

Connected Awakened!

By: Nick Tam

It has been sometime since CGBC Connected has come out with a recent issue, almost an entire year has come and gone. Let's just call that period of dormancy...rest. But while Connected was resting, a lot has happened at CGBC over the previous year, and you will find some updates and perspectives for some of those major events to come along with this issue. You'll notice many other changes from the previous issues as this newsletter is morphing and transforming into something great. We have decided to update the newsletter to have a more modern and contemporary look and feel. You'll also notice, given

the fact that you are reading this on a computer, is that we are no longer printing our issues, but distributing them through the use of today's technology such as the Internet and Email. Be sure to check out our CGCB Connected page under our newly redesigned website under the [Interact](#) link in the main menu. If you have any suggestions or stories that you would like to submit, please contact connected@chineseGrace.com. We look forward to hearing from you, and bringing you the most encouraging and inspiring articles that will keep everyone in CGBC, well... Connected...

SHARING TOGETHER IN FAITH

By: Pastor Chris Yue

These days all we hear and see over the airwaves are devastating news about the global economic meltdown. There is no place or no one of this world in the age of globalization not being affected by the economic tsunami. As we look around, the national economy is collapsing and community after community is in financial crisis. People are in despair. What the world needs now is a huge dose of spiritual empathy.

There is another kind of crisis that the entire human race is plagued with. The world is in spiritual darkness. How often we fret about financial problems and yet ignore our spiritual blindness. We seem to shun away from God when it

comes to our financial issues. However, the Bible urges us to be good stewards of God's gifts and trust God for everything including our money and all spiritual matters. Just as little children trust their parents for all their physical needs and provisions. We too need to trust God in taking caring of us financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Ask God to help you to bless your friends during their financial struggles. Then, thank Him for His blessings, care, and provisions for you and your loved ones. Let us strive to be a thankful and grateful people. Each one of us has something to offer to others. You have no idea that what you have to offer



makes a difference in this world. After all, when faith is involved, giving and sharing becomes an act of worship. We give and share as a demonstration of God's love. By sharing, giving and serving others, we show our appreciation and recognition of God's greatness and mercies. May our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in our Savior through sharing in our faith.

April

Important Dates

- 4/1 - April Fools Day
- 4/4 - YAC "Palm" Springs Outing.
- 4/12 - Easter Sunday
- 4/15 - Tax Day
- 4/22 - Earth Day
- 4/25 - Equipped for Excellence Conference

Visit our newly revamped church website at: chineseGrace.com

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Sports Program

By: Bryant Kwok

Throughout the past few Saturdays, youths from not just CGBC, but from around the Monterey Park area have been coming to our newly painted basketball court to spend some time playing basketball and making new friends. Youth Sports has been working diligently to provide a comfortable and desirable atmosphere for meeting and spending time with Christian and non-Christian youths and young adults. Youth sports hopes to continue to provide an opportunity each Saturday for anyone who enjoys playing sports to come together and build up the body of Christ as well as introduce newcomers to the CGBC environment. If 50% of the people who are there are newcomers, we will provide free lunch!



Kevin Vrooman grabs the rebound and puts it back up

So if you enjoy sports or know anyone that does, come by Saturday mornings from 9:30am – 12:30pm for a great time!”

Sports Program

**Saturday mornings from
9:30am – 12:30pm**

YAC Happenings

By: Carina Woo

A YAC outing that doesn't include a scavenger hunt? Scandalous! But lo and behold, that is exactly what we did on Saturday, April 4th. Originally we planned on going to Palm Springs so we can get a taste of spending a day in the desert, just like the Israelites did for 40 years. Unfortunately, it seems like that wasn't meant to be because the day before our outing, a brush fire decides to spread through Palm Springs. So early Saturday morning, 8am, we all gathered at Deacon Lily's house and decided instead to spend the day hiking in Bonelli Park and bowling in San Dimas.

Hiking was beautiful! The park was huge with a lake smack in the middle and the sights were breathtaking. However, I think a few of us (Christin) were out of shape because a few of us (Christin) were complaining about the steep hiking trail. Nonetheless, we all made it, alive, to the

end of the trail and enjoyed our lunch aside the lake. After lunch and a few ice-breaker games, we all travelled to Starbucks for an afternoon pick-me-up and learned about the Tabernacle and the 40 years the Israelites spent in the desert.

“So after an eventful 11-hour day, we all gathered at Deacon Lily's house again, went into our respective cars, and headed back home, where all of us probably had one of the best night's sleeps of our lives.”

Bowling was next. After an hour of bowling, my arm was so sore! But luckily, our next event was very mellow: we all visited Nick at his office (poor Nick had to work on Saturday) and I took a nap as others played ping-pong. When Nick got tired of us and kicked us out of his office, we all went to dinner at Crazy Noodle to have Thai food. Yum! So after an eventful 11-hour day, we all gathered at Deacon Lily's house again, went into our respective cars, and headed back home, where all of us probably had one of the best night's sleeps of our lives.

Youth Winter Retreat

A three-day and three-night weekend couldn't have been spent better than being with your church family at Big Bear. It wasn't only a time for playing or hanging out; it was also a time of worship, prayer, fusion, and fellowship. Our speaker, Tony Jordan, spoke to us about love, prayer, humility, refinement and outreach; loving not only others and God, but also loving ourselves. After each message, we had the chance to reflect on what Tony had spoken about. Other than hearing messages, we also had a time of

worship where Bryant led us in singing songs of praises to God. Individual/Group devotions were also made for us to do during the time up in Big Bear. We had many fun activities that brought us closer together: Snow Olympics, Fusion Night, Group Competition, Fire-side Sharing and an interesting treasure hunt. January 19th was the last day up in Big Bear. Despite the fact that it was the end of our long and unforgettable adventure, it was the start of a changed and renewed life.

~ By: Sylvia Wong



By: missionary Lily Kwok

It took nine teams to mobilize this first-ever out-of-country short-term mission. One of these was the Medical Team that was accountable to Kimberly, Oshman, Samantha and me—we prepared Medical Release and Profile Documentation Forms, took pictures of all participants, assured attendees were in-

formed of the recommended immunizations, and a complete first-aid kit. Through God's grace, much of our first-aid supplies were donated mostly from Sisters Ruth Chow, Leanna Wong, Audrey Leung, and many others donated cash too. Who would have thought that 1/2 of the medical team would require medical attention themselves; in fact, 15 of 24 missionaries needed minor medical

care—kudos to Winnie, Wendy, Samantha, Jasmine, Sylvia, Cynthia, Bekky, Garland and me for being the 9 survivors! As for my most unforgettable moments...the outpouring love and hospitality of our host church leaders in Baja; the big scream I let out when I saw a rat in the dining hall out of the corner of my eye; constipation!

Baja Mission Trip 2008!

By: missionary Samantha Chan

Hello! Let us rewind time back to the blissful summer days of August 2008. 23 of us brave souls sat on a squeaky bus all the way down to Baja, Mexico. When we first arrived, it terrified some and humbled others to know and experience the simple life down in Mexico, where there's limited toilet paper, a few flushes once in a while, and tons of Lysol in the air. We even burned our own trash and did chores. What a week. However, there was a small church held in a dirt floor garage that we were there for, in which those worshippers warmed our hearts so.

Everyday, we would be taken over to the church site in vans driven by local churchgoers, who took time out of their days to serve us. We were able to hold VBS activities and sing Spanish songs with the children, like the favorite "Yo Tengo Gozo." We got into groups and the church children were able to make paper masks, bean shakers, nametags, and other crafts. Some of us got a chance to help paint a new shed, which was painful for some, since it felt like it was over a hundred degrees outside, and it being stuffy inside. There were many, many spiders and creepy crawlies in there to fight off, but the beautiful outcome was all

worth it. Overall, we made wonderful friendships with the locals there and it was an amazing experience. One of the nights, we were able to witness many young children accepting Christ as their Savior. Also, we were all humbled and our eyes were opened to the fact of how fortunate we are here at Chinese Grace Baptist Church. Seeing their passion and love for Christ in a dirt floor garage inspired us to have the same zeal as them. We hope to unite in the same fervor as our new fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Baptism Testimonies!

I first came to church when I was 2 years old. I have been coming to this church for ten years. I first accepted Jesus as my personal Savior when I was around 7 or 8 years old at the Billy Graham Crusade. I joined the baptism class because I wanted to learn what getting baptized means. After one of the baptism classes I wanted to get baptized. I prayed and prayed to God if this is the right time for me to get baptized. Then, finally, on Thursday morning, I felt something after all of the prayers. Then I decided I really wanted to follow Jesus Christ's example and I wanted to get baptized. I would like to thank my parents for helping me and supporting. I would also like to thank Aunty Lily for telling me what getting baptized means. Lastly I would like to thank God for guiding me.



...I decided I really wanted to follow Jesus Christ's example...

~ Kevin Cheung

said. During the interview, the interviewer did not attentively listen to my answers or what I have to offer to the company. In fact, he asked if I felt surprised on how long it took for his company to get back to me. He was flicking his pen and was slouched in his chair. At one point, the pen flew from his fingers and bounced toward me. He felt embarrassed, but I knew that this interview was going no where. I felt rejected and degraded by how I was treated.

I was losing hope and decided to apply as a car salesperson position at a Honda Dealership, I figured I can at least do something better than nothing. I went on the Honda Dealership interview and was accepted, but still had to fill out extra paperwork. The manager told me to get a sales license and hand in all the paperwork on Friday. On Friday, I had all the paperwork filled out and was ready to head out the door. On the way out I was stopped by a phone call, it was from an interview that I had a couple of months back from Walt Disney. The interviewer, Rick, told me he had good news for me and offered me the dream job that I wanted. Overwhelmed I knew God had answered my prayers.

Currently, my family responsibilities and my personal experiences is still a struggle, but feel blessed that I know that God is watching over me and my family. Developing a mature spiritual connection with God, I surrender all my uncertainties to him. And no matter what I try to do I know that he will guide me into the right direction. Praying with this verse in mind, Psalm 146 has given me a new perception of my faith to the Lord and has enabled me to serve him.

On comic book style pamphlet, a man that has died is in tears crying out his past sins and finding out that his name is not on the book of eternal life. He is cast into the lake of fire. This was what started my true curiosity of coming to Church. It was simple. Trust in God, repent, and receive eternal life. As a teenager it seems like sacrificing a lot; because of this I did not feel a personal connection to God. At that time, even though I had gone to many services and Sunday school, it did not relate to me.

A couple of years later, I was on the wrong path. The things I held most dear to my life disappeared. The girl that I dated, along with my best friend was gone from my life all in the same day. It was painful to think about. I decided to go back to Church where I learned that God's love will always be there. It opened up my eyes to awaken my relationship with God spiritually. I felt that no matter what problems I had I can freely speak to him. Comforted by fellow church members I became more involved with some of the community work in the church. I also learned that God's reward is not only just for eternal life, but also a blessing to know that if you trust in him, he will provide.

What inspired me the most was my grandmother's work with the Church. She was heavily involved in mission trips and her faith provided a role model for me to follow and develop my faith in Christ. She can forgive and forget about material things and only knows one truth: faith. For example, when her apartment was burglarized and her jewelry was stolen she was completely calm and did not worry about her possessions. She told me that material things are not important. I was amazed by her response.

In 2008, I decided to move to California because of family and personal career growth. It was a big decision in my life. I gave my last two weeks in advance to my old job, packed, and flew to California. Despite what some people were saying about the economy, I prayed heavily for my future. Prayer is what kept me going. Four months had passed by and there was no response from any of the companies I interviewed with. On my birthday I had an interview with a software company. I called my brother David one hour before my interview. I don't know why I called him, but I was hoping that he would say something great or something encouraging. The conversation I had with him really drained my hopes and dreams; he told me to come back to Philly if it doesn't work out and that buying a house and everything seems so distant from achieving. My father said if you don't find a job by July I should consider going back to Philly. At this point, I really felt the pressure of everything on my shoulders. I was really hoping that I can prove him wrong, but was still in awe of what my Dad

April Birthdays

4/9— Alice Jow
Kenny Lau

4/19— Bonnie Woo

4/23— Leanna Wong

4/25— Jerry Hom

4-29— Carina Woo



I learned that God's love will always be there.

~ Hue Doan

An Interview with Mrs. Wong

By: Hannah Chan

Mrs. Lillian Wong is a delightful person to talk to. She had just turned 98 on March 31st when Samantha and I went to visit her. I was amazed at how much she remembered about her past and how much she enjoyed sharing her stories. Mrs. Wong is a great storyteller and there is so much to learn from her. She is always so happy to talk and meet with people, so I encourage you to visit or call her if you can!

The following is just some of the many things I have learned about her...

How she spent her 98th birthday:

My sister, Marie, and I were taken to our mother's birthplace – Ventura. We spent the whole day there and had a wonderful time. We ate at a restaurant which was the only place that still existed from my mother's time.

What do you miss most about your childhood?

I miss my brother and my parents, the food we use to eat. My Papa would always make me chestnuts and chicken on my birthdays. My stepbrother Albert use to tell me that I'm the apple of Papa's eye. He would tell me, "Before you came back home, Papa was sick and when you were here, he had no illness at all. And after you left, he had high blood pressure again."

Papa wanted his children to know music and he wanted them to study hard. He never bought toys for us, but if we needed books, he would buy them. When I went to USC, it was \$500 a year. In those days, it was very expensive, esp. during the depression. He was willing to pay that much for my education. I could've gone to UCLA for \$25, but it was so far. I took the streetcar to USC. My papa really believed in education.

My sister, Marie has wonderful memory. I call her my "encyclopedia." Whatever I ask her, even if it happened years and years ago, she remembers it.

The background of my family is not entirely American, and not entirely Chinese. I spent half my life in China, but I was educated in LA so I thank God I have this experience.

Favorite hymn:

"I would be true". David liked it too. He sang it on the boat on our honeymoon. As Christians, I think those are ideals, to be true.

Where did you go on your honeymoon?

Three days after our wedding, we sailed to China for our honeymoon. It took 19-20 days.

What did you study in college?

I majored in Sociology at USC, and took many oral English electives.

What food would you never eat?

Oyster sauce. (Because it doesn't sit well with my stomach.)

What food can you never get sick of?

Lettuce

What advice would you give to young people?

To be proud of their Chinese culture. The Chinese have a rich history and culture. There was a lot of racial prejudice when I was young. People use to pull on my Papa's ponytail and sing "Ching Chong China man, sitting on a rail. Along came a train, and chopped off the tail." Even when I was in Junior High, people would say, "China man. All they know is labor." The Chinese were doing all the hard work, and would send money back to support their families back home. When I was in grammar school and even in Junior High and High school there was very strong racial prejudice. I was the only Chinese girl at LA high, a school of 4000 students.

