

BCBC 30th Anniversary Edition

From the Chairman

King Kuk

It was a long time since my last submission to the Church Yearbook. I was too lazy to only write summary of success statistics. This time, when I was asked to provide submission to the yearbook as Chairman of the board, I thought hard on what to write. I started to collect numbers and events, but I decided to share with you something that impacted me. I hope you find this short article encouraging, empowering, and entertaining.

I was back to Hong Kong for a high-school reunion; 42 years after we last met. Before I went, I was really anxious to join the reunion banquet; I was curious to find out how they all turned out after all these years. There were 50 tables at the banquet, and all schoolmates of my graduating year were scattered in 4 tables, I understood that some of the schoolmates of my year were successful and famous, and it was obvious as they were asked to be pictured a lot. Many others were retired civil servants enjoying easy lives with many golf sessions. Some others were richly retired, travelling many months of the year. After all these years of trying to be somebody, one schoolmate summarized it as 'Meaningless past years'. Actually, he was not a Christian and he had a hard time to accept that his Christian sister trusting everything to the Lord.

In another gathering, we asked if any of them committed to Christ since we studied in a Christian school, attended mandatory worship every morning and studied the Bible as a mandatory course. No one responded positively, except one of them asked us to pray before dinner. Many of my schoolmates have a successful life including 3 pastors and one Vice President in a Christian organization, but few others are in the Kingdom of God. Meaningless is right.

On the first Sunday in Hong Kong, we joined the Christian Alliance Church at North Point for Worship. The congregation was huge, as there were a lot of old folks, they offered large prints for the scripture reading and hymns. There were multiple line-ups on the street to get inside the sanctuary, and after worship, the doors opened on the two sides, and we followed the crowd streamed to the street again; no one greeted me before, during or after the service. I didn't like it. Actually, I praised the Lord for the huge congregation, and prayed they can continue to add more to their current three or four services to their jammed packed sanctuary for many more to worship the Lord.

The following Sunday, we worshipped in North Point Baptist Church, and it was a small Church. They provided large prints also for many. The major difference was that we were welcomed before the service started, we were acknowledged during the service, and we were greeted right after the service, and they gave me a quarterly newsletter when we left. I read the newsletter, one thing that caught my eyes was their family news. For the period from Oct 10 to Dec 5, 2015, there were one wedding, 10 baby dedications, and 9 deaths. I felt sad.

After I was back from Hong Kong, I went down to Boston for a sudden funeral. My wife's cousin passed away in sleep after immigration from Hong Kong 6 months earlier. Before

I came back on Tuesday, I visited a local The First Baptist Church of Lexington. It was a beautiful Church Building with a very elegant pipe organs. However, I was sad after the service. Other than the preacher and two little girls running around, everyone I met there were in the 60th 70th or older. I was very young there.

Starting Oct 3, 2015, I retired. I noticed many people around me retired before, now after my retirement, it seemed like every other person I met was retired. I was expected to be free for joining their gatherings, but I had a hard time to keep saying 'no' to many of the invites. Two months after my retirement, I didn't need to go to the office, but my long 'Honey-To-Do' list was getting longer, many unfulfilled expectations were still unfulfilled, actually, I was expected to do more. Retirement days were so full that I started to miss my morning coffee with my colleagues at work, and I found the work project expectation was more manageable than family and other 'retirement' expectations.

I came to learn a new term 'Golden Age group'. Many required afternoon naps and 'Ma Cha' time to prevent 'Alzheimer'. No daily work schedule, but consistent and dedicated routines to keep their body and mind healthy, but time to commit for God's Kingdom expansion can be quite challenging. We just need to be more dynamic and creative in using their small slots of free time.

The other day, I was shopping grocery in the Brampton mall, suddenly I was called to help convince a lady to join our December 26 concert worship at our Church. Praise our Lord, a sister was passing out invitation to our Christmas worship with a big smile. She was so lovely. May our Lord bless her and her efforts.

As chairman of the board, I was praying for our Church Growth both in Spirit and in Numbers, for the longest time, I thought my prayer was not answered or listened. Lately, during a preparation meeting for our Church 30 anniversary celebration, I was amazed to know we have more than 20 families that were members of our Church years ago, and they ended up pastoring in other Churches. I was glad that we didn't scare them out of the Christendom. And with the witnessing in the market story I mentioned earlier, I said, I am blessed. No, we are blessed. My prayer was answered.

I seemed to be talking about the last 2 months only, but the same blessings were happening every day every month in the past year and more. We had new visitors that stayed to help maintain the cleanliness of our Church. We had brothers and sisters that spend weeks and months to go around their neighborhood passing out invites to God's Kingdom. We had exciting evangelical events both at Brampton and at Burlington, and many were saved. We had celebrations of graduates and baby dedications to the Lord, many were blessed and encouraged. We had many brothers and sisters quietly cleaning the floor and the bathrooms, serving food every Sunday, preparing and teaching God's Words every Sunday. And Praise the Lord, we even had some younger fellows serving faithfully in the Executive Board. Are these all signs of growth spiritually to serve our Lord strong and well? We may not be opening side doors

streaming people out to the street after service, but we do pray each and everyone that left us will continue to serve the Lord, not just better, BEST!

Please continue to pray for our Church and all the events to be happening, all to glorify His Name:

- May be we need big prints for our elderly, sought out their needs and to comfort them in the Love of our Lord.
- Maintain good fellowship and encourage each other in spiritual growth. Not just in retreat, picnic, but non-stop fellowship programs and events.
- Old or Young, we should continue to serve our Lord every way we know how. Don't forget the original love which our Church was once famous for. Keep everyone who comes in to stay and worship with us.
- Expand our Church growth via Bible Study cells (this was our root!), plant churches, and missionary support.
- Build up our Sunday School programs that everyone knows the Words and live a life as God wills.
- And let's not forget to thank our Lord for His guiding hands in the last 30 years as we look forward to the futures.

Definitely, there are more that we can do for our Lord. Please search your heart for what Holy Spirit burden you with, and work with the Board. Together, let's live up a life that brings glory to His Name.