

Nehemiah 4:6: So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.



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Vision: CCBC, Toward Healthy Growing Disciple-Making Church

2016 Theme: Building and Bringing

Spiritual Formation - 2 Types of Christians – Which One Are You?

A reflective account by Rosaline Chan



Simply by becoming a Christian when we confessed our sins and accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour is not enough to guarantee that we will definitely live a fulfilled life in Christ Jesus. Although God's desire is to have a personal and intimate relationship with us, it does not happen mystically. Such an especial relationship takes time and is a consequence of continuous and purposeful process which requires willingness – the willingness of our hearts. A mature adult does not necessarily mean a spiritually mature Christian. Being a Christian is something we grow into for Christians do not mature overnight. There is no privileged course or exclusive formula for a Christian to be spiritually mature. There are certain and essential things that Christians must do in order to grow in Christ. We cannot force a long time babe in Christ to grow; it is each individual's decision to either grow or remain a babe in Christ. However, we must also understand that growth is not exclusive. God does not handpick Christians to grow, while others do not. Any Christian who is willing to take the time to do the things required for growth, will grow. If we intentionally discipline (train) ourselves as Christians, then we will grow spiritually. First and

foremost, let us be open to be aware of and recognize what type of Christian we are.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 says, "Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?" There are three types of people if we read the New Testament thoughtfully – the Spiritual Christian, Carnal Christian, and Natural Man. Everyone falls into one of these three descriptions. The challenge arises when we try to determine which category we belong to as we have a tendency to think better of ourselves than we ought to.

The Natural Man is really just the representative of everyone who is in our world without Christ. Some of these men walk as far away from God as possible and are godless people. When an individual first becomes a believer, he/she is born-again into the family of God. This individual now has a new

relationship with God through Christ Jesus and the spiritual journey begins. For many, there is not even an attempt to get closer to God and we call this type the Carnal Christian. The reasons for the absence of spiritual growth are a lack of discipline and a lack of discipleship. A lack of discipline refers to not doing things that are needed for growth e.g. reading, studying and meditating on the Word of God, praying daily, and involving in a local church for encouragement and support. A lack of discipleship refers to the mistaken notion that spiritual growth just happens. They were never taught or told that spiritual growth is intentional and not natural. As time passes, the carnal Christian looks just like the same when he/she first accepted Christ. As much as the individual needs to want to grow spiritually and to do the things that will aid in the growth, the church also has a responsibility to disciple those who endeavour to grow spiritually.

The Spiritual Christian learns to grow in his/her relationship with Christ, and exercise for the purpose of spiritual growth. One important key to the Spiritual growth is walking in the Spirit as mentioned in Galatians 5:16-18. Walking in the Spirit is allowing the Holy Spirit to fill, control, and guide him/her. This is brought about by consciously choosing by faith to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide him/her in thought, word, and deed. This is

evidenced when they are becoming more like Christ and less like the world. Failure to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance will result in not living up to the calling and standing that salvation provides. Interestingly though, a spiritual Christian would probably never call themselves fully matured. That is because on this side of eternity, a spiritual Christian knows that he or she is still battling with issues in his/her life. Yet, the Spiritual Christian still desires to grow into Christ-likeness. The difference between a carnal Christian and a Spiritual Christian is that the carnal Christian can only think about what he/she might have to sacrifice to draw near to Christ, while the spiritual Christian cannot bear the thought of what he/she would lose if he/she is to walk back down into carnality.

We all fall into one of the two categories of Christians. Now that we have identified the characteristics of the two types of Christians, do we really know where we are with God? Are we real and honest with ourselves about our spiritual condition? Let us be mindful, intentional and willing to want to continuously draw nearer to our Lord each day. I pray that CCBC will be one church where all the members and worshippers will experience spiritual growth and have an intimate and personal relationship with God, just as He desires.

Pastor Salai Myanmar Ministry Report for 1st Half 2016

By Ps Salai

In January, we had youth retreat program which was a one-day program. The programs include morning devotion and prayer followed by bible study. After Bible Study, we were visiting around there and then lunch. After that, we had family related discussion program where we discuss the Christian parents and their roles. We discuss about how to introduce about God with their children and we discussed about today youth and their life style. After discussion, we had fellowship program and we played social games.



During February, we have no special program in the Church. But we have St Valentine's Day in our seminary. During this March, we got the news from some of our alumnae or former students, especially my two students from Rakhine State in Thandwe Township. Their church has burning in the fire cause of wire shock. Therefore, during that time, we went to Rakhine State, and we encourage and we pray for them. Now they have to try to build the church.

In April during the water festival (one of Myanmar traditional festival), most of the Christian Churches has also Bible Camp. One of my friend who is pastor from Yangon invite me to teach the Bible lesson. I went there and I taught the Bible lessons for 5 days. There is not only my teaching the other pastors also came and teach here. So I also had a chance to learn from the other pastors teaching. This camp is not many people but so touching in my mind and very meaningful program.

In May, we have our Youth summer camp in Taungyi May 26-30. That time I went to teach the Bible in this youth camp. But my Malaysia Agent call me urgently to come Yangon. So that I did not have a chance to stay there end of their program. I only teach for two days. And I went to Yangon. Two days later, I went to Malaysia on 29 of April.



I arrived in Malaysia on 29 of April. Then I met new people from Malaysia Asho group and we started introduce each other. I started serving Malaysia Asho Christian fellowship as a pastor. They warmly welcome me and by the grace of God, they willing accept to do lead the church. Here we have building to worship every week. The rent fee is RM\$1100 for per month.

On the other hand, they have Asho Chin Refugee office. I stay in Asho Chin Refugee office. As Asho Chin Refugee office, we do care for the refugee people who are holding the UN card. If they have some difficulties, for example major injury or hospitalizing, we have to take care for those people. Some are in prison, we go and encourage for the people and we try to contact with them. And we

have find the possible way to be better situation for the chin people.

Now I started motivate to practice Bible Study program every Sunday before worship time. I take 35 minutes every week for bible study. Our worship time will start from 12:30 to 3pm. Our Malaysia Ash Christian Fellowship (MACF) members are different denominations. All of the members are around 70-80. But some are cannot join to our program because of they are far from our place. Even though they cannot join, they keep in touch with us by mobile phone and email. We send it some words for encouragement.

Now, we have 3 cell groups. There are KL cell group, Sha Alam cell group and Blagong cell group. KL cell group is every Monday night we have a program to fellowship each other and we have prayer meeting. The second one is Sha Alam cell group is twice a month on Sunday evening. Then the Blagong cell group is every Saturday night we have prayer meeting. Most of the people are UN cardholder.

Refugee office has responsibility to do the register ACR card, which is Alliance of Chin Refugee Card. We Asho Chin people are under the Alliance of Chin Refugee organization. For those who do not have ACR card, they come and inform to our office. We have some requirements, which must be Asho Chin people, and they must communicate with our Asho Chin language. These kinds of people we recommend to do ACR card. If they have something happen accident or other cases, we Asho Chin Refugee committee go and giving service for them. This is all about my report from January to May.

Retreat 2016 – Taking an Honest trip with God

By Shannen Toh

When we are made to examine our actions in a bare and honest setting, what do we do? Do we run away from such a sensitive topic or do we stand still and allow the examination to happen? For CCBC, we certainly chose to stand still and embark on a journey of self-reflection for retreat this year.

Coming together as a community, Honest Hearts was the main theme for the 4 days 3 nights at Austin Heights Golf Resort where families and youth alike joined together for fun and sharing! Throughout the retreat, we had been brought through topics like Honest Life, Honest Lifestyle and Honest Living to reflect upon our hearts with God in our own life, in

what we do and how we apply it to our family and people around.

To cater specifically to the youths and adults, the 2nd day's workshop were split. For the youths, when we split into smaller groups for discussion on questions like our Identity in Christ and applying our Christian influence in our lives, the youths gladly shared their honest thoughts where we learnt and encouraged each other. Besides going through workshops prepared by Irving, we also broke into groups (Mine was Openess!) for discussion. As my group's name suggested, we certainly had an open and interesting discussion led by Daniel and Caleb

where we shared our personal walk with God and how we are examining ourselves before Him.

Being a typical youth, many times we do not see the need to put God at the center of our lives due to our desires and unwillingness to let God take charge. I am no different; in fact, this retreat has made me realized how I had been drifting away from God and reminded me of why we have to fully submit before the Lord. Having an honest heart during these 4 days has helped re-examine my own heart before God so that I can set an example for my friends and family.

One of the most important segments during retreat was the Praise and Prayer night where CCBC came together to pray and intercede for one and another, our families, our parents, children and ourselves. It was an emotionally charged night and somehow, when each of the members took the mike to say their prayer, I felt burden after burden was relieved from not only me but the rest of the CCBC family as well. Non-stop praying, as we learned from the movie 'War Room', gave us an advantage with God behind us, giving us strength to fight the unknown.

And it was when we were through the Prayer night where I truly understood what this meant.

Not forgetting, games were certainly part of the retreat fun. Organized by the youths led by Caleb, all of us had a blast running around Austin Heights day and night, running and hiding from the scary bells for night games to completing amazing race stations using teamwork and some sneaky negotiations with the game masters!

And how can a retreat be complete without food? From the yummy cuisine that greeted us in the morning to snacks & refreshments, our stomachs were filled, so much so that some of us had added a few more kilogram on the weighing scale.

Despite having so many concerns before and during the trip, the retreat ran smoothly with the help of our brothers and sisters who worked tirelessly to make the retreat a memorable one. From games, workshops to worship and prayer sessions, this retreat has been meaningful to me in many ways that I would not trade any holiday in the world for this one trip with God!

Rev Vungh Suan Kham Myanmar Ministry Report for 1st Half 2016

By Rev Vungh Suan Kham

Thanks for your gracious love gift to day, and now I am sending the received voucher. I would like to say my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Gary, David, leaders and all brothers & sisters in CCBC for your gracious and helpful love gifts regularly. Your kind assistant is great, effective and helpful so much to my family and in my ministry. Please continue to consider and remember me as one of your missionary to Myanmar. I did share the gospel booklets which Bro Daniel gave me and on the way in Mandalay I passed them each book to the Buddhist Burmese people.

My Seminary starting again with 17 new students and 23 seniors, altogether 40 students we have in this academic year. My Seminary will send one of our graduated student Lian Sian Thang to attend at BTS and now the BTS in Singapore accepted him to be a new student. This all are the report of my ministry. My elder son is study in Kalay Myo University in 1st Year honors class. My elder daughter is now in ZTS 1st Year. The rest still in high school. My family remember and pray for you all. My family very much happy to receive the precious love gifts. May God Richly Bless You all.

