

BCBC 30th Anniversary Edition

Looking Beyond 30th Anniversary

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"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13: 13)

A lot have changed for the past 30 years. The population of Brampton has increased three times to 600,000 and is becoming more multi-cultural. Technology has brought changes and efficiency in our workplace, education, communication, entertainment and many other areas. More wealth and goods are produced globally, although not shared equally. Our Nation has legalized same sex marriage and soon will be assisted suicide. In essence, I see that our society has become secular, materialistic and no longer holding traditional family value.

Despite these changes, the being and the mission of the Church remains the same. The Apostle Paul describe the church as "God's household, the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth" (1 Timothy 3: 15) Our Lord Jesus commanded the Church to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28: 19). Churches in every generation need to evaluate whether they are holding on God's truth and making disciples of all nations.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our church in Brampton, we have much to thank our God. We thank God for a beautiful church building, which is now mortgage free. We saw many people came to know Christ, and we rejoice that our children have grown and continue to stay in the church. Every week and every year in the past 30 years the church runs all sorts of programs and activities for various ages: Worship services, Sunday school, fellowship, visitation, VBS etc. I am sure all these are good Christian programs and activities, but how do we know matters what *really matters* to God? A church building matters to God, but what really matters are the people. Having people attending church matters to God, but what really matters are whether they are true followers of Jesus Christ.

As I look beyond the 30th anniversary, I pray that our church will focus on what really matters to God. The church is to be the pillar and foundation of the truth in our secular and materialistic world of today.

The church is to be training ground for disciples of Jesus Christ, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ both locally and globally.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul talked about a lot of work and services that can be performed at a church. Towards the end he said what really matters, what "remain" are "faith, hope and love". How will this look in our church? Let me list some examples:

Faith:

- God's Word is being preached in Sunday worship & studied among small groups.
- Live life with integrity according to biblical principles.
- Share our faith naturally in our school, in our workplace (Not just to Chinese).

Hope:

- Live our life in contentment.
- Serve others, store up treasure in heaven (instead of hoarding wealth, acquiring bigger and bigger houses).
- Trusting Jesus in our calamities.

Love:

- Spend more time to be with family (instead of the office)
- Volunteer at church, nursing home, community & other charities
- Praying for and helping out missionaries overseas.