Cross alk

01 September 2011



this issue

Pastor Tung Muses P.1

Camp Hope for Little Lights Kids P.2

Hannah joins FCA staff P.3

Church Retreat Reflections P.4

PASTOR TUNG MUSES:

The core
values of the
One New
English
Congregation
(ONEC):

Passion

Humility

Unity

Servanthood

Thankfulness

This spring, Butler University's basketball team made it to the National Collegiate Athletic Association final for the second straight year. This is an amazing accomplishment for any school, and especially for a smaller school such as Butler.

What lies at the heart of the school's successful basketball program are its 5 core values: passion, humility, unity, servanthood, thankfulness. These are biblical values and could also serve as the core values of the One New English Congregation (ONEC).

- Passion is all about being vibrant and eager to put forth the effort. Are you hungry to grow and serve, and enthusiastic about the opportunities to do so? Will you be passionate when you don't feel like it?
- Humility is knowing who you are not thinking too highly of yourself but also not thinking too little of yourself. Simply put, it means having sober judgment. Do you know who you are as a Christian in Christ's kingdom and the church?
- *Unity* is best illustrated in this adage: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." Church, more than any other organization, is one in which we can come together and achieve greatness without having the greatest individual talents.
- Servanthood is knowing your role and sacrificing as needed to make others better. It's a
 key element of team unity and greatness.
 Will you truly give of yourself to make your
 church and kingdom better?

• *Thankfulness* involves being grateful when things go well. But equally important is to be thankful for what you learn in hard times and growing from them.

How do these 5 core values fit into the vision of ONEC (One New English Congregation)? Reasons for ONEC:

A Bigger Vision of reaching out – we don't just think about ourselves, we think of others. The kingdom of God is much larger than any one Christian group. God wants us to think in kingdom terms. This needs the core values of passion and servanthood.

A Broader Identity – not just one life-stage identity, but see that we move through different identities as we go through life. Having left a previous life stage, we look back and give back. Looking forward to the next life stage, we pay our respects and learn from those in that stage. And being in the present life stage, we have similarities with our peers and reach out to them. This needs the core values of <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/june-11.0001/j

A Greater Unity and Interdependence - we work and pray together and support one another to accomplish the Vision. This needs the core value of unity.

We need the ONEC Vision in order for us to have a Bigger Vision, Broader Identity, and Greater Unity and Interdependence that God desires for His Kingdom and Church. Without the ONEC Vision, we will remain separated, limited, and independent from one other. The ONEC Vision will move us with excitement into a new future with great possibilities. Let us believe that God will take us to that new place as He renews us in our life and in our church's life.



Camp Hope for Little Lights Kids

By Lydia Tan

"I saw God working in a short time, changing the heart of 7-year old Thaddeus," Mark Chang reminisced about his recent experience with Camp Hope, an annual event that CBCM hosts for the inner city kids of Little Lights. Mark, a rising Junior in high school, was paired up with Thaddeus for one-on-one time during the 4-day camp. If Mark had to use one word to describe his time at Camp Hope, he would say "fantastic." Though there was some initial frustration as little Thaddeus just wanted to play instead of going along with the program at Camp Hope, Mark noticed an amazing change in his attitude as they spent 30 minute sessions together, 2 to 3 times a day, relating and bonding with each other. The theme "New Attitude" and the key verse for the camp became real for both Mark and Thaddeus - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone and the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Crystal Leung, also a Junior in high school, would choose the word "encouraging" to sum up her experience - she was matched up with Shadia, age 9. There were some trying moments as Crystal had to enforce discipline especially during bedtime. Her main takeaway from her Camp Hope time was that discipline comes from a heart of love. God's heart of loving discipline is expressed in Hebrews 12:10b "God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness."

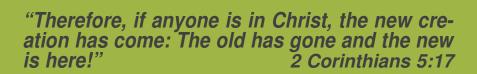
Mark and Crystal are 2 out of 20 counselors and leaders, who were involved in the planning and hosting of Camp Hope. The key person who organizes Camp Hope is Chris Gnip who is moved by how much these young kids have gone through living in a tough neighborhood, Potomac Gardens, in the Washington, D.C. area. Through Chris's coordination efforts, both CBCM adults and teens come together to serve the 18 children from Little Lights who attended this retreat. This is the 9th year that CBCM has worked together with Little Lights in this camp where each child is paired up with a counselor and they spend meaningful one-on-one times together, sharing their hearts. The counselors exemplify Christ to these kids (many of whom come from broken homes) in line with 2 Corinthians 2:15 that declares "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." However, the benefits are not one-way. While blessing these kids, CBCM counselors are in turn blessed by their experiences with these children and feel their hearts enlarged by the Lord.

Maybe every CBCM member can become involved in one way or another in Little Lights. It is a great way to build passion and practice servanthood, 2 traits that Pastor Tung has identified as CBCM core values. Besides Camp Hope that runs every April, CBCM also hosts an annual Christmas party for Little Lights children where the parents of the kids are invited as well. If we wish to, we can bless these kids with Christmas presents and watch their faces light up. We can also serve and interact with the kids directly, we can give, and we can definitely pray!

time volunteer, contact Chris Ngip, chrisngip@gmail.com

angelo94@vahoo.com

For more testimonies on www.camphopedc.org





Hannah Joins Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

By Jabez Tan

Hannah requested that I help her paint her basement and I was glad to. She is a great friend and I was available, being jobless then. We painted her basement purple (yes it was a lovely shade of vibrant purple) and then sat down to chat about Hannah's decision to join the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as a full time staff.

Q: Tell me your story, what made you decide to join FCA?

A: Going into 6th grade one of my friends wanted to go to an FCA sleepover camp. She didn't want to go by herself, so I went with her. Before the camp, I thought being a Christian meant being involved in youth group, but I did not know what it meant to have a relationship with Christ. At camp I

A: It is a multi-faceted job and the different pieces connect. Our basic goal is to realized what it meant to be a follower of Christ, and that I could glorify God through my love of sports. Every year since then, I kept going back to camp, and tried different sports to get a different perspective of the coaching styles and also hear different people speak about how God changed their lives through sports and

how they used that as a platform to share Christ with others. While in high school and college, I volunteered to be a camp counselor at FCA camps and also interned with them for the past 3 summers, so that really gave me perspective on what it meant to be involved in a ministry, how to impact others through the use of sports, and be able to communicate and share my faith with those who've never heard about Christ and to use sports to build a relationship with another person and to connect.

Q: What is your job description like?

impact the world for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches. In the summer, FCA runs a bunch of summer camps, day camps, and sleep away camps, for various ages. There are also conferences for college students. During the school year, our focus is on campus ministry,

Cont'd on page 4

To find out how you can help:

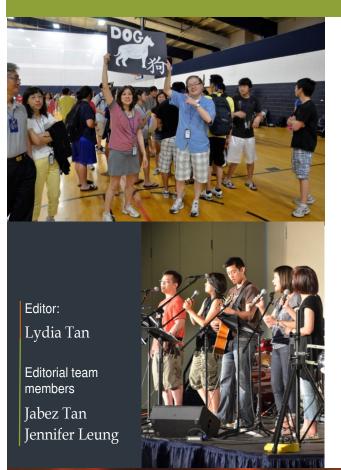
Contact Hannah Cheung hcheung@fca.org

FCA is a nonprofit, interdenominational ministry that reaches out to the young athletes of the world.

Q: How did your parents react to your decision to join FCA?

A: When I first told them about the job offer, and the prospect of working for FCA, they were actually pretty supportive and said to just make sure I pray about it to ensure I was following God's will. Once I told them this is where I believe God is leading me, my Mom was really excited and my dad was really supportive. They're so thrilled that I'll have a job coming out of college but also that I'm doing something that I love and serving Christ at the same time.

So I feel really blessed that I have parents who are excited that I'm going into ministry and supportive of the fact that my pay check may not be as high as other occupations or that it's not as consistent considering that it's all from fund raising. But I know my parents, they've always been really supportive of the decisions I've made growing up as long as I know that it is what God is telling me.



CHURCH RETREAT REFLECTIONS

May 2011 at Messiah College

Dawn Koh:

For me, the highlight of the retreat was the workshop by Rev Alan Ginn focusing on drawing near to ABBA Father's Heart. During my prayer time at the stations, I had an encounter with God. At the first station, the worship music and the scriptures helped me to cast my cares on Jesus. The visuals of the armchair and the stool enabled me to focus on being in the presence of God. The subsequent stations on "Basking in His Love" and "Surrendering to God" further ministered to me. I am so glad I went to the retreat!

Lena Shirley:

I can relate to the Sermon "Attaining to the Unity of Faith thru Suffering" by Rev. Alan Ginn. I am thankful for all God has done for me, especially during the darkness of my life. I have experienced the grace of God, who is loving, kind, merciful, and has saved a wretch like me. He has given me peace, joy, comfort, and made me strong. It is the deep personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that has strengthened my faith in Him. He loves me and you that much, too, that when we, the true believers come together in the unity of the Spirit, we will always be working towards the unity of faith.

Cross Talk Issue 01 September 2011 Chinese Bible Church of Maryland www.cbcm.org

coach's ministry, and community ministry. For campus ministry, we work with students, training them to lead an FCA huddle at their school, become leaders in Christ and be able to share with their classmates and their teammates. For coach's ministry, we work with those who teach in a school and are able to impact their players, parents, and co-workers through their jobs as coaches. They have a lot of influence, being able to share Christ through that and coaching from a Christian perspective is really important. Community ministry is all year round actually, the FCA huddles at school do outreaches such as feed the homeless, nursing homes visits, make cards for veterans, dodgeball tournaments or yard sales.

Q: On the flip side, I know your job isn't all happiness all the time. What are some tough or challenging aspects of being an FCA staff?

A: For me personally, it is raising support. Being raised in a Christian home as well as in a Chinese culture, it's been ingrained in me to not ask for money or for help. It's been difficult to get the courage and find the words to say in asking for support. But the fact is that FCA is a non-profit Christian organization that is run solely on fundraising and support. Hence there's an urgency to raise my support so that I can start as soon as possible. It's daunting, especially since I'm just out of college and a lot of my friends don't have jobs or are back in school, so not everyone that I know can donate or support me. However, there are different ways that people can get involved. One of them is financially; other ways are prayer, volunteering or helping me make connections with a Christian teacher that wants to start FCA, or with neighbors who want to send their kids to camp.

Q: Was a there a moment where you were like "this is what I want to do after I graduate" or was it a gradual thing?

A: This past summer, FCA offered me a job, but requested me to pray about it to figure out if this is where God is leading me. I majored in Education in college and I really wasn't sure which path God was leading me to because I've never actually been in a classroom where I had to teach. As I kept praying about it and had others pray for me, it became clear that God was pushing me towards working with FCA full time after I graduate. I still have a passion for teaching but I think that for now this is where I'm supposed to be. I think I can still use the Education degree that God has blessed me with while I'm on staff with FCA because I'll be working with children and students and that's where my passion is.

Q So what would you say is your favorite part of working at FCA?

A: My favorite part is seeing the change in the students that I get to work with. Seeing them realize that their faith is real and they can actually make an impact on others through their faith and through the platform of sports.

Second is seeing a coach really get impacted by the FCA ministry and realize that their coaching style may not be the one that God is calling them to use and that they should use the gifts that they have to glorify God and make an impact with the talents that they have.

And the third I would say, I really love just working with students in general, regardless of age, because I can always make an impact on someone's life regardless.