

Congratulations



Ray Hsieh



Tao Jen



John Lei

On April 10, 2016, CBCM ordained three new elders to join the BOE, Ray Hsieh, Tao Jen and John Lei. We pray that God will continue to give them grace, strength and wisdom as they serve the church in the coming years.

Births



Meredith Yau Wan born
March 7, 2016

Parents: Sheran and Edwin
Wan of the Cantonese Congregation.

Hannah Marie Hom, 6 lbs, born
October 28, 2015

Parents: Dr. Joanne and Rev. Kenneth Hom of CBCM-G campus.

Condolences

—**Sister Josephine Moy** rested in the Lord on March 17, 2016. Mother of Linda Lee and faithful member of the Cantonese congregation, she will be greatly missed.



—Pray for **Sophia Wong** as she completes her family affairs in Taiwan and pray for safety as she travels back home later this month.

—Pray for **Lila Wang's father** as he recovers from cancer surgery and for wisdom as the family decides on future treatments. Also pray for his salvation.

About CrossTalk

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"This calls for parents to be vigilant about what their kids are being taught at school..."

CrossTalk

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馬利蘭中華聖經教會
Chinese Bible Church of Maryland

www.cbcm.org

**EXALTING JESUS CHRIST
EDIFYING THE BELIEVERS
EVANGELIZING THE WORLD**

Conservative Parents, Liberal Kids

By Pastor John Tung

From 1982-1989, there was a TV show called "Family Ties," starring Michael J. Fox. The premise of the show was that of a set of parents who grew up as liberal hippies, but whose son, played by Fox, is a conservative.

Today, I see the reverse pattern. I have seen conservative parents whose children are adopting progressive or liberal values. Some parents who attend church regularly and who have brought their kids to the church's children and teens programs have asked church leaders, how did their kids grow up supporting same-sex marriage, believes in women's choice regarding abortion, believe in evolution and opposing the death penalty? They thought if they brought their kids to church, their kids will adopt conservative values.

I think the short answer is that while conservative parents brought their kids to church, it was not enough to overcome the liberal education their kids were receiving in the public school system.

Maryland is one of the more liberal states in the US. It is a "Blue State." Maryland has had two Republican governors in the past 47 years, hasn't had a GOP senator in 29 years and has picked Democrats for president in six straight elections (Washington Post, June 21, 2014).

Montgomery County, MD, is even more liberal than the state of MD as a whole ("Maryland's Leftward Swing," Paul Schwartzman, Washington Post, April 4, 2013).

Most of our church kids attend public schools in Montgomery County. They are exposed to liberal values 7 hrs. a day, plus an average of 3 hours of daily homework and reading, for 5 days a week. That

makes 50 hours of education in the public school per week. This is counterbalanced by sending their kids to teens' group or children's program, Sunday school and worship, which is about 3 hours per week.

That's 50 hours versus 3 hours per week. Imagine the cumulative effect over 12 years. Therefore, it should not surprise us if some of our kids are adopting more liberal values as they go through public schools. Furthermore, as our kids enter college – most of the colleges are even more liberal than high schools. So, that's another 4-5 years of exposure to more liberal views.

Unless parents are intentionally teaching their kids topics like abortion, homosexuality, "same-sex marriage," evolution, etc. at home from an early age – entrusting kids to the church's teaching program is simply not enough time to counter the great imbalance of views the kids are getting from public schools. I submit that this is perhaps the main reason why our kids are becoming more liberal. This calls for parents to be vigilant about what their kids are being taught at school, preemptively countering what the schools will be teaching about these issues, and discussing with their children how to be God's voice in school.

Many parents moved to MD because of its education. While it is good in many respects – such as in teaching respect for different groups of people – parents may not realize the effect liberal values have upon their children's education. Northeast US – and the West Coast – tend to be the most liberal and those are also the places where most Asian kids live. This is a big challenge therefore to conservative Asian parents living in a liberal area.

In late 1988, I was a young soldier in the United States Army; given my first duty assignment to the country of Germany...

Ignoring History’s De- tails Can Have Disas- trous Consequences

– For want of a nail

By Jose Gomez

Although I wasn’t there that summer in 1987, the words of a once great leader, Ronald Reagan, can be heard echoing into my memory from out of history. Echoing like ripples on a pond, repeating what was said; “Mr. Gorbachev...Tear down this wall!” This wall Reagan spoke of was the Berlin Wall.

At the end of World War 2 with Germany’s defeat in the war, Germany was divided between the Allies and the Soviets, in hopes of avoiding another potential German rise to power. The country’s capital Berlin was also separated into two halves, a socialist “East Berlin”, created within the Soviets half, and the Allied Nation’s free market West Berlin.

In 1961, due to the sheer amount of East Berliner’s fleeing the oppression of socialism, the Berlin Wall was built. Extending from the top to the bottom of the city, the intent of the Berlin Wall was to stave off the increased flow of its citizens fleeing to the West. This “Wall” for many of us, would become iconic for oppression and tyranny. Winston Churchill would metaphorically name it the “Iron Curtain” that allowed neither escape from within nor aid from without.

Two years after Reagan’s famous speech in 1987 the people of East Germany slowly began to reject socialism. Subsequently resulting in the collapse of the “Iron Curtain”, democracy would be born, and I was witness to it. Those of us who witnessed socialisms defeat, considered that very moment to have been the death of a failed system, a system of control, a system that resulted in rampant misery. Unfortunately within the scope of upcoming elections, there seems to be an ever increasing glamorization of socialism and what was once a proven failure of an economic system is finding resurgence among younger generations. The philosopher Santayana once penned these famous words, and I quote...“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”

In late 1988 I was a young soldier in the United States Army; given my first duty assignment to the country of Germany, in those days Germany was still not one nation. Within time I met and started to date a young German lady whose extended family had been divided by the building of the wall.

When the boarders were built they forcibly contained all those living on its east side and her family had members who became trapped on the wrong side. I recall a few times how care packages were made that included items that seemed odd and ordinary to me, I would enquire as to why items such as bananas and meats, breads, clothes and shoes were being sent. Couldn’t your family members buy these sorts of items for themselves? Clearly I had no concept of socialism and its results to the lives of those subjected to it.

The following few years we watched as East Germany would throw off the chains of Socialism that had previously bound it, and join its western brothers in freedom. As a result of the increasing freedoms in East Germany, I was able to accompany my friend’s family to pay a visit to the recipients of those care packages, in the former East German town of Karl Marx Stadt. Once there I met, and eventually was able to discuss with, the father of that family how socialism had impacted their lives these 40 some years. Though his name has long since eluded my memory, the tale of sheer misery he and his family had endured never will.

I remember how tears almost welled over from within his eyes as he recounted hour long waits in lines at the grocery stores, only to come away with a loaf of bread and a can of meat. How he was so very grateful for the food ; bananas and oranges we sent his family in those care packages, because he couldn’t remember a time when these were offered at the local market. He asked me what I did for a living; at the time I was a crew chief of a black hawk helicopter, familiar with many systems; hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, electrical and electronic.

So I understood when he explained how he was fortunate enough to run a small electronic appliance repair shop, but could not get the parts he needed to do many of the repairs.

The reason being that the kinds of electronic parts he needed were scarce and rationed by the socialist government. Since his was a small time shop, it wasn’t important enough to receive the authority to be given repair parts.

I listened as he recounted the difficulties he endured trying to get a family car; for them a car was not a right, that sort of thing had to be approved by the state. He was not allowed to own a car; it belonged instead to the state and was a sort of lease between citizen and state. He waited 7 years to be approved to have that automobile, and the state would not hesitate to take the vehicle away if he fell out of its good graces.

His daughter was forced by the state to work as a wall paper printer because the state had need for such a position at that time, and she was not allowed to pursue a college degree. When I asked her what she dreamed of doing, she could not answer; I suppose she lacked the vision to even consider what if anything else she would have done differently. What hurt the most was to hear how her older brother had taken his own life, because, as he had seen it, there was just no hope, no future to his bleak life.

In November of 1999 thirteen citizens of communist/socialist Cuba climbed into a small 15’ aluminum boat with a faulty engine, in hopes of fleeing the oppression in Cuba for the freedoms of America. Braving 10 to 13 foot swells and 90 miles of open-ocean, they were unfortunately swept away some 320 miles off course by storms. With their boat capsized, 10 of them lost their lives including a young Elian Gonzales’s mother. After several grueling days clinging to a rubber raft Elian and 2 others were rescued near Miami Florida.

Many of us recall as a bitter custody war ensued, resulting in the deportation of Elian, and a despairing Pulitzer Prize winning photo of Federal agents retrieving a crying Elian from his American relative’s home at gun point. I remember listening to the young boy’s tearful pleas to allow him to remain in America as he enjoyed such freedoms as Disney World.

The one idea, if any I hope to leave with you, my reader is this, if socialism was such a great idea, then how come so many people are trying so hard to flee from it. A woman alone with only her child, willing to risk life and limb; leave everything behind, just for a shot to live in America, some only able to send their children, who are willing to risk everything to get away from it. This is for real!, Some are prepared to face almost insurmountable odds, even death, floating across vast open oceans on nothing more than wooden pallets, trying to get away from socialism. Just for one chance to reach the freedoms of America. Freedoms, that many of us have forgotten came to us with such a heavy price tag, Thomas Jefferson wrote that the tree of freedom is fed by the “blood” of the patriots, how so many have given their blood for what freedoms we enjoy here today in America. Yet unbelievably so, today we contemplate voting ourselves right back to a place so many had risked everything to get away from. The thought is overwhelming.

So you see, when I recollect on my personal experiences, what I witnessed with my very own eyes, what I lived through personally, I am deeply persuaded of the negative implications of socialism, communism, or as served to us in today’s jargon... “democratic socialism” For both words together are an oxymoron if you please, and will bring exactly the opposite of their intentions.

Proverbs 24:3-4

By wisdom a house is built and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with precious and pleasant riches.

“Yet unbelievably so, today we contemplate voting ourselves right back to a place so many had risked everything to get away from.”

Do we get receipt after the purchase?

On each transaction (purchase or deposit), we'll send an email to all of your family members (as long as their email accounts are listed in the church directory) with the detailed purchase information, including the items purchased, total amount purchased, and the balance of your account.

What if I leave CBCM, and I still have money in my account, can I get my money back?

Yes. Just go to our "Deposit" counter, we'll bring up your account, and return the remaining balance to you.

What if my card is lost?

You can email us and let us know your card was lost. We will pay attention to your card. In general, when we scan your card, your family picture will appear. So, it is unlikely that people will use other person's card and risk their reputation. If, for any reason, a person does use another person's card, and we didn't catch it at the counter, you'll still receive the email notice regarding the purchase that you didn't do. Please let us know and we'll pay more attention to future purchases from your account.

What if I am not CBCM member, but I come to church regularly, can I apply for a meal card?

Yes, you can. As long as your (or family) name is in our church directory, you can apply.

What if I don't want to apply for a MCOS account, or, I'm just visiting for a short period of time, can I still purchase lunch?

Yes. You can purchase a "Guest Card". We have three different values, \$10, \$20, \$40. You can purchase any number of cards, with additional cost of \$1 per card. The only difference is, we won't be able to send an email (as receipt) for your purchases. Again, if you don't come to church anymore, you can come to our "Deposit" counter and get the remaining money back.

I have adult children listed in my church directory. Can we use a separate account when we purchase lunch?

Unfortunately, you can't. As long as you are in the church directory as a family, there is only "One" family account in MCOS. The solution is to have your children listed separately in church directory.

When can members start purchasing cards?

Very soon, may be in a week or two. We have been putting together a promotional video for release in April followed by a Q&A session for the congregation.

When is the official date you will roll-out of the system?

We are planning to roll-out the system two months after we officially announce it to the congregation (which will be in a week or two). We expect it will be operating in June.

When the new system is in place will you continue to accept those still holding tickets?

No. After we officially roll out the new system, we won't accept any tickets. Instead, people with tickets, can deposit their tickets into their MCOS account (with equivalent amount of money). If they don't have a MCOS account, they can exchange the tickets for a gift card.

However, in case of any system failure, we will use the tickets as a backup.

When is the last day you will accept tickets?

After we officially roll out the system, which is tentatively set for June. We will officially announce the date a few weeks before the roll out date, so that people can be prepared by using their last tickets.

For additional questions, please contact a Hospitality Deacon.

EVENTS & PERFORMANCES

Concert: "Hear Our Cry" – in Remembrance of Our Persecuted Brothers and Sisters

Time & Date: 7:30 PM, Saturday, 04-16-2016
by May Chu

The global persecution of Christians has risen to unprecedented levels, and the trend continues to worsen. The situation is dire for today's Middle Eastern Christians, who live under the shadow of radical Islam everywhere they turn. In a climate of "religious cleansing", they are forced to flee for their lives, and for their children's lives, from their home countries where the violence and the depredation overwhelmingly targets Christians and the religious minorities. Most of their churches have been plundered and destroyed. They live in desperation day to day facing pursuit, starvation, meager conditions, a war torn environment, and violence that include brutal harassment, kidnappings, rape, trafficking, torture, and murder. The scale of atrocities in this humanitarian crisis has prompted the United States government to make an official determination of genocide on March 17, 2016.

At our concert event this spring, CBCM will partner with Barnabas Aid, to raise awareness, prayers, and financial support for persecuted believers. This event is open to everyone, so we encourage you to invite friends for an impactful and informative experience. The concert segment includes special musical performances to resonate with the theme, "Hear Our Cry", integrated with congregational prayers and accompanied by moving power point visuals. After the children's program, they will be dismissed and directed to a separate children's activity, due to the grim nature of the subsequent subject matter. Then Reverend James Beavers will share with us some current reports and individual stories from persecuted regions, and ideas on how we can help the Christians in Iraq and Syria.

Along with raising awareness of the plight of persecuted believers in the Middle East, our hope is that attendees will feel moved to act with continual prayer support and with prayerful financial support. Free prayer booklets from Barnabas Aid, with specific prayer items and crisis updates from persecuted countries, will be available during the event at our table outside the sanctuary. Free will

offering will also be accepted at our table. Additionally, there will be opportunities to donate to two projects that are sponsored by Barnabas Aid: 1. Food & Basic Needs for Christian Families in Iraq; 2. Operation Safe Havens – Providing a safe route and transport out of the Middle East for persecuted Christian refugees, and basic provisions to help them resettle. This would mean that the fleeing Middle East Christians would not have to be subjected to predatory traffickers and other perils. A few western countries are stepping forward to offer resettlement prospects. These efforts extend a life line to many who are suffering from the religious persecution.

The CBCM has developed a relationship with Barnabas Aid in helping persecuted Christians. Through the years, we've had Barnabas Aid speakers address our congregation, we've implemented a recent CBCM run child sponsorship program in partnership with Barnabas Aid for Christian children in persecuted areas to attend Christian schools, and we've provided congregational support with donations to the Barnabas Aid's Children Fund. Since August 2015, the CBCM weekly bulletins have included postings of timely prayer items for the persecuted church sourced from the Barnabas Aid's prayer booklets. Listen, and hear the cries of torment and anguish. It is time for prayer and action.

All your commands are trustworthy;
help me, for I am being persecuted without cause.

Psalm 119:86 (NIV)

**"SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES...
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS...
MOVING POWER POINT VISUALS...
STORIES FROM PERSECUTED REGIONS..."**



A Devotion At The Dorcas Center

by Amy Liu

The following is a devotion that I shared with the CBCM short term missions team at the Dorcas Center in Brooklyn, NYC on July 28, 2015. I plan to return to the Dorcas Center this summer to reconnect with the children there.

Habakkuk 3:17-19: 17Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. 19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

Verse 17 is the reality of the lives of many children at the Dorcas Center's VBS/Summer Camp. As children of new immigrants/garment factory workers, they lack many material things in life. Most of them live with their families in the basement of someone's home or in a rented room of a house. The parents are not home most of the day and are working long hours; they can also be easily laid off with their low paying jobs.

The main purpose of my trip is to encourage these children with my story, and to share with them that the most important and wisest decision that I have ever made in my life is to make a decision for Jesus, and to inspire them to do the same. I also want to share with them that even though things are not going well for them in this season of their lives; this is just a transient stage. I want to encourage them with verse 18, "yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength." I am here because of my gratitude to God for giving me the most precious gift of Jesus. He has been good to me; the mission of my trip at Dorcas is to share His love to the children and to proclaim the "Excellency's of His Name."

Here is my story: I see myself in them as a ten-year-old new immigrant in America. Life was very difficult in my younger days, for my father abandoned the family shortly after we arrived in Maryland, and my family was struggling financially.



There were very few Asians in Montgomery County, and I had experienced bullying (being teased) quite regularly from 5th to 9th grade. The turning point in my life was when I was fourteen years old, God had brought a "special angel" (my 9th grade history teacher) into my life. She greatly encouraged me by assuring me that I was college material, and I was going to be a professional one day. Being raised in an Asian culture, I had never received any words of affirmation from home or from anyone before. There was so much power in her words that it changed the view of myself completely in a positive way. It helped to build my self-esteem, and gave me the hope of pursuing a higher education. Another turning point in my life came when I accepted Jesus into my life right before I started college. This is the wisest and most important decision that I have ever made, for it determines my spiritual destiny with my identity in Christ. I completed my college education and got a job as a dental hygienist. I am married to a Christian husband, and I have two children who are followers of Jesus. The Lord has blessed me so much that I am excited to be here to tell the children about God's greatest gift. Please pray for me that the Lord will grant me the wisdom to share my story and most importantly the story of Jesus effectively in a way that the children can understand clearly, and to point them to our Lord Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

There was so much power in her words that it changed the view of myself completely...

What!?! A New Lunch System?

Yes! CBCM will be implementing a new lunch system called the MCOS in June of 2016. It will be an upgrade to our current ticket system. Current testing has been successful and the roll out is on track to kick-off in June, so please see our cashiers, subscribe and be filled...with a tasty lunch!

This is the official Q&A document from the Hospitality Department to the CBCM body.

What is MCOS?

It is our computerized lunch purchasing system. The full name is "Meal Card Operations System" or "MCOS". The system was developed in-house, by the CBCM Computer Ministry.

Why MCOS?

Over the years, many people had hoped that we could provide an automated lunch purchasing system, like meal cards in colleges, so they didn't have to bring money each week, and stand in long lines for the lunch tickets. Praise the Lord, with the help from the newly formed CBCM Computer Ministry, they were able to address our need with this cutting-edge technology.

How does MCOS work?

When you apply for MCOS, we'll provide you with an e-Card, and an optional credit-card sized Meal Card (\$1) for you and your family members. First, you deposit some money into your account (any amount). Then, you just make purchases each week. You can pick up your lunch items directly. You no longer need to purchase tickets. The lunch selling counter will use a barcode reader to record the items that you purchase, similar to what the supermarket check-out counters do. The amount that you purchase will be deducted from your account.

What is an e-Card? How do I use it?

The e-Card is an electronic card which we send you through email. You can save it onto your smart phone. You just need to show us your smart phone when you purchase food, or deposit money. There is no need to carry the physical card, and worry about losing it, and it is FREE.



What if my account is running out of money, can I still make a purchase?

No, you can't. You need to deposit money first, then come back and purchase.

How can I know if my account is running low?

After each purchase, you'll receive an email detailing your purchase information, including the items purchased, total amount purchased, and the balance of your account. Also, when your account is under \$10, the system will send you a reminder email each week, for three times, on Saturdays. You can then deposit more money into your account on the following Sunday.

Do you have a limit of money which can be deposited into my account?

No. You can deposit as much as you want into your account. However, we limit each deposit transaction to a maximum of \$200. It is to prevent us from human error by typing too many zeros into the account.

Can I pay by credit card?

No. We only accept cash and check. We can't accept credit card since our church doesn't have a credit account.

How can we qualify to participate in MCOS?

Your name has to be in our church directory since we get all the needed information from the church member account. You do NOT need to be CBCM member to list your name on the church directory.