

Pastor's Corner

譚光昌牧師

二零零九年九月十三日



十年的翻新

中國人有話說：「十年人事幾番新」。回顧教會過去的十年，仗賴神的恩典，多方面也有新的改變。這些翻新背後正表彰著我們的教會不斷在成長中，而我們信靠的神是一位不斷在行新事、奇事的神，我們在祂面前每天所領受的恩典也是新的。

聚會地方的翻新

回想教會在九九年創立時租用一美國人教會逢主日下午作崇拜和主日學聚會，因著是租戶的身份，在地方和設施使用上難免有制肘。及後零一年在神的帶領下，由已故張子華牧師的領導和鼓勵，教會憑信心先購下現今主樓的堂址，並在隨後的一年多以閃電式購置隔鄰的物業，身份立時由租戶轉變為業主，也為未來長遠的發展奠定有利的基礎。

同工團隊的翻新

神為教會初期預備了一隊整全的教牧同工團隊，在張牧師的帶領下一同服侍教會。隨著日子的過去，神在各同工身上都有不同的計劃和帶領，今天在教會服侍的同工隊已全然一新。有新人加入事奉表達著神眷顧祂百姓的需要，在適切的時候興起合祂心意的僕人照顧教會，一代接一代去作成主所交託教會的工作。縱然教會同工的面孔有變，但主的同在永不改變。

會眾組合的翻新

教會會眾初期以單身青年和大學生為主，兒童和成年比例較小。隨著福音事工的發展，神將不同年紀和背景的朋友帶進教會。再加上個別信徒生命成長和身份的轉變，婚嫁和添丁等喜事接踵發生，以致今天的會眾組合跟十年前截然不同，年齡的分佈也非常平均。其中幼兒、兒童、少年、大學生、在職青年、年青夫婦、成年及中成年退休人仕為數也不少，如此的翻新叫教會更像一個大家庭，讓人學習跟自己不同年紀的家人溝通和相親相愛。

教會事工的翻新

教會過去十年一直秉承創立教會時牧者跟全會眾在神面前所領受的使命，以高舉教導聖經、小組牧養信眾、在遠方本地宣揚主的福音作為策劃所有事工的藍本和依歸。雖然過去十年我們並沒有開展了多項新的事工，但在原有的事工上，因著帶領同工的變換和時代需要急促的改變，為了回應這些挑戰，逼使事奉的領袖和同工們對事工作不斷的反省和更新。兒童事工就是其中一項急促成長和發展的事工，十年前由一位同工可以包辦照顧幾名兒童增長到現今超過幾十位同工，分不同部門服事近百名的嬰孩和兒童，當中包括照顧和教導，殊不簡單。

教會的翻新表徵著我們是一群有生命、有活力，每天邁向前成長的屬靈群體。讓我們在將來慶祝第二個十週年堂慶的時候，個人的屬靈生命和教會整體都有一番新景像，藉以榮耀我們天上的父神！



Pastor's Corner

Rev. Simon Tam
September 13, 2009

A Decade of Renewal

There is a Chinese saying, 'In human affairs there are multiple renewals within a decade'. When we look back at our church history this past decade, by the grace of God we also experienced renewal in different aspects. These renewals show our church is growing continuously and the Lord we trust is One who always acts in new wonders and new things. We receive new grace from Him every day.

Renewal of our church facilities

In the year 1999, when our church first began, we rented facilities from an American church for worship and Sunday school meetings in every Sunday afternoon. Since we were the tenant there were restrictions imposed on the use of the church's facilities. In 2001, through the leadership and encouragement of the late Rev. Fred Cheung, by faith we bought the existing main building for church assembly under the guidance of God. Not only this but within a year or so we bought the adjacent properties one by one in a sequential manner. Suddenly the church changed from being a tenant to a landlord. This change has laid down a favorable foundation for the future long term development of the church.

Renewal of our church staff

The Lord did prepare a full church staff team under the leadership of Rev. Cheung to serve the church in the early days. As time passed, the Lord revealed His unique plan and guidance for each staff member and now we have a brand new team serving the church today. The addition of new staff members shows that our God cares for the needs of His people, and in due time He will raise up new servants pleasing to His heart to minister in the church. From generation to generation we will accomplish the work that the Lord entrusts to us. Even though the face of the servants may change, the presence of the Lord will never change.

Renewal of our church congregation

In the beginning, the church congregation was mainly composed of young adults and college students with a few children and adults. As the gospel ministry developed, the Lord has brought in people of different ages and backgrounds. On top of this our young people matured and changed their status through marriage and parenthood. Now we have greater diversity among the congregation. We have a substantial number in every age group: infants, children, youth, college students, working young adults, young couples, adults and even middle aged or retired adults. Such a change caused our church to be more like a big family so that we may learn how to communicate and care for our family members of different ages.

Renewal of our church ministries

In the last decade we have been upholding the vision that the pastors and the congregation first received before the Lord: to uplift the teaching of the Bible, to shepherd people through small groups, and to preach the gospel locally and afar. This has always been the basis and the blueprint in structuring our church ministries. Although we didn't start many new ministries in the past decade, we faced many changes in leadership. The rapid changes in the needs of the congregation also challenged the leaders to adapt often in their ministries in order to respond to these changes. For example, the children's ministry is one which has changed and grown rapidly. Ten years ago there was only one worker to take care of a few children. Now we have tens of workers in different divisions serving close to a hundred infants and children. They need to take up the responsibility of caring and teaching. The task is truly great.

These renewals in the church signify that we are a lively and vital spiritual group growing every day. Let each one of us, and the church as a whole, have spiritual renewal when we celebrate the twentieth anniversary in order to glorify our Heavenly Father!