



Voice of FCBC

Volume 15, Issue 2

Spring-Summer 2011

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

CSM Urban Missions Trip

by Don Luke

We were gathering around the vans before embarking on our Center for Student Missions (CSM) urban missions trip (more information can be found at the web site: <http://www.csm.org/whatwedo.php>) and I was just struck by the seriousness of it all. I knew God would be with us. He would be working and attempting to speak to us. I also felt, as mentioned before, some apprehension about what I might be asked to do. When I met up with the others, I felt a bit the outsider because they knew each other, and compared to them, I was a relic, a fossil. I was old enough to be their parent.

Our team members were Annie Woo, Ashley Chow, Andrea Eng, Stacey Lum, Jordan Lew, Ada Lew, Christopher Wong (photographer), Kevin Wong (leader), Spencer Sun (leader), Ryan Lew, Robert Ngai, and Marty Fong.

We drive through the Skid Row area, which is “home” to 88,000 homeless. I am shocked that the homeless are plainly visible. A few are in tents, and most are in sleeping bags. What do they do with their stuff during the day? Somehow, I expected the homeless to be hidden away like they are in the suburbs. I am embarrassed and slightly ashamed by what I see, so many homeless, that it is hard to count them. We have accepted this situation as being OK, to have people sleep on the sidewalk. Lord, help us. It is ironic that Skid Row is just blocks from the opulent Jewelry district (and L.A. Live - and less than 2

miles from FCBC!).

City Search was a four-hour activity which gave us a great experience of exploring the city and challenging ourselves. I won't spoil the surprise for you, lest you take part next year, but I will say that our group (Kevin, Chris, Andrea, and Ashley) made a new friend Bill, as we ate and enjoyed lunch together in a small place on 6th St. Bill is maybe in his 30's and is a normal looking guy and was lugging around a bag of cans he was planning on recycling. Oh, and by the way, Bill is homeless, staying the night under a canopy near 8th and Broadway. I was surprised to learn that he was homeless. As you might guess, he is on the industrious side, and spoke of working with computers and graduating from college. He shared openly about his situation and what happened to him that forced him to live on the streets. He thoroughly enjoyed the chicken burrito, which was the first meal he had had since breakfast the day before. Right then and there, I felt the filling of the Holy Spirit giving me compassion for a total stranger and I prayed for him. God spoke to me that Bill was His child as well. Bill said he had not been in contact with his mom for a long time, and it kind of put a chill on the conversation. I really felt for his mom and wished I could tell her that we had been with her son. After we separated, I looked about on the streets to see so many people walking around and imagined that each of them had a unique story to

(Continued on page 2 CSM)



(CSM from page 1)

tell about their life.

Before the trip, I was quite apprehensive, but now it is so much easier for me to approach a stranger after I've done it a couple times. The young people are so good; they just go and do it and their peer pressure helped me to just do it as well. It is no fun when a stranger rejects you, but you find that you survive and can just move on to the next person. After much walking we started to recognize the same homeless people. The homeless cease to be faceless! "Bill" will forever be etched in my mind.

Prior to the trip, I had some burden for the poor. That burden is strengthened and I developed a strong resolve to take action.

I would recommend this trip to my friends who are searching for God's will or who have some burden for the poor already. This trip doesn't conclude with possible action steps. It is more up to you and how God leads you. I would say this program is not just for college students. I think it is just as applicable or maybe even more so for adults who likely have more of the goods of the world than the young people. But for college students, the experience may guide them in their career or job choice. There really is something here for everyone.

Finally, the bonding was fantastic (isn't it always true on these trips?) and I got to know some real cool people better as a result of the trip. Of course, this was a great team and I am very proud of them. I would be willing to go to war with this group anytime. And I was especially impressed by the young people. Parents of the young people

who attended this trip, you should be very proud of your children. I was so blessed by their industriousness, attitude and boldness. They didn't complain about all the walking we did on Saturday. (Like me, they did acknowledge how cold it was out at night, but it was never expressed in a complaining tone). They did what was needed without being

told and they did what they were told, none of this "we don't want to do this" which you get so often. At the very end of the trip, we had to clean the facility and someone had to clean the bathroom and toilets. The boys simply buckled down and got the job done. The very fact that they were sacrificing time during their spring break and returning to school the next day is evidence of their good hearts.

I learned a lot from them about how to serve and have fun and not ask so many questions and taking things in stride. I would be so happy to serve together with them in the future. They are a fine, fine group and our church is blessed to have them. ✓

In this Issue:

Church Ministry

CSM Urban Missions Trip	p1
FCBC's 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament	p3
My 2010 Mission Trip	p4

Articles in Chinese 文章

脫離憎恨的枷鎖	第一頁
我找到答案	第二頁
抓緊與放手	第四頁

FCBC's 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament for Chinatown Service Center's Youth Center

by Melinda Cheng

Last summer, FCBC-LA held its first ever 3-on-3 basketball tournament to raise money for the Chinatown Service Center's (CSC) youth center. That day, 149 people participated in the fundraising event and raised a total of \$3,011.91 for the center. The center provides resources to guide Chinatown youth toward positive endeavors and shaping them to be confident and contributing adults in society.

FCBC will once again host the 3-on-3 basketball tournament this year on June 18 with the goal to raise \$5,000 for the CSC youth center. In addition to raising money, the mission for the event is to raise awareness about the center's after-school academic mentoring program.

"FCBC has existed in Chinatown for almost 60 years, and there are many opportunities for us to make more inroads and affect the community for His kingdom," stated Spencer Sun, one of the organizers of the basketball tournament. "God has also blessed our church with the financial resources and manpower to help the neighborhood residents and workers in not only spiritual, but physical ways. One such way is to collaborate and assist other organizations that service the community (e.g. Alpine Recreation Center, Pacific Alliance Medical

Center, Cathay Manor, etc.). Out of this vision and conviction was birthed the basketball tournament, which would raise money and awareness to Chinatown Service Center - Youth Center. In fact, many of the youth that attend ROCK fellowship were brought in through CSC."

The tournament received financial support last year in the form of outside donations from Pepsi and Spring Street Smoke House. FCBC also financially supported the event with food, t-shirts, insurance, facilities and printing. Beyond the monetary provision, the event was a blessing last year due to the numerous people who participated. "It was a non-threatening opportunity to invite friends who do not regularly attend FCBC," said Sun. "In fact, more than 60 percent of the participants last year never attended church. This was true for the volunteers as well. Many community youth and family members of those participating in the tournament came out to volunteer and show their support."

For more information about this year's basketball tournament on June 18 and to sign up, visit <http://supportlachinatown.weebly.com/index.html>. And to learn more about the CSC youth center, visit <http://www.cscla.org/youthcenter.php>. ✓



My 2010 Mission Trip

by Polly Chan

Throughout the 2010 mission trip to Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, I once again experienced God's wonderful grace. God made the perfect use of each of the seventeen LA Team members to accomplish His purpose. We partnered with a dynamic ventriloquist and preacher named Terry, as well as energetic singers from the Carpenter's Tools International and Christian leaders from Southeast Asia. The full team shared testimonies and performed at the Hong Kong Youth For Christ (YFC) Center and other public places. Our LA Team also conducted medical seminars, screenings, and consultations. Many seeds were sown, fruits were reaped, and Christians were nurtured.

I was privileged to sing the Cantonese Opera "Salvation Song" at two restaurants where the Gospel dinners were held. At the second Gospel dinner, I dedicated the song to my older sister who recently passed away. I urged the non-believers to accept Christ and the believers to share their salvation testimonies with their non-believing relatives and friends. I was also given opportunities to give my testimony at three high schools. I shared how God changed me from a timid person to becoming president of a national professional society. I asked students to identify and turn over the "locusts" in their lives to God (to confess sin) and receive salvation. PTL, many students indicated that they would be willing to follow Christ. In addition, I also served as an interpreter at gatherings. In conclusion, this was the most rewarding mission trip I have ever participated. ✓



Sister Polly sang at a gathering



When you walk by and look at the new construction of our Ministry Building you may notice that it is taking shape!

Do you know how many square feet footage will this building provide? Do you know how much it will cost and when is the planned completion date?

For answers, please visit our church web site at www.fcbc.org.

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

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