

Table of Content

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Editor’s Letter	Yin Yin	1
Six Decades Like a Single Day	Marshall M. Lih	3
Celebrating Sixty Years of the Lord’s Overflowing Grace	June Lih	5
Birthday Wishes from Pastors and Elders	Pators and Elders	6
67 Reasons To Love Our Church	CCCGW Brothers and Sisters	9
Summer Retreat Focuses on Spiritual Growth and Fellowship	Yin Yin	18
Devoting Ourselves to the Great Commission - A Short-Term Mission Trip to Honduras	Steve Xu	20
MFUGE 2025: From Darkness into Glorious Light	Shawny Yang	27
Devotional Sharing	Kelly Kong	31
A Good Example Set by My Parents	Steve Lee	33
Faith & Art	CCCGW Children Ministry	36
Living Spring Editorial Team		

Editor's Letter

By Yin Yin

Dear brothers and sisters,

Grace and peace to you from God!

Six miles south of Jerusalem sits the Church of the Nativity, which is considered the world's oldest continually used place of Christian worship. Commissioned by the Roman Emperor Constantine and consecrated on May 31, 339, it has survived damage from countless revolts and natural disasters throughout centuries. Today, the Church is a UNESCO World Heritage site and still offers three English worship services on Sunday mornings, at 8, 9, and 10:30am.

Compared to the 1,686-year-old Church of the Nativity, our church, which is only 67 years old, seems like a mere baby. While we did not live through wars, nor experienced severe natural disasters, we occasionally do fall sick, get injured, and feel growing pains - just like a developing baby. During the pandemic, we struggled to worship and fellowship in person. In recent years, we have not been immune from "the great dechurching" in America. Our proximity to the nation's capital adds somewhat anxiety about the unprecedented challenges of an ever-changing political climate. Yet, by God's amazing grace, we have persevered to bring people together in faith.

Praise God for His sacrificial love through His only beloved son Jesus Christ that continues transforming individuals and communities and produces the large-scale growth of churches. Since 339, millions of churches have been planted by people with diverse backgrounds who share the same identity as God's children in Christ. Every church has its unique history, yet all are testimony of God's abundant provision. Whether it's the ancient church built on the site of Jesus' birthplace or our young church founded by a group of Chinese students in Washington, DC, no church would be planted, let alone grow and bloom, without God's grace.

God's loving grace has indeed sustained our church over the past 67 years. Even in trying times, we have never run short of offering. Despite the pandemic, we did not abandon local evangelistic activities. We made sure our overseas missionaries received steady support. We welcomed every newcomer with open arms. We uplifted the spirits of many through worship. We took care of the sick and the weary. We touched hearts and changed lives through teaching and sharing. We taught, listened to, and prayed with our young kids. If you stopped by our church on a Saturday, you may see our flower team beautifying the sanctuary for Sunday services, deacons arriving early to discuss church businesses, classrooms being cleaned for Sunday School, or the kitchen fridge being stocked for the next day's cooking. Countless Friday dinners, Sunday snacks and lunches continue to be prepared with love.

Many would agree that it is our gifted and dedicated brothers and sisters who bestow our church its vitality. Yet, if you asked them, they would say it is God's grace that motivates and enables them to do it all. Perhaps that's why the Apostle Paul frequently talked about God's grace in his letters to the various churches in his ministry. For them and for us, the Lord's grace is indeed the ultimate source of our joy in loving and serving each other.

As we count our blessings of the past 67 years, I invite you to remember our God's goodness and all the amazing work He is doing through our brothers and sisters. This special edition of *Living Spring* features reflections of many on their love for our church, including brother Marshall Lih and his wife June who have been attending our church for six decades. It also includes messages of gratitude and wishes from our pastors, elders, brothers and sisters. In addition to our latest ministry reports, we hope you'll be inspired by Sister Kelly Kong's devotion and encouraged by brother Steve Lee's testimony. May our children's artworks also bring a smile to your face.

On behalf of our *Living Spring* editorial team, we wish the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington DC a very happy 67th Birthday and many more years to testify to God's unfailing love. Glory and praise to the Lord!

In Christ,

Yin Yin

Six Decades Like a Single Day

By Marshall M. Lih



Secretary OB
September 28, 2025

Our church was founded on August 31, 1958, the same day I arrived in the United States on a chartered student flight from Hong Kong via Guam, Wake Island, and Honolulu. Two weeks later, on September 14, June immigrated to the United States with her family on the same route. It seems that although we didn't "come home" to Washington, D.C. until 1965 due to studying and working elsewhere, it seems as if God had already prepared this lovely spiritual home for us. Therefore, we cherish this grace and dare not to forget counting our blessings every day during the past sixty years.

Over the years, in addition to actively participating in community service and evangelistic ministries such as Chinese schools (June taught there for 34 years) and refugee resettlement, we have also frequently connected with evangelistic, student, and family ministries outside the church, such as Ambassadors for Christ (of which I served two terms as board chair), Chinese Family for Christ, Family Keepers, China Outreach Ministries, Stephen Tong Evangelistic Ministries International, and Reformed Seminary, among others. We learn while also participating in sharing. We believe that interacting with brothers and sisters from all over the world through activities organized by these organizations and broadening our horizons is an indispensable part of Christian life.

We also use occasions such as lecture tours, professional trips, family visits, and vacations to visit churches, fellowships, and Christians both domestically and internationally to deepen our understanding and encourage one another. Even now, we occasionally encounter friends we met on campuses years ago while sharing the gospel; we are delighted to see that many have grown into evangelists for the Lord.

A few years ago, with the COVID-19 pandemic, God opened a new door for us: virtual gatherings. Even now that the pandemic is largely over, we continue to meet online weekly with local and international brothers and sisters, as well as seekers, to exchange ideas and minister to their needs. This also allows those of us in advanced age to continue sharing the gospel over long distances without having to travel.

Some may wonder how my wife and I have remained in the same church for sixty years and apparently without even thinking of changing affiliation. The principle is actually quite simple and it applies to work and marriage as well. That is, occasional disagreements cannot be resolved simply by walking away. As we often hear the sage advice that if you find a church you think is perfect, don't go there; you would make it imperfect.

We are especially grateful to our pastors, elders, co-workers, and fellow believers for their prayers, tolerance, care, and encouragement over the years. May the Lord continue to bless all of us. Our church has already produced many talented individuals who have made significant contributions to churches and evangelism everywhere. If we continue to grow, the fruits of our labor for heaven on Earth will be even more remarkable and beyond our imagination. Amen.

Celebrating Sixty Years of the Lord's Overflowing Grace

By June Lih

Whenever I think of the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington, D.C., my heart is first moved to thank God for His faithful guidance and overflowing grace. Warmth wells up within me, and a stream of treasured memories comes gently flowing back.

Our church was founded in 1958 and is now in its sixty-seventh year. For sixty of those years—a full *jiazi*, or sixty-year cycle—our Lih family has had the privilege of worshiping and growing here. Today, our family spans three generations with fourteen members in all. Except for one year, from 1970 to 1971, when my husband, Minxing, took our family to Taiwan while serving as a visiting professor, we have never left this church.

The Lord blessed us with two sons and a daughter, each of whom, in time, came to belong to the name of the Lord Jesus and grew up within the church. In their teenage years, they formed deep and lasting friendships with many brothers and sisters their age—bonds that remain close to this day. I still remember my eldest son, while in college, saying, “I don’t need to join a fraternity, because I’ve already been part of the best fellowship in the world.”

In the early days, there was not always a dedicated youth pastor to guide the ministry, yet parents were deeply committed to nurturing their children. Young people also had opportunities to develop self-governance and leadership skills, fostering a personal and intimate relationship with God. They created a true sense of belonging to the church—not merely attending because their parents did, but recognizing it as their spiritual home. It is heartening to see that today, several of these young people who were raised here have become devoted deacons, ministry co-workers, and even courageous workers in the mission field. This truly highlights the importance of children’s and youth ministry.

Personally, over the years, participating in family ministry, youth teaching, Chinese school, and other church activities has allowed me to meet many kind and God-loving sisters in Christ. They have never treated me as an “elderly lady” older than themselves; instead, they have welcomed me to grow alongside them in the Lord, to serve together, learn together, rejoice together, and share. Being part of this fellowship has made me feel much younger at heart and has filled me with the sweet blessing of unity in the Lord.

As we reflect on CCCGW, it truly is a blessed church, full of love and open arms. May God continue to watch over and protect us. In recent years, under the faithful guidance of Pastor Zhao, Pastor Rim, and their wives, all our ministries have advanced smoothly. May we not only love the church but also care for the Lord’s servants, so that our church, the oldest Chinese church in Maryland, may continue to shine as a golden lampstand in the community, bearing witness to God’s greatness and proclaiming His salvation.

Finally, I would like to share one of my favorite Bible verses as an encouragement to all:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.” —1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Birthday Wishes To CCCGW

From Pastors and Elders



Secretary OB
September 30, 2025

Celebrating the 67th Anniversary of the CCCGW:



The torch of salvation lights this hall,
Through sixty-seven years, God's love stands tall.
His gracious rain soaks the fertile ground,
His cords of love, His gentle grace surround.

All saints together lift their praise,
To Christ the King, eternal glory rises.
With steadfast hearts the gospel we proclaim,
Through generations shines the church's flame.

--Pastor Daniel Zhao

When the 2025 English Retreat speaker asked the people attending, "What do you love most about your church?" The response was both immediate and unanimous: "the people." I would wholeheartedly agree. While the individual people may have changed over the decades (although many have stayed the same), the spirit of kindness and compassion that transforms a collection of individuals into a living community has not. We trust that the same God who first called this church into existence 67 years ago will continue to grant it the grace to serve His purposes for many generations to come.

--Pastor David Rim

We celebrate 67 years of CCCGW, our church's journey. For over six decades, this has been a place of worship, community, and service. It's a testament to the unwavering faith of our congregation and the countless lives that have been touched by God's grace within these walls and members. As we look back on our past, we're filled with gratitude for the blessings we've received and the fellowship we've shared. We look forward to continuing our mission for many years to come.

--Elder Stanley Chan

My family and I love CCCGW for its stories of God's faithfulness over the decades. When we joined it nearly three decades ago, we found a multi-generational group of Christians with roots mainly in East and Southeast Asia. As we got to know individuals, we discovered sub-cultures formed loosely around personal background, language, and other traits. We praise God for helping us (and others over the years) to somehow find our place in this diverse community—a good, albeit imperfect, place for life together in Christ, as sinful individuals loved and redeemed by the Lord to worship God and love others by the Spirit's enabling. We're grateful for the pioneers who started CCCGW 67 years ago, and for the many pastors, youth ministers, church staff, deacons, and volunteers whose collective efforts have sustained the church's ministry and witness over the decades. May God continue to lead and enable us all in this endeavor.

--Elder Kok Eam Khor

67 Reasons To Love Our Church

From CCCGW Brothers and Sisters



Secretary OB
September 30, 2025

As a member of our church, what do you love about it? Brothers and sisters have offered their answers. Below are the **67 reasons to love our church** that the editorial team have collected to celebrate the 67th anniversary of our church, but deeply in our heart, we know that reasons to love our church are countless.

I like our pastors.

--Josephine Tseng

We are always moving forward.

-- Wai-Kit Man

CCCGW is focusing on God's words, welcoming and supporting community, loving and serving others.

-- Jenny Man

People are very welcoming.

--Joel deJesus

It's a blessing to be at our church where the mission and dedication is learning and practicing God's word and I feel blessed when I am in fellowship with my CCCGW brothers and sisters in Christ.

--Hati DeJesus

Our church has God's love, God's blessings, and brothers and sisters who love each other.

-- Guozhang Yu, Tianhui Xu Yu

I love the community and friendship.

-- Dan Tam

Because of the church's pure faith, it has become the Lord's lamp in the DMV area, shining and radiating for 67 years.

-- Mike Zhang & Ivy Pan

I love our church because of the inter-generational relationships in which older members genuinely respect and care for younger members and many friendships are built across multiple generations.

-- Shawny Yang

I love our church because it is not perfect.

-- Sixun Yang

I love the church's annual summer camp. It not only provides adequate spiritual and physical nourishment, but also allows for wonderful fellowship among brothers and sisters. This allows us to better understand each other's needs, helps us pray for each other, and grow together in the Lord.

-- Ruli Zhang

I have grown and been blessed spiritually in the church.

-- Xingfu Chen

Brothers and sisters pass on their love for God from generation to generation.

--Yang Zhao

Our church has the best cooking team in the world.

--Jian Zhang

Our church is a blessed church.

--Tianhong Zing

Because I can find a sense of belonging, identity and family-like care in the church!

--Weiyong Hu

I like our church events, including summer retreats and picnics.

--Xumei Ren

We have the best English and Chinese teachers.

-- Linda Li

Jesus Christ is with our church.

Our pastors' sermons are excellent.

--Xiaoqing Yuan

Our church is a missionary church.

--Esther Chen

We have God's love.

--Li Jia

Whether I am lovable or not, my brothers and sisters always love me and pray for me.

--Enlin Peng Zhao

I started living in Pastor Yang's home when I first arrived in DC, found a spiritual home here, met the wife God had prepared for me, and made the best friends and family.

-Jacob Jia

I love the devout prayers of the brothers and sisters in the church and the endless grace God continues to bestow.

-- Alice Luo

Delicious food, loving brothers and sisters, and kind elders.

--Qingrong Meng and Xiangya Huang

I love the people at our church who always encourage me to be the person that I want to be.

--Kelsey Kemburu

Thankful for the powerful prayer groups and prayer teams in this church.

– Julie Shiu

Thank God for placing us at this church where people work together as a team to glorify God.

--Wing Wing Yun

What I love about church is seeing people from all over the world come together in harmony.

-- Jose Perez

We like the rooted love of the brothers and sisters in the church, and we like the church's annual retreat!

--Chensheng Wu, Cuiyin Wu

The church is like a home. It may not be the newest, the largest, or best located, but it is the place where we grow. May our family thrive!

--Xuelong Wang, Qiaoya Lin

We are fortunate to have met many devout and faithful brothers and sisters here, and have witnessed the inheritance of faith from generation to generation. The faith here has a foundation, testimony, and abundant grace and blessings from God!

--Mark and Lucy Lin

This is a church full of truth and grace. Thank God for bringing me to the Christian Washington DC Chinese Church.

--Catherine Zheng

I like the diversity of our church members in age and occupation.

--Min Zhu

Our church has the warmth of a family and close family relationships.

--Steve Xu, Wendy Cao

I like our church because of the people.

-- Nick Xu

We support each other at church.

--Hui Liu

I like the relationships among our brothers and sisters.

--Xiaoyan Guan

I think the church's baptism ceremony is solemn and sacred, and it is also very touching.

--Aiqiu Zhao

Our pastors are both insightful in God's teachings and inspirational in their spiritual guidance.

--John Kong

I love our church because its organizational structure is based on a balanced and healthy development of ministries across age groups, languages and cultures, so everyone in our family feels that they have found their own home for spiritual growth.

-Grace Wang

It's great to have many peers to study and play with in church.

--Elizabeth Kong

There are separate English and Chinese sessions, teens group, and children's programs, and there is a nice parking lot.

I love singing worship songs and listening to the sermons in the sanctuary.

--Jiaqi Liu

We have a great kitchen ministry!

--Xiaofan Li

I like the fact that friends in the church often have fellowships together and care for each other.

--Zhichao Li

Church's tolerance and care for children.

--Yafei Chai

The church's spiritual and character guidance for the next generation.

--Xin Jing

I love that there are always sisters in our church watching over each other and praying for each other, which makes me feel like there is always someone by your side to respond at any time, surrounding you with God's love and protecting you.

-Chen Chen

I love my friends being here with me.

--Elsa Yu

I love our church because God brought me here.

--Alice Wei Yang

I love our Sunday School.

--April Wu

Everybody is friendly.

--Zoe Chen

The ministries are hortatory.

--Marina Shiek

I love seeing kids making new friends at our church.

-- Jee Peng Khor

I'm thankful for the pastors and elders who served the church so tirelessly, and for the many dedicated brothers and sisters who served quietly behind the scenes.

--Sang Ip

I'm thankful for the lifelong friendships I've made through Carmel fellowship.

-Sue Ip

I love how welcoming and friendly everyone is at church. We welcome each newcomer and everyone every time we get together.

--Win Elliot, Sandra Elliott

I'm thankful for the unique ministry of serving both the Chinese and English speaking members of a family, and the stories of Christianity coming into the home through the teens and children.

--Sheila Lee

First is the people. Second is the Sunday school topic, "The Meaning of Life". I kept coming back and travelled all the way from Baltimore to search for what I'm missing.

--Clement Chan

My son linked us up with CCCGW even before we moved from California. Since then we have been growing in Christ and headed up the True Light Fellowship before we moved far away to VA.

--Patty Chu

Back in 1984, when my three daughters were little, the children and teens programs were great blessings to our family. We were so touched by the love of the Teens group leaders!

--Helen Man

I like the support and interaction with the missionaries to Asia in this church.

--Connie Koo

I started coming during college and I was attracted by the Cantonese Carmel Fellowship (everyone was young 40 years ago!). I am always reminded not to focus on people, but God in church. This church is the place, like a mission point, for me to serve in.

--Bo Chan

I attended CCCC in Cleveland when I went to school there. It was just natural because CCCGW has a lot of activities serving the community, just like CCCC.

--Peter Leung

It is God's grace for me to be here for the last 39 years! Glad to have a community to worship, serve and grow. God's church is indestructible!

--Ada O'Donnell

Summer Retreat Focuses on Spiritual Growth and Fellowship

By Yin Yin

The Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington DC (CCGW) held its annual summer retreat from July 11-13, 2025, at Messiah University in Mechanicsburg, PA. This year's event centered on the theme "Rooted and Grounded in Love," based on biblical principles and led by guest speakers Reverend Lambert Lee (Chinese speaker) and Reverend Keith McLaughlin (English speaker). The retreat provided an opportunity for brothers and sisters to strengthen their faith and connect with each other.



Reverend Lee delivered several sermons over the weekend, exploring key biblical passages from many books of the Bible, including Ephesians, Matthew, Romans, and Proverbs, to guide attendees on how to prepare spiritually for challenging times. The focus of his Sunday sermon was on preparing for "the famine," encouraging brothers and sisters to strengthen their faith and deepen their knowledge of scripture to prepare for "the harvest" to come.

Reverend McLaughlin delivered messages on love, including love as our expectation, love as our experience, love as our essence, love as our elixir, and love as our expression. In his workshop, titled "Unwrapping the Gift of Grief," attendees experienced the power of healing prayer through an experiment together.

"The workshop experiment was pretty impressive," said Joshua Zhao, who graduated from the children's class and joined the English session for the first time. "We were told to open our arms, put our palms in front of us, and imagine all the burdens added to our hands. Then we were told to imagine that God took all these burdens away from us. I immediately felt my hands and arms were much lighter. It was a very cool experience."

"I really enjoyed the fellowship of hanging out with my Church brothers and sisters in a different setting, but I got the most out of Rev. Keith's series of workshops on finding and receiving Christ's love," said Brother Joel deJesus. "They reaffirmed what Pastor Rim has been teaching us all year and were well received by regular church goers and people who are still seeking."

The retreat blended spiritual enrichment with recreational activities and fellowship. Brothers and sisters enjoyed the games on Family Night and refreshments on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Those who have July birthdays were celebrated with multiple birthday cakes and wishes during the fellowship time.

The summer retreat is a key event of the CCCGW community, offering a dedicated time away from the distractions of daily life for spiritual rejuvenation. The success of the 2025 summer retreat highlights the church's ongoing commitment to building a church family that is rooted and grounded in love.

Devoting Ourselves to the Great Commission

A Short-Term Mission Trip to Honduras --By Brother Sihai

Responding to God's Calling: Joining the Mission Team

The short-term mission trip to Honduras was organized by *Living Hope Global Ministries*, with participation open to churches across the United States. The purpose was to proclaim God's Great Commission to the ends of the earth. Our church, the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington, with its 67-year history, has been part of this mission for four years. Praise the Lord!

During the promotion, prayer, and preparation for this mission, God chose Pastor Zhao and his son Joshua, as well as myself and my son Nick (Xu Jiahe), to represent our church. Together with brothers and sisters from University City Chinese Christian Church in Philadelphia, Columbia Chinese Baptist Church, and others, we formed a team of 23. United as one, from August 20–27, we stepped out of the U.S. to battle for the Lord, win souls for Him, and spread His gospel.



Experiencing God’s Presence: Fruitful Mission Work

As an eight-year believer, this was my very first mission trip—and my first destination was a country classified as *Level 3: Reconsider Travel*. At first, I felt some inner struggle. The stark differences between the U.S. and Honduras in terms of environment, safety, and living conditions made me question: Could I adapt to the hardships? Could I fulfill the tasks entrusted by the church? Could I honor God’s calling and bear witness to Him so that others might come to faith?

Adding to my concerns, my son had been reading online that Honduras is one of the poorest and most dangerous countries in the world, with repeated warnings to avoid it if possible. For a time, these worries dominated our dinner table conversations and became a recurring topic of discussion.

To prepare physically, mentally, and spiritually, we held several family meetings, talking and praying together, and eventually entrusted all our fears to God. Through daily prayer, His will became clear: lay down your worries and move forward with courage. Indeed, throughout the trip, God was with us—protecting our health and safety, ensuring the smooth progress of the work, and allowing every team member to personally experience and testify to His presence.

Our 7-day trip included serving three local churches and visiting two prisons to share the gospel with inmates. The ministry work had three main parts:

1. Using the team's medical resources to provide health checkups for women and children at each church.
2. Having the youth team members share the gospel with local children.
3. Having the brothers help paint and repair church buildings, improving their simple conditions.

For many locals, these were first-time experiences, especially medical checkups. Because of poverty and malnutrition, many did not even know their own height, weight, or health indicators. Our doctor sisters faithfully served over 100 women and children each day, providing basic medicine and supplements, and bringing God's healing love into their lives.

The children's ministry was another highlight. Our youth prepared diligently, performing skits, singing songs, and playing games to help local kids hear the gospel. Though language was a barrier, God's love quickly turned strangers into friends and family.



The brothers' painting work also became a beautiful testimony. With Pastor Zhao's experience and leadership, we joyfully labored together to improve God's house. My son and I also gained valuable experience, laying a foundation for future service.



A major part of this trip was visiting two prisons to share the gospel.

The first was a medium-security prison. After security checks, we entered the compound where over a hundred inmates were waiting. At first, my heart tightened at the sight of prison life I had only seen on TV. Most of the inmates were already seated in the chairs set up in front of the two-story cell building, waiting for us to arrive. As soon as we entered, all the prisoners fixed their eyes on us, and we could clearly feel their curiosity and eager anticipation. Yet I was amazed to find that this prison had a pastor regularly teaching the Bible. Some inmates were already baptized and receiving discipleship training; they even sang hymns for us. Their understanding of the Bible far exceeded our expectations as well.

The short-term mission team arranged for four brothers and sisters to share their testimonies for the Lord. Each one spoke about their personal journey of coming to faith and how the Lord had transformed their lives, bearing witness to the power and grace of Jesus Christ and proclaiming the gospel to the inmates.

Even more movingly, after the team members shared their testimonies, the local pastor gave an altar call for the inmates to commit their lives to Christ. Many of the prisoners, some with tears streaming down their faces, some bowed in silent reflection, and some crying out in prayer, stepped forward. The short-term team members also helped and encouraged those who were moved to come forward. In the end, nearly 90 inmates committed their lives to Christ! Hallelujah, praise the Lord! It was all the Lord's guidance, all His power, and above all, all His grace!



At another maximum-security prison, I, together with three sisters, stood face-to-face with the inmates and shared our testimonies for the Lord. The prisoners interacted with us, responding loudly with ‘Amen! Amen!’ and enthusiastically singing hymns. Under the local pastor’s call and encouraged by the gazes of our short-term mission team members (since physical contact was not allowed in this high-security prison, we could not cross the barrier to invite them forward), nearly 30 inmates came forward to commit their lives to Christ! Hallelujah, praise the Lord! All glory and grace come from the Lord, and all glory belongs to Him!



The week passed by quickly, with each day tightly and carefully scheduled. Despite the fatigue, sleepless nights, and limited food and accommodations, every member of the mission team remained energetic, enthusiastic, and actively engaged in ministry, sharing, and bearing beautiful witnesses for the Lord. The blessings we received far exceeded what we gave; our worldly lives were refined, and our spiritual lives were strengthened. I still vividly remember seeing my son, Nick, moved to tears, and I could see him growing into a true disciple of the Lord. Praise God for His amazing grace!



This short-term mission trip to Honduras was a journey of being united with God, walking with God, and serving alongside our brothers and sisters—a journey that testified to God’s amazing grace. We are deeply grateful to every member of the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington for your united prayers, active support, and generous contributions!

As children of God, we are called to live for Him!

As children of God, we are called to proclaim the gospel for Him!

As children of God, we are called to kneel in prayer, stand to preach, and run to serve in missions for Him! Amen!

MFUGE 2025: From Darkness into Glorious Light

By Shawny Yang

On June 24-28, 11 teens and 3 chaperones participated in the annual MFUGE trip in Philadelphia, PA. This is the 8th year that Teens Group has participated in MFUGE. We started in 2016 when Pastor Shane organized the first trip. Before our trip, we conducted several fundraisers at church including an art auction, car wash, and worship concert. We are so thankful for the love and care of our church family who prayed for us and supported us financially so that all the teens had an opportunity to participate. Praise God for providing for this trip!



On the Friday before we planned to leave, the camp director in Philadelphia called me and informed us that a huge thunderstorm had passed through Philadelphia. The university that we would be staying at (Eastern University) had lost power. Unfortunately, the electricity was not scheduled to come back until Monday, so the trip was delayed by one day. We were praying that the power could come back soon for MFUGE and for the residents of Philly. Thankfully, it was restored on schedule, and we set off on Tuesday morning.

In most years at MFUGE, teens from our church are split into 7 or 8 different groups when they arrive to camp. This gives them an opportunity to meet people from different churches across the country. However, this year, we were just split into 2 groups.

The first group, which I was in, participated in evangelism at a local park. We brought lots of kids' activities - necklace making, face painting, basketball, soccer, water balloons, etc - and drove to a local Philadelphia park. It was very hot, so at first, we didn't really want to do anything except sit around. However, there were a good number of children at the park, and soon they came to play with us. We talked to the children about family, school, and faith. I personally met a young man named Aaron who was playing basketball at the park. The group leader and I prayed for him, his family, and his future. I admired our group leader (Mariah, 20 yrs old) very much because she had a special gift for starting gospel conversations and sharing her testimony with others. At the end of our time at the park, the children joined us in holding hands and praying together. Praise God for a terrific time of love and service!



The second group went to a neighborhood of Philadelphia called Kensington. The neighborhood is affected by a lot of drug-use and poverty. The teens served this neighborhood in different ways. First, they served at a church that made care packages to give to the local people. The teens sorted through lots and lots of clean underwear to be placed in the care packages. At the end of the day, one of them said, "I don't want to see any more underwear." Second, they went on a prayer walk around the neighborhood to pray for the people. There were many individuals in the streets who were on drugs or homeless. The group prayed for God to help and provide for the people in this neighborhood. One of the teens said, "It's really encouraging to see how much I'm blessed to have what I do have." The teens in this group also had the opportunity to serve at a different church doing some yard work.



When we were not at the mission sites, we participated in worship, bible study, sermons, games, and mega relay. This year's theme was "Into the Light." The messages emphasized owning your faith and being a light in the darkness. The key verses were: **John 4:42 "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world."** (The students and chaperones received bracelets with the first letter of every word from this verse, encouraging us to memorize it.)

Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven".

I am again so grateful to our church, our teens, and the staff at MFUGE. MFUGE is always one of the best weeks of my summer. It is a tremendous joy to see the teens grow in their faith and in their relationship with God and each other. Praise the Lord for this opportunity to learn and serve. May all of us walk in the light of Christ.

Devotional Sharing

By Kelly Kong

1 Corinthians 12:26 – “If one member suffers, all the members suffer together; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice together.”

The church is the body of Christ, made up of many different members. Just as a physical body has eyes, ears, hands, feet, and other parts, each with its unique function and none of which can be done without, so is the church composed of brothers and sisters from various backgrounds and with different spiritual gifts. What our loving God desires is the entire body of Christ, not just certain members of it. Without the members working together, there can be no body. Yet no single member, no matter how important, can fully represent the body on its own. A “super member” would simply be a monster. “If they were all one member, where would the body be?” (1 Cor. 12:19)

As the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington, D.C. celebrates its 67th anniversary, Sister Yin Yin invited me to share a devotional reflection. One day, while I was reading 1 Corinthians 12:12–26, the passage spoke deeply to me. Truly, I do not know all that our church has gone through in these 67 years, nor do I fully know how it has grown. But I do know that God allowed many problems to exist in the Corinthian church, and it was precisely because of these issues that Paul, through his letters to Corinth, left the global church the priceless treasures of 1 and 2 Corinthians. In the same way, God has allowed our own church to grow through storms and trials, and we too have experienced seasons when members were broken or hurting. Among us are “weaker, less honorable, and unpresentable” members—but what of it? The church is God’s household, His temple on earth, under His protection and guidance. In Him, we are joined together, leaning on one another, and Christ’s name is proclaimed.

As the passage says: If one member suffers, the whole body suffers together; if one member is honored, the whole body rejoices together. May we love one another and support one another within the body of Christ, so that the church may be united, pleasing to the Lord, and display His glory. May CCCGW continue to grow and be built up by God—not only as a bright light for Christ in the Greater Washington DC area, but also as a lighthouse shining out into the world—because we walk with Him. Amen!

A Good Example Set by My Parents

Steve Lee's Testimony

What do you do with a stubborn, strong will, scheming child? I don't know, but I was that Child.

My parents had two sons, my older brother and me. My mother was in charge of the household and raising the children. She raised my brother like a typical Chinese parent, making sure he did well in school and in learning the piano. My mother sat next to him while he practiced and they would have many arguments, but in the end, he would listen and be the good son.

I, on the other hand, was always looking for a short cut. When my mom started me on piano lessons, I figured out that I could use the numbers above the notes that corresponded with which finger to press. This worked for a while and no one was wiser to this scheme. I progressed quickly. Then, when the songs got more difficult and I had to move my hand to a new position, my scheme failed me. At this point, my parents realized what I was doing and decided to discontinue my piano lessons.

As for my studies, my parents initially sent me to the "best" elementary school in Miami, but that meant that my dad had to drive me to school and arrive over an hour before school started. So my mom found math multiplication and division worksheets and had me complete these, so I would not get in trouble. I figured out how to do them quickly. First looking for the problems multiplied by zero and one. Then, I would look for problems that were repeated and write the same answer. So my daily 100 multiplication problems were finished in no time and I had plenty of time to play.

I think my parents figured out that they could not raise me like my brother. They started to give me more independence as long as I did well in school. In high school, I made a deal with my parents that they would give me an allowance of \$50 a month and I would not ask for any more money from them. I would take care of all my needs: buying clothes, going out with my friends, and paying for gas.

My parents continued to give me independence, but they also gave me more responsibility. My mom told me that she would only be doing laundry every two weeks and if I wanted to wear something that was dirty, I would have to do my own laundry. They also gave me the responsibility of finding my way back from school (which was about 2 miles away). Somehow I was able to get a ride home from school and never had to walk home. My parents never asked me how I made it home.

As I look back and reflect on how my parents raised me, they gave me freedom while also giving me responsibility. This was not their only strategy, they also had the strategy of surrounding me with good influences. My parents were devout and faithful Christians and they never compromised with me about not going to church on Sunday. This never came up for discussion; it was just what we did on Sunday. They also sent me to a Christian School, where again I was surrounded by teachers and students who were Christians.

My parents' ultimate strategy was teaching their Christian faith by being an example. My father was the face of the family, as he was the first Deacon / Elder at the Miami church and was heavily involved with the church. My mother would support my father in allowing him to serve faithfully while she took care of the home. For example, they would host a bible study where my father would teach and lead and my mother would cook dinner for over a hundred Chinese students every week.

My mother was always the quiet one, but her example of being a Christian was always there. If I got up early, I would catch my mother having her quiet time, reading her Bible and praying. She read the Bible so much that the binding was falling apart. She was also diligent in tithing. She would write on an index card for every check that was written to the church or for a missionary, making sure they have donated at least 10% of their income.

So with all these good examples and guidance, you would think that of course, I would be a Christian, but that was not the case. As I went off to college, I wanted to explore and I strayed, but for some reason, I had a tug in my heart to seek out a church. But what kept me seeking God again? Was it the influence of my parents? Was it the influence of the years going to church? Was it the influences of my Christian School? I believe it was none of them. I believe it was the daily morning prayers by my mother. She had faith that God was in control and she needed to trust that God would answer her prayers and keep me in the faith. She did not have to rely on her own ways. She lived out the first memory verse that I learned Proverbs 3:5-7

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your path. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.”

My mother trusted in God. She trusted that God would keep me on the straight and narrow path. While she gave me my independence, her prayers were to God to keep me safe and grow as a child of God. She never checked up on me or ask about my grades, but again trusted that my future was in His hands.

As I get older, I finally realize that I may want to scheme to get my way, but I need to put my future in God’s hand. As I put my future in His hands, I not only have peace, but come to realize what is really important. In the hymn “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”, it says as we seek God, the “things of the world will grow strangely dim.” As my children are now on their own and married, I need to follow my mother’s lead and pray for their future, as God knows what’s best for them.

Faith & Art

For God so loved the world...

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

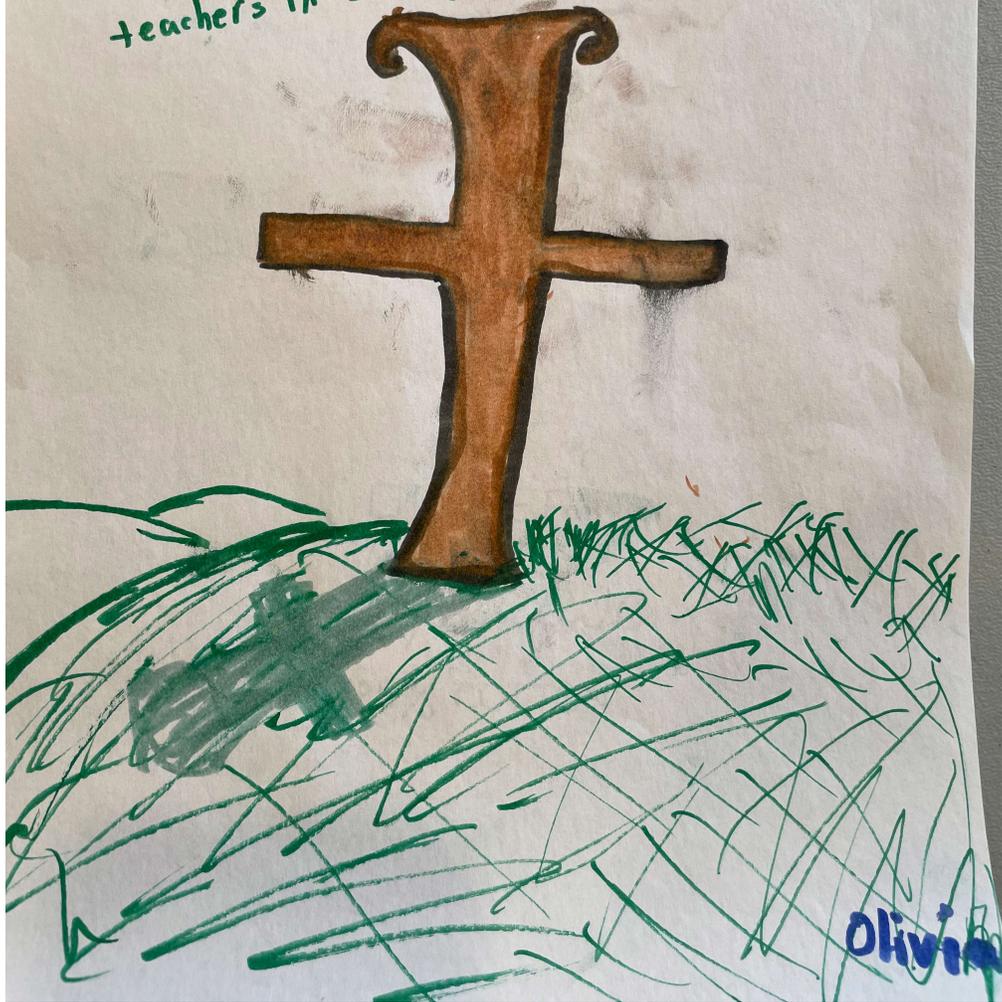
Deuteronomy 4:2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.



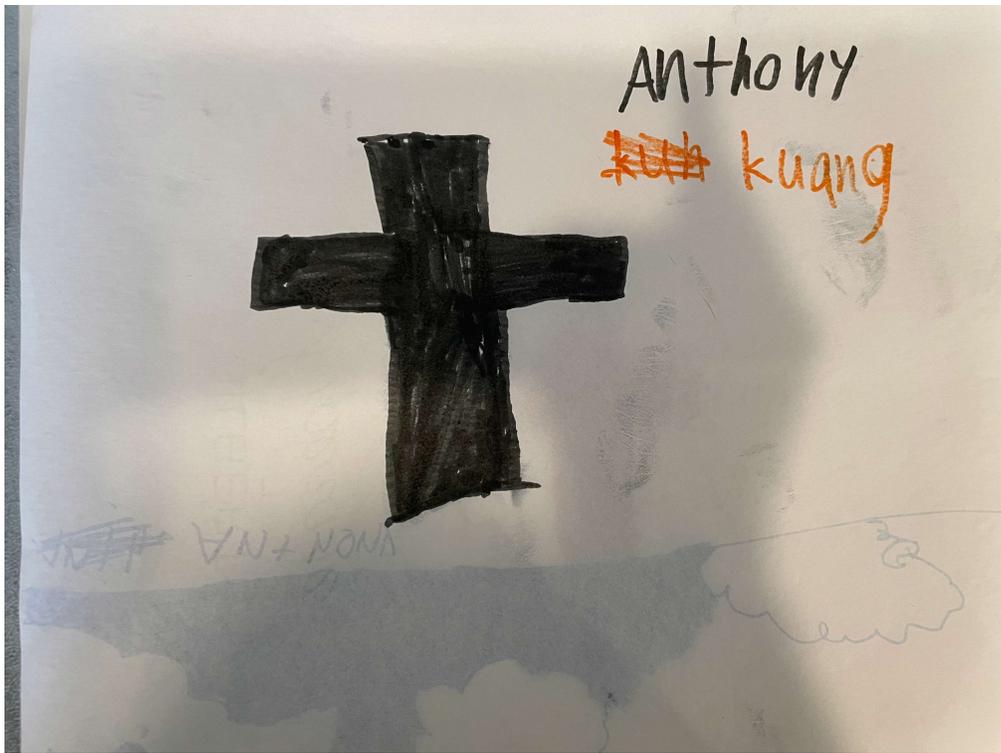
ELSAYA ♡ ♪



I ~~love~~ like the the
teachers in Sunday School



Olivia



Ashley Kwango



I Love

Jesus Christ!



Jesus Christ is good



hello



By April

Living Spring Editorial Team

Managing Editor: Yin Yin

Copy Editors: Qiaoya Lin, Grace Wang

Translators and Proofreaders: Hsiaoning Chen, Jeepeng Khor, Tianhui Xu

Creative Director: Xiangya Huang

Web Team: Sang Ip, Steve Lee, Grace Wang

Layout and Print: Alice Wei Yang