



SUNSET PULSE

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Joy And Lament!

Written By: Joey C. | Photos By: Richard L.



As I reflect on the Easter service, I felt a tension of joy and lament. To have our first in-person gathering on Easter was a double joy! Such a great celebration to be with the church even in the midst of so many changes to the physical gathering. Remembering the resurrection as our hope and victory over sin and death is always life-giving.

At the same time coming back in person brings to mind how much our church has changed. I am still figuring out how to process how much loss there has been over the last year. Of lives, relationships, and momentum for our church. Certainly, there is hope and good in all of it, but I realized I need room to lament the losses of the last year.

I know in Christ, this tension is okay. Lament and joy do not conflict with each other. They are not linear either. They can coexist as I bring all things to Jesus. Jesus is meeting me where I am. I pray you also bring all of who you are to Jesus as you join us as we continue on mission together. Hope to see you soon! ■



Outdoor Easter Gathering

Written By: Aurum L. | Photos By: Richard L.

Easter weekend is always a special time in the Christian calendar to center ourselves on the death and resurrection of Christ. However, this year's Easter was particularly special in that it felt like we were also resurrecting out of this the COVID-19 global pandemic. On Saturday before Easter, it was the first time many of us from Sunset Church saw each other physically in over a year.

God provided beautiful weather and so many from the church came to celebrate Easter weekend by seeing other brothers and sisters in person. We masked up and socially distanced our picnic blankets and had a great time connecting with each other. I was just happy to stand near fellow brothers and sisters and having long face-to-face conversations.

The children's ministry created a virtual easter egg hunt where kids had to find hidden easter eggs (actually, laminated paper eggs with QR codes) and use their parent's phones to scan them and collect the verse "inside" the egg. It was great seeing families having fun connecting together and the kids running around full of joy. It was so great to see our church in one place in fellowship together. There were a lot of smiles all around (under their masks).

I think for many of us, we didn't realize how much our souls were missing that type of interaction in the body of Christ. When you get used to just staying at home and talking to people virtually, there is something that slowly dies inside all of us. God created us for community. Not just virtual community, but physical community. Engaging in conversations, seeing and responding to one another's expressions, filling the air with laughter – we are designed to experience God's fullness through these interactions. It was such a refreshing time during those short 3 hours being with the body of Christ in person.

That Saturday Outdoor Easter Gathering really launched the beginning of meeting in person since the pandemic started. Since that time we began meeting in person for Sunday service. As the COVID cases continued to decline and more people were vaccinated, we're glad to be where we are with most restrictions being lifted in recent weeks. God designed us to be in community and if there is anything the pandemic taught us is that we as people need physical community. The Outdoor Easter Gathering was a reminder of that reality. Let's continue to cherish the body of Christ and never take our interactions for granted. ■



Sunset's Good Samaritan Team

Written By: Bill T. | Photos By: Good Samaritan Team



When I came to the US in 1968 as a student in Wisconsin, I did not experience any discrimination. Perhaps in a college town, people were nice and helpful, and I made friends with different ethnicities. Then came to graduate school, and on my first day landing in New York City, my experience was different. My luggage was snatched by a young black man at Grand Central Station, and I chased him down to take it back. From then on, I witnessed robberies and intimidation done by people of different races. Unfortunately, Asians were always at the lowest level of the food/crime chain. My Asian roommate was robbed at gunpoint by another minority. Our apartment was ransacked one day when we were at school. It was at that time I decided to act strong and not to fit the traditional quiet Asian image. I became vocal and took leadership roles in school and later at work.

Fast forward to present years, I have experienced threats and insults from the political left because of my conservative stance in the public. These insults were usually racially charged, ranging from "Go back to China" to teasing my English accent and death threats. Yet I was pretty well treated and respected by the political right.

When President Trump used the term "China virus" last year, it did not bother me much because new viruses are usually named after the place where it was first discovered. But when he used the term "Kung flu", I thought he went too far. The unfortunate thing was it was the media who repeatedly broadcasted Trump's sarcasm to remind the Western world about the Asian villain image. Trump might say the "China virus" publicly ten times, but the media broadcasted that thousands of times. I think they are the true catalyst for this anti-Asian trend.

When I saw the image of Asian elderlies repeatedly being attacked on the news, my blood boiled, and I wanted to do something. Many politicians came out with public rallies and denounced violence against innocent Asians. These were mere gestures but did nothing to stop the crime. So being a Christian, I want to do something meaningful and truly live out what Jesus taught about the good Samaritan spirit (Luke 10:25-27). An effective way to stop crime is to protect the vulnerable victims before the crime happens, not just verbally denounce the crime. Hence providing chaperone service to the Asian elderly makes sense. To follow the good Samaritan example in the Bible, I think providing free care and help to victims is a practical and effective solution.

After my prayer one morning, God gave me the idea of forming the Good Samaritan Team at our church. When I announced the idea, many responses came from the church folks, and a core team of 12 was quickly formed. I am humbled by the enthusiasm of the team, particularly from Lucy, Lauren, Pastor Aurum, elder Victor, and Joyce. The Good Samaritan Team structure included 3 teams: Chaperone/Patrol Team, Caring Team, and the Connection Team.

By God's leading, I got to know the founder of Compassion in Oakland (CiO). She is a Christian and our team partnered with them to form Compassion in SF (CiSF) which launched on May 22nd in the Sunset District. Now we are ready to chaperone elders and ladies plus provide care and help to victims of crime and have patrol teams in the busy Sunset neighborhoods every weekend. Our team also distributed 700 personal alarms to our Sunset Church community and will plan to distribute 1000 alarms to low-income seniors in the inner city to provide some protection to help deter crime. May the Lord use us to serve the vulnerable at this time of turmoil. This is another way we fulfill our church vision to serve the community. ■



Thanks to our amazing volunteers for assembling 1000 safety kits for inner city seniors in 1.5 hours!

Step Out In Faith To Be Present For Seniors In Our Community

Written By: Kelly P. | Photos By: Good Samaritan Team

Why did you decide to volunteer with Compassion in SF (CiSF)

God used different people and experiences to lead me to volunteer with CiSF as a way to respond to the rise in anti-Asian attacks in the bay area. When I found out that my friend is one of the cofounders of Compassion in Oakland, I was naturally interested to learn more. I kept seeing horrific incidents on the news and wanted to do something to respond and help promote a sense of safety in the community. Pastor Joey shared this opportunity and I decided to step out in faith to be present and available especially for seniors who feel unsafe. Though my grandparents have all passed, I know I would want them to feel safe on the streets and for them to know that they belong here and are loved.

What did you do as a CiSF team member?

Since Compassion is new to San Francisco, we mainly walked in the inner Sunset District to get the word out & were a safe and bright presence on the streets with our yellow t-shirts. We talked with community members and business owners to share about CiSF. We hung up posters in storefronts and passed out postcards to let people know that we are here and encouraged people to utilize our services if there is a need.

What was the highlight of your day?

The highlight was seeing people's response to this movement and the gratitude expressed for CiSF and our mere presence to make the streets and ultimately our communities feel safer.

What connections did you make?

I connected with other team members who welcomed me as a new volunteer and modeled to me what "feet on the streets" is like. Their genuine compassion and care for the safety of our community helped me to make connections with others as well.

How did others/community respond to you and your team?

We received positive responses and even people who wanted to donate and contribute to the movement.

How did you feel after serving?

I felt encouraged and motivated to continue to serve the community. Although there is still a lot to be done, I realize that small acts of service make a difference in God's bigger plan for healing and transformation.

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve the community and are unsure what it's going to be like - just show up and be present and I think God will honor your steps of faithful obedience to be a light in the community.

If you would like to find out more about Compassion in San Francisco (CiSF), visit compassioninoakland.org.

To volunteer with CiSF, fill out a form at sunsetchurchsf.org/goodsamaritan. ■



God Calling Me To Exemplify His Grace And To Love those who are Oppressed and Afraid

Written By: Jason H. | Photos By: Good Samaritan Team

Why did you decide to volunteer with Compassion in SF (CiSF)?

I felt God was calling me through my convictions as an Asian American Born-Again Christ disciple to follow Him in being able to do whatever it takes to exemplify His grace and to love those who are oppressed and afraid. When I first came to America as a foreigner, I experienced similar oppressive situations. Being able to partner with Compassion in Oakland to form a new entity called Compassion in SF was an “open door” opportunity placed by God in order to exercise the ministry of social justice within our church community. I felt called to lead, despite my busy life and schedule, because I want to set a tone in our church community that we as disciples of Christ, who have experienced the revelation of His glory, should be making sacrifices to any of our comforts and insecurities as believers. After all, we are called in power to be salt and light within this sinful world. God has also shown me through this past year of wrestling with social injustice and oppression, that we are all created in His image, beloved by Him. Therefore... *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15); “...learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.” (Isaiah 1:17)*



What did you do as a CiSF team member?

Provide a guiding vision with other team members of CiSF and Compassion in Oakland (CiO). This includes route planning, scheduling times to spread this service to the Sunset district, being given opportunities to directly chaperone, and giving some street knowledge to the founding members of CiO. Since CiSF is a “child” of CiO, we are taking parts of its “DNA” and combining it with a Christ-centered “DNA” of Sunset Church. This, in a way, is a new ministry within Sunset Church that allows for us to exercise the “muscles” of social justice as disciples of Christ.

What was the highlight of your day?

Seeing the positive feedback and enthusiasm we have received from the Sunset community. I was surprised yet hopeful by the abundance of encouragements we received from different folks within the community of various walks of life, whether they knew Christ or not.

What connections did you make? How did others/community respond to you and your team?

We were able to connect with business owners, business employees, street performers, and residents within the community of Central/Outer Sunset. For most of the 99.9%, we received positive feedback, and encouragement to keep on growing.

How did you feel after serving?

God refreshed me in His presence and reaffirmed to me that the focus on any of His ministries has always been about the glorification of His name and His character. And how do we do that? By loving Him first, and therefore overflowing that love by redirecting it to the love of others in ministries such as this. By loving those who need love and loving those who are unlovable, they will know our God. And by this, He is glad. This short and faithful experience provided me with a vision that by doing something as simple as approaching and meeting the needs of people through love, God is present and glad to eventually call us as *“good and faithful servants”* (Matthew 25:23). Ultimately, that is what I want beyond what this world has to offer.

God has placed us in certain situations, given us specific life resources, and positioned us in certain communities for a reason. If you call Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you know Him relationally, then I don’t need to push you any further. You know He calls us to first love Him and then overflow that love to others. This type of social justice ministry meets that criteria in this moment of our life history. We are called as disciples of Jesus Christ to *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15); “...learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.” (Isaiah 1:17)*

For those who are unsure, I encourage you to pray and take that leap of faith in allowing God to reveal His glory through His image-bearers. As you approach people to meet their needs, you will begin to see through the window of God’s heart for the people who are broken and oppressed. Through this, you will begin to experience more of His grace and find the power of empathy in your life. Jesus Christ decided many ages ago to let down His glory and power, in order to empathize and experience life through the love of people who are broken and oppressed by sin. Will you follow in His footsteps?”

If you would like to find out more about Compassion in San Francisco (CiSF), visit compassioninoakland.org. To volunteer with CiSF, fill out a form at sunsetchurchsf.org/goodsamaritan.



AAPI March for Solidarity and Safety

Written By: Elgin Q. | Photos By: Elgin Q. And Richard L.



Locking arms, Sunset Church with several area churches and community organizations marched in solidarity in a rally organized by SF Supervisor Gordon March April 18th. The rally gathered at Great Highway then marched north along the boardwalk of Ocean beach to support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), to give voice for solidarity and to take a stand against hate and violence. *“If we combine our talents, perspectives, and energy to lead with one voice, we have a different kind of influence in our community”*, says Supervisor Mar. The march followed the heels of the Atlanta area massage parlor massacre in March, and stressed the importance of combating the violence against Asian American women.

“Many of you are hurting and angry. Reach out in compassion, mourn with those who mourn. We are not many races, but only one race: the human race” was the plea by Pastor Gerald Mann of Sunset Ministry church. Feeling a strong mix of emotions, the march came on the anniversary of the COVID-19 shutdowns. It was a painful reminder to many Asian Americans of the growing hate crimes as many still blame them for the pandemic.

Many wonder, *“what can we do?”* Yet, there are things we can do to strive for a more just and loving world. We can:

Help spread the right message.

Organizations, churches, and institutions can help call for racial justice, solidarity and respect. Stand up and connect with your community. An example of what organizations can do is Sunset’s Good Samaritan Team.

Sunset’s Good Samaritan Team partnered with Compassion in Oakland (CiO) to help launch Compassion in SF (CiSF) on May 22 to chaperone seniors and have patrol teams in the Sunset neighborhood. For more information or to get involved in the Sunset District, visit sunsetchurchsf.org/goodsamaritan. If you would like to get involved in San Francisco, visit compassioninoakland.org.

Act with your wallet.

Support minority owned businesses. Initiate your own program of allyship by actively looking for products and supporting services that fight hate and racism.

Lucy, Lauren and Melody partnered with a local Asian, female owned bakery, Sweet Passion Bakery, at 3020 Taraval St. to host three fundraisers to support Stop AAPI Hate (Home - Stop AAPI Hate), provide personal alarms for seniors and Compassion in Oakland/San Francisco (compassioninoakland.org). With huge community support, they generated a total of \$14,400 to help support the AAPI cause!

Educate yourself.

Stay connected to others who have the same vision. Educate yourself by working alongside them. Give those people your support. Read the right books and learn about the history of Asian Americans through the PBS film series pbs.org/weta/asian-americans.

Tragedy is before us, but it is also a time for thoughtful reflection and action. Violence and hate are not the answers - there is a better way. Let us thank God that our hope is not in what others (or even we) do or fail to do, but in what God alone has done and will do. Until then let us bring our *“broken hallelujahs”* to the Lord. ■



AACC'S "Stand for AAPI Lives" Nationwide Prayer Rally

Written By: Elgin O. | Photos By: Elgin O. And Richard L.



On Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021, Asian American Christian Collaborative (AACC) pioneered and led several simultaneous prayer rallies nationwide, to host a stand for AAPI lives. Around 5,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Christians and friends of AAPI converged in solidarity with 14 cities across the United States exactly at 1:00 pm PST. There was a big show of solidarity to grieve the loss of the eight lives taken in the Atlanta area shootings on March 16 and to lament the greater systemic evils of Anti-Asian hate and misogyny. The momentum developed rapidly in the course of one week. The prayer rallies, marches, and events quickly grew to span Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Houston, Maryland, Washington, DC Detroit, Seattle, Austin, Dallas, Boston Minneapolis, and San Francisco. In San Francisco alone, over 200 people rallied in front of City Hall and Civic Center Plaza to hear local leaders.

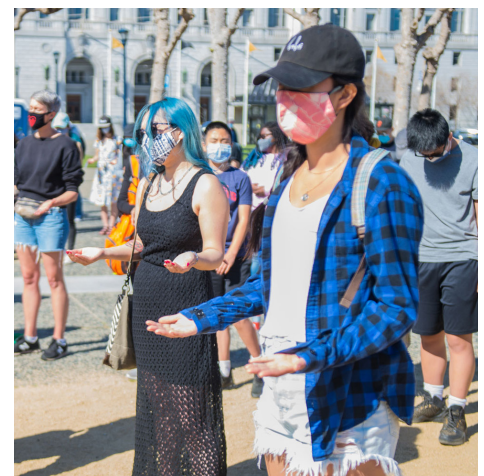
Pastor Joey Chen gave a call to action to stop hate and violence against the AAPI community, and to *"take a collective stand against the anti-Asian American hate. It's time to stand up and speak in Christ's name. We need to be here for peace and reconciliation for the dignity of the AAPI people,"* said Pastor Joey. *"The churches must not remain silent"*.

Three elderly Chinese women from the Tenderloin district spoke in Chinese and expressed their fear of going out alone. A 90-year-old speaker 林胡悠菁姊妹 (sister Lam Wu Yao Sung) former staff member of Sunset church 益康团契 (Yut Hong Senior Fellowship), lamented how in the past the three

were part of the Chinatown evangelism program and freely passed pamphlets about Christ. *"Now we are too scared to leave our home."* One organizer and Sunset Church member, Sarah Laguna responded *"We're trying to be there and stand up for them. We don't want them to feel so scared that they will not step out of their homes"*.

The voices that spoke began with a call to worship, welcome, opening prayer, and a moment of silence for victims. Lauren Gee, a Sunset Church member, exhorted others to display little acts of kindness, *"If everyone does a little, together we can do a lot!"* She illustrated her example of baking her favorite bread to sell at a local bakery to raise money to support the AAPI community. Other speakers were Russell Jeung Professor SF State, Stop AAPI Hate co-founder; Jane Lam, Pastor, Social Worker; Drew Yamamoto, Pastor Trinity Church and Francis Chan, Pastor and Author of Crazy Love.

Last year, the Asian American Christian Collaborative (AACC) hosted a march for Black Lives and Dignity. Over 1,000 people gathered from over 100 churches in just Chicago alone. This year the rally led by AACC launched a new moment in the history of the Asian American church. Palm Sunday marked a milestone for solidarity for those made in the image of God. *"We can stop hate together. We can focus more on love and put a stop to hate crimes"*. This rallying cry brought the faith-based community together. Moment to moment became moment to movement. This time, it was nationwide. ■



心愛家庭團契慶祝母親節 H2H Fellowship Mother's Day

Written By: Lei-Chun W. | Photos By: Lei-Chun W. & Wayman S.

感謝神! 在今年的母親節, 即 2021 年 5 月 9 日, 我們心愛家庭團契成員能夠在教會後園舉行實體的團契聚會。當天的聚會是為團契的姊妹們慶祝母親節。原本我們計劃在網上舉行慶祝聚會, 因為我們仍處於 Covid-19 疫情之中。但因教會在母親節當天有實體的崇拜, 所以我們團契也獲得使用教會後園舉行聚會的許可, 只要我們遵守公共衛生準則、戴口罩並保持六英尺的社交距離便可。哈利路亞!

我們感恩神, 聚會當天陽光明媚, 微風輕吹, 教會後園的佈置和園藝使人賞心悅目。自去年三月, 我們第一次可以親身一起唱讚美詩和敬拜神! 我們從心中發出讚美的歌聲, 感謝神在疫情期間的保守和供應! 神真偉大! 聽到彼此美妙的歌聲和有機會彼此見面, 真是太棒了! 使人十分激動!

我們還玩了一個智力競賽遊戲, 大家輪流回答問題, 有些問題是有關聖經中的婦女, 如撒拉、利百加、拉結、以斯帖, 這些聖經忠心婦女們的經歷提醒我們要持續信靠上帝和持守堅強的信心! 也有一些問題是個別分享自己母親的事情, 這些分享都帶給我們美好和懷舊的回憶! 我們彼此一起度過了歡樂的時光! 這次戶外實體聚會真是令人耳目一新, 我們感受到彼此的聯繫更加緊密了!

我們祈求上帝的恩典和憐憫, 疫情早日過去! 我們期待著有一天我們教會的大家庭可以全體一起敬拜, 我們的兒童、青年和成人小組和團契可以親自見面! 阿門!

On Mother's Day this year, May 9, 2021, our Heart to Heart (H2H) Fellowship members felt very thankful that we could hold our biweekly fellowship meeting IN PERSON at the church's outdoor patio. Our program that day was to celebrate the mothers and honor the sisters in our fellowship. Initially, we thought it would be an online zoom meeting as we were still amid the Covid-19 pandemic. To our surprise and amazement, Sunset Church decided to start in-person worship on Easter Sunday! Our Heart to Heart (H2H) Fellowship received permission to use the church outdoor patio to host our meeting, provided that we followed public health guidelines: wearing masks and keeping the six feet social distance. Hooray!

We thanked God for the nice breeze and sunny weather as we enjoyed the beautifully decorated patio garden with succulent plants. For the first time since March last year, we were able to sing together as a group, praising and worshipping God in one accord! We sang our hearts out thanking God for His protection and provision during the pandemic! How Great Thou Art! It was so wonderful to hear one another's beautiful singing and appreciated the opportunity to see one another in person! What an excitement!

We also played a Jeopardy game where we took turns answering questions on women in the bible like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Esther. These faithful women in the bible reminded us to continue to trust God and to stay strong in our faith! Some questions involved personal sharing about our mothers which brought back wonderful and nostalgic memories! We had a great time interacting and engaging with one another! It was so refreshing to be outdoors, and our group felt so much more connected with one another!

We pray for God's grace and mercy that the pandemic will be over soon! We look forward to the day when our church families can worship at our full capacity, our children, youth and adult small groups and fellowships can meet IN PERSON! Amen! ■



Out Of School Time Ministry

Written By: Nathan W. | Photos By: Kevin C.

My Plans

The beginnings of this Out of School Time (OST) ministry started with a news article I read about young kids being left at home alone while their parents had to go to work, and a phone call from SFUSD alerting families that the school year would be continuing online learning. My heart broke a little at the thought of these kids having to endure this for at least the first half of school.

I wanted to do something, but at first, I wasn't sure what. I very quickly was made aware of learning pods. It seemed that everyone with adequate resources was forming one, but that the majority of others were getting left behind. I wanted to create a pod that would be composed of paying participants as well as those who couldn't afford to. Since I would have to leave my current job, I needed some income, but still wanted a way to help out others in need. The primary hurdle after figuring out finances was space. My first thought was to use Sunset Church's CE space. I reached out to leadership, trying to get things organized and in place before the end of CampToons. This, I felt, would offer the best chance of getting the word out and reaching families that might need help.

God's Plans

Unfortunately, the program did not start after CampToons. Despite these setbacks, God's timing would prove to be perfect. It would be about two months after school started that the program would actually begin operations. This delay worked out better than any of us could've imagined. Had the program launched earlier, we would have most likely been filled by CampToons children. That could've also been a great ministry opportunity, but God's plan involved slowly bringing along families that had never been to our church before. By January of this year, the program hit its capacity of 14 children and was hosting 13 children that had never been inside our church before.



Continuing the Journey

After spring break, SFUSD decided to reopen in-person learning. The OST program had to quickly figure out if and how to pivot to become an afterschool program. Luckily, the transition didn't present too many challenges, and after a couple of weeks, Sunset had its afterschool program with an enrollment of 15 kids. Ten students from the OST program enthusiastically signed up for the afterschool program, and five new students enrolled. Although our time with them has been short, parents have already asked about a summer program and next year's plans.

God at Work

Reflecting on this past year there have been so many instances the staff has been able to see God work. One is just seeing the enthusiasm from the kids. During Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring break, the students had the opportunity to hear Bible stories and learn some Bible lessons.

Once the afterschool program began, I was shocked to hear that the first question from the kids was whether or not there would be Bible lessons taught. They weren't asking because they were concerned but were genuinely interested in having more Bible lessons be taught to them. I've been working with children for a long time, but I don't think I've ever heard a request like this outside of the missions field. To hear non-Christian kids who had never set foot in a church before; request to learn more about God and the Bible was proof that God was working in their hearts.

Another way that God worked was with one of the parents. During the OST program time, his son had forgotten his laptop at church and needed to come back to get it. When he arrived, we began to chat and he stated that he used to attend the AK youth program back when he was in high school. It turns out that one of our elders knew the dad and was able to reach out to him and arranged a time to reconnect. God was working in His time.

While I'm sure I could go on and on about other things that have happened, I would like to conclude by highlighting two ►

of our staff members. These two volunteers from the Cantonese congregation have been serving in the program since November and have been a tremendous blessing to me and the families.

Although they have had several instances where they faithfully served the Lord in this ministry, one in particular stands as a testimony to God working through the faithfulness of his servants. It was Christmas time, and the program was going to host a three-day mini-day camp with fun events and a lesson on the nativity story. Since these kids had never heard these stories before I decided to break the story up and focus on certain characters for each day so it can provide a more meaningful experience with the overall nativity story. To my surprise, both of these individuals put together gifts for the kids. Both created individual gift bags to send home, so each kid got to take home two gift bags! While already extremely thoughtful, one set of gifts had a copy of the nativity story for each child. The word “flooded” doesn’t adequately describe how I felt when I saw how perfectly this worked along with the planned Bible lessons. God was working through His people!



Moving Forward, Pressing On

Families have been very happy with the program and have all expressed their appreciation for everything the church has done to support them. For the past few months, they have been asking about next year’s plans and if our program takes place in the summer. The long-term goal, should this ministry continue, is to be able to have something to bridge the CampToons ministry between summers. Many children and families have been blessed to be a part of CampToons over the years, and often ask about extending the program further into the summer. There is so much excitement and momentum generated from the summer, but unfortunately once summer ends so do most of the opportunities. By having a ministry in place that operates through the school year, staff and other church volunteers can continue deepening these relationships with families. God willing, this ministry is a step in loving our neighbors that can be taken together as a church. ■

Thank You From City Academy

Hi Sunset Church!

Thank you for helping to fulfill our class wish list this year and supporting our school’s needs! We are so thankful for you!

Our class is doing really well despite the challenges COVID has presented. Most of our students are able to be here to learn on-site and only a few are still doing remote-learning over zoom. A lot of our students who have returned in-person have made great academic progress over the last couple months and it is so encouraging to see! They also are SO happy to be able to see their friends in person and are growing in their social skills as well.

Some of our student’s biggest prayer requests are for the health of their family members. A lot of our students have parents or siblings who are sick or not feeling well so that would be a great thing to pray for! Another prayer request is for our students to continue to learn about Jesus and how much He loves them!

—Ms. Weinecke, Ms. Carlson, and the 1st grade class.

If you would like to help fulfill the 2nd grade Wish list for the Fall 2021, please visit: sfcityimpact.com/classroom ■



How God Sustained A Christian Preschool During The Pandemic

Interview with Connie W. By Elgin O.

Tucked in a quiet little corner in Sunset district stands a preschool called Sunrise. Little children skip to and fro calling, "Miss Connie, Miss Connie!" During the pandemic Connie Wan, Director of Sunrise Christian Preschool, had the privilege to witness by collaboration, four faces of GOD. Here she shares her story.



I am Jehovah Jireh, God My Provider

From a low enrollment of 4-7 children during the beginning of COVID 2020, Connie's preschool, Sunrise Christian Preschool on Judah and 28th, saw a sharp return to pre-covid numbers in 2021.

Connie: There was a time when we only had 4-7 kids, now we have returned to our norm, 16 kids. I have seen God provide during good times and bad times. Even though many small businesses have gone bankrupt during the pandemic, God will do what He wants me to do. He knows our situation. He is watching over us. Last year, after three years of ownership of the building, the new landlord wanted to raise our rent right at the start of the pandemic. After consultation, she agreed to hold the same rent until the pandemic is over. I keep on trusting God and having faith that He will provide. One day at a time, He sends new kids to us.

I am Jehovah Shalom, God My Peace

Connie: When a new child comes to us, usually in the first few days, she/he will cry. I try to comfort them by saying "I know, I know, Miss Connie knows you are sad (afraid). Miss Connie is right here. I will take care of you. I understand how they feel." I hug them and let them feel the love. I let them feel that I love them and that I like them.

When they are not happy, I listen to their feelings. I tell them "Jesus, in heaven, looks down and sees you. He sees you are not happy. He sees that mom and daddy are not happy, Grandma/pa is not happy, Miss Connie is not happy. He wants you to change, be a good little girl/boy and be happy." I tell a lot of stories of how Jesus held children on his lap, tells them "I love you" and said "Come unto me, I will give you rest". The children hear the stories and it gives them peace.



Connie tells the children that Jesus listens to each child and hears every prayer. She knows as she prays for them, Jesus, too prays alongside them. She tells them Jesus loves them. Jesus will teach them how to live the right way, choose good, because they are deeply loved by God.

Connie builds up the relationship by helping the children know they are loved. As a Christian, God wants us to know we are loved. Christ followers believe everything we do should be done with an emotional awareness that we are deeply loved by God.

"The most powerful people relationally are those who feel what others are going through. The person with sympathy will have an immense influence on others."

– Healthy Relationships, Dr. David Eckman. ►

I am Jehovah Rophe, God My Healer

Connie: “Miss Connie, come look at my dad’s leg! He got into an accident and burned his leg”. A child told Miss Connie, “My mom got hurt too! Pray for my mom! My daddy’s not happy”.

Another child came and told Miss Connie about a cut on her mom’s hand. A mom came and shared with Miss Connie she was having trouble with her husband who left her with two kids. As Connie offered to pray for the mom and the family, she found out later they got back together again. In all those incidences, these people come to Miss Connie and asked Miss Connie to pray. The parents know Miss Connie prays with and for the children every day, before meals, before nap time, at circle time, after bible storytime. They know that Miss Connie loves Jesus. She teaches them to sing songs about Jesus and His love, His devotion, and care for the children.



I am Jehovah Shaddai, God Almighty

Every year, 3 celebrations are held at the school: Christmas, Chinese New Year and Graduation. Parents, family, and friends are all invited to enjoy the children perform songs and skits, in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English. One way to motivate the kids to learn their songs is to know they are preparing for a ceremony or performance. Then they get serious and work hard to do well. We then have a nice dinner together and time to give out prizes.

Those are some highlights where Sunrise Christian preschool showcases what God has been doing in the preschool. But the most important celebration is not showcased, but done behind closed doors, quietly inside the school during regular school hours. That event takes place on Easter.



Connie: It is during Easter week, that I tell the children. Jesus Christ died on the cross and He rose again on Easter morning. I emphasize we should follow Jesus and invite him into our hearts. Then I ask them “who wants to follow Jesus?” At that time, all of the 4-5 year-olds raise their hands. Then, individually, I say a personal prayer with each one. I lead them to ask Jesus to come into their heart. It is a very special and tender moment for them. Then I tell the parents when they come to pick up their children, face to face about our special prayer for their children’s salvation”.

We’ve been in operation since 2004. Over 300 children have come through this preschool. I feel this is the real reason for this preschool. I don’t do this because of business, but to work to provide whatever I can to help the community and for others to know about God. ■



『女人心事多籬籬』姊妹聚會 Sunset Sisters Gathering

Written By 撰文: Lei-Chun W. 王馮梨珍 | Translated by: Esther Li

『跨越挑戰:活出精彩』重整人生的目標

在今年的5月22日(星期六),溢樂教會團契/小組事工部,舉行了首次為中文部姊妹們而設的網上講座及小組討論分享。這個為姊妹們而設的聚會,定名為「女人心事多籬籬:跨越挑戰,活出精彩」我們特別邀請了曾熊國英師母作當日的講員和我們一起探討女性在不同階段和年齡所面對的困擾及掙扎,曾師母用聖經的教導幫助我們每一位參加的姊妹們學習如何能夠跨越不同階段的挑戰,重整我們人生的目標,安排生活的優先,生活簡化及自律,並建立美好的關係網。將我們的重擔用信心交托給神。因祂的軛是容易輕省的。「我呼求的日子,你就應允我,鼓勵我,使我心裏有能力。耶和華必成全關乎我的事;你的慈愛就永遠長存!求你不要離棄你手所造的。」詩篇138:3-8。我們非常感謝曾師母在我們中間分享她的經歷,並用神的話語激勵姊妹們活出精彩的人生。



溢樂華人浸信會-團契/小組事工主辦

女人心事多籬籬

<跨越挑戰 活出精彩>

5月22日·星期六·4-6 pm
Zoom 網上聚會 ID: 857 8269 8936
Pwd: 3638
請到教會網頁報名
www.sbcscf.org/sistergathering
為保障分享私隱, 只限實體視像會議, 不設電話參與。

特別講員: 曾熊國英師母



建立美好關係網、學習信心的交托

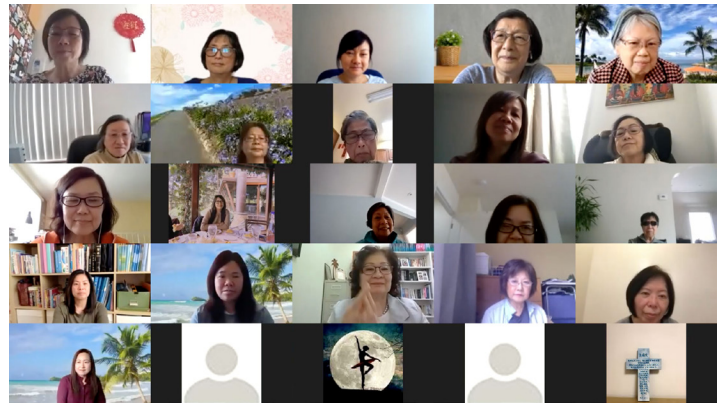
「跨越挑戰、活出精彩」姊妹聚會的另一個目的,是讓教會中文部各團契小組的姊妹有機會和其他不同年齡、不同團契小組的姊妹們可以彼此認識、彼此聯誼,增加對大家的認識和了解,藉着教會內的屬靈群體得着鼓勵和支持。故此在這次姊妹聚會前,籌備小組特別邀請了18位來自教會小組團契的姊妹帶領小組分享及討論。小組姊妹們彼此聆聽在不同階段所遇到的困難和挑戰,以致感到心事重重、鬱鬱不樂。討論完畢後把小組中所遇到的困難、經歷及心得與大家分享,讓這個聚會能發揮出「跨年代、跨年齡、跨小組」的互勵互勉精神!正如詩歌描述:「一起走過危難有多未,同分擔喜與悲,互勵互勉體恤,彼此分擔代求,我們愛因為神先愛!」我們感恩讓姊妹們藉小組能彼此認識、彼此聯繫,在主裡建立大家。

榮耀頌讚歸給神

我們感謝神的祝福,使「女人心事多籬籬」姊妹聚會得到很多姊妹們積極的參與、迴響及讚賞。從教會同工 Esther Li 的『相片回顧』影片,曾熊國英師母聖經教導,及姊妹們帶領的小組分享討論,使我們學習如何面對人生不同階段的挑戰,每一位姊妹能活出神賜給我們精彩的人生!最後多謝鄭識文牧師的支持鼓勵,同工 Marco 的幫助及籌備小組的姊妹 Cat Cheng, Polly Leung, Joyce Tso 及 Lei-Chun Wang 的團體合作。願神繼續帶領溢樂教會的姊妹事工發展!如想重溫當日講座內容,可參閱教會網頁 sbcscf.org/sermon-archive/2021/05/22。

「但那等候耶和華的必重新得力,他們必如鷹展翅上騰;他們奔跑卻不困倦,行走卻不疲乏。」以賽亞書 40:31 ▶





On May 22, 2021, the Chinese Congregation’s Fellowship/ Small Groups Ministry, for the first time in history, planned an online Sisters Gathering Event. The title of the event translates to “Understanding the Deeper Minds & Hearts of Women: Overcoming Challenges, Living out Colorful Lives”. We invited Mrs. Christina Tsang as our speaker of the day. Through teachings from the Bible, Mrs. Tsang helped us to learn how to overcome the challenges in different stages of our lives. She encouraged the sisters to realign our life purposes, to develop a disciplined simple living, and to cast our burdens to God. “As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength..... The Lord will work out his plans for my life— for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever. Don’t abandon me, for you made me.” (Psalm 138:3, 8) We are very grateful for Mrs Tsang’s sharing of her life experiences and how she used God’s word to encourage our sisters to live out a marvelous colorful life.

Building Relationship Networks

Another main purpose of the event was to allow sisters from various fellowships and small groups to connect with one another. During small group breakouts, the sisters were able to share honestly about their burdens and challenges during different life stages. The 18 small group leaders then summarized the sharing and shared it with the bigger group. I felt we were able to become “one intergenerational and cross-ages entity that emboldens each other”. We are thankful to see that through the small groups, sisters can bond, build connections, and develop relationship networks that can strengthen each other in Christ.

To God Be the Glory

With God’s blessings, we are very thankful that the event went very well and received a lot of positive feedbacks from the sisters. From the slideshow, prepared by our church staff, to the messages from Mrs. Tsang, and the small group bonding time, this event undoubtedly helped cultivate our sisters to face the challenges in life and live out the joyful and colorful life that God has intended for us! Last but not least, we want to thank Pastor Simon and Marco for their support and help, we would also like to thank the planning committee’s members, including Cat Cheng, Polly Leung, Joyce Tso and Lei-Chun F Wang for their team efforts. May God continue to lead the Sisters Ministry development in the Chinese Congregation!

**But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31) ■**



Sunset Profile: 黃良幹弟兄 Joseph Wong



請告訴我們一些關於你自己,你的家庭,你的背景和你的屬靈旅程?

我在香港出生及成長,1989年信主,我在1990年與簡玉蘭(Kan Kan)結婚,同年移居美國,我們育有二子,Alvin和Brannon。我在2000年加入溢樂華人浸信會,在2009年完成執事任期後,我被呼召參與關懷癌症病人事工,為他們提供身心靈上的支持(我的病人起初大多都不是基督徒)。四年前,我決定提早退休以便能花多些時間投入關懷工作。我的職業背景是財政管理,我在醫療界服務了一段很長的時間。

你有什麼愛好或興趣?

我喜歡音樂,遠足,旅行和攝影。我其中的一個退休計劃便是去遊覽不同的國家公園,在鏡頭下見證和欣賞神創造的偉大。

如果你可以去任何地方,做任何的事情,你會去哪裏和做什麼呢?

我會去耶路撒冷尋找聖經故事的足跡,亦希望能去阿拉斯加觀看北極星。

你成為新的長老,對這崗位有什麼抱負,對教會有什麼理想?

我希望能夠為中英文堂製造多一些合作機會,大家一同聯手去完成一些事工項目,我相信我們是能夠做到的,在主裏我們是一家人。



在過去12個月裡你學了些什麼,或者神在你的生命上作了些什麼?

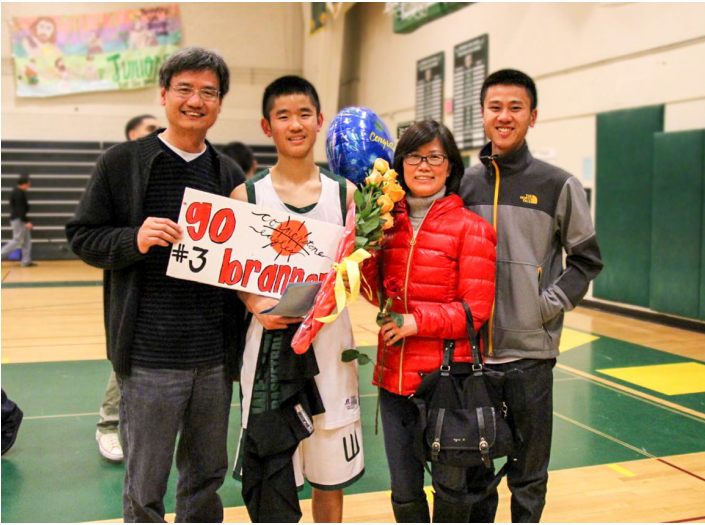
作長老並不在我原本的退休計劃中,我是經過數月時間的觀察和禱告才作出接受提名的決定,在我的基督徒生命中,神曾帶領我轉過幾次方向,並且每次都是好的,我對神有信心,我願意跟從祂帶領我去要去的的地方。

你有什麼鮮為人知的事呢?

我年輕時打保齡球不錯,好多時都能超越200分,當兒子挑戰我作保齡球比賽時,我仍能戰勝他們。

什麼經文對你最具影響力?為什麼?

我最喜愛的經文記載在約翰一書四章12節:「從來沒有人見過神,我們若彼此相愛,神就住在我們裏面,他的愛也在我們裏面得到成全了。」這是我參與關懷事工的原動力,年紀越是漸長,我更能體會到主耶穌的愛。▶



Tell us a little about yourself, your family, your background, and your spiritual journey.

I was born and raised in Hong Kong. I became a Christian in 1989. I married Kan Kan and came to the U.S. in 1990. We have two sons, Alvin and Brannon. I joined Sunset Church in 2000. After completing my deacon term in 2009, I was called to join a parachurch organization to serve Chinese cancer patients in the local community. We provide emotional and spiritual support to them (most of my patients are non-believers). Four years ago, I decided to retire from work in order to spend more time serving the needy. My professional background is in financial management. I have many years of experience working in the healthcare industry.

What are your hobbies or interests?

I like music, hiking, traveling, and photography. One of my retirement goals is to visit as many national parks as I can to witness and appreciate God’s creation with my camera.

If you can go anywhere and do anything, where would you go and do?

I would like to go to Jerusalem to explore the history of the Bible. I would also like to go to Alaska to see the North Star.

You are the new church Elder. What is your vision for this role? What are your hopes and dreams for our church?

I wish I could create more congregational (English and Chinese) partnership opportunities and so that we can serve hand-in-hand in achieving our ministerial goals. I believe we can do it because we are one family under God.

What did you learn during the past 12 months or how did you see God work in your life?

Being an elder was not part of my original retirement plan. I spent a few months observing and praying before I accepted the nomination invitation. In my Christian life, God had led me onto unexpected paths. However, the results were good. I trust in God and will follow wherever He takes me to.

What is something that people would be surprised to know about you?

I was good at bowling when I was young. I could easily score 200-plus points. I can still beat my sons when they challenged me for a game.

What Bible verse has been the most impactful to you in your Christian journey? Why?

My favorite Bible verse is 1 John 4:12, “No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another; God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” That’s why I devoted myself to the caring ministry. The older I get, the more I feel Jesus’ love. ■

