



Pastor's Corner *By Pastor Bernie Chung*
Am I Willing to Let Go?

In February, I was invited as a guest speaker by the Contra Costa Gospel Church (CCGC) in Walnut Creek, CA. I politely declined due to my ministry commitment here at ECC. A week later, I received the invitation again. Then I knew I had to pray. With the agreement from the Elder Board and the Cantonese Ministry Council, I went in March. Subsequently, I was asked to preach a second time to become their pastoral candidate.

Why the ministry transition now? I still cannot fully comprehend. Yet I am wholeheartedly convinced that it is the leading of the Lord. I am thankful that the Cantonese congregation, Cantonese Ministry Council, and the Elder Board were all informed and involved since the beginning. It was also my intention to have everyone experience the grace and faithfulness of the Lord as Katie and I embarked on this faith-testing journey.

The whole process has come to a final question: am I willing to follow the Lord wherever He leads me even though the road ahead is not entirely clear? Am I willing to let go of "my" ministry here at ECC and allow His next servant to take charge? This is indeed a faith journey I need to take up to further experience His faithfulness in my life.

My dear brothers and sisters, I firmly believe that the Lord has a far greater blessing in store for our Cantonese congregation. As unwilling as Katie and I are to leave ECC and its spiritual family, which we have adopted for the last 19 years, we must move on, but not without sadness.

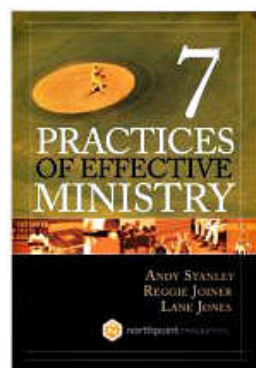
For Katie and I, a way for us to ease our sorrow is not to view this as a departure. ECC will remain our spiritual family, just like a home that children are longing to come back to. We will always be so encouraged to hear how the Lord blesses you. We anticipate that we will cross paths from time to time and even have joint ministry opportunities in the future. May the Lord's will be done and for His glory in both congregations.

On behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the ECC family for your love and support. May we continue to seek His will and be blessed.

WINNERS' SMILE AT THE TENNIS TOURNAMENT
HINTS: PASTOR SOLOMON AND BROTHER D.LAM



Book Corner



7 Practices of Effective Ministry

by Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner and Lane Jones

This book is concise, well written and enjoyable to read. It begins with a story about a pastor who is confronted with the decision to attend a dreaded church board meeting or to attend a baseball game with his favorite team. What a dilemma! As he is driving towards church, he finds himself making a U-turn into the direction of the stadium. At the game he winds up sitting next to the owner of the baseball team. It turns out that the owner of the baseball team has a passion for creating winning organizations. Thus, begins an interesting conversation between the team owner and this pastor. Through their conversation, seven practices of effective ministry are introduced and clearly explained. These seven practices will be helpful for evaluating your current & future ministry. This book is highly recommended to anyone in ministry and leadership.

Book reviewed by Betty Lee

Tapestry

"Weaving God's Love from Life to Life"
A ministry of Evangelical Chinese Church

651 NW 81st Street, Seattle WA 98117

www.eccseattle.org

with campuses in Seattle and Redmond

September 2006

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2006 SUMMER CONFERENCE



Group picture



89 year old speaker, Rev. Paul Shen, as energetic as ever



Youth Camp



Sweet prayer time during Sat. morning session



Water fight before leaving camp



Basket weaving workshop

UPCOMING EVENTS

GROWING UP TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Seattle (9/17-11/5), EKC (9/24-11/12)

A new 8-week series in Sunday school
And Sunday Worship (Study of Ephesians)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS TRAINING

Sept. 22 at 7 PM and
Sept. 23 from 9-4 PM

At Mercer Island Covenant Church

Speaker: Gary Poole from
Willow Creek Community Church

Hosted by Lighthouse Christian Church
Contact Jennie Li for more information



BAPTISM

Oct. 15 at ECC-EKC

To Commemorate our 4th Anniversary

Conversation with our pastors' wives

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2006
Time: 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Location: ECC Gym



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日期: 九月三十日 地點: 禮堂 時間: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

SPONSORED BY ECC-S WOMEN'S MINISTRY

FAMILY/PARENTING SEMINAR



Oct. 21 at EKC

Nov 4 at ECC

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Elsa Hwee

Our Sunday school teachers have expressed a desire to know how to reach out to the autistic children at our church. Our hope, as a church, is to address the needs of all our members, no matter the age or background. For more information on how to minister to autistic children, visit our website:

<http://www.eccseattle.org/resources/newsletters/AutismTips.pdf>

Another Challenge of ECC

How to minister to families with autistic children

By Sharon To

Praise the Lord that ECC has been blessed with so many children! In the past five years, the number of children at Seattle and later at Eastside, has increased from 80~90 to over 200 inclusively. Yet, the challenge of the ECC Children's Ministry is not so much for the number, but for the spiritual growth of children and their families. We believe that we grow with those that we serve. Among the two hundred adorable faces, there is a special mission that God has laid out before us: ministering to the autistic children and their families.

"Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Today, 1 in 166 individuals is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe. There is no single treatment protocol for all children with autism, but most individuals with ASD respond best to highly structured educational programs. Some of the most common interventions are Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Floortime Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration Therapy, Relationship Development Intervention, Verbal Behavior Intervention, and the school-based TEAACH (Training and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children) method." (<http://www.autismspeaks.org>)

Most families who have children with special needs do not attend churches. They often feel uncomfortable in public as their children may have unpredictable behavior. Besides, they see very little benefit in bringing their children to the (congregation) setting. It would be our challenge to cultivate the sensitivity of seeing/meeting the needs of this particular group, and to learn how to love and support these families with wisdom in Christ. Perhaps, a loving smile with understanding would warm a fragile heart; even a simple question as "may I help you?" or "is there anything that I can pray for you?" could be a big encouragement for someone to continue on their challenging journey.

ECC has a support group that welcomes families with autistic children to join. This group meets once a quarter and is also open to non-ECC families. The sharing at such gatherings is often very moving and heartfelt with tears. Often times this is one of the few places where these families can find real understanding/comfort and pray together. (For more information, contact Jess Chau at jesspchau@gmail.com or Gabriel Shiu at Gabriel_shiu@yahoo.com.hk).

During a recent Children's Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, half of the meeting was designed/dedicated to discuss how to minister to autistic children. Among the attendees, one brother shared with tears about how his daughter has developed a special passion for autism. She has expressed her desire to study psychology and to learn more about autism when she goes to college. This brother also said that it's been a blessing for their family as their daughter learns how to care for people with special needs as she grows up with autistic peers.

As we are learning "abiding in Christ" and "Life-to-Life" for spiritual formation, may the Lord help us to "look not only to our own interests", "have attitude the same as that of Christ Jesus", "rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn". May God help us to live a life with spiritual fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, so that people would recognize us as His disciples by the fragrance of those fruits that we carry.

MISSIONARY UPDATES



Jessica Liu serves in a Cambodian college dormitory, teaching, discipling and equipping university students in the ways of the Lord. Her mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy at this time. Please pray for peace for Jessica that transcends all understanding, faith to trust and cling onto God, and her mother's responsiveness to treatment.

Ronald Yu is the director of mission and training with China Ministries International. Teaching at the Chinese Mission Seminary in HK, Ronald partners with churches, ministry partners, and business entrepreneurs to send out bi-vocational missionaries into China. He had a very busy summer filled with teaching trips, his daughter's graduation, and preparation for short-term missions teams and conferences. Please pray for future mission opportunities, preparation for the new school year, and the development of outreach ministries.

