



From Our Senior Pastor:

Stopping the Stigma



by PASTOR STEVEN CHIN

Many of you may know of Pastor Rick Warren, who wrote the book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. A few years ago, his 27-year-old son, Matthew, committed suicide. Although it was a terrible tragedy, something good came out of it. Rick Warren used his son's suicide to surface the problem of mental illness. Mental illness is seen as a stigma in our society, and perhaps even more so in the Asian community. Even in the church, where people would want to go for help, it is seen as a source of shame.

Yet one study shows that every year, 25 percent of the U.S. adult population suffers from a diagnosable mental illness. Mental illness is a broad term for a variety of disorders in different categories, affecting thinking, feeling, behavior, mood, social interaction, and self-expression. That means there are many hurting people in our church, in our families, in our classrooms, and in our work places. The issues may vary — grief, worry, shame, depression, fear, or even more severe mental illnesses. Contrary to what most people think, most will not commit suicide or turn violent. However, there are hurting people that need our love and support.

Mental illness is especially a stigma in the Asian community. Although Asians make up only about 6 percent of the population in the U.S., they compose 10-30 percent of the best colleges. But rarely mentioned are the casualties in stress, depression, anxiety, and other mental disorders. Among women ages 15-24, Asian American females have the highest suicide rates across all racial/ethnic groups. Even among on the other end of the age spectrum, there are problems. Older Asian American women have the highest suicide rate of all women over age 65 in the U.S.

Few Asians want to admit their mental illness problems publicly. It is considered a stigma that Asian people want to keep covered up. So people do not get the help they need. Thus, Asian Americans have the lowest utilization for mental health services of all racial groups.

Even in the church, mental illness is considered a stigma. Many think mistakenly that people with mental illnesses are just not trusting in God enough, they are not reading their Bible enough, or they are under demonic attack.

The reality is that many people with a mental illness have a physical issue. When sin entered into the world, it affected not only our soul and spirit but our bodies as well. Our bodies do not work as God



intended. That is why we have physical illnesses like heart disease, kidney stones, or cancer. Our brain can also be affected. It may not function correctly because of chemical imbalance.

"It's amazing to me that any other organ in your body can break down and there's no shame and stigma to it," Rick Warren told his congregation. "But if your brain breaks down, you're supposed to keep it a secret.... If your brain doesn't work right, why should you be ashamed of that?"

The brain is our most complex organ. So treating merely the physical issue may not be enough. Counseling, a supportive community, prayer, and other means are usually needed to cure or control mental illness.

But, as a church, we need to stop the stigma, so that people will seek out the help they need without shame. Yes, we may initially feel uncomfortable or even afraid of those who are mentally ill. Yet we need to be the accepting and encouraging community that God has called us to be for these people that are often suffering alone in silence.

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY CARE RECEIVERS

"What a great pleasure to meet you!"
 "You're so considerate. I can sense the love of God."
 "Thank you for visiting me no matter how bad the weather is."
 "I'm so happy to chat with you."
 "You're just like an angel sent by God!"
 "You Christians are different from others. Your God is so good!"
 "Your company makes me feel comfortable and accepted."
 "You're my best friend!"
 "Hey, you're here. I'm so happy to see you!"
 "I'll walk you downstairs. I'll miss you!"
 "You treat me like a sister. I can sense Christ's love from our church!"
 "I really like you praying for me."

"You rushed here right after work. Have you eaten yet? Don't starve yourself!"
 "I'm very grateful to your caring. When I recover, I also want to become a coworker in the Stephen Ministry."
 "You're so late. I was praying for you ceaselessly, asking God to give you a safe journey."
 "Thank you. Now I know I should deliver my worries about the future to God."

We as Stephen Ministry coworkers are touched by your words of encouragement and appreciation. Although the work is tough, your words melt our hearts. We thank God sincerely for letting us experience His love together!

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*Nordic Missions Trip:***Trusting in God's Perfect Plan**

by MENA LAM,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

In early July, the Nordic Missions 2015 Team (Mike Auyeung, Charles Lai, Andy Schult, Ryan So, Annie Tran, Winnie Wang, and I) traveled to Sweden to support the Nordic Chinese Christian Church's (NCCC) weeklong conference, Summer Camp. We served at their Youth and Young Adults Camp. It was such a blessing to have the 2014 team come back, while adding 4 more teammates for this year's trip. We come from different places, experiences, and hopes for this trip. It was exciting to see how God will use us all in Sweden, but I was anxious about going back.

This is my second time going to Sweden. Last year, I had a very difficult time dealing with my insecurities and doubts. I spent a lot of time blaming myself for not "having a good time," not being a better small group leader, or a better teammate. I felt weak and a burden on my team; my thoughts

were consumed with my incompetence and inadequacies, and I questioned why God let me go in the first place. I told myself I never wanted to go back, but only was open if God presented me this opportunity again.

I felt God calling me back to places that were difficult in my life; in this case, it was Sweden. Despite my doubts, I reapplied to the Nordic Missions Trip. By God's grace I was on my way back to Sweden. As time got closer, I felt the doubt sink in. I questioned if I was even worthy enough to go again. Even so, I prayed to have a more fruitful experience, not necessarily a "better" one. My hope was to seek God in those times He calls us to difficult places, where we may fail or stumble, but to trust in Him to guide us and pick us back up. Although my doubts and fears still remained, I was relying more on God and trusting in His plan to use me in Sweden.

When we arrived, the Boston team was greeted with warm smiles and hugs. It didn't take long to reconnect with old friends. It was so refreshing and encouraging; I picked up where I had left off last year with my friends there. I grew confident in God's plan for me. I felt more comfortable with the locals, my teammates, and myself. We arrived a few days before Summer Camp began for their training week. This is the second year the local leaders

have led their own training week, which were previously led by Pastor Enoch. It's been amazing to see how they have taken ownership and modeled the trainings to fit their teaching style and church's need. It was humbling to see God raise up so many leaders and watch their earnest hearts soak in the teachings.

Summer Camp began soon after. We were thrown into a whirlwind of tough huddles, challenging small groups, and logistical problems. It was stressful and discouraging at times. However, God was working mightily through our doubts, stress, and discouragement! Tough huddles became deep and profound conversations, and the small groups' hearts softened and opened. It was amazing to witness how God helped us persevere, and through it all, He was glorified, as we saw many participants accept and recommit to Christ.

As Summer Camp came to an end, I was so grateful for the opportunity to come back to Sweden. I realized God was speaking to me so loud and clear about His love for me. I was refreshed and humbled, knowing God can use these experiences to remind me of how great His plans are and how vast His love stretches out. I don't have to be extraordinary or strong to be loved or accepted. God continues to meet me where I am and loves and accepts me just as I am.



1) Junior and Youth Camp; 2) BCEC Nordic Mission 2015 Team; 3) Group Leaders for Junior and Youth Camp; 4) Praying for Youth Camp leaders before Summer Camp

Dominican Republic Missions Trip:

Miracles Do Happen



by ISA CHEN,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

How did our team members describe their experience after the Dominican Republic Missions trip? “Excellent” is the word that I heard. It is not because of a great statistic we can boast of, but it is what God allows us to experience individually that statistics cannot describe. Miracles start when we decided to simply obey and let God do the rest.

We had a group of 33 people from 4 different cities: Boston, Baltimore, San Francisco, and Seattle. Half of the team members are 19 years or younger. Not only is this the biggest group our host organization received, but it is also a team where there are many kids.

Our youngest turned 4 years old during the trip. We were concerned that she would get sick during the trip. To our surprise, not only did God keep her from illnesses, she received a warm Dominican-style birthday party with three cakes, balloons, dancing, and a princess outfit.

Prayer walking was one of our highlighted activities. Ask our team members, and they would share with you the many stories of their experiences. We had 4 teams split into different communities to pray. One of the teams walked very far away into the town and still had to continue walking up a hill in hot weather. Our teammates showed great teamwork by taking turns carrying our 4-year-old girl. We were disappointed to visit only a few houses because of the time constraint, yet God allowed us to meet a dying 91-year-old man. We were told he was deaf and blind. But as soon as we started to pray he spoke up saying, “I know I am going to die in a few days, and I am at peace.” Immediately, we felt an urgency from the Holy Spirit to invite him to receive Jesus. The deaf man not only was able to suddenly hear, but also

repeated every word of the prayer to accept Jesus in his life. Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our Spanish was still lacking despite much practice prior to the trip, but that didn’t keep us from experiencing God. My husband, Tony, noticed some kids around the house while we made a stop to pray for a family. He was going to use his limited Spanish to greet these little kids and kneel down to their level. To his surprise, this little girl went over to hug him and clung on to him for over one minute. He described her expression as being like a daughter’s thirst for daddy’s love. Yes, we often find rejection when we evangelize in America, but there are people out there who really need Jesus Christ and His love. It is seemingly a simple action from this little girl, yet God used her to move our hearts to be bold in praying for strangers and spreading His good news.

The following is a summary of our activities in the Dominican Republic:

1. Dental Ministry

- In La Ciénega and Manabao, we saw 87 patients, sealing teeth and doing extractions. Each individual received a special prayer from us.

2. Evangelism / Ministry

- In La Ciénega and Manabao, about 85 children and 15 or more adults attended the VBS (Vacation Bible School). Most of the children responded by raising their hands to receive Christ.
- More than 100 people came for the open-air service on our last night in Manabao. One man responded to receive Christ.

3. Prayer Walking

- We prayer walked in 5 communities, visiting some seventy homes.
- At least 3 people prayed to receive Christ.

4. Physical Work

- Three of our men spent a half day helping to pour a cement floor in a home that only had a dirt floor for a very poor family.

We have been blessed by our church’s support and prayers. Please continue to pray for the many teenagers who need to know His truth and

to receive salvation in Christ. Gambling, alcohol/drug abuse, and teenage pregnancy are prevalent. In Los Dajaos, one of the communities we prayer walked at, has a high percentage of people who are HIV positive. May God bring forth His workers to love, counsel, and guide these youth in knowing our Lord Jesus Christ as their Father, best friend, and Savior.

“And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (Romans 10:15 – ESV)

Would you like to take part in God’s story?



*North East Asia Missions Trip:***Our Heavenly Father
Answers Prayers**

by PETER WONG,
NEWTON MANDARIN

There is a prayer from King Solomon that says, “then hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.” (1 Kings 8:45 - ESV) Our Heavenly Father is a living God, and He hears the prayer and plea of His children. This summer, when a team of 11 brothers and sisters from BCEC went to North East Country and worked together with local workers to serve children and teens in an English tutoring camp, we experienced how God heard our prayers. As a result, we overcame many challenges, as He made our trip successful and fruitful, like ripples of waves radiating across the families in the region we visited.

With support from the church, we visited an earthquake zone in a North East country. Although the catastrophic event happened seven years ago, it continues to impact the hearts of thousands of victims, especially the children who lost their parents and relatives in the tragedy. We had the opportunity to teach English and share our Lord’s love with some teens and children who suffered from the disaster. We experienced God’s power protecting our team and His grace overflowing throughout the two weeks. The joy and smiles from these students helped us know that our efforts were not in vain, especially in the Biblical sense. In addition, we witnessed six of them accept Jesus as their personal Savior, and we were told that three students were baptized about three weeks after the camp. To God be the glory!

Here are some of our reflections on this trip:

Quote from Stormy Leung – teacher for the 3rd to 5th graders in the camp

The trip to North East Asia really opened my eyes to God’s work in all different corners of this Earth. Even though we were the ones teaching English to children from elementary to high school grades, I learned even more from these children and the trip itself. Most of these children have experienced hardships that I would never be able to handle. I realized God has given them the strength to live out each day with His protection and presence. During the two weeks, one of the girls I was staying with, who had never heard of Christ before, accepted Christ. This good news greatly moved my heart. I witnessed God working around me and showing His never-ending goodness in our world, especially the area where we served. Although I was tired at the end of each day during the two weeks, the Lord had given me such a

wonderful opportunity to witness His work; I could not have asked for anything more. I not only learned more about the people there, but also about the Lord and myself through this ministry.

Quote from Angel Zhao – teacher for the 7th & 9th-graders in the camp

Although I have visited North East Asia a few times now, each experience has been eye-opening in its own way. I was able to see God’s work in various ways through the children, teens, local believers, and my team members especially. It was amazing to see how God put together our team to fit the English camp’s needs, as everyone had different talents to contribute. I am so thankful God gave me the opportunity to show his love and comfort to these children and teens. Many of them have gone through traumatizing experiences or have experienced familial problems, but they were full of joy and energy, and most of the time eager to learn. This is because even though God brings grief, He will show compassion and unfailing love, as stated in Psalm 30:2. There were many challenges along the way, such as sickness, miscommunication, and the language barrier, but my faith in God’s power was strengthened when I saw prayer request after prayer request being answered. We were also blessed to have loving and caring local believers who provided for our needs, and they definitely contributed to the success of the camp. Lastly, God especially opened my eyes to let me understand that I shouldn’t be so focused on teaching English, but should rather build strong relationships with the students and enjoy my time together with them. Overall, I had a fantastic and enjoyable experience!

Quote from Meihua Li – teacher for the 10th & 11th-graders in the camp

I am so glad I went on this trip, as I learned so much through serving with other North East Asia team members. I still remember on the first day of the trip, when we were asked about what expectations we had for this trip. I answered no expectations because I believed God would work among us in magical ways. Of course, God is beyond what we can imagine. He let us experience his abundance as we relied on him to teach the kids and work with their families. In the past, I did not like kids at all, but God really changed me over the two weeks. He gave me the opportunity to interact with kids through teaching and translating. Also, through this trip, I got to see how the local believers wholeheartedly served God, which I found to be different than the believers in the US. One time, when a sister found out I was sick, she offered to wash my feet! Right at that moment, I thought of Jesus washing His disciples’ feet. Thanks be to God and the sister. For me, this trip really was not about what impact we could make at that local area, but really about what God would do among us.

Quote from Caitlyn Fong – teacher for the 3rd to 5th, 10th & 11th-graders in the camp

One thing that really stood out to me was how the local believers are so dedicated and devoted to God and His kingdom. Even though they only meet in a small living room with just a keyboard and hymnal books, they worship Him with such passion and enthusiasm. I was reminded that we can worship God anywhere and anytime because we don’t need anything fancy to worship Him, we only need Christ.

Quote from Ethan Fong – teacher for the 5th to 9th-graders in the camp

Last year, I served on the Mexico youth short-term missions team, and I wanted to go to Mexico again this year to see those kids instead of going on this trip. But God knew better. He had already prepared me through five years of Mandarin at school, and He knew I would be able to talk to and have fun with the kids using their language (unlike Mexico where I didn’t speak Spanish). And He also knew I’d have lots of fun working with and hanging out with the other teens and adults on this team, most of whom I’d never met before, although we go to BCEC. God knew better than I did what was best for me.

Quote from Helena Fong – teacher for the 3rd to 5th-graders in the camp

“Your greatest ability is your availability.” This is something God reminded me over and over again throughout the trip. It’s not how well I spoke the language (which I couldn’t) or how well that I taught (as teaching is not one of my gifts), but simply because I was available to be there for the children and their parents/grandparents. The children needed someone to affirm them that they are loved and valued in God’s sight. I am thankful that God gave me the opportunity to be His hands and feet to touch the little ones. I was able to talk and listen to them, to wipe off their tears, to give them big hugs and to remind them that our loving Jesus is there when they feel alone or afraid.

I am also grateful for the time to interact with the parents and grandparents, both one-on-one and through the parenting seminar. Quite a few of the children in our camp are being raised by grandparents. Because of jobs, some parents only come home once a week and some even once a year. The “parents” I talked to were very open in sharing about their children and their own struggles in parenting. They found the parenting seminar (by Peter Wong) very helpful and were very encouraged by the impact of our ministry on their children.

It was an awesome trip indeed! I am so glad that I obeyed and went. May God be glorified in all we have done in His name!

Quote from Kevin Fong – teacher for the 10th & 11th-graders in the camp

During this ministry, I experienced God's faithfulness in answering prayer. Before the trip, about 50 people/families had pledged to pray for our family and the rest of the team. Beginning the day before our ministry started, I sent out four letters, about 4 or 5 days apart, each one asking people to pray that God would do five or six things for us; for example, provide security, more high school students, or opportunities to share about Him in word.

God didn't always answer the next day or exactly in the way I wanted, and sometimes things seemed to have gotten arguably worse instead of better, but in time, I'd find that God did answer – there was enough security, more high school students, more opportunities to share about Him in word. So as I wrote each successive letter, I found myself writing about how God graciously answered the requests we all prayed for. It was clear God was with us, and that we could trust Him and rest in Him while we served. Seeing God work in and around us brought me much joy and strength!

Quote from Limin Zheng – teacher for the 3rd to 5th-graders in the camp

This mission trip really changed the relationship between God and me. I used to think that I couldn't be a good servant or helper for His kingdom. I used to think my past experiences didn't grant me any good abilities to participate in the plan of His glorious kingdom. However, during this trip, God really showed me that He is almighty and He is not limited by my thoughts. I found that I could truly relate to the children in the camp, understanding their loneliness and their longing for love and care, since I also was brought up by my grandparents. Therefore, I knew how to make connections with the kids and take good care of them. In addition, English is not my first language, so my English is probably the worst on the team. Nonetheless, God helped me to teach English without any problems, and granted me wisdom to translate for many meetings, sharings, and sermons. At the end, I thank God for the opportunities to serve Him in this trip, and also, I thank God for this wonderful team. A lot of times I felt that I couldn't do things right, but encouragement from the team really

helped me go through these difficult times. They were so encouraging to me.

Quote from Joanna Wong – teacher for the 5th to 9th-graders in the camp

After leaving North East Asia last year, I was eager to go back. Similarly, this year, I greatly miss the children, the brothers and the sisters from the area and wish to visit them again sooner. During this trip, I was stunned as I learned of the traumatic experiences in the kids' lives, and found that some of the kids have never felt loved. Some have also never heard of Christ. I was glad to be chosen by God to serve Him by bringing love and support to the kids so that they can feel the love of God, for I enjoy doing that. The excitement I get when I hear that some kids have accepted Christ is unexplainable. God's plans are always incredible and amazing to me.

Will you consider stepping out of your comfort zone, so you can experience how God's grace is sufficient for you, and how His power is made perfect in your weakness? Please join next year for our short-term missions trip!



Reflection of Summer Internship: The Fragrance of a Minister



by FRANK MA,
CHINATOWN MANDARIN

There is a song that I newly learned from BCEC this summer. It goes like this: “Please give me a humble heart, and a teachable spirit, that I may walk in your will, just like Jesus’ life.” The lyric captured the heart of my internship experience at BCEC over the summer. I am a third-year seminary student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, with a heart to become a minister in the future. One year ago, I met Pastor Andy Su at a Chinese seminary student conference at my seminary. We kept in touch since then. This July God brought me to BCEC to be Pastor Andy’s intern for one summer. The time passed quickly. Looking back, the internship can best be described as a marine boot camp. Before coming to the internship, I thought in my heart I have God’s Word, so I should be fully equipped. I thought it is sufficient to face any situation, because God’s Word will guide me on the right path. This sounds biblical, but this summer’s internship taught me that my thoughts before are actually quite arrogant and also naive. I was like the Pharisees in the New Testament, thinking that possessing the Law of the Lord makes them holy. God’s Word is indeed all sufficient, however, human beings are not. We are limited, incomplete, and I am very much no exception. God taught me through this internship and through the pastors, co-workers, and brothers and sisters that preaching the gospel is not done just with words, but all the more with a person’s life. The making of a minister is the fragrance of a minister — it is not spoken by words, but it is the discernible fragrance of Christ.

What exactly is the fragrance of a minister? First, he thinks more for others, and less for himself. This summer I realized that in many areas of interacting with people and handling business, I habitually thought about my own interests first. I say on my mouth, “To have the same attitude as Christ,” but my heart’s first inclination is to do

everything in the best interest of myself. However, the fragrance of a minister is that he first thinks for others because he clearly knows God’s infinite and faithful provision for his life. Thus, even if it looks like he is giving all the benefits to others, in fact God has already secured his inheritance. God himself is his assurance that every plan of God in his life will be fulfilled. As a result, he has the “bank reserve” to be generous unto others. This can be reflected in all the details of his teamwork, conversations, encouragement, mentorship, and interpersonal relationships. The minister’s fragrance is the joyful willingness to think of others first and to understand to serve others as God’s servant.

In addition, the fragrance of a minister is a broad heart. Through the internship, I realized that I would still like to use my own preferences to look at things. God’s church is His broad kingdom, and His salvation is free for all who believe the gospel. Thus, God’s church is always a multi-cultural place. Every ministry team has a different style of working. When I first came to BCEC, without any consideration, I would openly express my opinions, using my work style. Without surprise, I quickly ran into conflicts with my teammates. In matters of work style, there is really no right or wrong way to do something, however, they do reflect a person’s mindset. A minister’s fragrance is that in everything he does, his goal is not to realize his own will, but to realize His Father’s will. Our Father’s will is to mold in His children a humble heart and a teachable spirit. Therefore, a minister no longer insists on his own preferences. Whatever way His Lord wills him to spread the gospel, he will cooperate. He is happy to cooperate with his ministry team because God Word is being spread, and our Father’s will is being done on earth. A minister’s joy is not established based on his preference, but it is His Lord’s will. This is the attitude of Christ; it is a broad heart.

Furthermore, a minister’s fragrance is a healthy self-image. When he is given constructive feedback, he knows clearly that the criticism is not personal, and it cannot change his self-worth. When a person bases his self-image on others’ opinions of him, he cannot humbly accept other people’s criticism. When criticized, he would become defensive, or would avoid interacting with the other person. He acts this way because his self-image is hurt

and his self-worth is damaged. This reaction may be understandable, but it is not fitting for a minister called by God. A minister’s fragrance is that he clearly knows the high dignity of God’s grace and blessing in his life. His worth is set upon the infinite price God paid on the cross, upon Christ laying down his life for him. In this manner, under criticism, he can reply, “Is it so? I have not thought about this. Thank you for your feedback. I will think again of my way.” When his feelings are hurt, he can also jokingly say, “Please also help me and use tender words, because I am also a human being, and my heart can be hurt by harsh words.”

These are some of the things I learned this summer: a minister’s fragrance. I will conclude with what one BCEC pastor once said to me: “The making of a minister, that is an art. It is like the making of a marine. In boot camp, he is under many strenuous tests, requiring him to push his body to break through his limits.” At the same time the training sergeant sternly yelling at him, “Look at you! You can never be a marine. You better quit!” If after this the novice marine indeed quits, then the sergeant has done his job — he has eliminated someone who is not fit for being a marine. However, if the novice marine does not quit, but instead works even harder, then all the training will start to build him into a real marine. The making of a minister is similar. After the all the trials and disciplining, if he still does not quit, then he will finally be molded by God into a person useable by God. At that time, even before he opens his mouth to preach, simply standing before the podium, people can sense the power of the gospel in his life, the discernible fragrance of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the opportunity God gave me to intern at BCEC. He gave me many role models of faith to train me, and transform me into a person useable by him. I think whether minister or not, God has a wonderful calling for each person’s life. Accordingly, He also has prepared a “boot camp” in each person’s life. Regardless of the challenges, may God’s good and perfect will thus be done in me and each of our lives, making us into people after His own heart.

Editor’s Note: Frank Ma was Pastor Andy Su’s intern for the Chinatown Campus Mandarin Congregation during this past summer.



New Community (Newton English) Congregation: 1) BBQ Outing at Newton Auburndale Park (8/8); 2) Father’s Day Celebration (6/21)

NEXT STEP

by ANALISA WONG



My name is Analisa, and I am a missionary kid.

But in fact, it sounds odd for me to say that because as a kid, I hadn't even considered myself a "missionary kid." My parents never used the label "missionaries" because the North African country where I was born and lived in for nearly fifteen years doesn't openly receive missionaries.

It was only when we'd return to the U.S. every two to three years for summer furlough that I was reminded of this label. Being introduced at times as no more than "the missionary kid" can feel unexceptional, as if I'm only there to be the face of the "real" missionaries' child.

After graduating high school last year, I took the road less travelled, taking a transitional gap year in Southeast Asia, where my family has been for the last three years. Leaving "the nest" was step one in setting out on the journey to discovering who I am as an individual, in Christ, not the shadow of anyone else.

In some ways, my decision to do a gap year was easy; in other ways, it was more difficult. All in all, I'm glad I did it. Of course, I had certain expectations for what I would accomplish within my gap year. But as always, things worked out differently than what I had planned, yet all according to God's plan. I lived at a local dorm of girls at risk of being trafficked, had a weekly babysitting job, met with a college graduate, my accountability partner, every Monday, went on trips with my parents, and did plenty of other things... I ended up having ten full months of surprises and challenges! (You can read about them on my blog at innofsixthhappiness.weebly.com)

As for this upcoming school year, I'll be staying in California to attend Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry. Did I just say *ministry* school, not college or university? That's right! Often people's reaction is just that — one of astonishment or puzzlement. Well, hasn't my life thus far been one of an unusual route anyway?

As an introvert, I tend to "go with the flow" when it comes to making simple choices, such as what to do or where to hang out, usually deflecting first pick from myself with "whatever you like." However, with plans for my future, I'm learning that I must shift my natural tendency from what I think others expect me to do — attending college right away — to going with the flow of the Holy Spirit. The first question I should be asking myself is: What is *His* will for my life?

For as long as I can remember, I've felt my Heavenly Father pressing me with the vision of His heart to see Muslims transformed by His love. I believe going to Bethel will be a big step in understanding God and myself deeper, while getting hands on training to minister to my Muslim brothers and sisters. I expect great things from God as I adapt to the lifestyle of a revivalist in areas of prayer, healing, prophecy, and more.

I didn't choose to be born to missionary parents, but I choose now to continue doing God's work in the mission field. I share their vision to see more Muslims join the Kingdom of God not because it was assumed of me, but because I was *inspired* by them.

"Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6 — AMP)

Editor's Note: Analisa is the daughter of BCEC missionaries, Cary and Lil Wong.



Boston Local Short-Term Missions (8/17-22)



2015 Cantonese Joint Retreat (6/27-28)



Newton Cantonese Congregation: Summer Picnic (8/15)





Newton Vacation Bible School (7/13-17)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 15 PDAS (PROJECT DESTINY AUTUMN TO SPRING) BEGINS
- 18 BCEC AWANA BEGINS
CHINESE
- 24 3RD STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING BEGINS
- 25-27 ENGLISH FALL CONFERENCE
CHINATOWN
- 27 CANTONESE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY
CHINATOWN

OCTOBER

- 17 THE MARRIAGE THING
CHINATOWN ENGLISH
- 18 JOINT WORSHIP
NEWTON
- 18 PDAS FAMILY NIGHT
- 25 ANNUAL MEETING
- TBA CHURCH CLEAN UP
NEWTON

NOVEMBER

- 1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
ONE HOUR BACK
- 13-15 MISSIONS CONFERENCE
- 26 THANKSGIVING DAY
OFFICE CLOSED
- 28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
NO CEC CLASSES
- 29 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
- 29 CHILD DEDICATION
CHINESE
- TBA CHURCH CLEAN UP
CHINATOWN

DECEMBER

- 6 BAPTISM
- 6 CHINESE SUNDAY SCHOOL
WINTER SESSION BEGINS
- 12 COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS
FALL SEMESTER ENDS
- 12 NEWTON CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 20 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY
- 20 CHINATOWN CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 24-JAN 1 PDAS BREAK
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
- 25 CHRISTMAS
OFFICE CLOSED



Chinatown Vacation Bible School (8/17-21)

BCEC Connections is a quarterly publication of Boston Chinese Evangelical Church. We would love to hear from you!

If you would like to help with this publication (writing, translation, or editing), please contact Helena Fong at helena.fong@bcec.net.

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

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Chinatown August Moon Festival (8/9)