



感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會 (東南亞)

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Thanksgiving in Reflection

The Past

In 1942, when Mr Duncan McRoberts, an Irish missionary, received a clear vision and command from God, he responded to God's calling and began to carry out the great commission. God opened a new door for him, which resulted in the founding of CNEC- and has last 70 years until now. Even though he and those who followed him walked an arduous path, overcoming plenty of obstacles along the way, their disappointments were converted into big faith. These pioneers at times felt helpless and depressed – especially when locals rejected them – but thanks to God, they trusted in His faithfulness and obeyed His calling to share the gospel anyway. God, in His timing, has raised many faithful servants, donors and sponsors who have walked hand-in-hand with CNEC through many economic valleys of recession. CNEC, through God's abundant grace and mercy, today stands firmly and uprightly and singing praises unto Him.



Exhortation



Welcome speech by Dr Lee

On the 18th of August 2011, Rev James Lai announced that we were going to have a 60th, 70th and 80th anniversary celebration 'Let the Nations be Glad!' on May 25th of the following year and our hands have been loaded with duties since then. Once the venue, guest speaker and program were finalized, we broke the news to our CNEC churches. Next we designed our flyers, posters, banners and invitation cards. Later in the year, Rev Paul Chang began gathering choir members from a few churches for choral practices.

The editorial committee for the souvenir magazine started writing letters and emails to both local and overseas pastors and churches to invite them to contribute articles, congratulatory messages and/or advertisements. Office co-workers also started preparing door gifts. In addition, our display team and media team were busily gathering pertinent information to make slideshows and videos for the celebration night. For many months, our e-mail boxes were jammed with article deadlines, bookings of air tickets and arrangements for travel itineraries and accommodations.

During this intensive time of preparation, we had plenty to learn. The Lord taught each of us to be humble, to listen to differing opinions, to pray for others and to help fellow workers. Due to our lack of experience, we were particularly careful in planning every single task for this big celebration. The process was like a pregnancy: careful preparation in the months leading up to the delivery date so that the actual event could go smoothly. We are thankful to God for providing several volunteers at the office to assist us. A sentence in the chairman's message reminded us that "when God's faithful obey God, their work will always be blessed, even though trials and tribulations will sometimes be encountered along the way." This remark struck a chord within us, especially in the stress-filled days and nights spent working on the final proofreading of our magazine. We believe those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy!

The Present

In 1952, when CNEC moved to the region of Southeast Asia, it was in the midst of many challenges. However, as God promised, we can “do everything through Him who gives [us] strength.” Today, CNEC is like a bright lamp shining on souls in dark mountains and villages all over the world, using the establishment of seminaries, student centers, orphanages, drug rehabs centers, etc. as effective tools to share the gospel with others. We also want to thank all the sponsors of the Sponsor-A-Child program for their generous contribution to aid as many children suffering from poverty as possible and we would like to urge you to continue your support. Without a doubt, your love and contributions bring many blessings to these needy children and apart from you, these children would have no chance to receive formal education. Thank you for your help in changing many ugly ducklings into beautiful swans! May all glory be to God!

Since day one, CNEC has not deviated from her distinctive missions path of using the Holistic Approach. She supports every possible nation, tribe and people group in evangelizing their fellow countrymen. She nurtures, equips and sends them to spread the gospel. She also works to plant self-supporting, self-governing and self propagating churches.



Masters of ceremonies



Sharing from the younger generation



Time of recognition

Early in the morning on May 25th, we spent our devotion time in the conference room. The Lord reminded us that apart from Him, we could do nothing! We prayed profusely and offered ourselves to God as living sacrifices before we started to work. We thank God for providing us with beautiful, sunny weather, which gave us the high spirits and youthful energy needed to sustain us throughout the busy day. Our helpers made sure that the 500 door gifts were neatly packed. Although one of our coworkers, the designated driver for the day, was busy sending the necessary equipments and tools to the celebration venue, he was efficient enough to also reach the airport on time and pick up more overseas guests. Also, thanks to the Lord, a loving sister hosted a bunch of co-workers from Italy for us and took them on a tour of the Jurong Bird Park and the Singapore Bible College.

When the clock struck five in the afternoon, Bartley Christian Church was filled with people’s joyfulness. Many different ethnicities were mingled together, giving thanks and worshipping God – wonderful proof that God’s love unites all believers into a single identity. Inside the auditorium, the two masters of ceremonies were exchanging views; a group of younger generation leaders were anticipating their presentation while the combined choir and the flag parade were practicing their rehearsals. The exhibition hall was full of people, thanks to the huge efforts of the display team members! The display team had been as busy as bees since early afternoon and, as the night descended, they transformed into graceful butterflies fluttering from one corner to another sporting their beautiful national costumes. At a quarter past seven, eleven Akha brothers from Thailand began to sing their welcome song, which blended well with the entrance of brothers and sisters as they streamed into the auditorium praising and worshipping God. We also had several good opportunities to interact with many SAC sponsors, some of whom we had not met before. We were glad to be able to thank them face to face. We are thanking God for such a special day in which nearly 550 attendees were worshipping God together - a day not only dedicated to worshipping and singing praises to Him but also a day full of opportunities to share and communicate with all our brothers and sisters from every walk of life.



Flag bearers

The Future

CNEC will continue to face various challenges in the coming days, months, and years both in the mission fields and the offices. We pray that God will never cease to raise young co-workers in these places who are able to stay abreast of the changing times and rapidly changing technology. Nevertheless, we are very much aware of the hard work of the older workers who have been serving in their respective fields. Thank God for their tenacity; they are like hardy pine and cypress trees during the winter. We admire their calm, unshaken mindset when faced with difficulties, particularly since this is what most young people lack. In the past, quite a number of God’s servants offered their entire lives to serve Him. Today, we pray that the newly risen generation of leaders will be willing to serve God just as faithfully. We also pray that these new leaders will allow themselves to be equipped and moulded by God in His own unique and special way in order to reach out to the vast field of unreached people, as well as to participate in both the goals and challenges of Business As Missions. May God bring revival to His churches!



Singing of Praises



Exhibition



Rev Chang conducting the combined choir

The 60th, 70th and 80th anniversaries’ celebration is over. Though we felt embarrassed that there were imperfections in the event due to inexperience or unforeseen obstacles, we learned a great deal from the process and we are thankful to God for providing us with the spontaneity to participate in completing this great project with Him. We pray that, as we serve, we will remember to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. May God be pleased with our service!

Though ‘Let the Nations Be Glad!’ has now joined the ranks of our history, we understand the critical need to pass the torch of CNEC’s experience to the younger generation of leaders and, as Rev Paul Chang wished during his birthday celebration, “May God raise up Timothy!” May there be unhindered cultivation of a new generation of leaders with hearts of compassion for the needy to do His great ministry. We invite you to participate in this project of rising up Timothy! May God help us to anticipate the outcome of our impact over the next 60 years! Amen!



Prayer of praise



Making a wish



Benediction



Timothy Scholarship (Paul Chang Legacy Fund)

Rev James Lai

*The phrase ‘as the waves behind thrust forward’
is not a pessimistic concept to sigh over,
but the inevitable trend of the times*

*In fact, if the waves behind were not there to thrust ahead,
a great tragedy would have actually taken place!*

*The combined efforts of the waves in front and the waves
pressing from behind are
needed to create huge tidal waves advancing forward!*

In God’s kingdom,

*His servants ought to possess a breathtaking vision
as illustrated by this idea of powerful tidal waves.*

*In God’s kingdom, one generation of servants after
another needs to be raised*

in order to advance forward like the tide!

Praise the Lord that, in CNEC ministries,

we are able to see such tidal waves ...

though the current tidal waves are small,

we look ahead in anticipation of increasingly larger ones!

*We hope to see more leaders from the new generation
being raised up.*

Together we can aid the frontal waves in their advance!

Today, despite his age, Rev Paul Chang remains just as passionate as he was in his younger days for the training of the younger generation of Christians for missions. He made a wish during his 80th birthday celebration: to see continuous waves of generation after generation rising up, not simply fading away, like foam and residue on a beach. Instead, he desired to provide support for the new generation of church leaders so that, through them, more churches and leaders passionate for missions can be raised up, following the example in 2 Timothy 2:2.

We thank God for His abundant grace and provision. During CNEC’s 60th anniversary and Rev Chang’s 80th birthday celebration, God blessed us with more than 600 attendees, many of whom generously contributed to the Timothy Scholarship. We continue to pray that God will help us to reach our target. The purpose of the Timothy

Scholarship is to assist the younger generation of Christian workers in their theological studies as well as to properly equip them for work in the mission fields.

We invite you to participate with us in nurturing the next generation. This work has two aspects to it. First, we must follow what Jesus taught in Matthew 9:37-38, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Second, we ought to pass on this vision to others. As Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:2, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” This is our goal from generation to generation.

Praise the Lord! In recent years, we have been able to witness transformation in many children’s lives. Many children used to have a childhood similar to that of a spiritual ugly duckling - no one to depend on, lonely, hurting and abandoned. However, the moment Christ came into their lives, they were nurtured, equipped with purpose and transformed into useful vessels of God.

Miss Yang Hui Mei is one of our pastors on the mission fields in Lashio, Myanmar. She is a wonderful illustration of how a spiritual ugly duckling can be transformed into a beautiful swan. Hui Mei was one of our SAC children. After she completed elementary school, she took up theological courses and became a pastor. Throughout her theological education, her school fees and living expenses were sponsored by various churches. As a result, her desire is to praise and thank God and faithfully serve the churches that generously supported her during her training. Currently, Pastor Yang is preparing for yet another “flight” to enhance her studies through the aid of the Timothy Scholarship. With twice as many blessings from her sponsors this time around, we are sure she is “soaring” with much confidence and dutifully glorifying God.

We appreciate your aid in helping these swans stretch their wings and advance to greater heights for our Lord! Amen!

MINISTRIES: INDIGENOUS CHURCH, BIBLE SCHOOL, TRIBAL WORKS, SPONSOR-A-CHILD MINISTRY, CREATIVE ACCESS MINISTRY, HOLISTIC MISSIONS

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All funds received are to support CNEC ministries; the operation cost is not more than 20% to sustain the office for ministries’ purposes.