



# *Voice* of FCBC

Volume 11, Issue 2

Spring-Summer 2007

*We seek to communicate our vision and enhance our fellowship at FCBC*

*FCBC 55th Anniversary Worship Service*

## *Fifty-Five Years Young*

*by Don Luke*

It was like a magic trick! Though the church had an anniversary service to commemorate 55 years of God's blessings, it seemed like the church was getting younger instead of older.

Of course, we know the church does not consist of just buildings, but is comprised of the people within those buildings. We all listened, prayed, and sang in one accord; mindful of the theme of the service: "Our Lord is Worthy of Praise."

Unlike past services when we saw old black and white slides of Dr. Lin, the revival and history of our church; there was nary a mention of the our humble beginnings from the noodle factory. Instead, this was a service led by a new guard. It seemed directed towards the younger audience. This was totally appropriate, given one of our themes was "the future is you." It was also fitting, as the youth are an integral part of our church and they need to feel a sense of belonging to FCBC.

Youth minister John Ng was the moderator for this combined English/Youth service. Melissa Sam led songs. We sang one of our favorite hymns, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" as the Lord's faithfulness upon our church has always been steadfast. We also sang "Glorify Thy Name" and "Lord Be Glorified."

We heard three testimonies from young people. They shared about working with the youth and how

God works through the youth of our church.

*Elena Li recalled how JFK asked for unity back in '61 (actually, she wasn't born yet!). She noted how much we at FCBC could accomplish...if we move forward in unity. Unfortunately, too much of the time, we come to church to be entertained, to just listen, or to be with friends. We need to move away from that kind of thinking. We need to help others in need, reach out, offer praise, learn and serve others. She concluded with "Ask not what FCBC can do for you, ask what you can do for FCBC."*

*Jonathan Lew has been serving in HSMT for three years and reflected on how refreshing and encouraging it has been to see young people grow in faith and become more mature. The high school seniors serve as examples to the underclassmen. Indeed, the youth are the future of the church. He urged counselors and parents to be good examples to the youth in order to build the church together.*

*"God has done so much through FCBC," proclaimed Vivian Cheng. She came to our church originally through the VBS Survey. There are so many ministries that God has blessed the church with. Vivian encouraged us to drive students and serve in VBS and Camp. "It is amazing to see children grow up and start serving." We see God working in our children. If we want to bless others, why not join Him? All we need is a willing heart.*

*(Continued on page 2 Anniversary)*

# Voice of FCBC

*(Anniversary from page 1)*

This service was more of a look towards the future, as opposed to a look back. During a video presentation, young people shared where they saw our church in ten years. They also discussed where they saw themselves serving within our church in ten years. Praise the Lord, they see FCBC growing and expanding with branch churches. Praise the Lord, they see themselves and their friends serving and growing in this local body in the years to come.

We watched a Powerpoint presentation portraying various areas of church life. Mandarin, Cantonese, and English speaking of all ages were shown worshipping, making music, learning, fellowshiping and of course, eating.

*Pastor Benny Wong delivered the message, "A Good Role Model for Our Future." Our pastor's desire is to see the church grow spiritually and numerically. He discussed a particular growth factor for churches. Sacrificial giving was the norm in the early church, and caused the church to grow (Acts 2:45-47, 2 Cor. 1:8:1-5).*

*Pastor Wong gave several examples of sacrificial giving at FCBC: A brother whose rider vomited in his new car, young adults giving up their Saturdays to work at church, and a single mother who bought a rice cooker for another single mother even though she is on Social Security with three children. Yes, we face a challenge with this "Me Generation," our pastor said. However, he is optimistic because he sees the sacrificial love of brothers and sisters like these. Let us follow the role model of the Macedonians, he said, who begged for the opportunity to give in this way. Let us take the initiative to give sacrificially.*

The service concluded with a forty-five minute performance from the combined Masters Choir and Orchestra. This idea, which began as a grand vision from our Music Director was carried out in exemplary fashion. The elegantly dressed choir (women

wore black with magenta scarves and men wore black with red ties) packed the entire choir loft. They also filled the entire Sanctuary with their strong and energetic voices. The full orchestra (over 40 musicians) took up the entire stage (with the extended risers). Some members of the orchestra were not from our church (many were from Biola or Masters College). To me, it foreshadowed the day when all people unite in Heaven to sing glories to our everlasting God. The orchestra brought a certain majestic feeling to the proceedings. The combined ensemble presented ten pieces and after each, there was enthusiastic applause.

The choir/orchestra concluded fittingly with the Hallelujah chorus. This moving piece reminded us of God's glory and timelessness. "It is not about us" is a common phrase heard in church today and this timeless piece reminded me that it really is not about us, but about our God. Certainly, our God has been with us all these years and He will continue to be with us forever and ever. Praise the Lord! ✓



## ***In this Issue:***

Fifty-Five Years Young p1

## ***Summer Camps***

Family Time p3

## ***Sharing***

His Name is Beautiful Encore p5

A Song is Born p6

How I Like to Pray p8

## ***Library Corner***

New Books in the Library p7

*Summer Camps 2007*

## *Family Time*

Every summer, hundreds of people from our FCBC family take a week and/or weekend to enjoy the fresh mountain air and find spiritual renewal at our summer camps. The Voice of FCBC recently interviewed FCBC Camp Director, Nathaniel Li, to learn more about this vital ministry to our church, and to receive the latest information about this year's summer camps.

### **Voice of FCBC: Why is the camp ministry important to the growth of the church body?**

**Nathaniel Li:** The ministry of camp gives our people an opportunity to get away from the responsibilities and urgencies of their everyday lives to focus on God; letting Him speak to us in a peaceful setting, surrounded by His creation. Terrific speakers and intimate sharing times inspire us in our walk with the Lord. As individuals, we all need an occasional break to “recharge our batteries” and refresh ourselves in God’s presence, like Jesus often did throughout His ministry. As a church family, camp draws us all closer together by giving us many opportunities to fellowship with other brothers and sisters in a variety of settings (i.e. worship, meals, recreation, sharing groups, etc.). We thus become more of a “family of God” who can be more transparent with each other and support one another.

Our CIT (Counselor-in-Training) program gives many of our collegians a starting point for service within our church by providing the training and experience to serve as counselors in our Youth Camps.

### **VOF: What distinguishes it from other ministries that take place year-round?**

**NL:** Camp takes us away from the city and allows us to spend time with friends and family, like a long field trip, over several days. While it is a fun and exciting event, it is also spiritually and emotionally challenging for everyone who attends. Camp provides a unique opportunity to identify where we stand in our walk with Christ, to restore relationships with others, and to give us that

“spiritual high” where we feel really close to God. We make commitments at camp to change our lives in ways that glorify God. Revivals can occur in the lives of individuals or entire camps as a result of the unique setting where campers can feel God’s presence from morning devotions thru evening sharing times.

Camp is also the only ministry at FCBC that our members have to pay for out of their own pockets. We know that this makes it difficult for some to attend, so we try to keep costs low by subsidizing many camp activities and keeping registration fees as low as possible.

### **VOF: For someone who cannot afford to attend camp, what can you offer?**

**NL:** Campership is available to anyone who does not have the financial resources to pay for camp. Our desire is for everyone to have a chance to have a “mountain-top experience” with God. Just ask any of our camp directors for more information.

### **VOF: Has camp changed over the years? If so, how?**

**NL:** Adult Camps used to run from Monday thru Friday, just like our Youth Camps do today. In other words, camp used to be an activity that was the highlight of the year at church, an event that people would plan their vacations around and take time off from work to attend. However, the ability of camp to change lives and draw campers closer to God and each other remain the same.

### **VOF: What do you envision for the camp ministry in the future? Let’s say the next 5-10 years?**

**NL:** One thing that I’d like to eventually see is more “ministry-specific” camps that will minister to particular segments within our church, such as the Women’s Retreat in June. Retreats for single-adults or married couples, father-son or mother-daughter, and perhaps even a golf retreat can be

*(Continued on page 4 Camps)*

# Voice of FCBC

---

## Youth Camps

August 13 – 17, 2007  
Pine Summit Christian Camp  
Big Bear Lake, CA



**Junior Camp** – Directors: Tammy Jow, Kathy Quan, Rebecca Yee

**Junior High Camp** – Directors: Justin Lee, Charissa Lue, Stacey Lo

**High School Camp** – Directors: Alvin Cheng, Debbie Gewecke

**Youth Camp Counselor Meetings:** 6/25, 7/2, 7/16, 7/30, 8/6  
(June 25<sup>th</sup> - Deadline for counselors to decide to serve in Youth Camps)

**Youth Camp Fee:**     \$180     Early Bird (7/1)  
                             \$190     Regular Rate (7/8 – 22)  
                             \$200     Late Rate (7/29)



## Adult Camps

August 24 – 26, 2007  
Pine Summit Christian Camp  
Big Bear Lake, CA



**College/Young Adult Camp** – Director: Darren Lo

**Family Camp** – Directors: Nathaniel Li, Melvin Quan

**Adult Camp Fee:**     Standard / Deluxe  
                             \$130     /     \$170     Early Bird Rate (July 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> only)  
                             \$145     /     \$185     Regular Rate (July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>)  
  
                             \$10 off for first time campers (within past 5 years)  
                             Kids still fly free!

**FCBC Camp Website:** [www.fcbc.org/camp](http://www.fcbc.org/camp)



*(Camps from page 3)*  
opportunities to build up our church family. I'd also like to see our church eventually pay for a greater portion of the registration fees and help subsidize camp, like we do for other church ministries, so that more of our church family can attend together.

**VOF: How can we pray for this important ministry?**

**NL:** Prayer is extremely important in the ministry of camp. Planning for our camps go almost year round and our directors need wisdom in finding

speakers, selecting themes and recruiting counselors/personnel to serve in the upcoming camps. During our retreats, the physical, emotional, and especially spiritual health of our staff and counselors is vital to the experience of our campers. We especially need everyone's prayers for the spiritual warfare going on during our camps as Satan tries to distract our campers from focusing on God and feeling His presence. ✓

## *His Name is Beautiful Encore*

### *Hong Kong/East Asia Ambassador 2006 Winter Team*

*by Sam Chin*

On December 16, 2006, after a tortuous, sleepless flight from LA, we marched into the Evangelic Christian Church Sunday service at the Hong Kong YMCA. There was a good-sized crowd, singing Christmas hymns and the pastor gave a concise and informative sermon on the advent of Christmas: faith, love, joy, hope, and peace. On Monday, we went to the Kowloon West Mall to help the Hong Kong Youth for Christ's (HKYFC's) Christmas program, in full swing with a band and singing group from Perth, Australia. We passed out many tracts, and our innovative Ray Lee passed them out two and three floors above us, too. Later, we attended a Single Parent Dinner at Dragon Restaurant hosted by HKYFC. We had the privilege to visit the offices of HKYFC and see a nearly completed sign put up in front of their 3<sup>rd</sup> floor windows. David Chu (HKYFC director) was happy that the sign could be seen two blocks away on Nathan Road, because he can use the sign to post daily Christian messages, and it will be seen by many people.

The next day we visited Excel Farm, and we met the new Student Trainees (those who have been referred to the drug rehabilitation program) and Staff. We tried fishing for our dinner, but when we were not successful, the Trainees and Staff took out a long net and pulled it across the lake and netted at least six 4-6 pounders, two of which were a delicious part of the meal that night. We went to a very well stocked grocery store to get our supplies for a good old American spaghetti dinner, using Rose and Lusye's recipe. It was good with farm fresh vegetables. That day we held a class for the Trainees, with Dr. George Ngan speaking on drug use and cures. We also had singspiration and line dance exercises. We even helped pick sweet potatoes from the fields for dinner. The Trainees seemed happy to participate in the spiritual lessons, reading Scripture, and praying before the meal-times. Before our leaving, they skillfully printed

picture mugs for us to take home, and give to our families in Taishan. We prayed that the Trainees would be blessed during their time at the farm. We certainly were blessed for the few days we spent with them.

Then we visited Sam's sister's family, the Guan family. They were happy to see us again for the second time in as many years. We wasted no time with our first Christmas story presentation; the whole Guan family, seven of them, was very receptive and accepted the Lord that afternoon. Praise the Lord! Sam's prayers were answered!

The next day with George Ngan's dad's friend leading the way to George's family home in Lorling village, in the city of Haiyan, we attended the noon prayer service at the nearby Three Self Church. We met a pastor, who graciously welcomed us and asked for testimonies from Dr. George and Dr. Marshall Lew, who gladly obliged. We also sang Christmas hymns with them, and our Chinese song, "Yahweh is Love," was well received. Then on we went to Dr. George's family village, where about a hundred of his relatives and friends greeted him with firecrackers blazing, and a delicious meal. George relished seeing his father's house for the first time, saw pictures of father's brothers and even found one he didn't know about, one who passed away at a young age, and his father had not even mentioned to him before. The team got busy after the banquet, witnessing to George's relatives and friends at the village. The most receptive were a group of elementary age children. Polly Chan and Hoa Ngan gave the children cartoon tracts, read the tracts to them in Chinese, taught them to sing simple songs, and led them all to Christ, all eleven of them – again hallelujah and PTL! It's so beautiful to see the Holy Spirit at work in these little children, and bearing fruit for Him! The pastor was also with us, and he said he would follow up and ask them to come to his church.

*(Continued on page 6 Encore)*

*(Encore from page 5)*

On the way back to Taishan that afternoon, we had time to stop by to visit Elaine Chin's family home in Molim village. Elaine deeply appreciated the love and patience of some members who accompanied her.

The next day, we set out to attend Christmas service at the Three Self Church nearby, with our new "brother" Guan and George's father's friend. The church was about a mile away and it was already well packed with Christmas worshippers. The choir sang hymns and the congregation joined in, too. The sermon was simple, focusing on obedience to God's word and family devotions.

Refreshed, we flew to Hainan Island, arrived at Haikou airport to face a new and more challenging ministry through the city tour attraction, and the city of the volcanoes, Shishan. The next day, we drove through the city and up the hill to Shishan. It was a fairly steep walk up to the top of the volcano and down into the volcanic cone, with walkways lined with bricks of volcanic rock, even along the stairs, and rest areas. Coconuts were abundant and we stopped to taste the sweet milk and meat. A temple was erected halfway up the hill to worship the volcano and ancestors. Many people were there lighting their incense and kowtowing toward the peak. We quietly prayed for them for they do not know the true God to worship. Many of us enjoyed the climb down to the forest at the epicenter and some took pictures from the rim and enjoyed the beautiful scenic view from the top.

We also had a chance to witness to our tour guide, and she accepted Christ, even though she was a Buddhist. Again, praise the Lord for a wonderful fruitful trip. ✓

## *A Song is Born* *Sequel to Serving God with Cantonese Opera Style*

*by Polly Chan*

**T**wo years ago, I joined the English Speaking Sunday School Adult Team's Mission to Hong Kong and East Asia. I shared how I incorporated the Cantonese Opera style in the gospel songs, which were well received. Soon after the trip, I adopted the melody and changed the lyrics of a very popular, secular opera song. Subsequently, I researched the origin of the song and found that there was no copy right for that piece of music. Hence, "Unfinished Work at the Mission Field" was born.

That "rewritten" opera-turned-gospel song remained dormant for more than a year until our team performed at the mission fund-raising luncheon at church. I translated the song into English – to share how we care for the lost souls, and our prime time would not be wasted if we work hard for the Lord. When I saw my mother, I remembered an ancient and yet touching legend of Mr. Lo Lloyd Gee, one of the "twenty-four most filial sons and daughters" in the Chinese history. I felt like that elderly man "who acted with a colorful costume in order to entertain his parent." Therefore, I was bold enough to wave a scarf to demonstrate the motion while dancing with amateur opera steps. Thanks to the extreme patience of the kind hearted audience, I overcame the embarrassment to survive what (I believe) should have been a "gong" show. Also, praise the Lord that I did not trip on the stage.

When I was in Hong Kong in Dec. 2006, I had opportunities to share the song at the Hong Kong Youth for Christ (HKYFC) gatherings. Also, I was fortunate to recruit a last minute "flat" voice singing partner at a HKYFC sponsored Single Parent Christmas celebration at a restaurant. The young and beautiful opera fan hastily learned the song and sang with me, accompanied by Louise Chu's (HKYFC director David Chu's wife) gorgeous opera "orchard hands" movements. Again, I shared the meaning of the gospel song with over 150 attendees. Later, that newly converted singing partner and her friend even made a copy of the rewritten gospel song. They are planning to sing



*(Continued on page 7 Opera)*

*Library Corner*

## *New Books in the Library*

The following are new books that are now available at the FCBC Library.

***Every Man's Battle*** by Stephen Arterburn

From the television to the Internet, print media to videos, men are constantly faced with the assault of sensual images. It is impossible to avoid such temptations—but, thankfully, not impossible to rise above them.

Shattering the perception that men are unable to control their thought lives and roving eyes, this book shares the stories of dozens who have escaped the trap of sexual immorality and presents a practical, detailed plan for any man who desires sexual purity—perfect for men who have fallen in the past, those who want to remain strong today, and all who want to overcome temptation in the future.

***Every Young Man's Battle*** by Stephen Arterburn

The authors examine the standard of Ephesians 5:3—“there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality”—in a positive and sensitive light. And they explain how an authentic, vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ is the key to victory over temptation. The book will show you how to train your eyes and your mind, how to clean up your thought life, and how to develop a realistic battle plan for remaining pure in today's sexuality soaked culture. As a result, you'll experience hope—real hope—for living a strong, pure life in God's way.

***Habits of the Mind*** by Dr. Archibald D. Hart

Dr. Hart is a clinical psychologist and senior professor of psychology and dean emeritus of the Graduate School of Psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. He is an internationally known speaker and a frequent guest speaker on the Focus on the Family radio program.

In his book, he shows you how changing mental habits leads to dramatic improvement in personal performance and satisfaction. Some of the habits he talks about include: opening the door to love by seeing the good in others; giving yourself permission to fail so that you are free for new opportunities; emphasizing the positive to help you overcome

fear and stress; accepting yourself for who you are so that you are free to be outstanding; staying in touch with reality so that you can discern the truth; stop punishing yourself to remove roadblocks to success and happiness.

***Parenting Your Adult Child*** by Ross Campbell, M.D.

Forty years ago, parents of adult children knew exactly what was expected of them. Children typically lived nearby. Young couples and their parents remained loosely connected while living their own lives.

But times have changed. These days our adult children may live hundreds of miles away or in our homes. We may never see our grandchildren or we may help raising them. Parents of grown children today face issues unforeseen by previous generations: “nests” that don't empty, conflicts over lifestyle issues, and the need for continued financial support. This book provides resource for parents of young adults aged 18 to 35, as well as those with older adult children. The authors offer encouragement and practical advice on how to provide reasonable, loving guidance to those who need us most. ✓

*Announcement by the Library Staff:* The library has recently updated most of the Bible commentaries. Sunday School staff can check them out for one week.

*(Opera from page 6)*

more gospel opera songs in other occasions.

I learned that the Cantonese opera ministry is expanding in Hong Kong. Moreover, I was able to share the vision with some Christian friends who also asked me for a copy of the rewritten gospel opera song. I pray that God will be glorified through this ministry.

Once again, I have experienced “Who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.” (Ephesians 3:20) ✓

## *How I Like to Pray*

by *David Hwang*

A favorite prayer of mine, attributed to Saint Richard, Bishop of Chichester, England, goes in part like this:

*May I know Thee more clearly,  
Love Thee more dearly,  
Follow Thee more nearly,  
Day by day.*

### ***May I know Thee more clearly***

Praying is a means of continued acknowledgment of God. Nothing can compare to Him. No power is stronger. No wisdom is higher. No love is greater. However, acknowledgment of God, wonderfully, is not one-directional, but a mutual relationship. This relationship most fortunately benefits me. Maintaining prayer is a significantly worthwhile endeavor because of the greater realization that the ability of the human heart to connect with the heart of God is an immense God-given privilege.

### ***Love Thee more dearly***

When someone knows God more clearly, it follows that he would love God more dearly. We love God more dearly by loving what He loves and loving those whom He loves. What God loves is for people to know Him. Practically, we pray for the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of others. This is one reason why prayer meeting participation has been one of the best opportunities to regularly pray for others in an informed way. The exhortation in the book of Hebrews is that we should not neglect the assembling of ourselves together. By praying together, we encourage each other to love and do good in the Lord.

### ***Follow Thee more nearly***

Did you know that praying for others could be a way to avoid sinning? The example is from the prophet, Samuel, who did not want to sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for his people. (I Samuel 12:23). Furthermore, a very good way to have spiritual influence on others is through praying that their hearts will change towards God and be less con-

formed to the world. While seeking that others change towards God more, we are actually transforming too, because what we pray for must come from the heart.

### ***Day by day***

It is my belief that a grateful heart is one of the most important attitudes to have. So it is that by a daily awareness of God's presence and goodness in our lives that we can humbly repeat:

*May I know Thee more clearly,  
Love Thee more dearly,  
Follow Thee more nearly,  
Day by day.*

*Editor's Note:* If you would like to take an action step in response to this article, attend our weekly prayer meeting on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. English-speaking: Old Sanctuary; Chinese-speaking: New Sanctuary. ✓

### ***Voice of FCBC is published by:***

*First Chinese Baptist Church  
Publication Dept.  
942 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

### ***Electronic Version of the Issue:***

*Available at FCBC web site: [www.fcbc.org](http://www.fcbc.org)  
To obtain your personal copy, please send email to [fcbevoice@cox.net](mailto:fcbevoice@cox.net)*

### ***Voice of FCBC Staff:***

<i>Pastoral Advisor</i>	<i>(Vacant)</i>
<i>Publication Coordinator</i>	<i>Sylvia Tran</i>
<i>Editors</i>	<i>Melinda Cheng Kin Hui</i>
<i>Editorial Committee</i>	<i>Polly Chan Sandra Hui Karen Leong Cathy Luke Don Luke Josephine Tsang-Gee</i>
<i>Distribution</i>	<i>Sylvia Tran Polly Chan</i>

*Acknowledgement of photo contributions by Wes Wong in current issue.*