



Third Quarter Newsletter



The Mission, Vision and Goal of the Church

Pastor Henry Mak

Mission of the church

Lord Jesus handed down the great commission to the church: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in (or into) the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20.

This year, the slogan of the church is "Be united in mind, spread the gospel". This is the mission of the church from God; just like the mission of building the body of Christ. Mission needs to be reiterated, to strengthen the substance of the church. In essence, the very nature of the church is the body of Christ, housing the resurrected life of Jesus.

Vision of the church

Vision represents the supernatural media utilized by God (dreams and supernatural scenes) or prophecies to reveal His will. In Acts 16:9, Paul received the vision of Macedonia at night. He immediately headed for Macedonia, thereby spreading the gospel to Europe. More than a decade ago, several families received the vision from God, became aware of the spiritual needs of the Chinese community and started the ministry of Boston Baptist Church at Quincy. In the past few years, church staff saw the need for Mandarin ministry, and therefore started the Mandarin fellowship.

Through these events, we can realize the ever relevance of the church mission through all generations. The great commission of our Lord is the origin, focus and endpoint of all the ministries of church, until the return of Lord Jesus. "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20. In spite of this, most visions are catered to the different needs in different times. For instance, the vision of the church a decade ago could be focused on preaching the gospel to Cantonese speaker immigrants. Five years ago, maybe the vision is focused on preaching to restaurant workers....etc.

Today, we need to ask one question, what is the current vision of God for our church? "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint", Proverb 29:18. It means that without the revelation, that is the word of God, men will lack discipline and act according to their own will. However, Lord Jesus has clearly revealed the revelation of God: make the Lord's disciples of all men, baptize them, and teach them with the word of our Lord. The question is how to accomplish this vision. What kind of church do we want to become? What is the target group of our church? What is the most important belief of the congregation? What are the characteristics of our congregation? If we have clear answers to these questions, we should know the vision for our church.

Assuming that we have decided to minister to the Mandarin population, what are the essential ingredients or conditions for this ministry? If we want to give the teenagers suitable pastoring, we will need an English instructor. Are we willing to commit our resources to this



Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcofb.org

ministry according to the will of God in these times of financial hardship? Mere awareness of the need without matching commitment or undertaking of responsibility, leaving everything to be taken care of by the current available resources is neither living by faith nor the nature of the church. The church should be an assembly of faith, a living being.

Establish the goal of church

Goal is the practical side of vision. Vision provides the general directive. Goal represents the benchmark to be attained within a defined period. Has our congregation made up the list of missions to be accomplished this year or next year? What are the greatest need, difficulty, shortcoming, crisis and strength of our church? Do we have an effective diagnostic tool to evaluate the health of our church? Have we drawn up clearly defined time frames, appraisal of progress and evaluation process? Take the examples of Bible reading campaign, memorizing Bible verses and “a dollar a day” church building contribution, do they fit into the vision of our church? Have we set the time frames and the means to assess progress?

In conclusion:

God’s mission for the church is to make disciples of all men, build up believers, who form the body of Christ. We must have spiritual awareness, able to discern the vision placed in front of our church by God, which includes the target group of ministry, general direction and goal...etc. We need to petition God to grant us wisdom, motive us to match the vision of God for our church with appropriate action.



Pastoral Staff of Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Rev. Raymond Yeung

In the Fall of 1982, the North American Mission Board of South Baptist Convention became aware of the expanding Chinese population in Boston. Therefore, they sent Minister David Lee to help establish the Chinese Baptist Church within the Sudbury First Baptist Church. Rev. David Dean took up the position of consulting pastor to assist in the general church operations. During this period, the church business was taken care of by the joined effort of deacons Henry Chan and Raymond Yeung.

Pastor David Lee was ordained in December of 1983 and the congregation continued to grow. By mid 1985, Rev. David Lee left the church to start another ministry in North Carolina.

Deacon Raymond Yeung was ordained as minister in November of 1985, assisted by Rev. David Dean as our consulting pastor. By 1987, the congregation was moved to Quincy.

Minister Wai Chi Lee joined our church as part time minister in 1989. Minister Raymond Yeung was ordained as pastor and undertook the process of church establishment and legal registration with municipal government. With the endorsement of our parent church, the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston was officially founded in September of 1992 as an independent member of the Southern Baptist Convention. At this juncture, Minister Wai Chi Lee was ordained as pastor and Deaconess



Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcofb.org

Amy Baker, Deacon Chong Wei Yang and Deaconess Cynthia Chan were also ordained.

Rev. Wai Chi lee left us to develop new ministry in central United States by the end of 1992. Rev. Raymond Yeung continued to pastor the church until his retirement.

In the end of 1995, God commissioned Rev. Frank Chan to lead our church until 2002, when he resigned to pursue advanced education.

In 2004, Deacon Derek Chow and Deaconess Donna Yung were ordained. Since then, the church experienced good progress in ministry. In the year 2005, Rev. Timothy Tam came to join us as the senior pastor. Minister Kai Pak Chan was also recruited as part time minister, dedicated to Mandarin ministry.

Rev. Timothy Tam resigned to take up pastorship in Canada in 2008. Thanks to the Lord, He brought us Pastor Henry Mak to be our shepherd.



The 16th Anniversary Recollections

Junior Reporter

Thanks to the Lord for bringing us Rev. Mark Hui, chairman of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the United States and Canada, to preach in our three-day-long anniversary celebration meetings. This was like three blasts of cannon fire, greatly lighting up this special occasion, bringing glory to God.

The first blast: “Fan into flame” revival meeting

The curtain opened with the singing of the electrifying song “May the Spiritual fire ignite me”. Rev. Hui exhorted believers to rid themselves of three wrong attitudes in their service of God. Firstly, there should not be an employee attitude because we are fellow workers of God, partners of Lord Jesus. Secondly, there should not be a business attitude, demanding profit on every even minor thing we do. God will definitely reward us according to His will. Thirdly, there should not be a man-serving attitude. Be aware that we are actually serving God in everything we do. Rev. Hui reminded us to have three types of fire in order to maintain our zeal in our service of God, namely, the fire of Holy Spirit, the fire of love and the fire of God’s word. The sermon was vivid and humorous, generating much laughter and great interest in the audience.

The second blast: “Do not run a futile course” evangelical meeting

Following the hymn “Because He lives”, Mrs. Hue started her testimony of God’s abundant grace, elaborated on the pleasures of life on earth as if in heaven due to the presence of God. Rev. Hui then used the meeting between Nicodemus and Jesus, the discussion on eternal life to provoke thoughts on the possibility of a life with no regrets or remorse. She earnestly discussed at length on the fact that our life on earth only accounted for the first half of a ball game. Don’t be misled by the success and fame on earth, thinking that your life is not in vain. This is only the first half. You have no idea where you will end up following death. Believing in Lord Jesus is the only way to earn permanent residence with Him in the heavenly



Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcbg.org

home, the perfect second half of our life. Do not live this life in vain and miss out on everlasting life.

The third blast: "Sweet sixteen" thanksgiving worship service

Rev. Hui gave thanks to God for guiding our church through sixteen years. He quoted three passages from the New Testament to bring out the blessings on the sixteenth birthday. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Since God loves us so much, He intends to send us blessings. In addition, 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." The benefits of reading the Bible are clearly depicted here. Finally, 1 Thessalonians 5:16 tells us to be "Be joyful always." Being joyful is the characteristic of Christian, as well as our strongest attractive power to bring people to Christ.

The anniversary banquet was the indisputable final exciting event. We filled up fifteen tables in a sparkling atmosphere. Everybody was well satisfied with the sumptuous meal, totally immersed in this enjoyable occasion. The organizer arranged special singing presentations, including songs by the students of the Vacation Bible School. This was followed by a photographic display of various church members in the past history of our church. The ensuing nostalgic feeling pushed the meeting to its climax. The curtain of anniversary celebration was finally closed in a mixture of happy laughter and sorrow of departure.



God Loves the World

Lo Sung Yau Quan

God was and God is forever. He created the Universe and everything in it. Our original parents were tempted by the Devil. The sin they committed were passed on to all mankind, contaminated the whole world. Yet God sent His beloved Son to earth, born in Bethlehem, Word became flesh dwelling among human. He preached the truth to save everyone; healed every sickness of people; performed miracles well known by people everywhere. Judas betrayed Lord Jesus, who was crucified on the cross to redeem sinners. He shed sacred blood to cleanse our stain of sins. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead and returned to His heavenly home, where he sits at the right side of God to be our mediator. He saves and frees all mankind from sin, prepares eternal life for them. Through Jesus we can go home to be with our Father in heaven.



Jacob Fellowship Life Camp 08

Senior Reporter

The Jacob Fellowship summer camp had stopped for two years and it resumed as the Life Camp on 7/25/2008 at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center in New Hampshire. This site used to be our summer camp location for many years. Here we found our fond memories of the past and reminded



Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcofb.org

some of us of the fading of time. But one thing does not change which is the magnificent work of God's creation. The nature, the lake and every setting still display the charm. Some facilities of the center have been renovated and everywhere is decorated with beautiful and colorful flowers. We are thankful for God's provision. It is wonderful.

There were 13 adults and 13 children who joined the camp. I am sure every participant would gain something out of this camp and I was particularly impressed with three events. First, there was the talent show and it displayed the gifts God had given to us; The play by our children, the singing by Pastor Mak and Salina, the singing and dancing by May and Kathy, the magic show by Tony, the drama by Lee family, the presentation of Bible verses song by Donna, the musical recital by our youth and children which included instruments like guitars, violin, clarinet, saxophone and piano. That was why they were awarded with the champion cup of the best.

Second, there was the Morning Prayer meeting that Donna shared with us the attitudes we should have on Bible reading. Note that Bible is the Word of God and it is the truth. Donna reminded us of the seven attitudes in learning the scriptures:

1. Be willing.
2. Be teachable.
3. Be persistent.
4. Be patient.
5. Be humble.
6. Be discerning.
7. Have faith.

Third, there was the mutual understanding sharing seminar led by Tony. Every participant was being honest and open to share and accept criticism on own personality or character. I found that it was very constructive for each of us to see our strengths and weaknesses. Of course, we need to overcome our weaknesses and keep up with our strengths. I am sure each of us now has a list that we need to work on. God wants us to build upon the cornerstone which is Jesus Christ and let us keep on encouraging one another in love.

Another highlight for the camp was the photo contest. Everyone was encouraged to take pictures to capture the unforgettable moments. Finally, it was the picture taken by Jennifer Li awarded for the First Prize as her black and white picture featuring the smiling faces of four teenage girls. The picture is artistically beautiful. This Life Camp 2008 adds to our memory and engraves to our church history.



A Look Back on VBS

Adrian Leung

This past summer I had the privilege to serve in our Church's Vacation Bible School. The program was successful because of God's blessing and all those who participated.

First and foremost, the Vacation Bible School program was a success because we had God's blessing. Our best efforts are wasted without God's guidance. We must proceed with God's will and place all that we do in his hands. This



Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcofb.org

is the cornerstone of my belief and the groundwork of our success.

Our many students were excellent. They were the stars of the program that made our efforts worthwhile. The students remind us of the program's important goal which is to expose, nurture and grow God's teaching within their lives. We thank the many parents for entrusting this church with this great responsibility.

All of this would not be possible if it wasn't for the hard work and dedication of our young volunteers, teachers and coordinators. They were instrumental throughout the process. Their energy and enthusiasm propelled the program and enriched the student's experience. They showed true leadership and passion to serve our church.

Lastly, I was humbled to have the opportunity to be involved. To our young people, I wish to encourage you to serve. Do not be afraid to take up responsibilities. Do not be afraid to make mistakes. Our church is a small family and you are surrounded by those who want you to succeed!



Grow By Serving God

Yvonne Chan

The main theme of our church this year is "Unite in one to advance the Gospel". This gives us a vision of everybody working together for God's work. There is a Chinese saying: "The prosperity of our country is the responsibility of all country men". In the same

way, if we want God's kingdom to prosper, we have to participate in serving the church.

Sometimes we will worry that we do not have the ability to serve. However we are not born with the ability to serve, we learn to serve by training ourselves. I remember when I was first invited to be the usher to collect the offering and lead the congregation in prayer; I worried about it the whole night before. I worried that people will laugh at the mistake I made.

Thanks to God for giving me the opportunity for sharpening myself. Together with the patronage of our brethren, I am able to serve God in different positions. As the Scripture says, "I am able to do all things through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Serving God does not necessary mean that you must take up an official position in the church. In fact, when you actively care for and participate in every ministry of the church, this is already the best service to God. With your participation, the church becomes prosperous. One more person gives out more strength. I hope everyone would invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to the church meetings and learn to grow through serving God. This also provides the opportunity for non-believers to know our savior – Jesus Christ so that the lost sheep can come back to home to God.



Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcbg.org

Church News

Our events during the third quarter:

- 7/12/08 – Big Picnic at Castle Island.
- 7/25/08 to 7/28/08 – Jacob Fellowship Life Camp 08.
- 8/13/08 – Boston Harbor Cruise.
- 8/18/08 to 8/22/08 – Vacation Bible School.
- 9/19/08 – “Fan Into Flame” Revival Meeting.
- 9/20/08 – “Do Not Run For Nothing” Evangelical Meeting.
- 9/21/08 – “Sweet 16” 16th Anniversary Worship and Dinner.

Upcoming events in next quarter:

- 11/02/08 – 2009 Church Councilor Election at 2:45pm. Members, please attend and vote.
- 11/15/08 – Leaders Retreat at 10:00 am in the Nursery. All church leaders, please attend.
- 12/21/08 – Christmas Worship and Baptism at 1:25 pm.
- 12/24/08 – Christmas Caroling at 7 pm. All caroling participants please gather at church and bring your torch light. If you would invite the caroling team to your house, please contact David Lee for details.

Pray fervently and share the mission:

- 2008 church theme is “Unite to advance the Gospel.” Let us encourage each other and support our church goal.

- 2008 Bible Reading campaign is underway. We aim to complete reading the New Testament in a year. Give thanks to our Lord! In the 3rd quarter, the number of participants for Bible reading is 57 people, 23 of them completed all 13 weeks of Bible reading.
- 2008 Church Building Offertory goal is \$20,000.00. We have the “A dollar per day” campaign to encourage everyone to save one dollar per day for our church building goal. We should voluntarily support the offertory for our church building. Until the end of September, we collected \$9,443.10. But this is short of our third quarter end goal. Brothers and sisters, we only has this last quarter to catch up and we need to work harder for our goal.



Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the 2009 church board members, ask God to give them an united heart and zeal in their service of God.
2. Remember in your prayer the church leader retreat meeting to be held on 11/15/2008 (Saturday) from 10 am to 12 Noon. Ask God to grant wisdom, allow brothers and sisters to join effort in their dialogue on the future five-year-plan for the church.
3. There will be baptism in the month of December. Pray for the Lord’s protection of the participants in the baptism preparatory class; grant them unwavering faith in Christ.



2008 ISSUE 3

Unite to advance the Gospel

Third Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on www.cbcbg.org

4. Intercede for the Mandarin ministry, ask God to motivate Mandarin speakers to attend gatherings, strengthen the Mandarin fellowship, let brothers and sisters learn to serve and care for each another.
5. Intercede for our church members:
 - i. Mrs. Grace Yuen has to continue regular hemodialysis. Ask God to grant her peace and ease during the procedure.
 - ii. Sister Kwun Wan Chow-Wong has recurrent arthritis. Ask God to cure and care for her.
 - iii. Deaconess Cynthia Chan suffers from persistent leg pain. Pray for God's care.