



this issue

Pastor Tung Muses **P.1**

Mystery Man **P.2**

Holy Land Impressions **P.3**

Arts Night **P.4**

PASTOR TUNG MUSES:

After 6 months of ONEC (One New English Congregation), I'm sure people are wondering, "How is ONEC coming along?" The short answer I would give is, "It's coming along. It takes time to get adjusted, but God has helped us make headway and people are getting more used to being one congregation."

One young adult I spoke with recently even said, "It's hard to think about what it was like being separate. I can't imagine going back to being separate." There is also a longer answer. Let me try to give the longer answer from my perspective using the five foci of our 3-1-5 vision:

Worship The two congregations are blending into one integrated worship format. We may need to do some tweaking, but we're on the road to being one worshipping community. Some young adults have expressed to me the desire to interact with adults after the worship. I would encourage more adults to stay around after worship service and for everyone to intentionally introduce themselves to someone from the other group.

Fellowship Like other cell groups, Young Adult (YA) small groups are now under Board of Elders' supervision. Aside from this change, the YA cell groups basically continue to still fellowship with their peers. The cell groups have had occasional cross-generational get-togethers and this has laid a foundation for more relationships to develop. During the recent retreat -- 100 adults and young adults (about half and half in ratio) spent a whole weekend together, learning, eating, and playing together.

Evangelism Pray for an Evangelism Deacon for 2013 who can help coordinate outreach events. Aside from such events, we want to encourage people to use their own

network of relationships to share the gospel. Evangelism is about us going out to share, and not only bringing people to church to hear the gospel. We need more passion and involvement in this vital area. Recently young adults and adults participated in a Prayer Walk in downtown Rockville to bless our community. With our plans to expand our ministry to Gaithersburg, there is much more that we can do, starting with prayer and fasting.

Discipleship Sixteen adults have been meeting in small discipling groups using "Discipleship Essentials" as their study material for growth and accountability. It would be good to see young adults being disciplined too. Without being disciplined, Christians will not be able to grow in their faith, to love God and their neighbors. A new college graduates' cell group, called Devoted to Each Other, has both a fellowship and discipling aspect. Our English Minister Kenneth Hom disciplines through monthly meetings with YA cell group coordinators.

Ministry As young adults and adults work together in ministry, they learn to support one another. In the Service and Worship departments, we have both a young adult and an adult serving as deacons. But other departments also see young adults and adults working together: such as in Children's Dept., Christian Education, Hospitality, Transportation, etc. There is also some informal mentoring going on between the two groups and we would like to develop ways to more systematically mentor people.

There is a place in ONEC for all of us. There are things each of us can do to build greater connections between the people in our new combined congregation and to fulfill God's purpose for us to advance His kingdom in our community and beyond. God has given us a good start - for which we are deeply thankful. Let's continue to fix our eyes on Him as He leads us into His future.

ONE

NEW

ENGLISH

CONGREGATION

(ONEC):

How Is

ONEC

Coming

Along?

“Mystery Man”

By Galene Wong



This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Bolivia with Nathan Ramsey, a missionary who works with the indigenous Aeyore in Bolivia. Throughout my trip, I was able to witness God teaching me different lessons through new experiences.

After spending two nights in the jungle without water or electricity, I was really itching to get home. Or maybe it was the spider bite I got that night in Zapacó.

Nonetheless I was eager to get back to civilization, no matter what it took, which meant sitting six hours in the back of a dilapidated 1974 Land Cruiser with two indigenous Aeyore men, flying across the one lane, unpaved road to the nearest city of Concepción. At least I didn't have it as bad as the man who had to balance himself on top of the tarp which covered a fully loaded trailer.

As we sped our way through the jungle, Nathan caught sight of a man loafing on the side of the road, and slowed down so as not to hit him. The man was waving his hands frantically to get our attention. As we drew closer, I caught a better glimpse of this peculiar wayfarer. He wore a tired-looking sombrero and his clothes were bathed in grease. But my most striking observation- he carried a rifle in one hand and a machete in the other.

When Nathan stopped the jeep, sombrero man ran over and begged for a ride into the city. Seeing how shady this man looked, the two Aeyore men sitting with me warned Nathan not to give this person a ride. But Nathan, who had been in this man's position before, asked the man on the trailer if he would mind the company. The man said no, he would not mind, so on went sombrero man as well.

As we continued riding into the sunset, Nathan noticed that the headlights weren't working, and in dark jungle roads with no lamp posts, or any light source other than our dear old moon reflection, that was bad news.

As the orange sky quickly turned pitch black, everyone became more and more nervous. Either we figure something out right away, or we would have to cut our journey short and spend the night freezing in the jungle. At first we employed flashlights, but they didn't make a difference in the jungle darkness. Finally, when we were out of the trees and in open land, Nathan pulled to the side of the road to see if he could fix the lights.

After a thorough inspection, Nathan declared that a fuse had blown out but regretfully, we didn't have any spare fuses. What to do, what to do?

Well our hitchhiker knew what to do.

He skillfully hot-wired the headlights to function good as new, and soon enough we were back en-route to Concepción. Pedro Cesar, our mystery man, saved the day. Never judge a book by its cover, or rather, a man by his grease.

Holy Land Impressions

Hezekiah Tunnel

by Christina Chi

I participated in the March 2012 Holy Land Study Tour led by Dr. Paul Tan from Dallas, Texas. Traveling is exciting, but *traversing through the Holy Land while studying the related Bible verses to the particular place you are visiting is exhilarating!* Seeing the places mentioned in the Bible and walking in them was like being transported back through time and space to ancient biblical times; Bible stories suddenly became alive. I gained some wonderful spiritual insights. My favorite experience was our walk through the Hezekiah Tunnel. This tunnel goes from the Gihon Spring outside King David's City Wall (part of Jerusalem City) all the way underground downwards to the Siloam Pool, which was both the *drinking reservoir* (smaller pool section) and *purification-ritual pool of Jerusalem*.

In the Bible, there are only three references to Hezekiah's tunnel. For over 1800 years this tunnel was



many people considered this tunnel and the verses below as simply a myth.

Here's how those 3 short verses (below) came alive for me. When you visit Jerusalem, you can see that ancient Jerusalem sits on a rocky mountain, naturally defensible from almost all sides. However, in c. 700 BC, its major source of water supply, the Gihon Spring, sat outside the city walls. Furthermore, its ancient natural underground water channel (2 Samuel 5:8; c. 1005 BC) was also outside the city wall. Of course both could easily be found and blocked by invaders - a weak point!

Hence, the devout King Hezekiah prepared Jerusa-

lem from an impending siege by building a new underground water channel beneath the city's wall to ensure a continuous water supply from Gihon Spring. This 1750 feet long water channel led to Siloam Pool, inside Jerusalem. He also carefully hid the Gihon Spring, so that it could not be seen. This may seem like an obvious strategy, but how could they build such a new water conduit that would run right under the city wall through solid rock? While there, I could see that the tunnel is VERY long, deep down inside a very hard rock. Building such a tunnel would not be easy even in modern times! We learned that in 1838 archeologists re-discovered this Hezekiah tunnel with its "Siloam Inscription," written and mounted on the tunnel's wall during its construction (c. 700 BC), which detailed the process: 2 teams started on opposite ends of the tunnel. Each was directed from above ground, using sounds generated by the hammering on the solid rock through which the tunnel was being dug, until they met in the middle.

It was also recorded that Hezekiah prayed and trusted Jehovah God wholeheartedly (2 Kings 18:5, 19:2 & 20, Chron. 32:7, 8 & 20), as he did his best to fortify his city. *Hezekiah consulted the Lord first in whatever he did!* He didn't just sulk or sit around and pray only, doing nothing as the enemy approached. He prayed and worked hard (i.e. building the tunnel). Thus the Lord came to his rescue and delivered him with a great miraculous act. Hallelujah! *This is the first insight I gained: PRAYER and WORK; indeed, they go hand in hand to gain God's blessings!*

The rest of that day, we walked from the Pool of Siloam (at the end of Hezekiah Tunnel) upwards to Jerusalem's street level. John 9:1-12 recorded that on a Sabbath day, Jesus met a man who was blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste of clay with his saliva,

put the clay on the blind man's eyes and ordered him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The blind man merely went, washed and came back seeing. Now when I read this biblical account, it doesn't detail any consternation, emotional struggle or hard physical work; for me it seemed simple and effortless. He was told to go, he went, and he was healed. End of story.

However, my understanding of this narrative changed. From the Siloam Pool, we walked up and down several difficult stairways, followed by further climbing up difficult terrain towards the street level. During that walk, I started thinking that blind man was so obedient that he just followed Jesus' commands no matter how hard or pointless the task seemed. First of all, he might not have known who the man was who plastered his eyes and ordered him to wash at the Siloam Pool. Second, it was not explained what the result would be in obeying the command. Third, it was tough for a blind man to go down through the uneven stone steps down to Siloam; it certainly wasn't easy for me! Also, the miracle took place on the Sabbath, most likely after the Feast of the Tabernacle. This means all the streets of Jerusalem would have been crowded with people from all over the country, and especially the pool area would be jam-packed with worshipers needing to cleanse themselves prior to entering the Temple. I could not imagine trying to climb these stairs in crowded circumstances, let alone without sight! Despite all this, the blind man went to Siloam Pool overcoming obstacles and difficulties. He got his sight, and the next account told us that he was at the temple, which was way up on a hill.

I was quite startled at getting a clearer insight of what Jesus meant by having faith: *doing God's command down to the details no matter what the situation is.* I marveled at people who trusted in God although they did not understand much but worked their faith out. *The second insight is that we have to act/work out our faith (Trust and Obey) no matter how hard or impossible the task was.*

Yes, it was certainly a very worthwhile and unforgettable Bible study tour.

God taught me to always trust in Him, even if I think I can control or fix everything myself. Similarly, He taught me to "love my neighbor" no matter how dangerous or creepy he may be, because everyone is a child of God. Although this mission trip had its ups and downs, the whole experience was unforgettable as not only did my relationship with God grow, but my love and understanding for His people as well.

Never judge a book by its cover,
or rather, a man by his grease.

"And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city, and they helped him. A great many people gathered and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, "why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?" (Note: Sennacherib was a king of Assyria). 2 Chronicles 32:2-4

2 Chr. 32:30 and 2 Kgs. 20:20 are other references to Hezekiah's tunnel.



A Night to Remember

By Nicole Huang

If you walked into the Fellowship Hall on July 14th evening, you would have heard the guitars rocking out, the drums banging, vocalists singing their hearts out and seen the wonderfully inspirational art work. Throngs of people filed into the Fellowship Hall, excited about the annual CBCM's Arts Night. Every year, teens and young adults volunteer to participate and showcase their artistic talents, a life application of Psalm 104:24 which states:

"How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."

Arts Night has been a great outreach event in the past, and this year's Arts Night proved no different. Participants and the audience included not just One New English Congregation (ONEC) and Youth members but also some visitors. Among the visitors were Jenny Vojtech, and Greg Holland, both students at University of Maryland College Park, and Roger Wang, a recent high school graduate. Jenny and Greg were amongst the audience enjoying the wonderful variety of music, food and art that was prepared by the CBCM congregation members. Roger Wang was a part of a foursome band that rocked out songs like: "Howling For You" by The Black Keys and "I Don't Need No Doctor" by Ray Charles. In preparing for the event, Roger had a great time bonding and fellowshiping with fellow band members from CBCM, Patrick Huang and Sherman Leung. Having never played together before as a band, the band worked hard to piece together the two items.

The audience was given an opportunity to walk around while experiencing a broad variety of performances ranging from talented sign language performances, rock performances, Broadway performances, such as excerpts from Les Miserables to contemporary performances featuring songs from artists like Nikki Minaj and more. In the art gallery, the audience found wonderful paintings and contemporary works such as a crayon hair dried inspirational piece. Photos of various landscapes and portraits of local people around our community could also be found projected against a wall. Perhaps the newest attractions this year were the photo booth and scratch art. Attendees could take photos with silly props such as oversized sunglasses at the photo booth, or could also scratch off a black piece of paper to create a beautiful artistic multi-colored art work to take home. People of all ages could find something that they enjoyed, whether it was simply listening to the musical performances, gazing at the art work, or creating their own art work in the photo booth or scratch art section.

Youth Director Clement Wen and the drama team portrayed the gospel. The drama team performed their "Mission Impossible" drama that depicts the creation of mankind, the fall of mankind, and the saving of mankind through Jesus Christ. The drama and intermission speech was a great way for the community to understand the fundamentals of the Gospel. The catchy tune of Mission Impossible's theme song was intriguing to audience members such as Greg. Clement passionately painted a picture of the gospel while incorporating the theme of the night which celebrates the many different unique talents our community has. At the end of his message, Clement offered to privately entertain any further questions and encouraged audience members to approach him or any one of the church congregation members.

When asked if they would attend again, Greg, Jenny and Roger all responded with a capital "Yes." Greg felt that the event was not only an exciting musical and arts display but also a "cultural event," different from other coffee houses he'd been to. Jenny felt very welcomed by the community. Everyone she met was very friendly and she loved that everyone within the church seemed to know each other. All three had similar comments that the church was incredibly welcoming. Jenny said she was greeted by and introduced to many happy people with smiling faces, and though new to our church community, she felt "like she belonged." Overall, the event was a great way to get to know locals around the community, and celebrate God's creative energy inherent in each one of us.

Cross Talk Issue 03 September 2012 Chinese Bible Church of Maryland www.cbcm.org

Editor:
Lydia Tan

Editorial team members
Nicole Huang, Jessica Leung,
Galene Wong

EXALTING JESUS CHRIST
EDIFYING THE BELIEVERS
EVANGELIZING THE WORLD