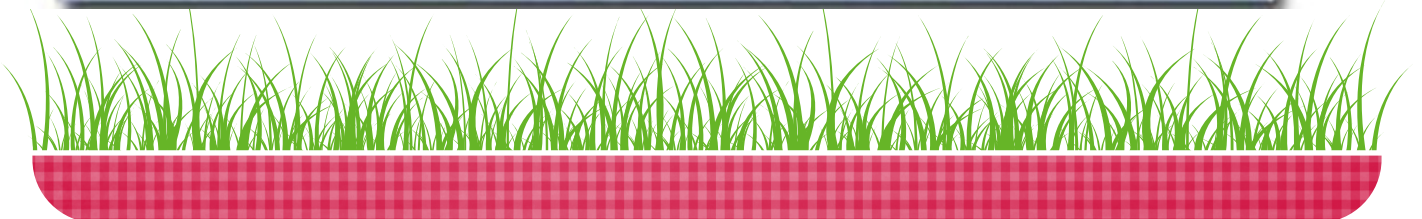




Chinese Christian Church of
Columbia

New Church Building
Dedication

Sunday, August 31, 2014



Unless the LORD
builds the house, the
builders labor in vain

Psalms 127: 1a

Gift of 5 B

by Pastor Kuong-Sii Wong

The new building dedication service is a historic milestone for CCCC. While I am giving thanks and counting the Lord's amazing handiwork, I want to give 5 B to the church I love.

1. Be sure to choose the reward from above

The Psalmist, Solomon, says in Psalm 127, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain; Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."

There are two main reasons for the successful completion of the new sanctuary: one is the working of God Himself; the other is that many brothers and sisters love the Lord, love the church and work together.

Crisis: Who is the most meritorious? Be sure to remember to choose the praise of the Lord in the future when we shall see Him face to face.

2. Be sure to choose to offer up ourselves

In First Chronicles chapter 29, David mentioned two things regarding the great project of building the temple: "The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God... Who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?"

Church building expansion is a big project; the planner prepared all the materials. Meanwhile, David challenged the people to willingly offer up themselves. Be sure to remember that offering up oneself as a living sacrifice is more important than building dedication.

3. Be sure to remember that this is a house of prayer

Jesus said in Luke chapter 19:46: "My house shall be a house of prayer." Be sure to not dwell on the negative by saying that this place is not open for use under certain conditions, but be positive and teach how to make this place a house of prayer and a place for intimate interaction with God.

4. Be sure to remember the mission that God had entrusted to the Church

According to theologian C.H. Turner, the book of Acts recorded God's purpose for the church, which is mainly in chapter 1 verse 8. He mentioned that Acts consists of six levels each of which reports on the progress of the ministry.

The progress reports of the six segments starting with Acts 1:8 are: a) 6: 7, b) 9: 31, c) 12: 24, d) 16: 5, e) 19: 20, f) 28: 31. Therefore strive to proclaim the gospel both locally and in distant lands without compromise.

5. Be sure to remember that we are one body

Paul in Romans 12:4-5 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 teaches that Christ is our head, we are members of one body, under one Spirit, in unity, with love, protecting each other, building up one another, healthy, with joy, overcoming all obstacles, living for God, and working together for the kingdom of God, which is our reasonable service.

Summary: This is a big gift of 5 B for the building dedication!



I lift up my eyes to
the mountains
where does my help
come from?

My help comes
from the Lord,
the Maker of
heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

A miracle from our Lord

by Nelson Hsu

It is a wonderful blessing, and to me it is a miracle, that we are able to dedicate this new building to God and worship Him in this new sanctuary today.

Eight months ago it was just a dream, but now the dream becomes true all because the church leaders trusted God and had faith in Him.

Eight months ago we did not have enough cash to cover the construction cost for this building. However, the available cash was enough to cover the cost of the foundation and the building shell. After that we had no idea how far the construction could move forward; how long the construction could continue with the rest of the available cash, whether it would be one day, one week or one month. It was all up in the air. No one knew what would happen next.

Nevertheless, the church made a decision to move forward with the construction. The intention was to build as much as we could as long as the building fund had cash in hand. The belief was that God would take care of the rest for He is Almighty. He is always in charge.

Once the church made this commitment and proceeded with the construction, an unthinkable thing was in the works. It was not realized what was happening at the beginning. As the construction was moving forward, donations kept coming in, and it came in such a pace that the available cash was always ahead of the cash needed for construction at that time: not too fast, and yet not too slow. Therefore the construction kept moving forward until it's completion, and it was never delayed or temporarily suspended because of a funding issue.

After the building was completed it was so unthinkable that not only the building fund had enough cash to pay the rest of the invoices, it had some money left over. We are delighted to save it for future expansion. This building was built without a single loan from an individual or lending institution. It is free and clear. Praise the Lord.

It is so amazing; so unbelievable how God got things done from the shortage of cash at the beginning to a surplus after completion, if we just trusted Him and had faith in Him. I cannot but thank God for His guidance, His provision, His faithfulness and His mighty power; and give all glory to Him.

Many thanks to our brothers and sisters for their prayer support, financial contributions and the participation of the needed volunteer work, week after week, during the construction. Without them this successful project would not be possible.

Many thanks to our architect, Brother Ralph Walden, for he spent countless nights working with the building committee to complete the design of this beautiful building.

Many thanks to our construction manager, Brother Jim Bareiter, for through his managing of the project, thousand of dollars were saved.

Now that the building is complete, my hope and prayer is this: May God fully utilize this new building to draw many, many people; many, many non-believers; and many, many seekers to come to the church. Through worship, fellowship, Bible study, testimony, prayer and encouragement, one day they will come to know Jesus, accept Him as their personal Savior and worship Him and glorify Him with us all.



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

My Cup Runneth Over

by Richard Yung

The year was 1982 when my wife and I moved to Columbia. We found a Chinese Bible Study Group that met regularly at First Baptist Church. It had fewer people compared to the one we attended in Durham, North Carolina, but it had more people compared to the one we went to while we were in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition to weekly meetings for Bible study, the group in Columbia also held separate prayer meetings. When I first attended one of the prayer meetings, I was impressed because it was different from those I went to before. It was refreshing that the prayer meeting started with worship and praise sessions before going into praying for specific requests. Furthermore, I was surprised to learn that the group was planning on forming a Chinese church. My wife and I had visited the Chinese church in Raleigh, North Carolina, and it was a good-sized church in terms of attendance, so we thought that it takes a good number of believers to form a church. While the Bible study group we regularly attended in Durham, North Carolina had more people compared to the group in Columbia, the Durham group still did not have plans for forming a church in 1982. On the contrary, the Columbia group had only a handful of families. Therefore I was impressed that this group of believers with only several families decided to form a Chinese church.

Before the church was able to hold her first worship service, one of the key members of the Bible study group Professor Chu had an operation for cancer and passed away due to complications of the surgery, Mrs. Chu moved out-of-state to be with her adult children. However, the plan to establish a Chinese church continued despite the loss of a key member, and the process came to fruition in October or November of 1982. Chinese Christian Church of Columbia (CCCC) was formally established, incorporated, obtained tax-exempt status, and started meeting on Sunday afternoons at First Baptist Church. Pastor Chung-Kwong Yau, a graduate of CIU (Columbia International University), which was CBCS (Columbia Bible College and Seminary) at the time, was invited to serve as full time pastor. Many believers and seekers came and attended the first worship service. Starting from the very first service, CCCC has been bilingual, with side-by-side interpretation into English throughout the entire worship service each and every Sunday.

I did not know how CCCC could support a full time pastor with four or five families, but God provided, and God also prospered the church. The Lord brought a number of Chinese Christian couples to Columbia very shortly after the formation of CCCC in 1982. Those families God brought to Columbia at the time were already equipped believers. They could serve the Lord right the way, and they helped CCCC grow and mature. The Lord provided and the Lord continues to provide.

In 1988 the Lord allowed a house at 2367 Klapman Road to be purchased and converted into a church building, the house had a carport and it was enclosed to serve as a sanctuary. We no longer needed to borrow space from First Baptist Church and have worship services Sunday afternoons; we could have our worship services at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This house had a swimming pool and it came in handy for baptisms.

The Lord continued to bless the church with growth. The enclosed carport was expanded to about three times its original size to become a sanctuary that can seat about 120. The attendance continued to increase. We were running out of Sunday school classrooms, and at one point in time one of the children's Sunday school classes was held at a member's home near the church. Therefore in 2001 a vacant lot was purchased to provide land for future expansion. This is the lot this new sanctuary is sitting on. The church did not incur any debt in the purchase of this property.



You anoint my
head with oil;
my cup
overflows.
Surely your
goodness and
love will
follow me
all the days of
my life,
and I will dwell
in the house of
the Lord
forever.

Psalms 23:5b-6

In 2002, the Lord blessed again, as an education building was built and completed. Part of the education building occupied where the swimming pool used to be. The education building was completed without going into debt and was under budget. We even had money left over which was used to upgrade the kitchen and purchase a baby grand piano, which is still in use.

In 2009, a new church building expansion master plan was drawn up by architect Ralph Walden and presented to the congregation. The cost was way beyond our means at the time. Many of us had doubts on our ability to complete the project. The church decided to work on the project in stages to make it manageable; therefore after much thought and consideration, the first stage was to construct only the sanctuary. We were still not sure we had enough funds to even complete this first phase of the project.

In 2013 the church decided to first construct a shell for the sanctuary in 2014 with the available funds at the time. The funds were only enough for completing the exterior of the sanctuary. The Lord provided again. The building fund increased substantially, the project cost was also lowered dramatically through extensive investigation and planning which resulted in the church acting as her own contractor, having extensive negotiations with subcontractors to further lower the project cost, and utilizing volunteers who lovingly provided tremendous amount of excellent work for free. The new sanctuary was successfully completed July of 2014.

We praise the Lord once again for His wonderful and amazing grace as well as His miraculous provision. Over the years, God has provided for the church way beyond our expectations time and time again. The successful and timely completion of this sanctuary is one more demonstration of His faithfulness and His provision. The dedication of this building is another of many testimonies to His mighty power to lovingly provide, unite, and edify. To God be the glory!



"All we need to do is to trust in God and just build it", said the author, 4 year-old Ella.



A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Mark 2:1-5

Who is going to pay for my roof by Dan Lam

When Peter Chow first asked me to share on this momentous day, I told him that I was not sure I am the right person because I did not vote for the building at the time. But the decision was made, and I have supported the building project process, just as many of you have with your muscles, with your sweat, and with your time. And now we have this beautiful building.

As we take in the a beautiful sight of our new building, admire the space inside, and enjoy the new technology, let us be reminded of the primary purpose for this building and the future phases to come.

The primary purpose of this church building is to bring those who need forgiveness and healing into the presence of the Lord. The story of the paralytic and his four friends always intrigued me. As the four friends tore away and dismantled the roof to let their friend down so that Jesus could heal him, I always wondered why there is no record of the homeowner complaining about the damage they are doing. "Hey, stop that!! Who is going to pay for fixing my roof?!!"

Who was the owner of the house? I don't know. We do know that Capernaum, where this story takes place, seems to be the home base for Jesus. If you look at a map of his travels with his disciples, he seems to often come back to Capernaum. When in Capernaum, the text says that Jesus would go to "the house". It is not described as a house belonging to anyone else, like the house of Zaccheus, or Jairus, the synagogue leader's house. This was "the" house in Capernaum, the town that was considered as home for Jesus (Mark 2:1).

Might I suggest that this house was somehow the home base or headquarters for Jesus and his disciples? The point here is not do debate who actually owned "the house". But the point is that a lost soul that finds forgiveness and healing is more important to Jesus than the damage that was done to the house. If this house really belonged to Jesus and his disciples, I'm sure He gladly did the repairs the next day because of the lost soul that believed in him.

So as we admire our new sanctuary and do what is reasonable to keep our building clean and in good shape, let us keep things in perspective in light of our primary purpose. We are not here for ourselves alone. A window may get broken, a hole may be punched through the wall, or a big scratch may appear on the floor. We will be unhappy about damages that may happen on our facilities, but in reality this building belongs to the LORD, and I am absolutely certain the LORD is more concerned about the seeker that comes here to find forgiveness and healing than the damage that may occur anywhere on our facilities because of an event that happens here . . . Just as Jesus had more concern for the paralytic than the hole that was made to lower him down.

So looking forward, let us ask the LORD, the owner of this building and all our buildings, how we may fully use all our facilities to increase His Kingdom, to bring people to find forgiveness and healing from Jesus Christ our Lord, in spite of the spills, the messes, and fixes.



Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians: 4:13

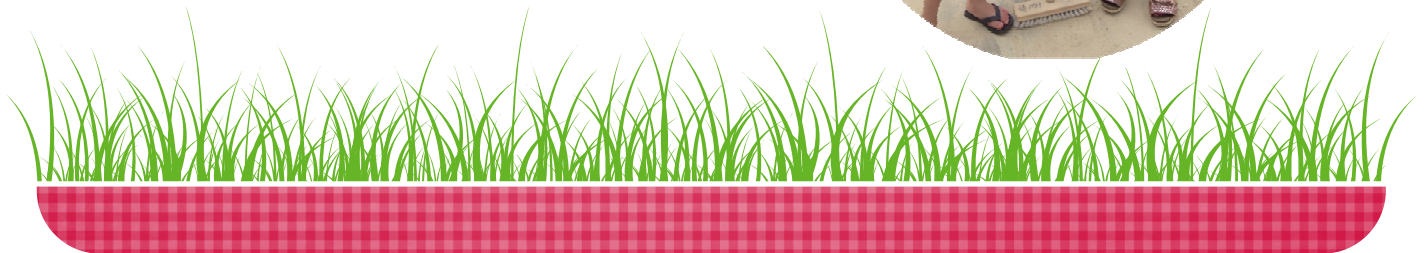
Building ourselves, building our church

by Kunming Su

As we dedicate our new building to God's use for his glory, I find that the word "build" is interesting when it comes to its figurative meanings. God's people are depicted to be his building (1 Cor 3:9) and the body of Christ that may be built up (Eph 4:12). At the same time of being built, the body builds itself up in love as each part does its work (Eph 4:16). As a matter of fact, we are building, we are built by and we are inter-building one another. In the process of inter-building we know we each do our work therefore we should strive to reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13).

Many did their wonderful work in the inter-building project, which helped them to reach unity. To name just a few, Moses' father-in-law was among those who were built up and he helped to build up Moses by giving his advice (Exo 18:19). The congregations described in Acts 6 were built up in the early church and they helped to build up the Apostles by reporting an issue for them to consider (Acts 6:1-2). Priscilla and Aquila were the disciples built up in the synagogue and they helped to build up Apollos and many others through Apollos' ministry later (Acts 18:26-28).

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Heb 12:1). As we throw off the sin and run the race, I trust that God's grace will suffice: that he will guide us to inter-build up one another toward more maturity, no matter where we are in the spiritual spectrum of baby, toddler, kid, adolescent, or adult.



They realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

Nehemiah: 6:16b

With the Help of Our God

by **Pastor Tom**

The Lord works in the midst of His people, giving them the vision of what He desires, and the means to accomplish His will. This was the case in the life of Nehemiah, the cupbearer to the King of Persia in the 5th century BC. Nehemiah received a burden from the Lord after he learned that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, and the city and its people were in shambles. What was Nehemiah's response to this challenging situation?

First, he prayed, having "mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven" (Neh. 1:4). Through his prayers God gave him a vision to rebuild the walls, and the opportunity when the king granted his request to rebuild. Second, Nehemiah and God's people persevered. Adversaries rose against them who "plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it" (Neh. 4:8). In spite of opposition, they stood firm and continued to completion the task God called them to. Lastly, the surrounding nations lost heart, realizing that the reconstructed walls were the result not of human effort, but of God's power, the work having "been done with the help of our God" (Neh. 6:16).

God has worked in a similar fashion at C4, helping our congregation see the need for a new building to have a greater reach into our community with the Gospel. It has been a long, sometimes difficult journey, but through much prayer and perseverance, we have been able to see the project to completion "with the help of our God". May we as a church seek not our own plans or desires, but continue to seek the Lord and receive from Him a vision for our future, relying on His strength to carry it

