

MCCC Fellowship Group Quarterly Newsletter
October – December 2007

美門教會季刊 2007年十月至十二月

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. The MCCC Fellowship Ministry thanks Brother Joe Cheung (張惠冬) and Sister Huei-Hsiu (Julia) Pang (龐慧修) for the English and Chinese translation.

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)

Praise God that we had a very successful outreach on 12/9/07. We had 78 people attended the event, including 36 regulars and 42 newcomers. Newcomers were mostly relatives and friends of our brothers and sisters. Relationship building is very important, and directly calling prospective newcomers is the most effective way of reaching them.

Pastor Tsang provided us with material and verses to study and helped facilitate a special training session dedicated for outreach. He is a great resource and we continue to consult with him on many topics.

Two weeks before the event, many brothers and sisters braved the weather and handed out flyers at many locations. Some people thought we were giving out store coupons, but we told them these flyers were better than coupons! We had 6 people committed to Christ. After the outreach, we had lunch at Ruby Palace. The newcomers felt very comfortable with us and said we were very friendly. We realized there are many Cantonese-speaking people in Monmouth County and we should invest more time and effort in reaching out to them.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers and support. We are one body in this church and need your love and care for the Cantonese Ministry. Please continue to pray for us.

Morganville Fellowship (Ya-Yung Bai, 白雅蓉)

Our Fellowship held an early Thanksgiving meeting in the evening of November 17, 2007. In addition to the 10 plus families, we also had as guests 6 families that were still non-believers, Mr. and Mrs. Hsing-Shun Chang (張聲信夫婦) opened up their house, and fifty of us, old and young, showed up. Our joyous sounds chased the cold winter night out of the house.

The food for the meeting was provided by five families. Since our members come from all areas of China (mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan), so our bountiful food represented cuisines from many provinces, and in addition to beautiful colors and fragrances that made us hungry, they also bore all flavors (sour, sweet, bitter, spicy, and savory) that satisfied our taste buds.

After dinner we put on a movie called "The Miracle Box." It is a story of two lovers who were both physicians, they got to know each other, fell in love, got married, learned to depend on and support each other, until the man passed away due from leukemia, and the woman later died because of her work with SARS patients. The story illustrates two things:

First, our new lives in Christ are eternal. The difference between "eternity" and "this life" is not in how long the time periods are, "eternity" is not an extension of "this life," neither is it a continuation of the old life. The major difference is in the nature of the two. "Eternity" is a brand new life, a God-centered life, a life with God, and a life united with the Lord. "Eternity" includes "this life" and "next life." Thank God, Christ is our life.

Second, we all have our labors, heavy burdens, difficulties, and worries. We should place all the pain in this paper box we make with our hands (meaning tell them to God), so our inner pain can be released. Talking to God honestly is our prayer to Him. Before we pray, we depend on our reason, after we pray, we can see God's guidance.

The movie ends with the song "Covenant Under the Rainbow." The rainbow is the mark of the covenant between the Lord and us. We sang the song together, and ended our meeting with a prayer.

There are many in our lives that are worthy of our thanks -

For our parents who brought us up, we are thankful;

For our brothers and sisters who support us, we are thankful;

For our teachers and elders who teach us, we are thankful;

For our colleagues at work, we are thankful;

For our husband, our wife, who respect and love us, we are thankful;

For our children who bring us joy, we are thankful;

But the one we thank the most is our Lord our God;

He created all things, and created us in His image;

For this we offer our deepest worship and thanksgiving.

Amen.

Pine Fellowship (Chu-Yeh Chang 章楚業)

We thank Brother Kam Lam (林慶淦) who made copies of the 2007Q3 issue of the Newsletter and distributed them to our brothers and sisters. Those of us who do not regularly use computers or browse the church bulletin boards now realize the existence of this internal color-photo filled publication. We hope this platform for idea-sharing will be used more by

everyone.

We thank the Lord for Pastor Chang's detailed lessons on "Ruth." After 8 months we finally finished the book. Although the book has only four chapters, but it is a treasure trove of meanings, holds great influences, illustrates how God's wisdom is higher than that of man's, and that His plan is not one we can comprehend. God blesses those who do His will, and He uses His closest relative - Christ - to redeem us from sin. We must study the Bible diligently to understand what God's wishes are for us.

On October 10, the Pine Fellowship invited Pastor Joseph Chow (周召南牧師) to talk to us about his work. Pastor Chow's ministries include prisons, restaurant workers, nursing homes, Chinese supermarket workers. He has been evangelizing to these groups for many years, and often appears in court to support new immigrants, and counsel people released from prisons on re-integration with society. He has a lot of experience in these areas and related many interesting incidents to us.

Our Fellowship members attended the "Fall Blessing Day" event where we had a turkey dinner. We also watched a multi-media show where we enjoyed the beauty of God's creation. We appreciate the labor of Lily and York Wang (李麗、王郁) who arranged this. We also brought canned food to church and gave them to those in need in the community.

Our annual Fall foliage trip was canceled this year as Pastor Chang was invited to preach overseas and Mrs. Chang visited with family in Shanghai.

We met 14 times during the Fall quarter of June to December, 2007.

Our church had a "Christmas Celebration" on December 22, brothers and sisters from the Pine Fellowship, led by sister Autumn Fan (溫秋媛), went on stage and performed the "Night of the Holy Light" candle-dance. The Women's Fellowship also joined in the dance and walked around the sanctuary with us, accompanied by the song Hi-Ne-Ni ("I'm Here"). The audience all waved their arms in response, making for a warm atmosphere.

Our Spring 2008 meetings began on January 3.



Pastor Joseph Chow and family
周召南 牧師一家



"Night of the Holy Light" candle-dance
“聖光之夜” 燭光舞