



From Our Senior Pastor:

Preparing for Expansion



For more than a decade, we've been seeking to expand our facilities in Chinatown. It has been a long and often unpredictable journey. This because the only feasible site for us is owned by the city of Boston. The city is affected by changing public and political need, such as when the city placed the Quincy Upper School on the intended swap site ten years ago. However, the Lord has kept this opportunity open for us to participate with Him in expanding the ministry of BCEC in Chinatown and to hopefully bring many more people into His wonderful Kingdom.

So what can all of us do to prepare for expansion? First, we can pray to our God for wisdom and guidance through the Holy Spirit. As we talk with community leaders and city officials, we desire God's direction to navigate the political process that aims to satisfy many groups and perspectives.

We know our God can change people's hearts and minds to accomplish His purposes. When Daniel sought an alternative to defiling himself with the king's food, Daniel 1:9 says "Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel" (NIV).

Expansion is a huge undertaking. This present work is only the tip of the iceberg. With a strong foundation of prayer, we can undertake whatever project God has for us. Let our prayer life as a church reveal that we depend on an awesome, gracious Lord.

Second, we can prepare to give financially. Many of us have experienced setting aside money weekly to pay for a large expenditure, like a house or col-



Easter Baptism 2007

lege. We may do so by eating out less or enjoying a modest vacation. Jesus said in Matt 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Let us examine how our lifestyle reflects our devotion for our Lord and His desire to save people into His kingdom. As Matt 6:33 says, let us "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

The amount we each give will differ. For people with fixed incomes, it may be less. For those God has blessed financially, it should be more for God desires equal sacrifice from His people. [Also, our expansion giving should be in addition to our regular voluntary giving or tithe, for our regular weekly giving supports our worship, edification, and outreach.] God has blessed many with additional assets through appreciated stocks and real

estate. Let us follow the example of extravagant devotion for our Lord from Acts 4:36-37, where "Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."

It has been a long journey in expansion, yet the Lord has given us more time to grow in our love and devotion to Christ who died for us. Let us prepare ourselves for expansion by growing in prayer and in giving.

-PASTOR STEVEN CHIN

WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE?

BCEC's Chinese congregations hold an annual Family Retreat with families from Joshua Couples Fellowship (JCF), Elim, and Song of Songs. This year, we will join together at Gordon College in Wenham, MA from 6/29 to 7/1 to focus on our theme "Who is the Head of the House?" Our speakers are THE CHANNELS, a worship team of four Christians from Canada. For the children, VBS and babysitting are available!

Through the Retreat, we aim to cultivate a closer relationship with God by worshipping and learning His Word. Of course, we will also get to know our fellow brothers and sisters better by spending time together in recreation, such as swimming, racquetball, and basketball.

The registration deadline is June 17. If interested, please contact Pastor Perry Chow; Gilbert and Pearl Lui: gilbert.lui@gmail.com; Stephen Mak: stephenmak@yahoo.com, or Ho-Ming and Kathy Lee: hohaha@comcast.net.

-Gilbert Lui

A New Chapter



In 1989, ten years after my baptism, God called me into full time ministry. I began seminary training at Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, and worked in a church. Upon graduation, I served in a Swatow Baptist church for two years. Afterwards, Peggy and I came to Boston to study at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. While at Gordon Conwell, I went to the University of the Holy Land in Israel for a semester and lived in Jerusalem for 4 months. Time flies. Twelve years have already passed since I was invited to join the BCEC pastoral staff.

When I look back at these 10+ years of serving at BCEC, I have many fond and sweet memories. In the beginning, I assisted in leading the

3rd Service, Chinese Sunday school, several fellowships and Kids Club. God also gave me opportunities to lead a short term overseas missions team, lead and plan Good Friday and Christmas Eve Services, organize the Family Retreat, and take part in three Christmas Musicals. In 2003, God led Peggy and me to assume the responsibility of planning a new service and ministries at our Newton campus. I have experienced much joy through serving together with faithful and gifted brothers and sisters.

About two years ago, Peggy and I felt God wanted to give us a new responsibility away from Boston. We thought God wanted us to be missionaries in England and Europe so we paid more attention to missions needs in Europe and sought out the means to get involved. However, Peggy and I also had to go to Hong Kong several times as Peggy's mom suddenly fell seriously ill and later passed away. During these trips, the church in which we previously served, invited us to come and lead their ministries. (This church started inviting us to return to Hong Kong in 2001, but Peggy and I knew it wasn't God's will for us to go at that time.) So we began focusing our prayers for future direction in Hong Kong and Europe. We firmly believe if it was God's will, He would place the needs before us and help us to see His leading very clearly.

During my sabbatical last year, God clearly placed before me the needs of the Hong Kong churches. After much prayer, we felt God had been leading us step by step over the past two years to go to Hong Kong. Although we shall miss



Tommy and Pastor Kenneth Kwong transfer an orange with their foreheads at Joshua Youth Fellowship Camp.

Boston, where we've spent the past 13 years of our lives, we want to obey the Holy Spirit's guidance and follow God's desire for us to do the work He has set out for us.

My resignation has been accepted by BCEC, and Peggy and I will depart for Hong Kong in early December to get settled and prepare for our next mission. Please pray that God will provide a pastor to assume my BCEC pastoral responsibilities as quickly as possible. Although it is not

easy to find a mature pastor with North American pastoral experience, we believe God will provide for us.

—PASTOR PERRY CHOW

Family Matters

God is rejuvenating BCEC's Newton and Chinatown English Family Ministries to equip, encourage, and energize Christ-centered marriages and families. Spearheaded by Pastor Tom and Phil Chew, the two ministries work together in three areas:

Training Ministry Leaders. We've partnered with Home Improvement Ministries (H.I.M.) to train, in 24 sessions over nine months, two couples from each English congregation. Paul and Virginia Friesen are founders of H.I.M. and former Directors of Family and Men's Ministries at Grace Chapel; each has ministered for over 30 years. The learning, sharing, and mentoring on God's beautiful design for marriage and families have been a great source of encouragement and personal growth.

Equipping Families. Our Soul Food seminars equip couples and parents to build Christ-centered marriages and families. Over 60 Chinatown and Newton members participated in the six sessions, where the Friesens shared biblical truth and insightful vignettes from their own life on topics such as "Spiritual Vitality in Marriage" and "Headache-Free Discipline".

Future Plans. To engage and encourage more people to create vital marriages and strong families by applying God's principles, we are planning



English College Ministry Sunday School

more Soul Food seminars and beginning teaching in Sunday school and fellowship.

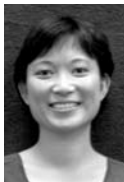
In the Newton English Congregation (New Community), a Sunday School class on marriage and family is proposed for Fall 2007 in order to reach out to friends, families, and neighbors. We want to offer the hope of Christ to families facing marriage difficulties, parenting issues, single-parenting, childlessness, and divorce by having them see God transforming us.

The Chinatown English Family Ministry will begin a monthly family fellowship to create a close-knit community of families. We will also start community family small groups to form a network of neighborhood families, supporting each other and growing in discipleship with God through marriage and parenthood.

Please join us at one of these venues!

—TERRI MOCK

Children Share the Love of Jesus



On Palm Sunday, a rabble of more than fifty children burst into the lobby of South Cove Manor, the elderly nursing home located a block away from our Chinatown campus. The usually quiet center was filled with the squeal and chatter of children's voices. The children piled into the cafeteria, weaving through the white tablecloth covered tables where the residents were seated in chairs and wheelchairs for lunch.

The children were from the BCEC Chinatown campus elementary Sunday School and they had come to sing an Easter musical. The children lined up in rows and sang, conducted by Susanna Yu, while Siu, her husband, narrated the story in Cantonese. The elderly residents showed their

pleasure by nodding and tapping their hands to the music. The children also interacted with the elderly by giving gifts of boiled eggs, dyed red by Henrietta Mei, and bookmarks with John 3:16 and Happy Easter written in Chinese on them. The elderly learned that the eggs symbolized the new life that they could have through Jesus.

Afterwards, Susanna reminded the children that singing is also act of service; many residents in the nursing home are lonely, and hearing songs of Christ can bring them great joy. Within our Children's Ministries, we actively try to cultivate hearts that want to share the love of Jesus by serving and telling others about Jesus.

This summer, our children can share the love of Jesus by inviting little friends to our Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Chinatown or Summer Bible Club (SBC) in Newton. Through outreach-focused Bible stories, crafts and games, children learn about Jesus. VBS is from 9am-12noon on 8/13-17 for kids entering Kindergarten to 5th Grade in September. SBC is from 9am-12 noon on 8/20-24 for kids ages 5 to 12.

Using a 1+1 campaign, we will remind and encourage every child (1) to bring another child (+1) to camp. Our hope is that God will make many disciples through this ministry. We encourage you to schedule VBS or SBC into your summer calendar and start prayerfully choosing a little friend to invite!

—BERNICE CHEUNG

Emmanuel Fellowship

Emmanuel means "God is with us". Indeed, God is with our Mandarin College Fellowship. Only by the grace of God have we grown to 15 members at our weekly Friday meetings, with more than 20 when we have special events involving "food". Yes, we love food and we love good fellowship.



Ariel Chew acts out the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey during Chinatown English Palm Sunday Service

As "fellows in a ship" heading towards Christ, we emphasize prayer for one another. When we are together, we never fail to share and lift up prayers. We send our prayer requests to our "Emmanuel Yahoo Group" so we can intercede for one another when we are apart.

As "fellows in a ship", we desire to praise God through songs, and even at times through simple sign language. Amazingly, the top song in our Christian chart is a song about prayer "祷告". On 4/13, we held our first "praise and prayer" night whereby we "Rest" in the Lord through songs and prayers. In Adoration, we praised God for He is our shepherd, and in Him we have goodness and love all the days of our life (Psalm 23:1, 6); in Confession, we lifted up our sins and wait upon the Lord for strength and courage to face the days (Psalm 27:14); in Thanksgiving, we thanked God for His providence as through His strength and courage we will not become wea-

IT'S FUN TO BE A KID AT NEWTON CAMPUS

Hi, I'm here to report on Children's Ministry in Newton campus. In Junior Worship, we've been doing a lot of exciting things. Not just the 5th graders, but all grades from 1-6. We're continuing with the Memory Verse Challenge, where we memorize verses and recite them to our teacher. We play games and make crafts. We sing songs and talk to God in prayer. And we hear of the wonderful things God has done in the Bible, and even today as many missionaries visit us. We just had a fascinating presentation about human eyes – which God designed especially for us. We tried to catch a bag of Skittles with only one eye. We tried again with both eyes. With both eyes was easier. Now we know that God gave us two eyes for a reason.

Triple S, which stands for Super Sunday Servant, is a great way to

serve the Lord if you're in 5th or 6th grade and go to Junior Worship. Every Sunday, each Triple S helper gets a neat activity to do, such as ushering, singspiration leading, offertory praying, or scripture reading. I'm a Triple S helper and I think Triple S is a fun way to serve God when you're young!

In Sunday School, we have fun while we learn about God, His creation, and His story. In 4th and 5th grade, we do crosswords, Scripture puzzles, and other brain-teaser activities.

Going to Junior Worship and Sunday School are super-duper terrific. By the way, in case you're planning to join us, Junior Worship starts at 9:25am and Sunday School starts at 11:00am. That's all for now. Be sure to look for our next update!

—Caitlyn Fong, 5th Grader

EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH PRAYER NETWORK

In 1999 the Prayer Network was established in our BCEC Chinese congregations; today it has grown to around 200 committed prayer warriors. Every evening at 9pm, prayer warriors simultaneously pray in their own homes for the needs in the body of Christ, for requests in the Sunday bulletins, and for last-minute requests. (If warriors cannot pray at that time, they can pray later.) Prayer requests are provided by the pastoral staff to the Prayer Network coordinator, who relays them via email to the email coordinator, and via telephone to four section leaders who, in turn, send the requests to several sub-section leaders. The end result is that requests reach every warrior very quickly. In addition, a quarterly Prayer Network newsletter is published with praise and thanksgiving items, as well as requests for continued supplication.

Thanks be to God, the Prayer Network enables us to realize Jesus' commandment to love one another for it is God who truly meets our needs. In retrospect, the Prayer Network has provided us the

awesome opportunity to pray for (and care for) many people in our congregations, and through it, we've gotten to grow close to brothers and sisters we would not have known otherwise.

Through the Prayer Network, we've experienced together the power of God and grown in Christ-like character. For when God grants our requests, and often in ways that are more than we expect, we experience great joy and thanksgiving from the depth of our hearts. When God has yet to respond, we grow in patience and perseverance in petitioning. And when God denies our request, we grow in humble submission and joyful obedience to the loving One who knows what is best for us.

We pray that our Lord will continue to bless the Prayer Network, and draw more prayer warriors to participate. We also hope that BCEC will become a loving church as well as a praying church.

—Winnie Gee

ry but continue to do good, and not lose heart knowing of His perfect time of harvesting (Gal 6:9); and finally in Supplication, we lifted up our souls, minds and hearts for we learn that faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1).

Most importantly, as "fellows in a ship", we want to stay "real" by addressing issues that affect our daily lives. We pray Christ will transform our character so that it will impact where we live and sleep, what we eat and wear, how we work, and how we treat others, including those of different races. We recently learned about honor and respect for our parents. And we are on the brink of discussing "MWR" (man/woman relationships), including intimacy, friendship, and commitment.

Praise God for without Him and the leadership team we had, we would not be where we are today. We continue to disciple in order to build future leaders who are also team players that serve the church and community as they are gifted by God. Do you want to learn to be a leader or a team player?

We invite you to be a fellow in a ship with us, so we can together go towards Christ. So come, just as you are!

—EZEKIEL CHANDRA

PD is Now Year-Round!

As local youths start summer vacation, BCEC-Chinatown campus transforms dramatically into a summer day-camp for 5 weeks called Project Destiny (PD). Our church has operated PD for 14 summers. PD serves Boston's 6th-9th graders through a mix of academically enriching classes, exciting field trips, relationship-building opportunities, and the gospel message. PD exists

to glorify God in three ways: serving the Chinatown and Boston community, bringing campers to know more of Christ, and offering ministry experience to its staff.

While campers don't arrive until July, planning happens year round. Working adults, college students, and high-schoolers from Chinese and English congregations get recruited as counselors as early as February. These volunteers not only offer up most of their summer (sometimes up to 80 hours per week), but also raise financial and prayer support for their programming and living expenses. For almost 8 weeks this staff will live, eat, work, play, pray, worship, and grow together.

When campers finally arrive we assign each to a small group led by a counselor. This becomes a sort of family group for them over the next five weeks as they share about their lives, learn about the gos-

pel, or just goof around on field trips. Campers will attend a daily chapel session where staff teach or dramatize the Word of God. Campers also attend an enrichment class such as digital movie-making, Chinese dulcimer, guitar, playing sports, or maybe even dance. Visits to the gym, pool and going on field trips complete the schedule. When camp ends in August, students will have made lasting friendships, learned new skills, and heard a lot about Jesus Christ.

All this would be nothing more than a fun summer if not for the saving power of the gospel and the continuing commitment to these youth. A delightful reward for counselors is seeing campers integrate into one of our church's Chinatown youth groups—Joshua Youth, TWR, or Teen Fellowship—as the Holy Spirit continues His work in them.



Project Destiny 2006 Campers



Good Friday Service at the Newton Campus

With the goal of integrating campers into BCEC, PD began to pilot year-long programming this past September. As BCEC's vision statement states, "Because God has blessed us, we strive to be a blessing to the Chinatown community... by sharing the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ." As another cycle begins, we pray PD becomes a continuous year round blessing with programs such as community guitar classes, a homework drop-in center, and whatever else the Lord provides. What a testimony it would be for our neighbors to see BCEC not only worshipping God on weekends, but also serving the people in our community every day of the week, all year long! Just as BCEC seeks physical expansion, we pray for expanding the ways we bless others, especially those who don't know Christ.

We still need volunteers. Summer staff needs people to buy or cook dinners. For the Fall we need teaching assistants or homework tutors for after school programs. And finally, we need your prayers. Please email projectdestiny@bcec.net or call Emily Wu for more information. —STEVE LIU

Local Evangelism Department's Summer Outreach Activities

As the days grow warmer, people choose to enjoy outdoor activities. Knowing this, Local Evangelism Department (LED) hosts most of its outreach activities during the summer, aiming both to share the Gospel and serve our community.

On June 2nd, we will host our first BCEC Carnival in Chinatown, filled with free food, music, Chinese opera, short movies, and many booth games. We hope this Carnival will attract many to come have fun, and feel the love and joy of God.

Another outreach opportunity is at the Mid-Autumn Festival celebration in August in Chinatown. Year after year, BCEC has had a booth to introduce our ministries and to share the Gospel

with visitors through booth games or personal evangelism. Although the Festival committee consists mostly of brothers and sisters from the Chinese congregation, we hope many from the English congregations will join us at the booth so that together we can live out the spirit of "One Church, One Foundation".

In August, we will also hold our Local Short Term Mission. After a week of training and practice to be equipped to be soldiers of God, our brothers and sisters go out to share the Gospel in Chinatown. Past participants fully experienced the power of God's saving grace and the joy of sharing the Gospel with the unsaved. On the closing Saturday, we will hold an evangelical meeting to clearly share the Gospel and invite non-believers to accept Jesus as their Savior.

However, these many activities cannot and do not replace our own personal evangelism. Thus, LED has launched a "333 friendship evangelism" movement to encourage us in the Chinese congregation to give out 3 copies of a Chinese Christian newspaper each month and to bring 3 non-believing friends or relatives to each of our summer activities. We hope that through personal invitation and the evangelistic activities, we can bring the Gospel into the lives of these around us.

—FLORENCE WONG

Welcome to Fatherhood

Many friends and colleagues have asked how I'm adjusting to fatherhood. My answer is I am enjoying it tremendously and quite frankly, I have to hold back my enthusiasm. No words can describe those precious moments when my one year old daughter, Gloria, learns to crawl or says "Ba-ba."

Of course parenthood can be overwhelming. I never had a crash course or read parenting books except those required by our adoption agency. But adoption books don't teach you how to become a father; they just help parents and child cope with

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2, 2007
LOCAL EVANGELISM
DEPARTMENT CARNIVAL
(CHINESE)

JUNE 3, 2007
BCEC 46TH ANNIVERSARY

SOUL FOOD
FAMILY SEMINAR

CHINESE SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUMMER SESSION BEGINS

JUNE 9, 2007
COMMUNITY
ENGLISH CLASS
SPRING SEMESTER ENDS

JUNE 17, 2007
FATHER'S DAY

CHILD DEDICATION
(CHINESE)

JUNE 24, 2007
BAPTISM

JUNE 29 – JULY 1, 2007
JOSHUA COUPLES RETREAT
(CHINESE)

JULY 2, 2007
PROJECT DESTINY 2007
FIRST DAY OF CAMP

JULY 4, 2007
INDEPENDENCE DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 8, 2007
ENGLISH YOUTH
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER
TERM BEGINS (CHINATOWN)

JULY 22, 2007
YOUTH SUNDAY (CHINESE)

adoption. When Alison and I decided to have children, I wondered to myself whether we were ready. I thought about financial stability, a roof over our head, maturity in our marriage relationship, and a good support network of friends and family. Though we were blessed to have all these, God did not bless us with a child. As we struggled, I wondered if God was saying we weren't ready. When we decided to adopt, I was quite happy. We were told to expect a child within a year but thirteen months passed, and we began to get anxious. The waiting challenged me to look inward for flaws I needed to change. I kept asking the



Adam, Gloria and Alison Yen

Lord what if anything I needed to do to become a worthy parent.

I realize much of what we as men know about being a parent comes from experiences with our own father. I have fond memories of my father caring for me as I grew up. He was a Chinese restaurant cook, and he took his one day off and spent it playing with my siblings and me. His ethic of hard work and financial provision for the family stood out for me. Later, my dad, nearing retirement and beset by chronic leg pain, would limp his way to a

BCEC Connections is a bimonthly publication of Boston Chinese Evangelical Church. We'd love to hear from you!

If you would like to help with this publication (writing, translation, editing), please contact Helena Fong at (617) 243-0100 ext 206.

Do you have a story you think would be of a blessing to other BCEC members? Do you have a great photo of a recent church/ministry event you'd like to share? Please send your submissions, questions or comments to connections@bcec.net. We reserve the right to edit the submissions as we deem appropriate without notice.

The submission deadline for the July/August issue is: June 15th

Visit us on the web at www.bcec.net

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A CANTONESE EVANGELISTIC DRAMA PLAY THOUSAND MILES OF SUNSHINE

Having lost his own father at a young age, Haobang Lee grew up hating his stepfather and feeling jealous of his stepsister. The young man does not care about school or work; he is obsessed with motorcycle racing and hanging out with his girlfriend Candy and other shady characters...until he is crippled in an accident. Depression and hopelessness set in as he is ridiculed by his stepfather and stepsister and abandoned by his girlfriend and others. By the Grace of God, an elderly couple in the neighborhood befriends Haobang, providing counseling and support. Hearing the example of Terry Fox—a young Canadian who ran across his country with one prosthetic leg to raise money for cancer research, Haobang embarks on a journey of introspection and reflection on the purpose of life. Haobang is transformed, resolves to work hard, and marches toward his thousand miles of sunshine.

“Showers of Blessing,” a Canada-based evangelistic ministry, is sending 21 members to perform this play, “Thousand Miles of Sunshine,” in Cantonese at the Newton campus on Saturday, June 23rd at 7:30pm. Organized by the Outreach Ministry of BCEC Cantonese congregation at Newton campus, the program will include songs of praise, the play, and an evangelistic message by Pastor Perry Chow. Please invite seeker friends as the play’s message focuses on finding the purpose of life.

—Pastor Perry Chow

Chinatown nursing home each week to care for my grandmother, who went home to the Lord last Christmas. The only son, my father showed great filial piety and I am thankful he exemplified that for me. (In traditional Asian families like mine, expressions of love are conveyed by deeds and action rather than words.)

I regret my dad did not convey to me a faith in Jesus Christ as he has yet to profess Christ as Savior. But, thank God that my grandmother’s faith in Christ and her prayers led me to Christ and BCEC. For God’s Word, such as Deut 6:6-9, Eph 6:4, and Col 3:21, has shaped my understanding of what it means to be a good father. And I know from the Bible that God is my Abba Father, who loves, teaches, and disciplines me daily.

Having grown up in an inter-generational church, I’ve seen Christian fatherhood played out every week. When I was in youth fellowship, I noticed other families praying together and dads as spiritual mentor to their kids. I am reminded of the eulogy the late President Reagan’s son, Mi-

chael, gave in 2004. He said his father shared with him about ‘his love of God, and love of Christ as his Savior.’ Now a Christian himself, Michael desires to share that gift with his children. In his book, “Twice Adopted,” he shares his tumultuous life of having been adopted and sexually abused but later redeemed as a child of God, influenced by his parents’ relationship with God. At BCEC, our congregations are blessed by God with many Christ-centered families. And I’ve seen the impact these Christian parents have not only on their own child, but also on their child’s non-Christian friends and parents.

Whether we’ve grown up in Christian families or not, raising children God’s way is challenging. As a rookie father, I continue to ask the Lord’s guidance and wisdom to be the best godly dad I can be. As a son, I treasure learning from the moments I spend with my father. As we now share a common experience of fatherhood, we talk often of my grandfather and his influence on my dad, and now me.

—ADAM YEN



Left: Preparing care packages at the Social Responsibility Conference; Right: Sacred Music Sunday