



SUNSET

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# PULSE

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## 中文部聖誕聯歡會 Cantonese Christmas Celebration

Margie Fong 鄭劉妙芝



在今年教會聖誕主日，一起普天同慶敬拜我們主耶穌的誕生。主日崇拜後我們一同享受由弟兄姊妹分享的「愛心美點」，並參與家庭合照和小朋友制作多種氣球活動。彼此分享到溢樂大家庭團契和喜樂的美好時光。

我們的慶祝是將榮耀歸於主耶穌，因祂的誕生賜給我們救恩，盼望和愛。

不單是我們得到救恩的祝福，盼望我們身邊的親人和朋友也能得到救恩..

願上帝繼續使用溢樂教會在這個城市成為傳福音的渠道和祝福！

On Christmas Sunday, after we celebrate and worship our Lord Jesus. Our sister & brother had a blessed time sharing and fellowship over the lovely home made food, participate in family photo taking and balloon making for the children. It was such a blessing to share this special time with our Sunset family and friends.

The celebration is to honor our Lord Jesus' birth who gave us salvation, hope and love. We hope not just you & me received the blessing of the gospel but those around us still do not have salvation can be blessed. May God continue to use the Sunset Church as a channel of blessing for His gospel in this city. ■





# Family Christmas Celebration

By Theo Low, photos by Julie Tom and Theo Low



The Christmas season is a joyous time when families and friends are looking for joy and hope and we get the opportunity to invite them out to church events to experience the joy and hope Christians have. Praise be to God for this year's Family Christmas Celebration! It was a great turn out! We had about 350 people attend the celebration! And of that there were 35 guest families and over 100 volunteers!

It was a great time of eating lots of delicious food, playing fun games, winning prizes, singing Christmas carols, and hearing about the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you all for coming out, serving our church and community and inviting unsaved family and friends to our Christmas Celebration! ■





# 義工感恩聚餐 12/10 Cantonese Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

譚克成長老 著



2017年12月10日的義工感恩聚餐, 由中文事工團隊負責籌備, 目的在感謝2017年在教會作義工的弟兄姊妹, 由薛偉華及鄺傑安長老管理聚餐一切安排, 也得到一些弟兄姊妹幫忙, 在十二時半的二百人聚餐得以順利進行, 聚餐後有幻燈片放映, 見到不同團隊的事奉, 感到溢樂大家庭的溫馨。關浩執事感謝小組團契領袖(70人)對團友的帶領。Tony Ng弟兄鼓勵司事們(58人)繼續代表教會在崇拜時作歡迎和招待。音樂主任Margie Fong感恩神幫助音樂事工的各團隊(40人)的合作與投入。Kan Kan執事欣賞關懷團隊(37人)的愛心服事, 祝福有需要的家庭。鄭識文牧師表示在教會事奉的樂喜, 和感謝各執事和長老的擺上, 譚克成長老深感神的恩典和帶領, 讓溢樂教會在日落區繼續榮耀神。 ■



# Welcome New Members



Apple L.



David L.



Jacob B.



Katrina C.



Lorraine L.



Marrisa K.



Maureen W.



Patricia C.



Patty Y.



Po-Ming C.



Richard C.



# City Impact Holiday Outreaches

By Justin Eng, Photos by Julie Tom and Lucy Gee



Andrew, Joyce and Cheau-Long serving at the Kid's Carnival and bringing joy to the kids.



The Gee family pictured with City Impact's founder & Executive Director, Pastor Roger Huang, with his wife, Maite and City Impact Intern, Will.



Performing a fun skit for the children.



Justin Eng (6th from left) with his family and the Children's Christmas Party team.

I had a great experience at the City Impact outreach. My family has been volunteering for different San Francisco organizations, for some time now, so I felt we were prepared for whatever we needed to do.

My parents and I were involved in the Children's Christmas Party, which was hosted by a friend of mine whom I had met through CCU basketball. I was able to reconnect with my friend and really experience how he was being a leader in the City Impact community. I think the highlight of my day was the skit that we performed for the children. My dad was one of the characters, and it was fun to see him acting, which is something I have not seen him do before. This experience let me see things that I would not usually expect to see in a normal situation.

I think God worked through me by putting us in a position where we could serve a group of marginalized families who do not have the resources or ability to learn about what Christmas means and its significance beyond being a holiday. Through this experience, we were able to help convey the significance of Christmas and illustrate how impactful it is to Christians.

My family and I would certainly serve again. We had a wonderful experience and were welcomed warmly by both the City Impact community and the people we served. Our family believes that we should help others in whatever way possible and we will continue to do so in any way that we can. ►



I think the highlight for me was learning about how the church in the Tenderloin got started. It was by a member of the body of Christ who went outside his comfort zone to care for people that the majority society deems unworthy. Really showed an example of what it means to be Christ-like and what we're here on Earth to do - make Jesus known by word and also by action by giving people a glimpse of the coming kingdom. - Eric Tom



We were blessed with the opportunity to serve at City Impact's Kids Pre-Christmas Program for over 150 children and their family. Highlights of the day were being able to welcome & pray for each child as they entered the celebration, handing out gifts which were specially selected for each child, serving lunch and continuing to pray as they exited out with their families. You could see God working mightily thru their joy and excitement with their families. Thank you, Sunset, for the opportunity to serve! We will continue to pray for City Impact and their outreach in the Tenderloin and citywide! - Julie Tom ■





# Operation Christmas Child 2017

By Steven P. Li, Photos by Julie Tom, Gary Gin and Lucy Gee



Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, is a wonderful program which Sunset Church has been participating for more than ten years. It involves packing gift-filled shoeboxes, which are sent to underprivileged children around the world. Every shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship, transforming the lives of children and their families through the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Although National Collection Week occurs on the third week of November each year, the planning begins months earlier in August; this year was no different. Under the expert guidance of Steve Tse, Margaret Mar, and John Wong, the process of obtaining the gifts that will go into the shoeboxes, planning, scheduling, and coordinating the week long "packing party" ran smoothly and efficiently.

My wife Stella and I have participated in the program for the past six years. We were touched for the first time, when a video shown in service demonstrated the happiness of a child who received a gift of a filled shoebox. It is something that we both look forward to each year. From the beginning of November, a table would be set up in the church lobby where information would be given about the program and donated shoeboxes are received and distributed. As the time gets closer to collection week, gifts in the form of filled shoeboxes, supplies or monetary donations are received. We have been blessed to have had the opportunity to tend to the table each year. Stella, being bilingual, is able to share the information with members of the Cantonese congregation.

The packing party took place the week before Thanksgiving. The church lobby



was transformed into "Santa's workshop" and it was really a festive atmosphere. With Christmas music playing in the background (courtesy of John Wong) we began our day with a prayer that these gifts safely reach the children, and that they may also be the impetus to start a relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Then, the elves (volunteers) eagerly packed boxes with basic toiletries such as a toothbrush, face towel and soap along with other items such as pens, notebooks, toys and maybe a t-shirt or scarf. It is truly a pleasure to share God's love through these gifts. One of the highlights of this year's event was the fact that KGO Television came and interviewed Sunset Church member Di Golton, who coordinated the event for many years. Since Sunset Church is the drop off point for all of the churches in San Francisco, we also processed the shoebox gifts collected by other churches as well by placing them into cartons that will ultimately be transported to our drop off location in Belmont. We can truly see God at work, as each day we see carton after carton being piled up ready for transport. The last Sunday was our busiest day, as "all hands were on deck" to handle the late afternoon rush of drop offs by other churches. It was a very busy day, but well



worth it. Sunset Church processed a total of 6757 shoeboxes, of which 1,500 were packed by our home church.

It's been an absolute pleasure to once again participate in Operation Christmas Child. God has truly blessed us in the form of many new volunteers who came into offer their time and help. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for all of the volunteers for their phenomenal support and donations as we share God's love with children around the world. We are eagerly looking forward to participating again in 2018 and beyond. ■



# Let's Worship Together

## "As Spiritual Mothers and Fathers" – Article 5

By Melody Gawliu

*"If you lost your voice tomorrow, would your church still recognize you as a spiritual leader on Sunday?"*

As a worship through music leader, the idea behind that question has driven how I've lead teams and also led people into worship. It is the idea that leading worship music isn't only about playing music and teaching musical skills, but what is more important is whether or not we're leading people in what it means to worship and discipling people in that.

At the Worship Together 2017 Conference, worship pastor and artist Aaron Keyes reminded us that life isn't a marathon; **life is a relay**. It doesn't matter how hard you work or how fast you are if you drop the baton. I reflect often about what legacy I will be leaving this world when I return to Heaven. I remind myself and others that when we return to heaven, we won't be bringing anything of this world. We won't be bringing money, careers, degrees, awards or anything of that sort. The only thing we can bring with us is, well, other people.



*"We are taught for our whole lives in church, grow, grow, grow. Most of the teaching, most of the training, most of the resources go to our growth. That's good. We need to grow spiritually, but it's not all about you growing. At some point, it needs to become about you reproducing."* Are we growing into spiritual mothers and fathers?

Being a parental figure can seem like a daunting task; it's a lot of responsibility. *Am I ready? Am I living a life worth imitating?* Aaron reminded us that Jesus doesn't need to start with great leaders, but with followers. It is Jesus who takes the lead and we follow Him. We are commissioned to give away what we've received **"go and make disciples of all nations"** but has this become "the great omission?" We need to be making disciples instead of making excuses. Are we making disciples wherever we go?

**You don't have to be perfect** into order to be a spiritual mother/father because honestly people can't relate to perfect. The world doesn't need perfect, it needs examples. People just need to be invited into our lives; living life together. We don't teach what we want, but we teach who we are. One of the spiritual mothers I have been blessed with is Lucy Gee. She invites me into her life, her home, and her family where I can watch God at work.



Worship pastor and artist Aaron Keyes.

One of the things I'm looking forward to is Sunset's upcoming and new events – *Shared Tables*. Essentially **Shared Tables** are community dinners where people can get to know each other over a meal. This will give our community more opportunities to live life together and to start being/finding spiritual mothers and fathers. The hope is that Shared Tables would become an experience that spurs our community into "sharing tables, sharing lives, and sharing Christ." As I've sat many times at the Gee family's table, I've been blessed, not with lectures, but learning while observing as they live their everyday lives. Those are the opportunities we need more of but it starts with people who are willing to open up their lives to others and become spiritual mothers and fathers. There will always be someone more spiritually mature than us and someone less spiritually mature than us. What we need to do is get ourselves right in the middle of it and allow God to have an inflow and outflow of discipling.

What are you going to do with what God has given you? Will you pass the baton or drop it? When the baton is passed, amazing things happen! I pray that you'll join me in being a spiritual parent to those around us and not be afraid to do so because ultimately it is God who is at work. Amen. ■



# Let's Worship Together

## "Without Losing Our Sight" – Article 6

By Melody Gawliu

Almost one year ago, I attended the Worship Together 2017 Conference and this phrase stood out to me and has helped remind me of my calling ever since then – “stop getting offended.”

The Global Worship & Creative Pastor for Hillsong Church around the world – Cass Langton – reminded us of three very important things (1) Never lose sight of the cross (2) Never lose sight of your call (3) Never lose sight of the community around us. These three reminders help keep my blood pumping and my adrenaline up. She helped us reflect on how we may be like Jonah where we know our calling, fear that God would answer, and then we run the opposite direction. We were challenged to find our “inner fortitude” and look into God’s word for what will help us do things for longevity.



*Hebrews 12:1-3 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”*

One of the many things we learn from Jesus, especially from Hebrews 12:1-3, is how He endured the cross because of His call and His passion for us. As I sat at the conference, I heard God’s voice reminding me of the various calls to serve Him and how I was being like Jonah and trying to ignore/run from my calling because from experience my calling has typically come with an uphill battle but also, I knew God would answer. When I follow my calling, **I’ve definitely seen the blessings God has given through them.** Yet, it is still difficult to not want to “Jonah out” at times because, well, who really wants to go through hardship? This is exactly why we need to be reminded to have our eyes fixed on the cross. When our eyes are fixed, we are not given to distraction that could deter us from our path. We need God to remind us that we answer our calling in order to glorify Him. As we remember our calling, we need to stop getting offended by the hardship that comes with it, by other people who may attempt to dissuade us, by our own doubts and insecurities.



Global Worship & Creative Pastor for Hillsong Church around the world – Cass Langton

Cass challenged us to **lay down deep roots in our churches.** The church community was God’s idea and though the church isn’t perfect, she is beautiful. The church is a place for God’s children to gather to worship Him and for God to meet us there. Sometimes we ask God to send us, but sometimes He says, “I want you to stay right there and do my work right there.”

When there is something “new” there is opportunity. As we start a new year, as we awake to each new day, there are new mercies and new opportunities to answer our calling. Where is God calling you? Is it to serve Him? Is it to get deeply rooted into the church community? **Will you answer His call today?**

I pray that this article series has been as much a blessing to you as it has been for me to reflect and share. May we never lose sight of the truth that we are not here for ourselves but are here for God’s glory. May we remember that it is by God’s grace that we are here and by His grace we are able to answer His calling with boldness and joy. May we keep our eyes fixed on the cross, grow into a deeper understanding of God’s love for us, be overwhelmed with joy, and may that overflow from us into every aspect of our lives as we **make that choice** to live for Him. May we worship God **TOGETHER** in spirit and truth. Amen. ■

# Sunset Profile: Cheau-Long Ng 黃巧龍

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

I was born in Malaysia. I have two sisters and we were raised by loving parents. In 1994, I came to United States to study at University of Alabama, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. This is also where I met my wife, Mei-Sze. We went to a local Chinese church which was supported by a southern Baptist church and their mission was to assist international students and share the gospel. At that time, I was a non-believer. Every year south eastern region has a 3-day summer retreat. In 1995, I was invited to join the retreat along with other students. During the event, I was moved by the speaker's message about Jesus' sacrificial love, and I decided to accept Jesus as my personal savior. Since then my life has never been the same, and I'm thankful for God's grace. Mei-Sze and I were married in 2002 after years of marathon and long-distance relationship. Our son, Isaac, was born in 2005 and has brought us much joy!

**告訴我們一些關於你自己、你家人、你背景,並你遇見上帝的經歷。**

我出生于馬來西亞,家里有兩個妹妹。我們從小就被父母的愛護下成長。1994年我一個人離鄉別井來到美國阿拉巴馬州大學讀書,主修機械工程。在校園里也是我和我太太美思認識的地方。在這里有間小華人教會,會友常常熱心接待海外留學生,我和美思也常常參加那里的聚會。當時我還未信主。每年美東南區都會主辦一個三日夏令營。1995年,我和一些學生也趁機會參加。當講員說到神犧牲的愛時,我很受感動所以決定信主耶穌。信主后生命慢慢改變也感恩主一直帶領。2002年美思和我結婚結束了愛情長跑。2005年兒子啓約的出生帶給我們庭很多喜樂。

**Q: What are your hobbies or interests?**

I enjoy gardening, outdoor activities and watching food channels.

**你有什麼愛好或興趣?或者你認為什麼是完美的一天呢?**

我喜歡園藝,戶外活動,看美食節目。

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

To visit several places in China to experience local culture, arts, and food.

**如果你可以去任何地方,做任何的事情,你會去哪裡和做什麼呢?**

到中國不同地方去體會風土人情和品嚐美食。

**Q: You are currently serving as a Cantonese Ministry Deacon of Family Ministry. What inspired you to serve in this role and why are you passionate about this ministry?**

As a parent myself, I have encountered several struggles throughout various life stages in parenting. Like most of the families with children, our schedules are usually filled with activities and programs and it can result in a very busy life. Due to our busy lives, we sometimes neglect other important parts of life such as nurturing spiritual growth/relationship with God, strengthening relationship with our spouse, and personal health. I'm hoping the Family Ministry will be able to provide parents with useful tools, materials, and consultation services so they can have a healthy life balance with family, church and career according to God's plan.

**你現在擔任中文部家庭事工執事。甚麼事啟發到你成為執事?你為何特別對家庭事工有負擔?**

現代的父母親都有很忙碌生活,我們工作外也要為孩子安排不同的課外活動,加上在教會的事奉, ▶





時間表很忙。我作為一個父母也身感其受。除了孩子，因為生活忙碌，有時父母會忽視照顧自己需要，包括靈命的餵養，建立夫妻健康關係等。我希望家庭事工能為父母服務，包括提供所需要的親子手冊，美滿婚姻講座等。最終目的是讓父母在家庭，教會和事業能活出神美好的旨意。

#### Q: How do you see God working in your life?

God has guided and corrected me at different moment all because of His love. At home, we had a homemade craft (by Isaac), which says "In Everything Give Thanks To The Lord". This reminds us to always be thankful and for those who is contented and thankful will usually have a much happier life.

#### 你會如何看上帝在你生命中的工作？

神在我人生不同階段都給予適當的指引和管教，這都是出于祂的愛。在家中我們有個小手工作品，上寫著"凡事都要感謝神"。所以我非常感恩神一切的供應。

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

I used to have long hair to my shoulders when I was in college to save money. When I first met Mei-Sze's parents and relatives in a Hong Kong restaurant, her uncle thought I was a woman! Ha!

#### 你有什麼令人鮮為人知的事呢？

大學時為了省錢把頭髮留長到肩膀。記得第一次到香港見美思家人時，她叔叔還誤以為我是女人。

#### Q: What Bible verse has been the most impactful to you in your Christian Journey? Why?

Psalms 8:3-5: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with a glory and honor."

This reminds me how insignificant I am but God as a Creator of the universe still cares and loves me, and all of us.

#### 什麼經文是你信仰旅程中最具影響力？

詩篇8:3-5: "我觀看你指頭所造的天，並你所陳設的月亮星宿，便說：人算什麼，你竟顧念他？世人算什麼，你竟眷顧他？你叫他比天使微小一點，並賜他榮耀尊貴為冠冕。"

經文提醒我在這萬物創造者面前是多麼微不足道，但神卻以愛愛我們。 ■



Located in the church lobby

## Check it out!

The Connections Ministry wants to introduce you to the NEW and IMPROVED

### Connections info board

This board will be an interactive board for our community here at Sunset Church. We encourage you to participate in the activities and other opportunities that will be provided through the board. For example, we will have college students or other people featured on the board for you to get to know and pray for! There will also be other opportunities such as fun challenges, places to serve, and other ways to get connected to the Sunset Church community. If you have suggestions for things to be posted, please contact us at [connections@sunsetchurchsf.org](mailto:connections@sunsetchurchsf.org)

Check the Connections Info board often!!!