



From Our Senior Pastor:

Blessed to be a Blessing Beyond this Life



by PASTOR STEVEN CHIN

As I have been getting older and thinking about retirement, I am reminded that I will not live on this earth forever. As a Christian, I certainly know that. That is one of the reason I have trusted in Christ for eternal life beyond this earthly life. But I know people, especially those of us who are Chinese, do not want to think or talk about death. Somehow many Chinese people think that if they do not talk about death, then it will not happen.

But, as Christians, we should be the people who should be least afraid to talk about death. We have planned for our life in heaven after we die by trusting in Christ. But have we planned for the lasting impact we can make even after we go to heaven?

Consider what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:20 (ESV):

“Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Like Paul, our goal is to magnify or exalt Christ, not only in life, but also in death. One way we can magnify Christ, even in death, is how we direct our possessions after we die.

Many of us have accumulated a lot of wealth and possessions in the course of our lifetime. Many of us have been raised to be savers. That can be bad and good. The bad is having too many things in our houses. My children are constantly telling me to get rid of a lot of things I have accumulated over the years.

The good is that many of us have accumulated a lot of assets or wealth. We may not think we are wealthy. But for many of us, we have saved a lot of money. We spend our money wisely. We are thrifty in our lifestyle. We may have wisely invested in buying a house or in other investments. With our immigrant background, we have maintained a lot of reserves, just in case. I understand this may not be true for all. Some of us may struggle to make ends meet. But there are also many of us, who have been blessed financially and have been good stewards with what the Lord has given us.

When we die, all those assets all stay here. We cannot take it with us. The Bible reminds us in 1 Timothy 6:7 (ESV):

“for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.”

Where will all those financial resources go when we die? For most, it will go to their children or grandchildren. If we do not plan and prepare, the government will direct where it will go, and may take a large portion for taxes.

I think we all love our children and want to help them. But do they need our financial help still? Many of our children have gone to college and have a healthy income. They really don't need our money. Giving them even more money can hinder their trust in God or hinder how to be better stewards. If we are single, we have no children to pass our wealth on to. Where should we direct what God has blessed us with after we die?

As my wife and I reflected on this and talked about it, we decided to bless Christ by giving a significant portion of our assets to the church and other Christian ministries when we both go to heaven. Obviously, we will not need the money for retirement any longer. Nor can we take any of it with us when we die.

Giving to the Lord's work shows our appreciation to the Lord, who has blessed us with salvation and so much more. It will allow us to be a blessing beyond this life. It will help the work of the Gospel go forward. It will help the next generation of the church. It is also a way to save up treasure in heaven. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-20 (ESV):

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Many non-Christians have directed much of their estates to colleges, hospitals, or other causes like protecting animals and political causes. As Christians, we should think about how we can be good stewards of all that God has given us to glorify His name. All that we have belongs to Him. We should think of how we can help fulfill the Great Commission of making disciples even after death.

There are many places we can give to. BCEC will have many financial needs and challenges in the future. We can give to our general, expansion, missions, or charity funds. We can give

to seminaries preparing people for ministry. We can give to missions organizations or other Christian ministries.

You may ask how much should we give. Tithing or giving 10% is a good place to start. If we own a home, it has accumulated in value over the years. We should consider giving at least a tithe of that unearned income. If you still want to give to your children, you could consider the church as one of your children. If we have two children, consider the church as one of your children and give to the church a third of your assets. Of course, if you can, you can give most or all of what you will leave behind. Barnabas gave the proceeds of land he owned in Acts 4:36-37. Under current tax laws, giving appreciated assets like real estate before selling them has certain tax advantages allowing you to give even more.

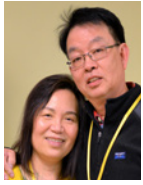
You can begin by praying for the Holy Spirit's leading and having discussions about planned giving with your spouse and your children. You can do research. A good web site to start is www.barnabasfoundation.com. You should consult a financial professional such as a lawyer or tax planner, since the laws regarding wills and trusts are complicated. But it is worth paying the fees to get help and the best advice. If you need a referral, the pastoral staff can help.

The bottom line is all that we have belongs to God, as it all came from Him. We will leave it all behind when we die. If we want to exalt Christ even in death, we can plan now to give where it will make the most impact for God's Kingdom. As we have been blessed by the Lord, we can be a blessing on this earth even when we are in heaven. I pray that each of our members will consider this important way to be a blessing beyond this life.

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Marriage Enrichment Retreat



by SONIA LUN,
NEWTON CANTONESE

We use the term “magic touch” to describe how a physician heals the sick or even brings the dying back to life, but it is also a comment that I heard after joining the Marriage Enrichment Retreat. This is an event organized by Chinese Family for Christ International (www.cffcusa.org) and co-sponsored by Boston Chinese Evangelical Church. Different places all around the world have the same retreat conducted in different languages, and many families have benefited from this opportunity. During the sixth year that this Cantonese retreat was held locally, the three-day, two-evening event was also open to couples from other churches and non-Christian couples to participate. The location was in New Hampshire, which was not too far away, allowing us to put aside our daily worries and focus on enjoying the weekend. At the end of the retreat, many couples did not want to leave and wished to stay longer!

In the past, several bothers and sisters who had participated in this retreat recommended it to my husband, Chris, and me, telling us that the retreat “heals those who are unhealthy and strengthens

those who are healthy,” which means that the event is not exclusive for couples with marriage problems. Nevertheless, we had all sorts of excuses to decline the invitations. We thank God and those who had been praying for us, because Chris agreed to go by faith when Pastor Barry Lam invited us this year. Afterwards, Chris admitted to me that when he said yes, he was not really sure whether he could take time off from work to participate.

God had His wonderful providence and arrangement because we ended up going. We thank God for providing so many compassionate couples who volunteered to lead at the retreat and for Pastor Barry who devoted his precious time. There were a lot of careful preparations behind the scenes that made us feel at home. Two couples from Chinese Family for Christ came all the way from California to lead at this year’s retreat. Their selfless dedication provided us an unforgettable weekend. Under their guidance, we learned various methods and techniques to build a satisfying marriage. We also learned the blueprint that God has given us: one man and one woman, one husband and one wife, one life together until death do us part. We are to live out the great plan that God has given us to be blessed by Him, so that our whole family and our children may also be blessed as a result. We firmly believe that marriage is not the tomb of love, but rather the transcendence of love.

The materials presented at the retreat were comprehensive and practical, leading to heartfelt com-

munication. We also enjoyed those lighthearted moments and those touching moments. The more you were willing to participate, the more you would learn at the retreat. A satisfying marriage is something that we all yearn for. As each couple learns to apply these useful methods and works together as one in humility and with intentional effort, we also learn to rely on God and live a God-centered life. May we all live out the true meaning of love to glorify Him. After all, love is something that we have put into practice.

I encourage you to seize the opportunity to join the seventh annual Marriage Enrichment Retreat next year. You do not want to miss this annual event, so that you may also learn the secrets to a satisfying marriage, a blessed family, and blessings that can be passed on to future generations.



Reflections on Daniel Fellowship's Mini-Camp

by CAROLYN KWAN,
NEWTON CANTONESE

At the closing of the Daniel Fellowship's mini-camp, I felt thankful when I saw my fellow brothers and sisters holding colorful balloons in their hands and feeling great, grinning from ear to ear. Their participation and involvement, as well as your prayers contributed to the success of the mini-camp. Praise God for the preparation, so that we could learn, share, and encourage each other. We also took the opportunity to stay quiet before God, ease our burdens, and confess to Him. Not only did we have a wonderful time playing games, but we also had touching moments with tears when our souls were filled with the Holy Spirit.

I could not recall how I had the courage to organize a mini-camp for our fellowship members. Daniel Fellowship did not have a tradition to organize an annual camp. However, I wanted to organize one this year (perhaps this was what the Holy Spirit told me) when preparing the one-year plan for Daniel Fellowship. This was in hopes that our Fellowship members could get to know each other more through the camp, and so that the Committee of the Fellowship could better prepare for future plans. Due to lack of manpower and a time constraint, the fellowship committee was hesitant in organizing a camp. In addition, we did not have much confidence about whether our members would join or not. However, our God was kind to us and let us experience His grace, truth, and faithfulness, allowing us to learn how to trust in Him throughout the whole planning process.

We only had three months to organize the camp. Even though there was a time and resource constraint, committee members and Pastor Barry turned those efforts and difficulties into bless-



ings. We recently studied Ephesians 4:16 (NIV), "... joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Despite the different gifts and personalities our committee members possessed, our Father combined our talents to work together and made great things happen. Praise God for giving us the chance to participate in His work; we were blessed before we served.

I still remember that there was a minimum requirement of 25 people for booking the campsite. At the time, there were just 25 people who replied and were willing to join, so we made the decision to go ahead. However, after booking was confirmed, one of the group leaders informed me their group only had two people joining the camp. Hearing this news, I became worried, disappointed, and felt rushed to find more members willing to attend the camp. What was even worse: more and more people told me they could not make it, as time drew closer to the date of the camp. My worry increased, and I feared we would not have enough people to join. Besides inviting members to attend, the only thing we could do at the time was to pray. However, the work of the Holy Spirit was incredible! We had 36 people joining the camp eventually, including those who refused to join at the beginning and changed their mind at the last minute. What He provided us was more than we had asked for; this really encouraged us a lot. It was

exciting to see God working mightily behind the scenes.

The theme of the camp was spiritual gifts and serving. One of the sessions in camp allowed fellowship members to get to know their spiritual gifts by filling out a questionnaire; proving and sharing our thoughts about each other's spiritual gifts wound up as the highlight of the camp. During the camp, fellowship members deepened their understanding with each other. It was touching to see our brothers and sisters blessed with different kinds of gifts — compassion, leadership, dedication to serving, teaching, and evangelizing the gospel. These gifts were not given to one particular person, but rather to the whole group. Together, our brothers and sisters possessed an abundance of spiritual gifts. What a blessed community! We can see how God loves us! If we are willing to work with each other, God will use us to accomplish big things and bless more people. I agreed with some fellow sisters in the camp, saying they had heard quite a lot of messages about spiritual gifts and serving recently. Whether it was in a gathering, sermon, or Bible study, God repeatedly sent us the same message. Is that what God wanted to remind us about? Communicating with God on your own is a beautiful thing, but experiencing God as a whole community is even more wonderful. I am curious and looking forward to how God will lead Daniel Fellowship going forward.



A Spiritual Revival in Lebanon



by PETER WONG,
NEWTON MANDARIN

In March of this year, Heavenly Father gave me a chance to visit Lebanon together with a few other pastors. Four of us together with the tour guide, who is also a brother in Christ, embarked on a journey from the capital, Beirut, to the city, Beca, which is at the border with the war-torn Syria, to visit the refugees there. On the journey, I witnessed the beauty of Lebanon that is beyond imagination. On the high mountain, I could see the beautiful Mediterranean Sea and Mount Hermon covered with white snow. "It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!" (Psalm 133:3 - ESV)

As I was talking with the local people, I then realized Lebanon is indeed a blessed country. It is the friendliest country to Christians in the Middle East. There is about 35% Christians (only God would know the number of born-again Christians). Christians are permitted to do street evangelism and post Christian posters. Furthermore, it is the only Middle Eastern country that allows Muslims' conversion to Christianity. Lebanon is also a country which bears all things in love, all things including even hatred. Syrian army once occupied Lebanon and caused war and conflict. But now when the Syrian refugees seek their help, Lebanon being a country of four million have accepted two million refugees! I give thanks to God for the willingness of the government and people to accept others in need and pray that our Father in Heaven blesses the land and people with peace and joy. In addition, the agriculture in Lebanon is in abundance, and each town is filled with delicious fruits.

On the first day upon arrival, we came to a local church and listened to the pastor's sharing on how God moved His hand and touched many people



Hermon Mountain and the Lebanon Bekaa Valley

even before the refugee issue occurred to prepare the church so that it could readily accept and care for the refugees. This is a church filled with God's grace in that through its social services, schools, and clinics, the church supports 3,100 refugees who have been displaced by wars. Each refugee family has about seven members (because Muslims have a high birth rate, and families with five children or more are common). The church daily cares for about 20,000 people who are in need. The church ministry coworkers gather every day in the community center, first pray, and then take up their works for medical care, transporting food and resources, visiting refugees, and leading discipleship small groups. All are in one heart to finish what God set forth as the ministries of loving care and sharing the gospel, which is a picture that touches many hearts! Oh God! We ask you to give strength to the local churches so that they may shine out light and give off heat, comfort the hearts of the needy and suffering, provide the hungry with food, and show your love to each one of the refugees!

On the second day, we visited different refugee camps. Each visited family has a story of rescue from death. They left their homes because of wars and brought the young and old in the walk of hundreds of miles. They spent all their money in the hands of traffickers, and some even hurt their feet in order

to reach the land of freedom. When they arrived in safety, they suddenly need help to sustain their daily life. While facing an uncertain future, their only help is from church.

As Joseph said in Genesis 50:20 (ESV), "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." Through the body of Christ, God reveals His mercy and love by accepting and supporting the needs of the refugees. Jesus Christ also reveals Himself as the Lord and Savior to the refugees in dreams and visions. Tens of thousands Muslims have become Christians through these personal experiences. One of the local pastors told about a nearly tenfold increase in the church, and it is now home to 1,200 people, who are mostly converted to Christianity from Islam. Alleluia! Our God is great! This is like the spiritual revival of the early church. My heart is filled with thanksgiving and praise!

On the last day of the journey, a pastor's wife asked us to pray for them after she shared about God's ministry there. At that time, I was touched in my heart to ask them to pray for us the Northern American churches because we have been blinded to see the suffering of the refugees while we are submerged in our riches. To the point, we may not even allow ourselves to hear their cries of pain and not pay attention to God's opening of door to His gospel in front of



1) Church in Lebanon — God prepared them to show hospitality to the refugees 2) Prayers for God's blessings to the Syrian refugees and their families

us. As a result, we choose to remain in comfort and only care about ourselves and our churches' needs. Oh God, please help us to see. Help us to take part in the caring and rescue ministries among the refugees in Lebanon. May we be blessed as the channel by which Muslims become believers in Christ. Let us pray that we can participate in the work of God's Spirit, harvesting side by side with the local brothers and sisters in the fullest of joy!

"Our Father in Heaven! I praise you! You are God Almighty who performs amazing things!

Lord Jesus Christ! I thank you! You open the door for Muslims to believe in you in Lebanon!

Holy Spirit! I worship you! You open the eyes in our hearts to see your amazing works!

Let us pray that God would give peace again to Syria, allow refugees to safely return to their

homeland, believe firmly that Jesus Christ as their Lord, and become the missional army who brings the gospel to the Islamic world! Let us pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."



1) Refugees children's school in a Lebanon church



2) Refugees and their kids waiting for medical treatment in a community center

Building a Lively and Healthy Church Body through Diversity



by PASANG DROLMA,
NEWTON MANDARIN

Time really flies. The cold winter days have left Boston, and the spring teeming with life has arrived. Praise the Lord for His creation of seasons, allowing us to experience diverse sceneries. This is especially true during the spring time, when all lives, animals and plants, are revived. People are also excited to go sightseeing, picnic, gardening, biking, and jogging, just to name a few life-enriching activities. With these activities, we hope to become healthy, joyful, blessed, and meaningful. With regards to the church, the desire to become like the spring sceneries showing energy and life is also shared among the body of Christ.

After being a deacon, I begin to understand the responsibility and diligence shared among the church leaders, such as the pastoral staff, elders, and deacons. They spend their time and passions in church development and spiritual growth of brothers and sisters. During each three-hour long deacons' meeting, I would feel touched and thankful, but I would feel ashamed as well. The reason is that I saw other deacons serve with their whole heart and strength despite their own family responsibilities and congregational needs. There are many discussion topics that are addressed during a deacons' meeting, including administration, resources, finance, expansion, facility maintenance and renewal, rental, and churchwide activities. Praise God that BCEC is blessed with a group of deacons who are talented, loving, responsible, and humble, and they are able to manage the church needs and make decisions. I have learned about

church management from other deacons; one needs to be sincere and serious in seeking God's wisdom, but this is not limited to earthly knowledge and experience when dealing with church issues and policies. Most importantly, they set good examples for me in their loyalty, humility, and unity.

Moreover, I am thankful to God that BCEC's leaders have spiritual visions and goals, as they lead the church and its congregants. Our 2018 church theme is "Following Jesus Together: Celebrating our Unity in Diversity." In an effort to live out this theme, church leaders organize a number of churchwide events, such as a ping pong tournament, a summer picnic, and a retreat for the Chinese congregations. These activities supplement this year's theme, which runs through sermons and other church ministries. The Board of Deacons hope to promote church unity among seven congregations through these activities, building harmonious relationships in Christ and a God-pleasing church body that stands united with its many parts.

In a church that is multilingual and multi-congregational, the effort to promote unity is a daunting challenge, especially if the vision and goal are casted only among the church leaders. Therefore, the vision and goal of the church ought not to belong only to pastoral staff and spiritual leaders. The church congregants need to share the vision and goal as well. "Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint." (Proverbs 29:18 - ESV) The vision of the church needs each member of the body to participate in order to be complete. This is a mission and a responsibility. In the church, we are all members of body of Christ. As stated in scripture, "For the body does not consist of one member but of many." (1 Corinthians 12:14 - ESV) "But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body." (1 Corinthians 12:18-20 - ESV) God's wisdom is amazing!

The Apostle Paul uses our body and its members to demonstrate the importance of unity in diversity in that each member is indispensable. Therefore, we must each contribute to build up BCEC, reflecting the body of Christ. Our efforts and offerings in Christ will not be in vain.

God gives us diverse languages, professional skills, spiritual gifts, and personalities for the purpose of complementing each other in a way that we contribute to build the body of Christ, which is the church. As a result, each one of us is a key ingredient in the recipe for a healthy church that is united in diversity. Our diversity and uniqueness ought to be a blessing in building such a church. It is a rich expression of the body of Christ and a beautiful testimony for unity and diversity in Christ. Therefore, we need to break through the language and cultural barriers and overcome the obstacles that prevent ministry expansion. In other words, we need to transform them into opportunities and blessings. In Christ, we can learn to accept, love, understand, and listen to one another. In addition, we need to be motivated to change and do new things, expressing our unique gifts and shattering our own self-ego. For the sake of the church's unity and diversity, we offer up our talents and contribute to furthering God's Kingdom.

There is an ancient Chinese saying, "The young calf fears no tiger." As a new deacon in communication, I call out with courage in hope that the seven congregations are empowered to actively support and joyfully join the various churchwide activities and ministries. We need to care about the things concerning the spiritual family and cultivate our church to be revived like the awakened life in spring. Finally, I hope to encourage and bless one another with the word of God, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13 - ESV)

BCEC Summer Picnic



by DAVID CHENG,
CHINATOWN MANDARIN

We often hear these numbers about BCEC: 7 congregations, in 3 languages, at 2 campuses. No doubt we are a diverse community coming from all different languages, cultures, experiences, life stages, and backgrounds. Despite our differences, we are different parts of one body in which we are called to be like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind (Philippians 2:2). This is made possible through our unity with Christ, having received from Him love, fellowship, tenderness, and compassion. It is an awesome gift of God that we can experience a genuine unity in which we can worship, fellowship, and work together, even amidst our diversity.

On a churchwide level, it can be difficult to find many opportunities to interact with brothers and sisters from other parts of the church. Typically in a year, there are services for Easter and Christmas, baptisms, and the Annual Meeting that draw people together from across different congregations. However, attendance can sometimes be sparse. Without other occasions to come together to worship, work, and play, we may miss out on seeing the greater unity we have in Christ. Some recent events offered at BCEC bringing different congregations together have included the Christmas Ad-

25 SUMMERS OF PROJECT DESTINY

We are celebrating 25 summers of Project Destiny with a reunion on August 10-12, 2018.

Over the years, there have been changes to the camp programming and staff structure, but the mission and focus of PD has remained the same — to glorify God by serving the Chinatown community, bringing campers to know more about Christ, and offering life-changing urban ministry experience to its staff.

Whether you have been a camper, counselor, supporter, or friend of PD, please celebrate God's faithfulness with us!

* Fri., 8/10/18

- 7:30-9:00 p.m. - Charting Night at 249 Harrison Ave. (worship, skit, message, refreshments)

* Sat., 8/11/18

- 2:00-4:00 p.m. - Activities at 120 Shawmut Ave.
- 3:30-5:00 p.m. - Group game at a field, weather permitting
- 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Dinner
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. - Program with sharing

* Sun., 8/12/18

- 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Staff alumni luncheon at Tufts Dental School in Chinatown

The RSVP link will be released in June.

Facebook group: Project Destiny 25th Anniversary

Instagram: @projectdestinybcec

vent Concert, the Trafficking Hope Social Responsibility Conference, the Chinese Joint Retreat, and the Ping Pong Tournament. In the summer, we are also planning a churchwide picnic for people from all BCEC congregations to enjoy.

The picnic is planned to be held on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Canonicus Camp & Conference Center located in Exeter, Rhode Island. Some

events may include joint outdoor worship and sports games. Please mark your calendars and consider coming to enjoy a day of fellowship with our extended church family. For those without cars, accommodations for transportation on buses are being planned. Please visit www.bcec.net/picnic for more information and to RSVP.

Ping Pong Tournament:

God's Grace is Sufficient



by CHRISTINA LEE,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

When the 2018 Ping Pong tournament announcement came out, I registered my husband, my son and myself to play, with the memory of last year's blessed time still fresh in my mind. This year, there were new faces as well as familiar ones. In addition to making new friends, connecting with old ones was also a great joy. This Ping Pong tournament is indeed a labor of love of the brothers and sisters who ran the event. I really appreciate their effort in making BCEC a big family.

This year's tournament is also a personal story of God's grace on me. It's a reflection of so many blessings of my life. When I started playing ping pong, I almost always played exclusively with my husband because I did not play well, and I saw playing ping pong as my marital bonding time. I declined training offered to me because my goal was to have fun and bond with my husband. I did not care to improve my game. Since my hus-

band's level was way above me, he played with me using his off hand. As a result, playing with me did not improve his game either. To me, that's a demonstration of patience and love. He did the same thing decades ago when we were dating. He taught me how to play tennis from ground zero. Such patience was probably not unusual coming from a boyfriend. However, a few decades and three kids later, seeing the same patience casually displayed as if it took no effort really touched my heart.

Last September, after 17 years of employment, I was laid off. Thank God for brothers and sisters. Sharing about my situation with them made my difficult transition a lot more bearable. After months of job searching, I was finally offered a job. This company does not have an on-site fitness center as my previous employer does. However, it has ping pong tables. As usual, God is good to me, placing angels around me. Since my playing level was low, no one wanted to play with me for fun. However, someone was willing to train me. During training sessions, since my level was so low, basically playing the game all wrong, many casual observers offered unsolicited advice left and right. With that, I improved quite a bit even though I

am still at the bottom of the totem pole at work. My coach said that it would take me three years of practice to play better than his off hand.

While playing the final game, I heard my son's cheering and his most endearing ai-ya. It was so cute, totally in-sync with exactly when I wanted to say it. I probably appeared unusually quiet, not uttering any sounds during the game because my son had already said it for me. It was so worth losing a point to just hear my son's ai-ya.

Through this tournament, I see how God has blessed me with a loving church family, a patient husband, a new job, and a connection with my teenage son. I thank God.





Ping Pong Tournament (4/15-5/6)

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CORNER

by LING-MEI WONG, CHINATOWN CANTONESE 3RD SERVICE



“Trafficking Hope” Social Responsibility Conference Spotlights God’s Justice

On the tranquil lake, a young boy named Foli prayed not to die. His story and others were shared at the “Trafficking Hope” Social Responsibility Conference from April 6 to April 8, which focused on human trafficking near and far. Human trafficking is prevalent, yet our speakers gave a message of hope through justice — as our God is just and His Son Jesus is the hope of the world.

On Friday April 6, Pastor John Chiang of Minorities For Christ International spoke to the Chinese fellowships on “Trafficking Hope” in Chinatown, focusing on child trafficking in his ministry to underserved minorities in eight countries: China, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan. Pastor Richard Lee of International Justice Mission (IJM) shared the biblical call to seek justice with

the English fellowships in Chinatown. Pastor Jon Good of IJM encouraged Christians to take action in local and global ministry at the Newton campus in English, with Chinese translation. They showed a global perspective on suffering.

Two workshops took place on Saturday, April 7. The story of Foli was shared in an IJM short film directed by Vera Leung, who grew up attending BCEC. Vera shared about Foli’s struggles on Lake Volta, a manmade lake the size of Rhode Island in Ghana, where young boys are enslaved for fishing. Foli’s story is one of 40 million people enslaved worldwide; he was rescued by IJM in 2015.

“I want to tell good stories that show what God is doing,” Vera said. “God removes barriers, as we witness His sovereignty and heart for children.”

The second Saturday workshop was given by Cara Garrity of Route One and Angie Weyler of Bags of Hope. Both organizations are part of Emmanuel Gospel Center, serving women who work in New England strip clubs. Cara said commercial sex workers start work at 14 in the United States, and many are victims of sexual

abuse. Of these women, 80% do not want to be in the sex industry, but see no other options. While the global strip club industry is lucrative, bringing in \$75 billion annually, the women must pay stage fees, suffer inappropriate touching or endure rape. Route One’s female believers enter strip clubs to bring gifts to the women, building trusting relationships and helping them leave the industry. Bags of Hope supplies gifts for Route One, with every item marked with the sentence “You are treasured.”

On Sunday April 8, Pastor Chiang, Pastor Lee, and Pastor Good addressed BCEC’s seven congregations. They urged believers to be a voice for the voiceless, shining God’s light in the darkest places. In Chinatown English Adult Sunday School, Vera shared about her ministry work, while Pastor Kenneth Kwong spoke to Cantonese Sunday School about God’s view of justice. In Newton, Route One founder Bonnie Gatchell and Bags of Hope helper Anita Lynn described their experience and vision.

For more information on the “Trafficking Hope” conference, visit www.bcec.net/src.

Saturday Group Knits Together Hearts and Woolly Goods

You can’t miss the laughter and good-natured banter from the lounge at 120 Shawmut Avenue on Saturdays. The Love Knitting Group gathers knitters from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to share new stitches, cook lunch, and catch up with each other. Since its launch in April 2017, members have made more than 30 scarves, hats, and pairs of gloves. Many of these knitted goods were given to seniors at the housing for the elderly during Christmas visitations.

“It has been so joyful to knit for others,” said Winnie, who is one of 10 regular knitters. Now in her 70s, she felt privileged to use her time, eyesight, and hands to pursue her hobby and give back to the community at the same time.

The group received funds to buy yarn using funds from the Local Evangelism Department (LED) and a community service mini-grant from the Social Responsibility Committee (SRC). Some members attend Ruth Fellowship for Cantonese women and have invited friends to join the knitting circle. They also welcome friends from the community, so that they may build friendships and share their faith and God’s love.

Knitters of all experience levels are encouraged to join the Love Knitting Group. Simply come on down to 120 Shawmut Avenue on Saturday at 10 a.m.





Social Responsibility Conference (4/6-4/8)



High School Winter Teen Conference (2/16-2/19)



Easter Sunday worship services for Chinatown and Newton English congregations (4/1)



"Love Goes On" Concert (4/8): Musicians from Joshua 2 Fellowship gathered together for an outreach event



Sucaí Fellowship Outing at Rockport (5/22)



A music evangelistic meeting called "The Most Wonderful Blessing in Life" on 4/13 organized by the Love Foundation from Hong Kong

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 3 CHINESE SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUMMER SESSION BEGINS
- 3 PDAS FAMILY NIGHT
ENGLISH
- 8 LAST DAY OF PDAS
ENGLISH
- 9 COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS
SPRING SEMESTER ENDS
- 10 57TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
- 15 AWANA ENDS
CHINESE
- 17 FATHER'S DAY
- 17 CHILD DEDICATION
CHINESE
- 23-24 CANTONESE FAMILY RETREAT
CHINESE

JULY

- 2 PROJECT DESTINY 2018 STARTS
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
OFFICE CLOSED
- 14 CHURCH PICNIC

AUGUST

- 5 PROJECT DESTINY
FAMILY NIGHT
- 10-12 PROJECT DESTINY
25TH REUNION
- 11 LEADERSHIP MEETING
CHINESE
- 13-17 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
CHINATOWN
- 17-20 BASE CAMP 2018
ENGLISH
- 18 COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS
FALL SEMESTER PLACEMENT EXAM



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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Easter Baptism (4/1)