



SUNSET

MAY 2018 | ISSUE 56 | SUNSETCHURCHSF.ORG

PULSE

NEWSLETTER

- 1 Baptism Celebrations
- 5 Easter Festivities
- 7 Depression Seminar
- 8 RW360 Principles #2 - Jesus and the Samaritan Woman: John 4.
- 9 You Can Create Workshop
- 10 Let's Worship Together #2 - Like We're Leaving On A Jet Plane
- 11 Patrick's Missionary Experience
- 12 Sunset Profile: Kin Mak

Baptism Celebrations 慶祝浸禮

Photos By Richard Lee and Wai Lam

Excerpt from Jason Chow's Testimony.

My life since I became a Christian: I know I have life! I've also knew because He has loved me so much, that love has no choice but to come out somewhere. I've always asked how I can be used to glorifying Him and building His kingdom and for some reason, God has always put the passion for food in my heart (and belly) from a very early age. I knew that ministry had to deal with something in the food realm. I've helped with educating kids about God's wonder via the many different (thousands) pastry items all stemming from essentially four different ingredients. (and many other ministries involving food) I try and show people that I'm a follower of Christ by how I live as well. But that's also a work in progress because I have my moments too where I'm not a beacon of light to others. At home, I've always been respectful and the "good" son, and I continue to be that but with a purpose of God's love in my heart. Of course, my parents would tell you that I can be super lazy, irresponsible, impatient, etc. But hey! I'm still a work in progress.



One of the prayers I still pray to this day is that my parents one day have their encounter with Jesus and become a follower of His.

Why am I not baptized? And why do I want to be baptized now? In general: Rebellion. Ultimately, like what I have said before, I knew people from the church who were baptized and I saw what they did or said to me and others that turned me off. So, when I did rededicate again and had my encounter with Jesus, I swore to myself that I didn't need to be baptized and publicly proclaim that Jesus was my Lord and Savior because I would show you that He is my Lord and I am his follower through the actions of my life. I do know now that Satan did tell me a lie that I believed to be true. Specifics: In looking at baptism though, to me, a public declaration of Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and my choice to follow Him is a serious one.

My previous church has always done a New Year's Eve baptism, and, not to be against ones that asked me to be baptized, seemingly asks in a non-serious, light hearted way which turned me off to it. Also, there were things that I thought that made it seem very exclusive specifically to that church. One such thing was communion. The only way to take communion is to be baptized into the church (**please keep this fact in mind as it'll come up later). So for me, it made my rebellious heart even more turned off to the notion of baptism there. Exclusivity, not taking it as a serious act, my own rebellious heart = my hesitation and uneasy feeling



towards baptism. When I switched churches to here at Sunset in August of 2017, we had communion. I believe Pastor Joey's words (paraphrased of course) were "...we will now take communion together to remember what Christ has done for us. If you're visiting from another church and are a believer, please, join us in remembering our Lord. If you are a family with young children, now is a time to disciple them and teach them what it means to have communion. If you're a visitor who is not a believer, please pass through the elements, but take this time to ask questions of who is this Christ we follow?" It was the first time I've ever had communion. It rocked me to my very core. I said before that I encountered Christ and fully committed my life to Him back in the summer of 2006. For 11 years, I was never allowed to take communion to remember what Christ has done for me. And because of it, that uneasy feeling and rebellious heart lifted. I want to be baptized because I have seemingly found a home church.



L-R: Pastor Joey, Pastor Aurum, Ji C., Brittany D., Eric L., Jason C., Kimberly T. & John T.



Excerpt from Calvin Leung's Testimony.

Growing up, life was relatively smooth. I studied hard, and got good grades. I volunteered and played basketball too. I also was lucky to have supportive friends who were positive influence in my life. With my hard work, I was grateful to be accepted at a good university UC Berkeley. This time in my life, I felt in control of life and found peace in my friends and success in school. The formula I followed was working.

During that last year in high school, my mom exposed me to Christianity and the gospel when she accepted Jesus

Christ as her Lord and Savior. I did not grow up in a Christian family, so this was new to me. I have always been the type of person who is deliberate (engage in long and careful consideration). I have to take time to analyze and weigh the pros and cons, before I can make a decision on something. Since then, I went to church on and off throughout the years. I was open-minded about Christianity, but I felt I wasn't ready yet.

Fast forward to after college, my close friends and I went separate paths. Juggled working for an auditing firm and helping out my parents as my dad suddenly lost his job. I learned to be an adult very quickly. I no longer felt the peace and being in control, and I felt loneliness. I turned to other things like lust and my job.

I worked hard, but realized there was no recognition and no appreciation from my managers. It was a toxic culture where you were expected to work 6-7 days a week, 12-15 hours each day. I felt empty and stuck when I got home after 11pm,

knowing it would continue next day again.

I shared this with my mom, and one day my parents gave me a small note with handwritten passage:

"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you. The lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"
Hebrews 13 5-6

Every morning, I opened this note and read this in my car before going into work. I didn't feel peace and courage to go to work without reading His word. Thankfully, I eventually found another job, at a company which I'm in still working for.

Few years ago in April, I was returning home to SF late. I drove down Fell Street where it was a long street with many intersections and cars passing quickly. As I crossed the Masonic intersection, a car in the intersection ran a red light and I immediately hit the car's right side. My car spun around 360 degrees. The car was totaled with all airbags out. I was stuck in my car in middle of the street. It was very quiet, and I immediately called out to Jesus to help me. The ambulance and firefighters soon came. I thank God for watching over me and I walked out of hospital that night in my own two feet without any injuries!

Fast forward to today, God has blessed me with Joyce in my life. I've experienced God's selfless love and patience through her. She stands by me during a busy time of my life juggling my career, finishing grad school, and planning a wedding. Although she is a long-time Cantonese church member at Sunset, she goes with me to the English service.

I've learned I no longer need to weigh the pros and cons and analyze any further before getting baptized. I've realized it's not perfection I must reach when I accept Jesus as Lord. There is no need to deliberate any longer. Today, it is a blessing to be able to get baptized while I'm in good health and standing on my two feet in front of close friends and my parents.

陳李人美姊妹見證

我本身家庭三代信佛。雖然我不相信但我又不想背離家庭所相信的。直到四、五年前因為方醫生在益康團契講健康講座，他亦是我的家庭醫生，我便開始參加方醫生的查經班，也參加了益康的聚會。其中在益康團契中感受到弟兄姊妹的關心，特別得到Howard和Eva、薛先生夫人還有關先生夫人的鼓勵，看見他們活躍地在團契事奉。

我有一種想法，覺得年老都要不斷學習。查經擴闊了我的視野，好像更海闊天空，知道很多關於基督教的事。原來除了家庭傳給我的民間信仰，這個世界上是有真神的。這些年我參與團契、閱讀中信，擔心都少了。我開始上查經班以後，目光變得遠大，知道耶穌的偉大。人都很微不足道，經常擔心同憂愁都沒有用，如經上記著說“喜樂的心乃是良藥；憂傷的靈使骨枯乾。”箴言 17:22。

人生的路走到我這樣的年紀，差不多到結束的時



間,但我們要知道歸家去哪裏? 歸家要上天堂。不信的人多半都迷迷糊糊,不知最終去哪裡。唯獨認識、信靠耶和華神才可以上天堂。年老仍要結果子,不斷的傳福音,領人歸主。

我經常同朋友講我年老都有機會返團契、認識主是無比的福氣。我有很多年長的朋友都為很多事擔心,擔心子女長大後自己變得孤單。而我不但不會覺得孤單,我還會嘗試去幫助有需要的人,做一些有益於其他人的事。主耶穌給予我一條生命的路,耶穌是道路、真理、生命,這些我都記得。今次受浸因為要在眾人面前作見證,耶穌洗淨我一切的罪,與耶穌的死和復活聯合。 ■



L-R: Elder David H., Pastor Simon C., Yvonne (楊綺媚), Jay (陸國銘), 張德運, Calvin (梁俊謙), Camilla T., Candice (李淑華), 陳李人美 and Elder Thomas F.



Easter Egg Hunt

Article By: Wesley And Patty Yan. Photos By: Multiple Contributors



On Saturday March 24th, Sunset Church partnered with Mobilize Love to host an Easter Egg Hunt outreach event in the Sunset District of San Francisco at Larsen Park. It was a carnival-style event which included bounce houses, games, a photo booth, haircuts, food, balloon animals, prizes, and the Gospel message. In the spirit of Easter, our heart was to let the community know that the local church is present and here with open arms. We wanted to create a fun

and welcoming space for the community to gather and experience the love of God in a tangible way. We were blessed with an overwhelming turnout of children and young families who came to participate in the festivities.

It was amazing to see the body of Sunset Church and the Mobilize Love team come together to put on this community event. This was the first time Sunset Church has hosted an outreach like this so we had no idea what to expect in terms of how many people would show or how many volunteers would be needed. God provided just what we needed. We could not express our gratitude enough for all the volunteers that came out and helped with everything from set-up, running all the booths, serving food, break down, and everything in between. We were so encouraged by the church sacrificing their time and energy to share the joy of the Lord with our community.



God's hands were clearly over every detail. There was so much that could have gone wrong, but He provided everything we could have asked for and so much more. He brought the planning team together, provided the volunteers, gave us all the supplies we needed, gave us favor with the school district to advertise in three Sunset elementary schools, and allowed the Gospel message to be proclaimed to many listening souls. He even provided us with beautiful sunny weather even though it was forecasted to rain all day earlier in the week!

We continue to pray for the people that attended to have at least a glimpse of God's love through their interactions during the event. We pray our hearts will continue to be burdened for our neighbors who have yet to hear more about Jesus. ■





Easter At Sunset

Photos By: Melody Gawliu and Richard Lee



[抑鬱症預防及治療的講座]後記 Depression Seminar

Article By: 何崔嘉文 Gloria Ho



教會在四月二十一的下午舉辦了一個抑鬱症預防及治療的講座。請了資深的蘇劉君玉博士作講員和兩位弟兄姊妹(譚克成長老和我)以過來人的身分作見證。當日有超過五十人出席。

在講座中，蘇劉君玉博士風趣和幽默地分享抑鬱的治療與預防。她提到抑鬱的成因包括有遺傳與生理，環境因素，和失去支持系統等。治療的方法可用藥物和用心理輔導。抑鬱的人如果有正面的詮釋 (Positive Reframing)，從新肯定神在掌管，和有「新目標，新方向，新意義」，這些會對他們治療有很大的幫助。最後，蘇博士指出預防勝於治療，所以我們的生活方式，支持系統，轉念，良好的自我形象與思想形態 (Mindset) 等，加上有一個感恩的人生觀，對預防抑鬱是非常重要的。

蘇博士所提到抑鬱的成因有遺傳因素和有環境因素，這倆也是我患病的原因。對我來說，我也是因著藥物和心理輔導而完全得醫治。藥物對我產生很大的果效，因為我身體產生不足血清素，所以需要藥物來補充。同時我也因著輔導員的提醒而學習肯定神的掌管。我放下我以往的想法，從新謙卑來學習。神既然是掌管萬有，無所不知，無所不在而又愛我的，我為什麼有那麼多焦慮和擔憂呢？我是否願意接受神為我安排的一切，而不再為自己期望的落差而屢屢擔憂呢？我是否真的相信神是愛我的，祂比我更明白瞭解我自己呢？

當時我的自信心和自卑感跌落到低點。在一次的輔導中，輔導員描述一幅圖畫，就是神在天上望下來，溫柔地微笑著對我說：「做得好，忠心的僕人」。這幅圖畫頓時讓我醒悟我的自卑感。這次神讓我感覺到祂對我的愛和我在祂眼中是何等的寶貴。

從第一次發病至今轉眼已超過二十多年。在這些年中我不斷學習改變我舊有的思想，從新肯定自己。這個想法是基於神做每一個人都是最好的，因為所有人都是神所創造的，誰能說神的創造是不好呢？我開始接納自己也接納別人與自己的不同。正如蘇博士的結語，鼓勵我們過一個感恩的人生，引用聖經：「要常常喜樂，不住地禱告，凡事謝恩」(帖撒羅尼迦前書5:16-18)。是的，凡事要謝恩。如願以償的時候要感恩，失望不如意的時候也要感恩。我為到我的病感謝神，因為這是一個變相的祝福。我藉著這個病使我更加明白自己，更加認識創造我的主。正如約伯說：「我從前風聞有你、現在親眼看見你。」(約伯記42:5) ■



Jesus and the Samaritan Woman John 4

(second in series of Relational Wisdom Principles)

Article By: Elgin Quan 关李瑶真



What is Life's greatest tragedy? The world would say the Samaritan woman in John 4 lived a life of great tragedy.

She was born into a despised group called the Samaritans (intermarriage hated by Jews and Gentiles) and secondly, she was living with 6 failed marriages/relationships. Out of shame and guilt, this woman lived a life of an outcast. Only during the height of the noonday sun, did she dare to secretly sneak to the well to fetch water. However, meeting Jesus changed the course of her entire life. How did Jesus reverse this tragic situation?

As a master coach and communicator, Jesus used 8 techniques from the principles of **Relational Wisdom** to turn a great tragedy into a great victory.

The following is an excerpt from **Patrick Lo**, a message to Yut Hong Fellowship:

The Samaritan Woman John 4

How Jesus used relational wisdom to turn tragedy into victory.

April 6, 2018

1. **S.O.G** - (Self-aware, Other aware, God aware) Jesus emptied his deity as Son of God. He approached the Samaritan woman with a heart of compassion, being other aware, going out of his way, to seek her out from the position of a human soul relating to another human soul.
2. **P.A.U.S.E** - (prepare, affirm, understand, search, evaluate) Jesus requests the other disciples to leave to buy food. He met the woman one on one, face to face, eye to eye in a safe and sacred environment.
3. **COMMON FOCUS** - Jesus was thirsty and needed water. She had a bucket of water.
4. **REQUEST** - Jesus asked for a drink. *"give me a drink."* (v.7)
5. **CURIOSITY** - Jesus aroused her curiosity - What is "living" water? (v. 13)
6. **AFFIRM** - *"I see you"* "You are right in saying you have no husband... What you have said is true" (v. 17-18)
7. **RESPECT** - Jesus did not insist He was superior or right but patiently allowed her to declare that the well where she drew water was an important place in Jewish history.
8. **CHALLENGE** - Jesus challenged and changed the Samaritan woman's thought pattern. He gently tore down barriers to change her old way of thinking. He explained that in ancient days worship of God was done at the temple with sacrifices. But with the advent of the Messiah, in this new era, believers will worship God not by where or when, but by **how** and with **whom**. (v. 24)



What is life's greatest tragedy? It is to willfully refuse God's love by being **unwilling** to enter a relationship with Jesus' and His offer of salvation.

In the end, through following a series of smart principles, the Samaritan woman's heart warmed to receive the gift of God's love. This **willful** change of heart reversed her life from one of greatest tragedy to one of great eternal victory.

Questions and comments: ejquan02@gmail.com

You Can Create Workshop

Article By: Mike Chinn and Sherise Lee Photos By: Mike Chinn

Our time together was an intentional space to identify ways to fuel the creativity God has embedded in all of us. We explored what the creative thinking process looks like and how to incorporate helpful practices. Being able to recognize how God keeps inviting us forward while our inner critic holds us back. We were challenged to listen and to think differently. One of the exercises was to come up with 5 perspectives in any challenging situation or difficult people we encounter. We usually see one perspective, then we're quick to judge. There were exercises that challenged us to dig down and possibly uncover hidden things. Our creative scars from the past impacts our wholeness. God is in the business of restoring our brokenness. Also, we allowed others to speak truth into our creative being. When we engage in this process, we can reflect on the fullness of Christ in all our creativity. – Mike Chinn



Like We're Leaving On A Jet Plane - Article 2

(Let's Worship Together – Article Series Volume 2)

Article By: Melody Gawliu



The person walking through the front door. The person walking up the stairs next to you. The person greeting you and giving you a bulletin. The people sitting in front, in back, and besides you. The person changing the music slides.

The person reading scripture. The people leading worship music. "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."

At the Worship Together Conference 2018, Al Andrews shared this quote by Ian Maclaren in order to give us a greater perspective. He asked us to look around the room and realize a truth to be said about everyone we would ever encounter – everyone is fighting a great battle.

What role do our experiences and emotions play in our worship? We each TEHILLAH (sing praise) to God and have our own unique worship because we're able to worship from the deep places of our life experiences and our relationships with God. Of course, there needs to be a balance because we should not only worship God for how we've experienced Him in our lives but for who He is. The more we get to know God, the deeper our worship can become. As a worship leader, I have led from knowing that if I have many deep places I worship from, I must consider all of those whom I'm worshipping alongside and the deep places they are worshipping from.

One of the beautiful things about being able to worship through music is being able to express these places. There are many times I come upon words in the music that I can identify with and I find that it helps me articulate emotions or thoughts I've been unable to communicate myself; as a songwriter, I pray that my own words would help do the same for others. As worshippers, we need to be able to convey not only our great joy for the Hope we are given in Jesus Christ and for all of who God is, but also express our emotions to God and **allow Him to transform them into something that is glorifying to Him.** We need to be able to submit our emotions to God and allow him to turn all these things into praise and worship.

Andrews challenged us as worship leaders with the question "What baggage do you bring with you when you lead people in worship?"

When we typically think of baggage, I believe we tend to think on our baggage as our hurts, our disappointments, our anger, our frustration, our depression, etc. In terms of that baggage, I believe that **Jesus wants us to bring that baggage right on in!** He doesn't necessarily want us to leave it at the doors of the church but I believe that Jesus also wants us to go ahead and **bring all our life's baggage to the foot**

of the cross and give it to Him. Jesus wants us to allow Him to help carry our baggage.

Andrews put "baggage" in a different light. The way he spoke of baggage is the way we pack baggage for going on a trip. We think of where we're headed, what we'll need on the trip, and then pack our bag accordingly. In a similar way, **we as worship leaders should be packing our bags for leading worship.** We need to consider where we're headed (to lead God's people in worship and to worship Him ourselves), what we'll need (considering what is going on in our lives and the lives of God's people such as the brokenness and great battles we're all facing), and then we need to pack accordingly (we need to be prepared to be transparent about what is going on and be prepared to be used by God for healing, encouraging, etc).

Andrews encouraged us to keep in mind that as much as we need to sing Psalm 89 types of songs, we shouldn't neglect singing Psalms 88 types of songs. In other words, although it is very important for us to sing songs of praise to God for all His goodness, we need to also remember that there are people out there – including ourselves – who are broken and need to be able to express their laments and other emotions to God. We as worship leaders need to recognize that we need to find a balance between singing about our laments and our praises so we don't neglect those out there who are broken and need to put the brokenness inside into words to God.

In our private times of worship, would we consider the bags we need to pack for ourselves as a broken people living in a sinful world? As we strive to live a life of worship, how can we be aware of the great battles we are facing? How can we consider praising God not only in times of great blessing but also in the times where we are lamenting? Do we have a balance between the Psalm 89s and the Psalm 88s that we sing? How can we present our emotions to God and allow Him to transform them into praise and worship? ■



現在我才明白

Article By: 盧健體長老

每當神帶領我們走一個屬靈的旅程時，祂常常讓我們領會更深，在祂的國度裡面有新的看透。若然失去此理解，我們往往會讓不必要的煩惱煩擾我們。

我和內子用了六年多的時間，在一間工廠藉著教英語，外展活動，探訪，及暑期營服侍廠裡的工人。我們期望看見多人信主認識耶穌，但只目擊了七個人信主。其實，我們沒有理解那些時間和心血是用來作福音鬆土的工作。神才是那位收割者；祂按自己的時間收割。若然我早點認識這道理，我們便不會沮喪洩氣，有人告訴我，每一個宣教士都要經過這個學習的過程才能得到新的領悟。

六年前，在辦公室工作的一位女士開始參加我所教的英語班，她很喜歡跟我練習英文口語。可是，過了兩三年後，她開始缺席並且請了病假，因她發現自己已患了晚期癌症，我們到她的家探望她並為她禱告，那是我們開始深入的關心她和公開我們的信仰。接下來的兩年，我們很小聽到她的消息，只知道她在中國到處遊玩，好像在康復中享受生活似的。

在失去聯絡中，突然在今年二月的某天，B女士發了一個短信給我，她問我自殺是否算是殺人，立時，我領會一件不尋常的事快要發生，於是，我本著基督徒的信念，向她解釋生命的寶貴，神是不願意我們殺人，一步一步，我帶領她接受耶穌作她的救主。在B女士的短信中，她說我是她最信任的人中之一位，當時我實在有些驚訝，不知道原來我在我的學生腦海裡留下那麼深刻的印象，在教英語時，我並沒有機會分享福音，我從沒有想過，原來我留下給她的印象足以驅使她來問我一個生與死的問題，及導致她得到永生。

神實在的讓我知道祂是不停在人心裡工作。雖然，我們在工廠員工身上所投資的時間，關顧及心血似乎沒有看見很多福音果子，但感謝神讓我們慢慢看到成熟的果子，雖然這只不過是一個人信主的經歷，我深信神在默默地耕耘，聖靈也在其他工人心中工作。

藉著這個經驗，我理解到神要藉著我們的事奉引導B女士信主，在無神論的環境下，吸引別人認識基督是困難的。這個屬靈的旅程說明我認識到神如何鬆土及作奇妙的安排，是我從來沒有想像過，現在我才明白，神祇要求我忠心的侍奉。



Elder Patrick with his lovely wife, Suzanna.

Now I See

Article By: Elder Patrick L. Photo By: Gary Gin

When God takes us on a spiritual journey it is often to gain greater insight into the truth of His Kingdom and see things anew. When we lose sight on that, we often trouble ourselves with unnecessary worries.

My wife and I have spent the past six years working among the factory workers through teaching English, outreach activities, visitations, and summer camps. We were hoping to see lots of souls won for the Lord, yet we could only witness seven of them. We were not aware that the effort and time spent in those days were for the purpose of priming the ground for harvest. God is the ultimate harvester; He reaps at His own timing. Had we been aware of that, we would have not been discouraged. I was told every missionary has to go through this learning curve, to see things with new understanding.

Six years ago, a young lady from the factory office began attending my English class. She really enjoyed coming to class and practicing speaking English with me. However, suddenly she stopped coming and took sick leave from work, because she discovered she had an advanced stage of cancer. We visited her at home and prayed for her. That was our first opportunity to show our care and to identify our belief. The following two years, we hardly heard from her, but only knew that she was traveling through China. It seems she was enjoying her time off in her recuperation.

Then suddenly in February, out of nowhere, Ms. B. texted me a short message asking if suicide is considered killing. Immediately, I sensed something serious was about to happen. I explained from my Christian viewpoint that God forbids us to kill. I further explained that lives are precious to God. Step by step, I led her to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior. Ms. B mentioned at one time in her messages that I was one of the most trusted persons in her life. I was dumbfounded and had no idea what an impression I have had left in my student's mind. I was only teaching her English and never had a chance to share about the gospel. Yet, the impression I have left with her caused her to ask a life and death question which led to her salvation.

God was definitely letting me know that He was at work, although it seemed nothing much was happening with the time, care and effort we put in the ministries working among factory workers. Even though this is about one person's salvation, I am convinced that God is quietly preparing the soil and priming the ground and that His Spirit is at work in other factory workers' lives as well.

Through this incidence, I came to realize for our ministry, the importance of Ms. B's salvation. Without a compelling witness, it is harder to draw others to Christ. Ms. B's testimony allowed us to be more credible and welcomed by others. This spiritual journey enabled me to see how God prepares the soil, and orchestrates events in ways I could never imagine. Now I see. I just needed to be faithful. ■

Sunset Profile: Kin Keung Mak 麥堅強

Cantonese Interim Pastor 中文部暫代牧師



Rev. Mak (right) with his lovely wife, Angela and their daughters, Jocelyn, Melanie, son-in-law and new granddaughter.

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

I was born and grew up in Hong Kong. I married my wife Angela in 1982, and we have two daughters: Melanie and Jocelyn who are both married. Melanie gave birth to our first granddaughter last November.

I was wondering about the meaning of life while I was in college. That motivated me to attend a small group of Christians and read the Bible. After reading the Bible for about three months, I felt God answered my request to see Him by encountering Him through Jesus' reply to one of His disciples Thomas (John 20:29) saying, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed." Right there, I confessed my sins and received Jesus Christ into my life.

After I graduated, I worked in Hong Kong as a civil engineer. I attended a small local church, where I learned to share the gospel with people. As more and more people accepted Christ, there was a big need to nurture them. After working for 6 years, I received God's call to serve Him. I did a church planting in a high-rise housing estate. The church grew from

scratch to about 50 people in 6 years. Then my family moved to San Francisco in 1993. I served in the Chinatown First Chinese Baptist Church for ten years, then joined Sunset Church in 2006.

Due to my mother's aging, Angela and I went back to Hong Kong in 2012 in order to take care of her. Only a few months after we landed in Hong Kong, Angela was diagnosed with breast cancer. We went through a tough year for her treatments, but it was a real great lesson to our faith. Similar to what Job said (42:5), we used to hear about God, but now we have seen Him walking with us. Thank God that she will be regarded as medically healed from cancer in September.

The birth of our granddaughter brought us back to San Francisco last November. As we were considering to stay a little longer, God opened up the opportunity for me to serve in Sunset Church again for 5 months, from April to August.

Q: What are your hobbies or interests?

I like playing tennis and prayerfully walking along the beach in Pacifica. To recuperate the energy I spend in the court, I also enjoy cooking and eating. My greatest joy is to share the gospel with people.

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

I would like to go around the world and share the gospel with the people I meet.

Q: You are the new Cantonese Interim Pastor. What is your vision for this role? And what are your hopes and dreams for our church?

Due to the short duration, I dare not say I have any vision, but I hope to provide shepherding to the Chinese congregation and make a good transition for the new lead pastor to come.

My hopes and dreams for our church are seeing all the brothers and sisters actively sharing the gospel, helping new believers to become mature disciples of Christ, and planting churches in other communities.

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

I definitely see God's work in my life from my spiritual journey mentioned above, it is especially clear from the gift of preaching for a person of slow of speech and tongue like me.

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

When I tell them I was like a hippie with long hair during my college days.

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

My favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

I have been holding firm to the promise of this verse ever since I learned to share the gospel with people as a new believer and continued till today as a pastor closer to the age of meeting the Lord. Only the presence of God can give me the confidence and power to serve.

Q: 請你簡略地告訴我們一些關於你自己, 你的家庭, 你的背景和靈程等事。

我在香港出生及成長。於1982年與我太太Angela結婚, 育有兩個女兒, Melanie 及 Jocelyn。她們已婚。大女Melanie在去年十一月生了我們的第一名孫女。

當我在大學的時候, 我對生命的意義產生了疑惑。這激發了我參加一個基督徒的小組和閱讀聖經。大概在閱讀了聖經三個月左右, 我覺得神透過耶穌在約翰福音(20:29) 對祂的門徒多馬說:「那沒有看見就信的, 有福了。」來讓我經歷祂, 並回答我要看見祂的請求。就在那刻我承認了自己的罪和接受了耶穌基督進入我的生命。

畢業後我在香港當土木工程師, 參加了一間小教會, 並在那裡學習向人傳福音。當信主的人數愈來愈多時, 他們很需要得到栽培。在工作了六年之後, 我接受了神的呼召事奉祂, 在一個屋邨開始了植堂。教會從零開始, 六年後增長至約五十人。在1993年我的一家移民來三藩市, 我在唐人埠的第一華人浸信會事奉了十年, 後來在2006年加入了溢樂華人浸信會。

由於我媽媽年紀漸老,所以我和太太 Angela 在2012年回到香港照顧她。回港後只有幾個月, Angela 就確診患上了乳癌。我們經歷了整年艱辛的療程,但這實在是一個對我們的信心很大的功課。效法約伯(42:5)所說,我們從前風聞有神,但現在親眼看見祂與我們同行。感謝主,她將於今年九月就可以當作為醫學上痊癒了。

去年十一月當我們的孫女出世時,我們就「為孫倒流」回來三藩市。當我們正考慮逗留稍長一些時,神就開啟了這個機會讓我可以再在溢樂教會服侍多五個月(四月至八月)。

Q: 你有什麼嗜好或興趣?

我喜愛打網球和在Pacifica的海邊禱行。為了恢復我在球場上所耗的能量,我也享受烹飪和美食。我最大的樂趣是與人分享福音。

Q: 若你能去任何地方和做任何事, 你會去那裡和做什麼?

我會希望能環遊世界和向我所接觸的人分享福音。

Q: 作為中文堂的暫代牧師,你對於這個職份有什麼異象? 又你對我們的教會有什麼盼望和夢想?

由於時間短促,我不敢講有什麼異象,但我希望能為中文堂提供牧養和為新的帶領牧師預備好的過渡。我盼望和夢想見到我們教會所有的弟兄姊妹都活躍地分享福音,幫助初信者成為基督成熟的門徒,和在其他社區植堂。



Q: 你如何看到神在你的生命中工作?

從以上我所分享的靈程,我肯定地看到神在我生命中的工作,特別是對於好似我如此拙口笨舌的人都有講道的恩賜,就非常明顯是神的工作了。

Q: 有什麼關於你的事情是會令人驚訝的呢?

當我告訴他們我在大學時是長頭髮嬉皮士的樣子。

Q: 那節聖經對你的基督徒歷程是最具影響力的呢? 為何?

我最喜愛的經文是約書亞記1:9「你當剛強壯膽,不要懼怕,也不要驚惶,因為你無論往那裡去,耶和華你的神必與你同在。」

自從我初信主時學習向人分享福音,以至現在我作為將見主面的牧者,我都一直抓緊這節經文的應許,因為只有神的同在才能帶給我事奉的信心和能力。 ■