

MCCC Fellowship Group Quarterly Newsletter
April – June 2007

美門教會季刊 2007 年四月至六月

Editorial

The purposes of the MCCC Fellowship Group Newsletter are:

- To provide a platform for sharing information among fellowship groups
- To enhance the bonding of brotherhood/sisterhood in Christ
- To share experiences in caring, outreach, and discipleship
- To magnify the power of joint prayers for our church and people in illness and need

Please share this newsletter with the members of your fellowship group. Fellowship group leaders, please share the newsletter at your next gathering. There is also a Chinese version of this newsletter. You are welcome to print it if you desire. Previous issues of the newsletter are also available on the MCCC website <http://www.mccc.org/fellowship.html>.

If you have any suggestions about the Newsletter or need any further information from the contributors, please contact Kam Lam (林慶淦) at 1-732-591-0988. Due to the busy summer schedule, this Issue of the Newsletter received fewer articles than usual. We thank Brother Joe Cheung (張惠冬) for the English translation and Pastor Chang (張麟至牧師) for the brief Chinese translation for the 30 Hour Famine Event Report.

Help Needed

- Pine Fellowship needs help transporting the elderly to their Bible Study. If you can help, please contact Chu-Yeh Chang (章楚業) via phone at 732-671-1751 or via E-mail at margaret@mccc.org. Additionally, from time to time the elderly need help verbally translating letters or documents from English to Chinese. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.
- If anyone is familiar with Microsoft Access and is willing to give a helping hand to a small project of the MCCC Library, please contact Chih-Cheng (Henk) Chu (朱志成) at 732-972-1954 or Elder Ron Lo (羅榮長老) at 732-888-7955.

Cantonese Fellowship (Anny Wong)

During our Easter Concert Fellowship in April, brothers and sisters gathered together singing hymns and praise songs to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us.

Pastor Tsang (曾大衛牧師) continued to share God's word with us, and encouraged everyone to study and better understand the bible.

We attended the "Church Growth" retreat on May 26th from 1:00pm to 9:00pm. Pastor Tsang focused on three topics for his message:

1. To build a growing church (Mat 13:31-32),
2. To spread the gospel because of God's love (1 Cor 16:14)
3. To foster a loving and cooperative partnership in gospel ministry (Phil 1:5)

We discussed and brainstormed different strategies for expanding the Cantonese congregation. What are our advantages, liabilities and difficulties? How can we minister and build

relationships with non-believers? What steps and preparations are needed for evangelistic events?

The minutes from the retreat have been distributed to coworkers for further planning and restructuring duties.

A bible quiz fellowship was held on June 2nd. We had four teams, each with a team leader to help supervise and encourage students to study the bible. Some members even hosted study groups in their homes and shared their method of studying. We all worried, studied and hoped to do well! On the quiz day, four teams competed against each other and the winning team was the one that collected the most points! The quiz was so much fun (not as scary as we thought), and it was a blast!

Sau's daughter Grace was married on June 9th. Grace and Jeffrey had a beautiful wedding ceremony. Sau, the bride's mother, looked like a young bride herself and Lett, the bride's father, was beaming. Both are proud of the newlyweds. Grace and Jeffrey are both pursuing medical careers.

Thanks to Wilson and Jane, the Cantonese choir recorded a CD album of fourteen songs. All songs were especially dedicated to worship services from October 2006 to June 2007. Choir members have all expressed their deep appreciation for such a blessed music ministry.

Worship is a condition of heart and a state of mind. God wants true and genuine worshippers. Praise creates openness in the spiritual atmosphere, which enables us to hear the Word clearly, receive it, and hold on to it through our faith. Psalm 149:1 "Sing to the Lord a new song." God put music in our hearts because there is power in praise.



Cantonese Fellowship June 2007 Bible Quiz

Pine Fellowship (Chu-Yeh Chang 章楚業)

The MCCC Pine Fellowship met for a total of 22 times during the spring quarter. The last meeting was on June 14. During the summer many of our members need to be home to watch over their grandchildren, so our meetings are suspended until schools start in September.

The theme of our quarter's Bible study was based on the eighth book of the Bible, Ruth. Pastor Chang described the rules governing the purchase and redemption of Israelites, and how these were testimonies to the saving grace of Jesus's blood. The story of Ruth has elements of fear, disappointment, and sadness; there is also happiness, satisfaction, and love. Listeners were moved to compose the following poem:

There was a famine during the time of the judges;
People of Judah were displaced among the gentiles;
They didn't think about repenting or asking God for help,
Both sons perished;
Thus Naomi became Mara,
The three widows in the household were faced with hard times.

God continued to be gracious towards the land of Canaan,
The harvests were good, food was plentiful;
Ruth was a woman from Moab,
She was taught well by her mother-in-law;
She believed God was in Israel,
And returned to her hometown with His chosen people.

She joined her tribe in the town of Bethlehem,
While gleaning in the field she met a great man;
A close relative decided to redeem the land,
In doing so descendants were assured;
Boaz understood God's will,
In three generations King David was born.

Many members from the Pine Fellowship attended our Church's five day spring retreat from May 17 to May 21. There were 15 services, the Pine and Women's Fellowships had a special meeting on "A service flowing with life" led by Pastor Liu (劉東崑牧師). Through many passages in scripture such as Isaiah 28:13; 34:16; Romans 8:28-34; 12:1-2; Luke 1:37; Hebrews 12:28-29; John 15:19 and I John 3:1-3, all of which he knew very well, Pastor Liu encouraged listeners not to imitate the world, live under the evil one, follow the temptation of Satan, nor do things that displease God. Rather, they should use their lives as living sacrifices, serve God with an honest and fearful heart, and prepare for the return of the Lord Jesus.

On the morning of May 25, the gospel team "My Heart's Melody (我心旋律)" came to sing at our church. After being notified by sister Chang (張怡初姊妹), the Pine Fellowship invited and encouraged our members to attend. The founders Pastor and Mrs. Yeh (葉宏光牧師、邵家菁師母) described how they have depended on faith to sustain this ministry during the last ten years. All their publications, CDs, and DVDs are freely given away, and they don't charge for their gospel concerts. Sister Zhou (周嘉琪姊妹) from the group has a particularly beautiful voice. At the audience's request she sang "Golden Jerusalem" a cappella. Her performance was indeed moving. After the concert, we picked out many works from the display, and made contributions to the ministry. We thank the group for their dedication.

During the summer, our members continue to participate in many church activities including short term missions support, vacation bible school, fire drill, and we pray daily for those that are sick, asking for God's healing.



May 2007 Meeting with Pastor Liu (劉東崑牧師)



May 2007 Meeting with the gospel team “My Heart's Melody (我心旋律)”

30 Hour Famine Event Report (Michelle Salviejo)

Date: February 16th & 17th, 2007

Location: MCCC weekend sleep-over event plus various service projects within the local area

Number of Attendees (Saturday): 107 = 70 youth, 13 counselors & 20 parents

Total food donated through food drive: Over 500 non-perishable food items

Total funds raised by our youth: \$12,670.87 + Governments 4X matching Grant

Total sent to World Vision: \$50,683.48 (equivalent to saving 141 dying children in a year)

Purpose/Goal:

The 30 Hour Famine is a way for our youth to learn about serving other while glorifying God. This year's 30 hour famine had a multi-purposed approach to reach and inform our youth. First, we sought to educate our students about the growing global epidemics of hunger and poverty. Secondly, we challenged our students to join in the fight against hunger and to put their faith into action by actively fundraising for children, families, communities and countries that are affected by famine and poverty. We also challenged our youth to participate in local service projects to help care and show Christ's love in our local community. Lastly, by our students participating in a voluntary fast from food for 30 hours, our youth experience the love of sacrifice and selflessness that Jesus showed us on the cross. At the end of the 30-hour fasting and community labor, wonderful parents and counselors lovingly prepared food to break the fast with students' testimonies of what they've learned in this project about solving world hunger.

Program Elements:

This year's program included world poverty simulation games, worship, message, prayer, discussion, community service projects and other educational projects all with the aim of letting our youth experience a weekend of global responsibility and spiritual growth. Here are a few of the elements in more detail that made this year special:

- **Service Projects** – This year our students participate in five local service projects.
 - **Sunrise Nursing home:** We had 10 youth and 2 counselors attend this project. The youth made cards and performed a worship program for the residents. They taught the residents some hand motions to some of the worship songs and spent time after worship talking, praying and caring for them.
 - **Solutions Healthcare Center:** Solutions is a volunteer based organization that seeks to provide alternative healthcare and options to young pregnant women who may be seeking to have an abortion. Our 12 youth and 2 counselors did various tasks around their office. Our youth accomplished so many tasks that the center has no need for volunteers until May.
 - **St. Mark's Soup Kitchen:** 14 youth and 2 counselors participated in our food drive for St. Mark's Soup Kitchen in Keansburg, NJ. Every week the Kitchen serves about 250 hot lunches and distributes near 100 bags of groceries to our local community. Our youth were able to collect over 500 non-perishable food items and sorted/boxed our collection for delivery. They also participated in an education program created by Eileen Chou to teach the students the nutritional needs for survival and how much our country lives in excess.
 - **Salvation Army:** 14 youth and 3 counselors went to the Salvation Army thrift store in Asbury Park. The thrift store serves the local community that is known for its high crime rates, gangs, low income and high poverty/welfare. Our youth cleaned up the store and restored it to working order by organizing clothing, shoes, household items, moving furniture, sweeping, dusting etc.
 - **Trinity Church-Christmas in February:** We had 17 youth and 3 adults attend this project to help support Trinity church in there big event called Christmas in February. This annual event hosts 300 to 400 homeless and needy children and families in our community. They provide 5 to 7 bran new toys for the children, all the clothes they can carry, a Christmas feast and evening program with dances, music, skits and more. Our youth sorted, folded and distributed over 30 bags of donated clothing to help them set up for the event.
- **Global Mobilization Stations** – This year our student leaders researched and created 6 unique, colorful and informative stations on different nations of the world. They spent many

hours researching the statistics on poverty, hunger, disease, warfare and other major issues affecting those specific regions. And many more hours were spent creating these creative and beautiful stations. The purpose of this project was to equip our student leaders to inform their fellow youth about the growing issues plaguing the nations so that they would then be equipped to pray for the many needs. During the program on Saturday, we divided the youth randomly into 6 groups and had the groups rotate to each station. The 6 station leaders (Man-Yan Lam, Caleb Tseng, Daniel Chou, Matt Wang, Esther Liu & Iris Tseng) first gave each group a short message on information about the critical issues affecting the specific region covered by that station and then lead the group into a time of prayer.

- **“Break-fast” Banquet** – At the end of every 30 Hour Famine, we break our fasting together by sharing in a meal provided to us by the parents. This year one of our student leaders, Daniel Chou, came up with a program and strategy to challenge our youth even further in their thinking and attitude towards those who are suffering. Instead of allowing the youth to immediately immerse themselves in the food, he assigned them randomly to a specific table. There were ten tables in all. The first two tables each represented a first world country. Youth who were assigned to those tables were given silverware to eat with and waiters and waitresses to serve them an abundance of food, far more than they could ever finish. The remainder eight tables represented the numerous third world countries from around the world. The youth sitting at those tables were only give a rice-soup mixture to eat and scraps of bread. The “third-world” youth watched as the “first-world” youth were given multiple courses of food. Some students became upset and began to realize and understand the injustice. Eventually our “first-world” youth realized that they had a responsibility to go, serve and give to the others who were given so very little. It was a great hands-on lesson for our students to realize the great responsibility we have been given by God to serve the meek, poor and heavy laden.

Conclusion:

Through this event, our youth were able to learn the valuable lesson of not just living their faith through words, but living their faith through their deeds. First, they were able to feel first hand the hunger and oppression felt by others. Secondly, they demonstrated Christ’s love to our local community through various service projects. And lastly, they were shown a larger Global picture of the needs of God’s people and were equipped to pray for them.

Many Thanks:

There are a great number of individuals that made this event a success. We’d first like to thank the church, MCCC, for supporting us this year in hosting this event and so graciously allowing us to use their facilities. To all of this year’s participants – your hard work and determination to make an impact was inspiring to all and we are truly grateful for your hearts and your striving commitment to serving God. The credit to the success of this event really goes to all of you!! I’d also like to give a big thanks to all the many parent and counselor volunteers for without whom this event would not even have been possible. They assisted in various ways from driving and participating with the students during the service projects, to cooking delicious food for us to break our fast with, they were a tremendous help to this event! And thank you to all the parents who supported their children to participate this year!! This was the largest turn out for 30-hour famine in all the years that we have been participating in the famine. A special thanks to Nancy Wu with the assistance of Sherry Cheng and Ammie Chao who coordinated the registration, service project groups, food for the breakfast and finances for this event. They did an amazing job and we’re grateful to them for all their efforts.
