，卻不能請假來完成這個捐贈。我擔心需要忍受疼痛。而且，我比一般人細小，常人捐贈一天的白血球，我需要以兩日來供應給病人。同時，我的靜脈很細小，他們告訴我不能用一般的靜脈注射器，需要用一條中央線，該過程將會成爲一個外科手術過程。

我知道我不能獨自做到這些，正如暑期康樂日營和短宣旅程。我需要大量的禱告和大家的支持。發出一封電郵後，我收到許多鼓勵的話語，但最重要的是大家告訴我他們會在禱告中記念我。得到這樣的支持令我感到極其蒙福！

我了解到上帝的計劃和目的比我爲自己所定的更好。我真的從來沒有想象到會有這樣的機會！有人告訴我，我所做的幫助救了一個人的命，但我真的不能，而且仍然無法領會這個概念。可是，我相信和知道這是我今年夏天的使命。而有趣的是，這是我永遠無法準備自己去做的。我一直蒙福能擁有一個健康和能夠自我維持的身體，給予別人及時的幫助就是神所要的。我曾經聽說過，上帝不需要我或任何人爲祂作什麼，祂可以隨時隨地按祂的心意行事。但是，祂真正想要的是我們的心，我們願意爲祂服務的心。

由於我的幹細胞捐獻成功，一個月後我又回到了醫院，做另一輪的捐贈。這一次，只是爲期一天的過程，而且不用注射非格司亭。

我與你分享這些不是要得到你的讚賞，而是作爲一個小提醒，在上帝面前我們是何等微小。這個夏天，我被提醒，上帝給了我夢想、計劃和願望的自由；但最終，祂的目的和時間遠比我所能想像的更好，更棒。

我也請您繼續爲這位 29 歲的女性患者和她的家人祈禱。我小小的經歷，和她所經歷並且要繼續面對的相比，根本不算什麼。祈求上帝眷顧她，並不斷給她力量，耐力和平安來與她的疾病對抗。

「耶和華說、我知道我向你們所懷的意念、是賜平安的意念、不是降災禍的意念、要叫你們末後有指望。你們要呼求我、禱告我、我就應允你們。你們尋求我、若專心尋求我、就必尋見。耶和華說、我必被你們尋見、我也必使你們被擄的人歸回、將你們從各國中、和我所趕你們到的各處招聚了來、又將你們帶回我使你們被擄掠離開的地方。這是耶和華說的。」耶利米書 29: 11-14





Weddings

結婚了!



August 23, 2014: Daniel Louie & Erin Erin Nagle



October 10, 2014: Lorraine Wong and James Chen

October 26, 2014: Justin Ng and Evie Sim

Give Thanks

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

God has truly blessed our family abundantly through all of you. We deeply appreciate the tremendous amount of care, love and support that been poured upon us spiritually, mentally, physically and financially! We feel very much loved!

Due to hypotonia at birth (as known as low muscle tone), this medical condition has been affecting Hannah's ability to move. She cannot suck or swallow and has been solely relying on the feeding tube for nutrients. Back in February 2014, Hannah has started using bottle and nipple for feeding until June. When she failed the barium swallowing test, then she was told to switch back to tube feeding exclusively. In July, Hannah was diagnosed with Pneumonia and was treated with antibiotics for 2 weeks. She is feeling much better now but is still coughing with phlegm occasionally.

Hannah's head circumference has been hanging at the 2% percentile since birth indicating that her brain is underdeveloped and hence all of her motor skills are delayed and her vision is compromised as well.

Thank God that Hannah has gradually showed much progress through various therapies and medical treatments. Now at 9 months, Hannah has built up much strength from sucking on pacifier through time. In fact, her tongue is the most active and flexible muscle of her entire body by far. Although Hannah has failed the barium swallowing test twice on liquid intake, she passed on solid food swallowing! She can now swallow small amount of solid food very slowly.



Her arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet and toes are now more active and flexible and able to grab on toys sometimes. Hannah's eyes are more alert and wide opened compared at birth and she starts to smile more in response to sounds, especially to singing. We praise God for the amazing work that He has done on Hannah!

Please continue to pray for us as we continue to nurture Hannah with God's Words. May God's mighty hands be upon Hannah and heal her in His time! All glories be to our Father in Heaven!

May God bless you all in the year of the horse as we continue to serve Him and witness His Love among our friends, families and coworkers!

- Paul, Grace, Karen and Hannah

仍然感恩

親愛主內弟兄姊妹們：

上帝透過您們實在祝福我們一家，我們萬份感激您們對我們的深切關心，愛護和支持！無論是靈性上，精神上，身體和經濟上，我們都感受到被愛至極！

Hannah 出生時得到一種名為 hypotonia, 這種情況影響她身體各部的活動能力。她不能吸奶或吞咽，所以出生以來只能靠賴吸管吸收營養。從今年二月開始，Hannah 開始嘗試用奶瓶和奶嘴餵食，直至六月份；她做了一個吞咽的測試，但結果不如理想；所以她又再要用吸管來吸收營養。她在七月的時候，患上肺炎，所以要服食兩星期的抗生素。現在 Hannah 已恢復很多，只是偶然仍有咳嗽和痰。

從出生到現在，Hannah 頭的週徑只是有百份位數之二，這證明她的腦部生長不成熟而令到她所有活動能力援慢，視力也受影響。

感謝上帝,Hannah 的身體透過不同的藥物和物理治慢慢地有進展。Hannah 現在已經九個月大，她更有力去吮奶嘴了。其實她的舌頭比較她其它身體肌肉是更靈活和活動能力較高。雖然 Hannah 曾經在兩次吞咽流質測試都不通過，但她卻通過吞咽固體的測試！所以 Hannah 現在可以緩慢地吞咽小量固體食物。她的手臂、雙手、手指、雙腿、雙腳和腳趾都比以前靈活，有時還可以抓玩具。她的眼睛比她出生時更精靈和大，她開始對聲音有更多的反應和微笑，特別是聽到歌聲時。我們感謝上帝她在 Hannah 身上奇妙的作為。

請繼續為我們代禱，我們也繼續用上帝的話來育養她。願上帝大能的手在祂的時間內醫治 Hannah！願一切榮耀歸給我們在天上的父神！

今年馬年願上帝賜福給您們，也讓我們繼續去侍服祂和在我們的家人，朋友和同事們去見證祂的愛！

Paul, Grace, Karen 和 Hannah

Sunny Paths

Special Ed Ministry 特殊教育事工



Sunny Paths Special Needs Ministry – 2014 Summer Respite

Sunny Paths Special Needs Ministry hosted 5 respites this summer. It was held on Saturdays from 1 PM to 7 PM with dinner included. The respites accommodated children with disabilities and their siblings. Several volunteer buddies from Sunset Church served along with us. The activities encompassed staying-in at LCHS and going on field trips to Safari Run, ice skating and bowling at Yerba Buena, and the Children's Discovery Museum in Sausalito. Parents were very appreciative that we took in their children with love and care. This allowed them to engage in activities that do not happen too often in the midst of their busy lives such as finishing a few years worth of scrapbooking, catching up with friends without interruptions, listening to live music at a café, going to the movies, and so on.

If you feel moved by the Holy Spirit to help support this ministry, we are always looking for volunteers to assist with cooking, help with planning a respite or camp, be a buddy, lead activities, be a driver, and help with fundraising. Please continue to uplift this ministry in your prayers as we plan for the future. Specific prayer requests include: provision of buddies and resources, guidance for ministry growth, and protection and safety of the children and buddies.

Sunny Paths 特殊需要教育事工今年暑假舉辦了五次活動，都是在星期六下午一時至七時包括晚餐在內。這些活動都是為有特需需要的兒童和他們的弟兄姊妹而設。溢樂教會有幾位義工和我們一起事奉。活動包括在路德會聖靈堂戶內活動和戶外活動，例如 Safari Run、在 Yerba Buena 溜冰和打保齡球、參觀 Sausalito 市的 Children's Discovery Museum。家長們非常感激我們給予孩子們的愛心和細心照顧，在這幾個小時裏面，家長們可以抽空做一些在他們忙碌的生活中極少有機會做的事，例如完成幾年的剪貼簿；可以在沒有打擾狀況下和朋友聯絡；到咖啡廳聽聽現場音樂；看一齣電影...諸如此類。

如果你被聖靈感動願意支持這個事工，我們時常在找尋義工幫助煮餐、協助籌劃活動和夏令營、做孩子的伙伴、帶領活動、車載司機、和幫助籌款。請繼續在禱告中為我們將來的計劃代禱。特別禱告請求包括：需要更多的伙伴照顧孩子、需要更多的資源、事工增長的引領、和保護孩子們和伙伴們平安。



Shared by Johnson Wong:

This year was my first year at Sunny Paths and I've always seen people around church very enthusiastic about helping out and now I could see why. It really is a rewarding experience, not just for us counselors, but for the students and parents as well.

I was paired up with different kids this summer and each event we did something different. On this one day, I was paired up with Joshua and we went to the Bay Area Discovery Museum. I soon found out that Joshua was special in that he was only 1 of 12 people on this earth with his condition. He has difficulty speaking and communicating his thoughts but expresses it through emotion. At the museum, he participated in a few activities but was more amazed at animals and nature. I was reminded to have a childlike faith and appreciate God's wonders through Joshua.



After a long and tiring day, Joshua's mother met us back at church to pick Joshua up. I introduced myself to her and updated her on what Joshua did today. I helped her load Joshua's car seat, backpack, and stroller into her van around the corner. As I walked back to church, she called my name and chased me around the corner. She had told me that she was very appreciative of what we did for her and Joshua. She also shared with me that she was able to participate in a family support group and fellowship with other families who have disabilities. I've noticed Joshua before and each time his mother dropped him off or picked him up, she would have the biggest smile and in the most caring way, say 'see you later' to Joshua. It was only one day spent with Joshua and I've already felt emotionally and physically tired. I could only imagine what Joshua's mother goes through every day and in also taking care of his 3 other siblings.

Shared by Darcy Woo:

I LOVE SUNNY PATHS

I have volunteered at Sunny Paths for the past 4 years it has happened, and every year it has been a great experience to cherish. Sunny Paths has changed my whole perspective about everyone and how everyone is the same. I love how the kids can just express their emotions and they don't ever judge you in any way you act with them. With Sunny Paths, I can always look forward to a fun summer and to bond with the kids and buddies. Buddying up 1-on-1, you have a chance to get to know the child and to really see the child grow.



For the past two years, I worked with a child with speech delay. The first day of camp, he came in very shy and didn't really want to do any of the activities planned. He started running around and hiding in rooms or under the stairs. Every time we went to the park or any outdoor activity, he would always have me running until I had no breath left. He always had a smile on his face, and it made me so happy inside. This year, he came back and he communicated with me way more and we connected quickly every single time we saw each other. He would come into church and run with me down the hall and run into the room with the jumper and balls. Once he was in the jumper, he would say to me, "come on, and come inside!" I would tickle him and he would start laughing and wiggling like crazy. He was like a little brother to me where I can play with him and he wouldn't get annoyed with me.

Even though I started to volunteer in this ministry when I was really young, I saw that this would be the path that God has provided for me. Not only did I grow as a person, but I also grew spiritually through this ministry. Through this experience, I have gotten close to many people and I got to see what a big difference we make in these families. Thanks to Cecilia for starting this ministry and for every one supporting us!

Shared by Harry Wu:

Greetings! My name is Harry Wu and for the past three years I have been involved in our special needs summer program Sunny Paths. This ministry has not only been a blessing for me but also to our community at large.



It is often that churches, even ours, are heavily involved in youth programs that outreach to a large population of families. But as we scan these ministries that offer a safe place for youth to build relationships with one another and Christ, one population is often neglected and un-present. Special needs children are not only overlooked by our churches but in our general population, as there are little to no programs catered to their needs. God's salvation and love was not meant to be restricted as such to a certain group or population. That is why I cherish Sunny Paths so much because of the dedication of buddies to pursue those who Jesus himself reached out to, the disenfranchised. God has made every individual uniquely and we celebrate that notable character in our children here at Sunny Paths as we would with anyone else. What I also enjoy most is seeing the diversification of our camp that embodies different ethnic groups even though our congregation is mostly Chinese. Sunny Path paints the perfect picture of a safe environment where families and youth can participate without feeling judge, discriminated, or left out.

Most importantly the program has helped me see a need to push for support for future growth. Sunny Paths has given me the courage to step out of my comfort zone to engage with a population whom I also saw as invincible. Feeling timid in the very beginning I have come to learn to interact with these children and love them the same. I hope that this vision and unity can be widely contagious to other members of our church and area.

My child has participated in two years of summer camp and every single respite day that Sunny Paths has offered in the last 2 years. This past summer alone, we had every other Saturday for 5 consecutive Saturdays from 1pm to 7pm (which includes dinner for my child) to truly have a respite. Respite to me not only means having someone watch my child, but not having to worry that my child will be misunderstood/ostracized or unsafe to himself or to others. Knowing that Sunny Paths provides caring knowledgeable one-to-one buddies for my child means the world to my being able to truly "rest" emotionally knowing that someone is paying special attention to him and his individual special needs throughout the entire day.

Besides the personal benefit we as parents have received, our child talks NONSTOP about his time with Sunny Paths. He looks forward to each respite as if it's Christmas Day.

He has had so many incredible adventures! I'll list just a few here:

- Visiting the horse ranch
- Playing at the Sportsplex in San Jose
- Visiting the Children's discovery museum in Sausalito
- Going to the playground
- Going to Safari Run
- Seeing live animal demonstrations
- Playing laser tag and water guns
- Going ice skating
- Going bowling
- Visiting the fire station



- Doing science experiments
- Doing cooking projects
- Making crafts

At Christmas time, my son even took photos with an Asian Santa Claus and made ornaments and a gingerbread house!

Sunny Paths was also kind enough to take lots of photos and make a "yearbook" at the end of camp. They also filmed a camp-end video so we parents could see all the fun our kids were having.

I definitely believe that my son's experience with Sunny Paths camps and respites were *beyond-over the top- better* than any experiences he would have had in a "typical child" camp or children's program. I also believe that the way Sunny Paths sees each child with such love and joy - seeing past the child's disability into their soul - is simply amazing. It is overwhelming for me to think about how each child at Sunny Paths is truly treasured for the special child they are - when oftentimes the outside world is so cruel.

Thank you Sunny Paths for the incredible respites and camps you have blessed our family with. I am also in awe that this ministry provides this program to families for free and/or very minimal costs so that it can be accessible to everyone. I'm so thankful to the leadership and the volunteers who work so hard to bless the families and the special needs children with such an awesome program where our kids can have opportunities to do super fun kid things that they might never have an opportunity to do without this program. I hope Sunny Paths continues to grow so it can bless more and more special children with God's love.

- So Grateful, J's mom

Sunny Paths Special Needs Program has been so wonderful for our family. We found Sunny Paths one summer when every other special needs camp we knew of seemed to fill up in a matter of seconds. Luckily, I heard through the parent grapevine about a new camp opening up in the Sunset area. I immediately called Cecilia. It was one of the best calls I've ever made. Finding a program that was safe, affordable, and fun for our child was truly a blessing! Dominic attends Sunny Paths every year and loves, loves, loves the activities and the great friends he has made there. Sunny Paths is even more special to us than the average program because they welcome Dominic's siblings to attend the respite events. When you have a child with special needs it is often difficult to find any program at all, let alone one like Sunny Paths that welcomes siblings, too. I cannot tell you how comforting it feels to get that respite time while knowing that all of our children are safe AND enjoying activities together for a change. We are so thankful to Sunny Paths for all they have done for our family and I sincerely hope that more programs follow their lead in the very near future.

The Faciane Family :)

Sunny Paths has been a blessing to many families. Our child has been attending the summer camp and the respite events for about 3 years now. Cecilia Ng, the coordinator for Sunny Paths, along with all of the volunteers are exceptionally caring. It is obvious that they are not just running a program, but they truly enjoy spending quality time with the kids. The program is very organized and we are confident that our kid is in good, trusted hands when we drop him off at Sunny Paths. Thank you, Cecilia and your volunteers for having the compassion in serving kids with special needs kids. Kudos to all of you for your hard work in organizing Sunny Paths!

- M's mom

Revival Meeting 培靈會

2014年10月24日

陳道明牧師主領

不一樣的人生

「你們是世上的鹽·鹽若失了味、怎能叫他再鹹呢·以後無用、不過丟在外面、被人踐踏了。你們是世上的光·城造在山上、是不能隱藏的。人點燈、不放在斗底下、是放在燈臺上、就照亮一家的人。」 馬太福音 5:13-15



Gospel Event

秋季佈道會

2014年10月25日

陳道明牧師主領



棄
假
歸
真



「認識你獨一的真神、並且認識祢所差來的耶穌基督、這就是永生。」

約翰福音 17:3



New Friends Luncheon

Cantonese Service

迎新會

粵語崇拜

11/2/2014



