



Voice of FCBC

Volume 12, Issue 2

Spring-Summer 2008

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

Voice of FCBC Talks with

Brian Wang

FCBC's Assistant Children's Minister

Three months ago FCBC welcomed Brian Wang as our new Assistant Children's Minister. Melinda Cheng, Voice of FCBC reporter, recently had an opportunity to sit down with Uncle Brian. He shared candidly about his spiritual path and his vision and purpose for our children's ministry.

Melinda Cheng: *We appreciate your taking the time to share with us and we hope that more of the congregation can get to know you better through this interview. First, tell us a little bit about yourself.*

Brian Wang: I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1973 and I have no siblings. I lived in Hawaii for the first eighteen years of my life before coming to California for my undergraduate degree at UOP (University of the Pacific). Coming to UOP is where I accepted the Lord and got involved with the campus Christian group there called Chi Alpha with the Assemblies of God. During my five years at UOP, they trained, raised, and shepherded me in the faith... which was very good. After that I started teaching and entered into ministry at Gardena Valley Baptist ...and now here.

MC: *So where along that road did you feel a calling to go into ministry?*

BW: During my third year of college. I was teaching Sunday school at the time and was enjoying my ex-

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A New Wineskin for English Adults: amfm (adult ministry-family ministry)

by Pastor Ken Yee

As many as 80 percent of church-raised kids will stop attending church within the first two years of college. Much of Christian programming fails to bring about life transformation or active discipleship in individuals that mirror the ways and character of Jesus. These two well-documented realities, along with a host of other citable "bad news" about modern Christianity, have driven me to review and re-engineer much of English adult programming for FCBC. This process has taken several years of study, much prayer, re-learning, certification, and planning.

Now we are creating programs for our church to **equip** our people to engage in lifelong personal discipleship transformation through the common and ordinary ventures of life, such as married life or child raising. We hope to see growth to maturity, wholeness, and competency; involving the whole person so that our hearts, souls, minds, and bodies will be living sacrifices to God (Colossians 1:28, Luke 10:27). We want all this to be dynamically occurring at home, so that faith and spiritual legacies will be passed from generation to generation. This is the Bible's teaching, in both the Old Testament and New Testament.

Our strategy is to learn together and from one another, ultimately putting what we learn into practice at

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perience doing so. [The] children's pastor needed a camp counselor [because] they were short-staffed. Having never attended a kids' camp, I felt it would be a great opportunity. While I was there at camp, they had a worship session for the kids. I excused myself, went outside and started praying and crying out for the Lord to save these kids. I realized there was so much out there that was destroying kids nowadays and I wanted to try and make a difference. I just felt such a big burden for the kids. That's when I knew God called me to work with children and from there, into children's ministry.

MC: *Please tell us a little bit about what your title as Assistant Children's Minister entails.*

BW: My role as Assistant Children's Minister is to do everything Pastor Tolman [Yung] tells me to do.

MC: *Ok, that's the correct answer, since Pastor Tolman happens to be in the room. Seriously though, what is your role?*

BW: No, that seriously is the correct answer. Part of my job involves preaching to the children, putting together the children's newsletter, and planning for more teacher training sessions. My first two years will be dedicated to getting used to the ropes and understanding the structure of our children's ministry. This first year is going to be a real learning curve for me.

MC: *And what is your personal burden for the children's ministry?*

BW: My personal burden is to partner with parents to help children become fully devoted followers of Christ.

MC: *That's great to hear since I'm a parent of young children myself.*

BW: I really believe in the partnership between parents and the church. In the past, parents may have expected the church to raise their children in a godly way, while all they had to do was to drop their children off at church and pick them up. Unfortunately, I don't think that's the most effective way. Instead, it should be a partnership where the church provides the structure and tools to help empower [parents], even train them if they need training, so when they

go home they can instill in their children that Christian model 24/7 rather than at church once or twice a week for one hour.

MC: *How do you think kids are different nowadays? Are they different from kids 10 years ago?*

BW: They are different from kids 10 years ago and different from the kids 10 years before that and different from when I was a kid. For each generation, it has really changed. Right now, kids are of the millennial generation and are shaped by what happened after 9/11. Their worldview is different. Our goal here is to really try to instill a Biblical worldview. We do know that post-modernism is here and Pastor John Ng and I have talked a lot about how that fits within our ministry. What does that mean? We're still trying to figure that out for our church. We know that for one thing, we can't use the same old-school teaching models that we grew up with. Some of our classes now in Sunday school are going towards more experiential learning for the children. They might be cooking together, trying to learn through different senses and modalities. They need to use all senses to learn God's Word. We know that a lot of things have changed, which is good, but [that is] a challenge for us leaders as well.

MC: *Well, I would imagine that being a children's ministry leader requires a bit of fun. What are the aspects of this ministry that you enjoy?*

BW: Often times I like running around with [the children] and playing games with them. Some of these kids are so smart. For instance, in RA's, they're having chess competitions [and] these little first graders know how to play! It's been good to relate to them, [getting] to know them better and [building] that relationship so that later they will be able to take what you say to heart.

MC: *Well, thank you so much for taking the time to share about your life and vision for this ministry. One last note, do you have anything you want to share with the FCBC family?*

BW: Well, it's been a great three months so far. I'm having a good experience and a good time here, developing solid relationships and friendships. ✓



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home. We will concentrate on life's critical transitions and equip adults with skills to master each life stage, from courtship to marriage, to new parenting and raising of teens. We also hope to foster men to their indispensable roles, whether generally or in the family. We begin with the following initial ministries, with many more waiting in the wings.

Marital preparation begins via the group setting of the Couples' Sunday School class in the young adult department. Together, the students learn spiritual truths and practice relationship dynamics for better mutual relationships and become skilled in learning how to grow in marital oneness. Developing fellowship with other class couples is important for mutual support. The one-year curriculum focuses on acquiring a missional purpose for marriage and includes foundational studies and learning activities related to God's design for marriage, relationship enhancement, commitment vs. divorce, anger and forgiveness, love and respect, and money and marriage. By a *missional* purpose for marriage we mean to focus on Spirit-motivated ways of relating to our spouse and together striving to model a relationship that reflects God to the world. Emphasis is placed on Spirit-driven personal outlooks and responses (as opposed to trying to change the partner) as the motivation and foundation for successful relationships. The class curriculum supports and enhances the pre-marital counseling sessions, which a pastoral staff member meets with couples and personally and privately assesses for strengths and growth areas using the very best of professional counseling tools.

Pre-engagement and pre-marital guidance involves using the latest of sophisticated instruments and teaching tools so that couples can discern their personal readiness to move forward to the next stage. We also prepare couples to build on their mutual strengths and teach them how to work past their "couple weaknesses."

Post-marital programs include "Couple2Couple," a 12-session mentoring for newly-marrieds with older couples. These fun meetings foster friendship, companionship support, and an open dialogue that will help couples find their way through key issues and develop a lifelong ability to cope with future issues. Pro-

gramming also includes "Fanning the Flames" for critical fine-tuning in the "first 12,000 miles" of marriage to maintain the warranties.

For couples facing parenthood, we offer a "Parenting Bootcamp," taught by medical, psychological, and spiritual professionals. Feeding, nurturing, crying and calming, safety, and a Biblical mindset for parenting are taught. There is also a follow-through curriculum component.

"POPS" (Parents of Pre-Schoolers) provides both a weekly Sunday school learning element and a monthly fellowship/enrichment element for young parents. For these critical years of a child's heart formation, the parents will be taught how to take care of themselves, their marriage, as well as their children. Programming also includes "Healthy Families" for small group coaching in child discipline.

"Marriage Checkup / Tuneup" (MCuTu) helps add vitality to marriage as the family progresses. This involves guided skill building for partnership, intimacy and bonding ("cleave"), and preparing for the empty nest.

Specially focused, we have the wonderful Women's Ministry with crafts, learning, prayer, retreats, and teas. The Men's Ministry offers missions, service projects, and studies on manhood and fathering. The Newcomers' Sunday School and the Women's Sunday School classes offer unique learning environments that add to the richness of our English Adult Sunday School department.

Family Camp will continue to provide both spiritual nurture, and teaching of skills in parenting/adulthood life issues. Additionally, a father-child retreat and future marriage retreats are also being planned.

And finally, all programming include potential for "friendship evangelism" so that our adults can bring relatives, friends, and co-workers to our annual drop-in events to the Hollywood Bowl, Clippers games, fishing expeditions, and much more. Visit our church website at www.fcbc.org/adult/eam/index.htm ✓

Editor's Note: The section on the Couples' Sunday School class was written by David and Carol Hwang.

God's Working ... @ FCBC!

by FCBC Pastoral Staff and summarized by Don Luke

This is a new column highlighting the many ways God is working in our church. We intend this to be a channel to communicate God's blessings on our church in different ministry areas. We pray you would be encouraged and your faith would grow through the testimonies of His people.

Church Administration

Nothing would happen at church without the Administrative group taking care of the facilities and behind the scenes work... There is no doubt God works by healing His people, but never more so than in the Administrative group where God healed secretaries Betty Fong and Darryl Jue from cancer. PTL! There have been other healings as well in the group... The office staff meets every other week with a devotion time. They are blessed as they discuss various spiritual topics and pray together as they trust God to bless their work.

Children's Ministry

God is working in the lives of our children. It is such a blessing to see many enthusiastic volunteers come forward to pray for the requests in Super Worship... The children are responding in a Christ-like manner to Brian Wang's sermons on the poor and needy... God also answered our prayer for Yan Jung, a 3rd grader who was seriously burned in a fire. The children's prayers have been answered as the skin grafts have taken extremely well.

Cantonese Adult Ministry

The Cantonese Adult Ministry is growing in prayer, as a new prayer group was formed to pray for the church, their relationships, and their relationship with God. A woman in the group was given two months to live because of cancer. So far, she has lived four months beyond her "deadline." We continue to pray for her; we are not giving up... Another woman was worried to the point of depression at the start of her cancer treatment. But now, God has turned her around to experience peace in her heart, to the point where she encourages others not to worry... Our group is reaching out too! One

group took the challenge to minister to an English-speaking and Hispanic homeless group... Finally, God is good in that a brother who was laid off is getting multiple job offers. PTL for all He is doing!

Chinese Evangelism

God is working in the area of evangelism. Many brothers and sisters in the Chinese congregation had the opportunity to receive training to share the Gospel. Several brothers and sisters shared that their unsaved parents finally received Christ after over twenty years of prayer... At the Chinatown fair, WMU members were able to personally invite 100 neighbors to their Chinese New Year celebration. Many newcomers came and heard the Gospel message... At the Chinatown Chinese New Year Fair, our groups manned a booth which was visited by hundreds of people. The Mandarin Dance group also performed in the Fair.

Cantonese-Speaking Young Adult and College Ministries

In the Cantonese single adult, young adult and college groups, God is working in our people's hearts, encouraging them to be open and to share with others their lives, their faith and their burdens... God is burdening our single adults to reach out using events such as badminton outreach, OJ Tea Station, and getting to know new friends through health talk, hiking, bus tours, etc... Our Cantonese-speaking collegians served at the Imperial Valley Chinese Baptist Church by leading Sunday worship and teaching Sunday school. They also cared for the homeless and will hand out tracts at different college campuses... In the Cantonese-speaking Adult Fellowship, God answered prayer concerning the retreat by clearing obstacles regarding a year-old insurance issue and also by finding a speaker.

College Ministry

It's thrilling to see many collegians responding to God. Many have become more involved in campus

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Christian organizations. Others have committed to join in Gospel work in Mexico, Thailand, Asia, and Arizona. Many are getting baptized... After three years of uncertainty, God answered the prayer of a Sunday school teaching couple who had been waiting for city approval to rebuild their home after landslides... Finally, some collegians were challenged to buy a pie for their neighbors, with doors opened and conversations resulting from this.

English Adult Ministry

Challenge and response, growth in faith, experience of God's working, His provision of blessing—all meld together into the living history of God at work in our church and in our English adults... More of the English Adult group have been serving and leading the Adult ministries. Others have been blessed by the salvation of family members, following prayer and various expressions of love. And many have been reaching out in love to new people, to people in need.

English Young Adult Ministry

It is a special blessing to see new young adults come to know Christ through the love, effort and prayers of our English-speaking young adults... Many in the group have expressed that they are seeking God more and are starting to experience His presence in new ways... Finally, young adults are stepping up to take the lead both in existing and new ministries. Young adult ministry here is fluid and dynamic and very challenging. We find we must constantly seek God's will and leading in everything we do. There are many challenges, but God is faithful and He has blessed our young adults and blessed the church through them. PTL!

Mandarin Ministry

God has been working mightily in our Mandarin-speaking group. At the last baptismal service, thirteen joined our church. One of them was an 80-year old brother in a weak physical condition and there was concern he could not endure the service. However, he had a deep desire to express his dedication and he insisted to be baptized. Many were blessed by his testimony... Others in the group have been praying for the salvation of relatives. God amazingly brought those relatives from abroad to the US for short visits, and they

accepted Christ at various special occasions... Finally, Yue Fei, a single mother, experienced God's miraculous healing power upon her son Robert. He was a troubled teenager who refused to go to school and was solely devoted to computer games. Counselors pronounced his case to be hopeless. God answered our prayers by leading Robert to a Christian school in Missouri. His mom visited him recently and reported that he was a totally different person! His school principal even commented that Robert is so advanced, he will soon be taking college-level courses! PTL! It is the love of God expressed through help and prayers that have brought about this great miracle.

Missions Ministry

We want everyone to see that "Impacting Our World" with God's love and sharing the Gospel every day begins in our own Jerusalem, and then out to our Judea, Samaria, and of course, to the ends of the earth. The faith of the Missions Ministry group has grown as they have been challenged by God to think and plan differently for the Missions Conference. They *must* trust Him in order to see it through. They have seen God open doors and hearts to leaders in our church as well as providing personnel. They also experience God's grace as they overcome mistakes and move forward.

Music Ministry

God is good and the different groups in the Music Ministry have been experiencing God's special working in their lives, including answered prayer, growing faith, and encountering God's challenges and blessings. Several of the groups have been blessed by the addition of young people and other new people. For example, there were ten new Master's Choir members who had never joined a choir before. Each group has its challenges in service, from age (Choir of Grace) to young children (Choir of Praise) to not knowing who will join (Master's Choir)... Pilgrim Song has a sister with kidney disease who needs lots of rest, but God gave her strength to stand for more than an hour on stage—acting, singing, and giving testimony. The Lord was good and six souls were saved at their last concert.

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Library Corner

The Making of a Leader

A book by Robert Clinton

Book Review by Ken Law, FCBC Fountain Valley

Are leaders made? or born?" "Are you a leader? Do you want to be one?" You probably have asked yourself these questions before. Yet do you have answers?

Robert Clinton has researched biblical leadership extensively for decades and has gained great insights on the subject. In this book he stresses that leadership is a lifetime of lessons from God. Through a thorough study of hundreds of characters, both inside and outside of the Bible, he has identified five distinct phases of a leader's development, and has named them: sovereign foundations, inner-life growth, ministry maturing, life maturing, and convergence.

The phase of sovereign foundations (phase 1) is where God prepares a person from his birth and upbringing, coupling natural abilities and personal experiences. The foundational items of leadership begin to work providentially into a person's life during this phase. A conversion experience usually moves this leader-to-be into the next phase.

During the inner-life growth phase (phase 2), the emerging leader usually receives some informal training or mentoring through a local church or Christian organization. He or she may have opportunities to participate in some forms of service. Outwardly, this person may be gaining skills and knowledge, but inwardly, it is God's molding.

As the leader-to-be continues to grow, the ministry begins to mature and becomes a primary focus in his or her life. This person begins to seek further training, whether formal or informal. During this third phase, the person's ministry appears to be effective according to his or her ability and gift-mix, but yet, up to this point God is still trying to form Christ in this person's life by impressing upon him/her valuable lessons such as trust, love, submission and laying down one's self.

During phase 4 (life maturing) the leader identifies and uses his or her gift-mix with power. God

now can use the person's life as well as his or her gifts to influence others. As the leader matures, he or she has the understanding to discern God's guidance for ministries and to establish them through priorities and gifts. And this maturing usually comes after the maturing of the ministry.

Convergence occurs in phase 5, where God moves the leader into a role that matches his or her gift-mix, experience and temperament. However, for different reasons, according to the author, not many leaders experience this phase, where one's being and spiritual authority form the true power base of a mature ministry.

"The Making of a Leader" is not exactly very reader-friendly but can be a great resource book. Since it carries so much insight, I strongly recommend it to anyone who truly desires to grow in the Lord. Better yet, try to form a book club with a few friends and share your reading insights regularly. By God's grace, you may even find out where you are at in the development process and learn how you may move up to the next phase. ✓

Editor's Note: For those who want to share reading insights with brother Ken Law on this subject, his email address is ken@kenlawteam.com.

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Commentary

Why Vote?

by Bobby Jung

You have a vested interest as a citizen, a minority, a Christian. It is your right and duty to exercise your vote. You have heard many times that people have fought and died to give us the right to vote, to express our opinions in the public square, to assemble, to worship, to pursue happiness without fear of government subjugation. It was only a generation ago in my youth that the “Freedom Riders” in the American South gave their lives for the black vote. Think of the men and women who served and died fighting for freedom. Can you imagine if Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan had won? Most of us take these rights for granted until they are taken away. Rights can be taken away slowly, eroding sinisterly without noticeable alarm. The Jews in Germany were among the most prominent and wealthy in society, bankers, merchants, lawyers—until the Nazis took power. Japanese-Americans were prosperous merchants, farmers, grocers until 1942 when all were sent to internment camps in the U.S.

You might think that this kind of injustice doesn’t happen anymore, not in America. Think again. Fast forward to 1992; remember the Rodney King riots? King was beaten up by some rogue white LAPD cops. Did the rioters go burn down the white neighborhoods or businesses? No. Disproportionally many Koreans’ businesses were looted and burnt down. Neither the police, mayor, nor any city councilmember came to the Korean American community’s defense. On the contrary, one local community “activist” even suggested that the Korean merchants were “leeching and not contributing back to the community, throwing change on the counter instead of handing them over, and disrespecting by not making eye contact with customers... they got their just reward.” Really? Thousands of Koreans’ businesses and life savings vaporized in a couple of days. A few lost their lives. When I was running for State Assembly, I ran into many young Korean-Americans who in their budding political activism were running for local offices, volunteering for their representatives, voter registrations, and starting up grass root commu-

nity organizations. All this was a direct result of the riots. They realized their community was financially strong, but politically, they were weak or totally non-existent. Yes, it can happen. It will happen if people become complacent.

Not only should we exercise our right to vote, we should be knowledgeable in current events, be active in our community, and sometimes even volunteer our time and resources to advance the causes and values that we Christians hold dear. There are proposed and pending legislation which deal with sanctity of traditional marriage, partial birth abortion, school texts and curriculum on sex, lifestyles, intelligent design, ethics on biological research, discrimination laws which could adversely affect churches’ ability to hire or fire those who hold contrary values, and many more.

On a personal level, I love this country, my adopted land. I’m sure that many of us are here in America today because of the freedom and the prosperity that our parents had sought, and had left the communist regime in China. I really appreciate my right to vote – power to the people. I do not take my freedom for granted.

Freedom of speech provides the exchange of ideas in the free market. Christians must be fully engaged with our ideas, values, and most basically our votes. Separation of Church and State? Nonsense! “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion” – not from religion. In the free market of ideas, if Christians do not participate or exercise their vote, but instead withdraw from the debate, others with contrary values will invariably fill the void. This is a constant battle; either our values will trump or it will be others’ values reflected in the laws of the land. We are to be salt and light of the world (Matt 5:13-14). Salt is flavoring, a disinfectant and a preservative. Light drives out darkness and exposes corruption. So let us be full participants in the political arena. It is our responsibility to study the issues and the candidates, and at the very minimum – VOTE. ✓

Letter from the Editor

by Kin Hui

I like reading personal testimonies. I get excited and encouraged when I read that people's lives are changed and God answers prayers. I remember in one particular case, I knew that God answered my own prayer when I read a story of God's wonderful work in a believer — the story came alive from those written words. Reading testimonies is sometimes like having "a cloud of witnesses surrounding us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Written literature is a powerful medium for sharing among Christians. Our church has been publishing the *Voice of FCBC* for more than ten years. It contains articles on church ministries, our church staff, fellowships, Sunday School and missions trips. It also has personal testimonies, book reports from the library and other types of articles sharing our thoughts on Christian faith and our vision on ministries. Our goal is to use this publication to foster communication within the congregation, thereby enhancing our fellowship at church.

The *Voice of FCBC* is published two times a year, once during the Spring to Summer time and the other during the Fall to Winter time. It is distributed in two ways: through our church web site (www.fcbc.org/voiceoffcbc/index.html) and in paper copies. The issues for the last four years are archived at the web site listed above.

We have the vision of transforming the *Voice of FCBC* into a bilingual publication (combined English/Chinese) in the near future. This will make us feel that the publication belongs to all of us, whether English-speaking or Chinese-speaking. I do pray that more people will be reading the *Voice of FCBC* and share in God's blessings at our church. ✓



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Youth Ministry

God is forming Himself in the lives of the youth in a different and special way than when they were children. Now the youth are discovering aspects of God that they had never previously imagined. We praise God for the consistent number of youth who get baptized every year but would like even more youth to take that step of faith... Youth Ministry is challenged by God to help mentor youth to become growing members of faith in the family of God. It is not easy and takes a lot of time, training and trust in God to provide ways to communicate God's love to them... God has really blessed Youth Ministry with good workers who have a heart for the youth and also the many facilities and spiritual training they are able to receive. ✓

Editor's Note: We acknowledge Pastor Benny Wong and the pastoral staff for submitting the material for this article. The material requires more space than we can allocate for publication and we tried our best to summarize and highlight without losing the messages of the authors.

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