Word from Pastor Don: Dad Could Have Been Wrong!

Growing up as a country boy that took the school bus into town each day, I managed to have my fair share of schoolboy fights. By the time I was 10, I had a problem for I had become a follower of Christ and been instructed that fighting wasn't good. My problem was that I was surrounded by pretty rough kids that all saw fighting as a sign of strength and I didn't quite know what to do.

It is hard to say but, my father's advice on this may have been flawed! He told me that I was not to ever start a fight but that I was never to back down should one come my way. This advice didn't seem to match my new-found dependency in Christ.

In the name of Christ does our church find its' meaning and purpose? We have found difficulties, pain, and disappointment due to some persons who felt it their responsibility to "correct the church" in some of its' decisions. They have brought forth significant issues before this church in what they might see as honourably motivated dissension. Yet, the burden for the lost and universal church's reputation needs to always be considered in the actions of all Christians and the church as a whole. I believe it is for that reason that Paul wrote to warn the church against public argumentation and debate (1 Corinthians 6).

We cannot ever cease all disagreements or varying perspectives on decisions because we are just humans. Yet, we must look at Christ in remembering that he chose NOT to avoid His responsibilities when publicly accused and criticized. With power beyond any of ours, he limited himself to a few words and then accepted what came His way…the Cross. Controlling the actions or decisions of others is not in our ability but we can, and must, keep Christ's testimony for our lost world before ourselves as we carefully take actions and make decisions, that allow us to focus on serving the Lord.

Prayer Items

"As a shepherd looks after his flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness….. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice." –Ezekiel 34: 12, 16

Church family

1. Praise God that we have a verdict for the wrongful dismissal. Pray that God keeps us faithful no matter what circumstances we are in, help us to rely on Him and never lose sight of His goodness and righteousness.
2. Pray for clear vision, direction, wisdom and discernment for our pastoral team and leadership team.
3. Pray that God continues to sustain Nathan in faith and perseverance as he slowly recovers, may he continue to be a blessing to many as he fulfills God's purpose in life
4. Pray for salvation for our friends and families who do not know the Lord yet. May the Lord impart in us a sense of urgency to share the good news with those around us.

Congregational Life ministry

1. Praise God for the enthusiastic Summer Conference registration and all the faithful servants who are organizing this. Pray for wisdom and guidance for Rev. Gilbert as he prepares the message for the conference.
2. For the upcoming Summer Youth Celebration, pray for inspiration for the leaders, open hearts for the youth, and safety in travel and events.

Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church 7474 Culloden St, Vancouver, BC V5X 4K2
Phone: 604.325.6314 ext. 21; Email: english@vcbc.bc.ca

sunday worship at **vcbc**

23 August 2015

9:30AM English Worship Service

www.vcbc.bc.ca/english

Sunday Worship Service.
Photo credit: Chris Cheung

Order of Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:9-13

Praise & Worship

The Church's One Foundation,
In Christ Alone

Sharing of Community Life

Guatemala Mission Sharing

Tithes & Offering

You Are My All in All

Scripture Passage & Message

Matthew 7:24-27

Standing on the Rock

Pastor Gilbert Nigh

Invitation/Response

The Solid Rock/Cornerstone

Closing Prayer

Doxology

Please feel free to stand or sit as we sing.

Friendly reminder for parents of preschoolers and kindergarteners: please pick up your children downstairs at 10:45.

Sermon Discussion Starters

Pastor Gilbert Nigh | Standing on the Rock | Matthew 7:24-27

1. What teachings of Jesus do you find particularly difficult to obey?
2. In 1 Samuel 15:2-3, 9, 13-15 what got in the way of Samuel's obedience?
3. What will our life be like if we seek first the Kingdom of God?
4. Jesus radically challenges us to deal with our sin. Why aren't we so radical in taking up the challenge?
5. How does David facing Goliath (1 Samuel 17:45) demonstrate where he has "built his house"?
6. What is our normal response when we find our self in a difficult situation? How would Jesus like us to respond?

Events This Week For You To Be Involved

Sunday (today)

1. Prayer Group at 8:45am; Contact Betty at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca
2. Worship
3. Sermon Based Discussion Group at the Gardners' home at 11:15am. All ages welcomed!
4. **MBM at 1pm in the sanctuary.**

Monday

Small group discussion. Young adults, young couples welcome. Contact Henry at henryhwcheung@msn.com

Wednesday

Church-wide Prayer Meeting; Weekly at 7:30pm in VCBC basement; All welcome (primarily Cantonese but we'll translate as needed!)

Thursday

1. "Experiencing Forgiveness" Women's Bible Study; (3rd Thurs at 7:30pm); VCBC E1; Contact Winnie Lai-Fong or Cindy So.
2. Dayspring Ladies Bible Study; (1st & 3rd Thurs at 10am); VCBC Rm B1-2; Contact Carolyn at carolynyip1949@gmail.com

Friday

Prayer Group at 7:45pm (1st Friday); VCBC W2; Contact Winnie at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca

Saturday

Journey Young Adult Fellowship. 7:30pm in VCBC room B3-5. Contact Chris at ChrisChCheung@hotmail.com or ask for a Journeyer to get introduced today!

*Homebuilders small groups. For family & couples. Contact Lisa at young_4ever@telus.net

Announcements

1. We are still accepting **Pioneer Clubs registration** for the Fall Term (Oct 2015 to Jun 2016). Registration table is in the basement on Sundays or register at church office during weekdays. Fee: $70/child.
2. **Special Members' Meeting –** Will be held **TODAY**, at **1:00pm** in the sanctuary. Please see insert or bulletin board in the foyer for motions. Limited quantity of Chinese buns will be for sale in the basement before the meeting. **Registered VCBC Members** please sign in and obtain your Ballot at the registration tables in the foyer before the meeting on Aug. 23. **Notes:** (1) Non-members do not have voting rights; (2) Obtaining Ballot and/or Voting on behalf of another person is not permitted; (3) All Ballots are the property of VCBC, all unused Ballots must be returned to the registration table before leaving. Thank you.
3. **Summer Youth Celebration** is happening this week. Please keep the youth and leaders in your prayers.
4. Please note that the **monthly Friday prayer meeting** for Sept will be on Sep 11 instead of Sep 4.
5. The **Conversational English Class outreach program** is needing more teachers/helpers for their weekly Monday/Wednesday morning classes. You don't need teaching experience to participate in this program, training will be provided as needed. This is an excellent evangelistic opportunity. If you can help fill the gaps needed to continue this program, please contact Bob Lee at 604.324.2943
6. **"The Return of the Prodigal Son" Evangelistic Conference** - Will be held **Sept. 10-13**, 7:30 pm at Bethany Baptist Church, with ***Pastor Michael Liu*** as conference speaker (speaking in English, with Mandarin interpretation). Please see poster on EC bulletin board for details.
7. Our ECLT meeting minutes and reports from July are now posted on the EC bulletin board in the basement.