



# Lord's Grace Christian Church

## Lost & Found

July 2011

### Pastor's Corner

### Pastor Patrick Ruyeeung



This year's church theme "Lost and Found" is a very meaningful one for me because of my increasing conviction about how lost we really are in the is world. My increasing burden and urgency to reach out to the lost can be traced back to 2009 during the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers – one of the big financial institutions in the Wall Street. Billions and billions of dollars were gone instantly and many people's retirement account balance cut into half in a matter of weeks. Our American economy went into a great recession matching the seriousness of the Great Depression in the 1930's. Many people lost their jobs and unemployment rate became very high.

This downturn of the economy is quite different from the ones I have experienced before. I think we are very close to a dangerous point of no return. We are reaping the results of years of greed, neglect, corruption and sinful lifestyles. America has changed from being the biggest creditor to becoming the biggest debtor in the world in just a few decades. Promiscuous behavior has torn apart the basic fabric of the American society – the family. The land of the free and brave has become the land of the lonely because we can no longer find unconditional love, friendship and acceptance within our own home. Our young people today grow up in undesirable environment full of parental conflicts, addictions, immorality and abuse of personal freedom. The prosperity we see in our society is often based on borrowed money. We are

financing our wasteful lifestyles by borrowing from the future generation.

As a Christian citizen in this country that God has blessed so abundantly, I believe it is time for us to step out and help to turn the tide. We need to be light and salt of this world, and to bring people back to God. We cannot resolve all these complicated problems and challenges ahead of us without God's help and blessings. We need to strengthen our own faith and to help build up the faith of others in this challenging time. There is a lot uncertain ahead of us and we need God to be our guide and rock. People can no longer rely of our wealth because serious events can happen and push us off our safety net. 2011 has been a record year for America in terms of record rainfall, snowfall, tornadoes and flooding. We are also facing huge national debt of 14.3 trillion dollars and huge state budge deficits. Food and energy prices continue to go up, and good jobs are hard to come by. On top of our own problems, the world is full of challenges too. Countries in Europe are having similar debt problems, and some countries are having riots due to harsh austerity measures. Unrest in North Africa and Middle East are causing concerns for oil supplies. Problem of radioactive leaks in Japan is still unresolved.

I am excited that our church is putting emphasis on outreaching the lost. It is during uncertain times that we recognize our limitations and the need to depend on God for our future. May we all join this effort of outreach and become channel of blessings to people around us.



Life after college has been an exciting journey. I am currently finishing my second year teaching high school math and third year as a youth counselor. God has blessed me with multiple opportunities to be a part of His work whether with my students or with the youth.

As a high school teacher at a low income school, I have the unique opportunity to work with students who come from many backgrounds very different than mine, whether it is broken families, illegal immigrants, or gang involvement. While I teach my students math and build their character, I also am able to learn from them. God has opened my eyes to the reality of the brokenness and suffering that exists, which has made a big impact in my own spiritual life as God has grown my love for people. I also will be the advisor for the Christian club next year, which I am excited about.

As a youth counselor, I have the opportunity to teach the youth about God and see God work in their hearts and their lives. This year the theme is the character of God. We have been spending time studying and discussing a different attribute of God each week. As I learn and meditate on who God is, the more amazing God becomes to me personally and the more I am aware of my own weaknesses. God truly does find us when we are lost!

The more I experience God's power to change and transform my life, my students' lives, and the youths' lives, the more REAL God becomes.



Whoever has been to LGCC, whether to worship, to take a class or to attend an event, has one way or another been served by our Facility Ministry. The latter plays an integral part of the church's daily operation. It is a blessing to have six brothers who make up the facility committee. They are Eddie K Leung, Daniel So, Henry Lo (advisory role), Simon Ip, Sunny Kong and Eddie Leung. Eddie K Leung supervises this team and acts as the Facility deacon who reports to the Deacon Board. As our church has grown in the past years, the infrastructure has become more complex and sophisticated. It is more demanding for the facility team to maintain the upkeep, security and grounds of the LGCC campus. I have the pleasure of interviewing Simon Ip and to hear about his role in this Ministry.

## **1) What are your responsibilities? What is your role?**

I don't have an official title. Someone may call me a facility manager; other refers me as a facility person, or whatever. In a broad view, everything about Church building and facility (routine management) are under my responsibility. It is like a housekeeping job covering all maintenance works, assisting and supporting Church activities. Routine works are:

- rooms readiness - clean and tidy up
- Sunday services readiness - doors access, Sunday's snacks/tea/coffee preparation, sanctuary housekeeping, air conditioning
- functions assistance - rooms, tables, chairs, equipments availability
- building maintenance - minor repairs, change light bulbs, water filters, kitchen supply (part) and cleaning...etc
- baptism services readiness - sanctuary chairs setup, pool and rooms preparation and clean up

## **2) How long have you served in the position? FT or PT?**

I don't really remember. I started the work about 5 years ago. I only work PT, usually on Fridays evenings and Weekends.

## **3) Joy/reward in this ministry? Please describe one.**

Well, there are quite many. The most important reward is glad to be a servant of God, where every "like" and "dislike" become a lesson to learn. It is a place where I can really tell if I am \*obeying\* (God's Words) or not - that is the ONLY reward that matters.

### **4) Challenges/difficulties in this ministry? Can you give an example?**

There are many things I enjoy doing and many that I don't. It is a blessing either way. I am quite a handy person, so simple maintenance is something I am capable of. But I am not good at dealing with people, or better yet, managing people. For example, the church kitchen is a focus place where all B&S may have visited at least once. It is a big challenge to have, let say 100+ users of different ages, to have the same expectation in maintenance and usage. Our committee tries very hard to keep things in order. We all came from different backgrounds and it is not easy to meet and to please everyone's needs.

The other challenge is B&S efforts are not appreciated enough and are being misunderstood sometimes. We are weak, and cannot work alone. It is heart breaking when B&S burn out in their serving area and support is minimal and weak. A well-organized volunteering system with strong leadership can exponentially excel all the ministries.

### **5) What can the congregations do to help? (what b&s can do better?)**

I have a small dream! Everyone should take a day off from work (even for stay home Dad and Mom too) and volunteer once a year at Church. I mean to take one full day, 8 hours, to do something that is out of your comfort zone. Sound crazy! But really doable!

For those who have been volunteering, keep up with your good works! And try to put in 110%, not 100%. Be courageous to speak out and make changes. Yes, it is tremendously hard and you will likely hit the wall- but you will knock it down eventually! Serve God, not the bodies! Patience and love can conquer all.

I thank Simon for his sharing. I am sure everyone can appreciate the Facility Team's hard work. It is not too much to ask each member to serve eight hours out of the whole year. LGCC is our spiritual home after all. By the way, I notice this Ministry is an "all man" team. Maybe one of you sisters will consider serving in it?

