



### Newsletter Committee

Joy Cheng

Greetings! Welcome to the first issue of the LGCC newsletter. It is my privilege to serve in this ministry. Our mission is to showcase God's love, wonder and encouragement through the writings of brothers and sisters.

Being the first holds precious meaning and implies great responsibility. In the Old Testament Isaac was Sarah and Abraham's **Firstborn** son. Through him came the great nation of Israel. Jesus performed the **First** miracle in the Cana wedding. Water to wine marked the beginning of the many wonderful lessons that Jesus offered the world. The

**First** disciple that Jesus called on to follow Him was Peter. Although he had an impulsive temperament and he denied Jesus 3 times, he became the future leader of the disciples.

It is my wish, with God's will, that this Newsletter ministry will bear fruits, like the countless descendants of Isaac. And like the Cana wedding miracle, it will be the beginning of the many amazing blessings from God. I also hope that this Newsletter committee will be like Peter, despite many shortcomings, yet still able to be used by God to carry out His ministry to the world.

I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to serve and to care. Praise God and I look forward to working with you all!



### Pastor's Corner

Pastor Poon



Our church theme for 2010 is "Who Cares?" The reason for this theme is to understand that God is a caring God and as a result to encourage brothers and sisters to be involved in caring for one another ministry.

From a broader biblical perspective, we can see that the God we trust is a caring God. Partially quoting Francis Schaeffer, God is not silent, God is there, and I add, God does care too. In the earliest account in the Book of Genesis, we can see God cares for the creation, especially the first couple, Adam and Eve. (Genesis 1:8, 15) So, not only God cares for the man but also commissions the man to take care of the Garden of Eden. That is the reason for work. "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him'" (Genesis 1: 18) It is the reason for marriage and family. So, God cares for humanity and gives them work and marriage and family.

All through the Bible we can see this theme of care runs through from cover to cover. Apostle Peter captures this truth, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." (I Peter 5:6-7)

Since God is a caring God, we have all the reason to care for one another. I suppose that part of the reason for this LGCC newsletter is to promote care among brothers and sisters in the three different congregations of our church. So, may I urge you to take the initiative to care for the person sitting next to you this Sunday. This is our first step.



**"Let everything that has breadth, praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6**

The above Bible verse is our choir's motto. It is with great privilege that we can use our voices and musical instruments to sing praises to our God during worship.

Our diverse backgrounds – some of us have a lot of experience in singing and musical training, and some of us have none. But with one voice and one heart, we want to praise our God! We all live in different parts of the Bay Areas – from San Francisco, Castro Valley to San Jose.

How we choose the music – The choir director is the main person choosing the music through prayer, meditation, and listening/learning the music. The music can be chosen depending on the seasons or theme of the month, e.g., Christmas, Thanksgiving, Mission, or Evangelistic meeting. A mixed of easy, intermediate and some difficult level of singing are chosen to help the choir practice and improve our singing skills. As a choir for the Cantonese, we strive to select Cantonese songs so that our congregation can appreciate the meaning of the songs; when we choose a song in other languages, we always provide Chinese translation of the lyrics to our congregation. The usage of instruments for accompaniment is also reviewed to make sure the piece has good harmony.

Practice, practice, more practice -- We present anthems every other week, but rehearsals are necessary every week (Wednesday night). Please pray for our continued commitment to learn to serve our Lord in this amazing ministry, our eagerness to learn, and our humble hearts to let God lead. Also, if you are interested in participating in this music ministry, please contact our director (Tiffany Ip). We will resume choir practice on 08/25/2010.

The following are a few [testimonies](#) from our choir members. Hope you enjoy them!

**Jeanne Szeto** - This note is a factual account of what happened to me during the transition period of becoming my family chauffeur since my husband became disabled (attacked by macular degeneration diseases). I felt at lost at that moment because at that time I only drove to work at Stanford. I kept praying for God's help and asking Him to guide me the way driving to the church so that I can continue to participate in the choir. God is love. Since then someone from the choir always offers sitting next to me so that I'm not afraid to drive longer distance but still not freeway.

**Diana Wong** - In the Old Testament, the Levites served as musicians and singers. Today our choir brings offering with our voices and leads the congregation in worship. I am honored to be a part of the LGCC choir. It is more than a musical experience; it speaks to my faith and my heart.

"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything." (Ephesians 5:19-20)

**May Wong** 王曾佩薇 - 崇拜是對神的尊榮作主動的回應,並且彼此聯合和造就 (選自陳康著的崇拜與聖樂)

神既是配得我們尊崇讚美,我們更應全力以赴,預備身心,準時參加敬拜,不單注重講道讀經,更重視崇拜每一個環節及內容,包括唱詩讚美。

我有幸成為詩班一員,用詩歌獻呈於主,藉著詩班的訓練,學習異口同聲,同感一靈,將榮耀歸給三位一體的神,阿們!

## **A**biram

- son of Eliab, son of Reuben, firstborn son of Jacob
- joined Korah, Dathan (Abiram's brother) revolted against Moses.
- he was punished, together with his wife and children, fell into the split earth and were killed.
- Book of Numbers 16



## **B**ildad

- a Shuhite
- one of three friends of Job
- he delivered three speeches in Book of Job
- he said Job's affliction was due to his own sin.
- Book of Job 8,18,25

## **C**aleb

- son of Jephunneh, from tribe of Judah
- noted for his faith
- one of 12 spies sent to check out the Promised Land of Canaan
- together with Joshua, they were the only 2 Israelites from the
- original group who left Egypt who were allowed to enter Canaan.
- Book of Numbers 13, 14

