Word from Pastor Don: Your Comforts or God's Service?

Living on the 14th Floor seemed normal especially when it came to jumping on the lift, pressing the close button, and then being concerned about pushing the floor number where you were headed...a HKG habit! Coming to Canada and going to visit my physician, for the first time, brought a different experience as I happened into the building at the exact moment the lift doors opened so I decided to ride up to the 3rd floor with the other two persons on the lift. Pushing my floor's button wasn't necessary as one of my fellow riders had already pushed it, so I waited...and waited...and waited for the lift to move. Looking at the lights behind the operating panel, the lift appeared to be in working order but...are you kidding...we still weren't moving after what appeared to be an eternity! The others, being patient Canadians, just smiled and politely stood while I was ready to go off and use the stairs. At that moment, the whole lift shook as the doors closed and we began our arduous journey that left me expecting that this could take hours to reach the top. As we arrived at the third floor, I determined that, based on the speed and sounds of the lift, it needed to be retired and replaced with a Hong Kong answer...stairs! After all, nobody in Hong Kong with only two flights of stairs to deal with would ever waste time waiting around for a lift...especially if they knew there were stairs within a few meters away!

VCBC is a church that has some people accustomed to having grown up living in a 14th floor flat and always being in a hurry to reach their destination. It is a church that has others who have never lived above the 2nd floor of a house in the suburbs. Basically, both groups "know what a lift is for but they use it differently!" When we mix people from different backgrounds, it can be either exciting and bring out our creativity and sense of fresh learning OR it can be uncomfortable and frustrating and result in both groups escaping to a place, or group, where people are like themselves. This may meet a temporary need but it is still avoidance from what James 1 refers to as maturity that comes through challenges. I am reminded of many university students who attend "college churches" for years only to find that, once they have left that environment, they have difficulty associating with truly blended churches that include the whole family of God as represented through ages ranging from 1 month to 90 years! We must learn to be comfortable with people from both the 14th floor and from the 2nd floor even though they use the lift a bit differently. At the same time, let us never settle for attitudes of entitlement, personal comfort, secure traditions, or safety. With Jesus as our model, let us stretch ourselves daily by asking God to teach us to be bold...beyond ourselves.

Prayer Items

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere heart, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. –Acts 2:46-47

Prayer Focus:

- Let us give praise to the Father for His setting the church free from lawsuits that distract our ministry purposes!
- Let us be gracious, not prideful, in remembering that it was God who ended the lawsuit!
- Appreciation for His love, mercy, constant forgiveness and acceptance of us.
- A joyous Christmas Celebration full of love for our Lord Jesus. May we praise God in the unity of the Spirit.
- God to touch hearts for joining one of the planned Guatemala mission trips.
- Let us remember those who are serving in planning for next year's ministries as we ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance and sensitivity in that process.
- Pastor Don as he preaches at MM today.

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**

22 November 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 145:3-8, 21

Praise & Worship

Let Everything That Has Breath,
Wonderful Maker,
From the Inside Out

Sharing of Community Life

Tithes & Offering

As The Deer

Scripture Passage & Message

John 9:1-41

The 6th Sign: Healing the Man Born Blind

Pastor Sam Wong

Invitation/Response

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Closing Prayer

Doxology

Special Announcement from BoD and Pastoral Staff

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 Outline and Questions for the Sermon Based Discussion Group

Rev. Sam Wong | The 6th Sign: Healing the Man Born Blind | John 9:1-41

LIGHT: A common description of Jesus in Gospel of John (1:4-5; 8:12)

1) The 6th Sign: Healing the man born blind (9:1-14)
   - Time & place: Sabbath Day in Jerusalem
   - Jesus is the Light (2-5, 7)
   - The theme of "being sent" (4) → Pool of Siloam
     i. Jesus is the one being sent
2) The first round of interrogation (9:13-17)
   - Pharisees: Jesus is not from God (he violated Sabbath)
   - The blind man: Jesus is a prophet (He performed a sign)
3) The summoning of witnesses (9:18-23)
   - An unfair trial (22)
   - The blind man's ungrateful parents
4) The second round of interrogation (9:24-34)
   - Intimidation from the Pharisees (24, 28, 34)
   - The blind man's growth in faith
     i. The man (11) → prophet (17) → from God (33) → worship (38)

Discussion Questions:

1.What does "cost of discipleship" mean to you? Why do you think Christians nowadays pay so little attention on the "cost" of being Christ's disciples?

2.What might be some of the costs in being Christ's disciples nowadays in Canada? How can a church help believers to persevere when costs have to be paid in following Christ?

3.What do you think gave rise to the growth of faith in the blind man's life? Are you more like the parents of the blind man or the blind man himself? Why?

4.How would you pray for yourself and for other Christians, that we will be ever more willing to bear the cost of being Christ's disciples, in order to witness the love of God in a world that is getting more and more hostile to our Lord Jesus?

Sunday LIFE Groups

Youth Classes	
Class	**Location**
Gr. 7 & 8	VCBC B14-15
Gr. 9	Moberly 31A
Gr. 10	Moberly 31B
Gr. 11 & 12	Moberly 122 (staffroom)

Adult Classes	
Class	**Location**
Sermon Based Discussion Group	Gardner's home
Church History	Moberly 167
Wrestling with C.S. Lewis	Moberly 107 (library)
Christian Response to Contemporary Issues I	Moberly 107 (library)

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. Sunday LIFE groups at 11:30am

Tuesday

Toonie Tues. Badminton; Sep-June from 8-10pm at Moberly School ($2 drop-in); Contact Heman at hemanc@gmail.com

Wednesday

1. Dayspring Ladies Bible Study; (1st & 3rd Wed at 12:30pm); VCBC Rm B3-5; Contact Carolyn at carolynyip1949@gmail.com
2. Church-wide Prayer Meeting; Weekly at 7:30pm in VCBC basement; All welcome (primarily Cantonese but we'll translate as needed!)

Thursday

"Experiencing Forgiveness" Women's Bible Study; (3rd Thurs at 7:30pm); Winnie's home; Contact Winnie Lai-Fong or Cindy So.

Friday

1. EDGe youth fellowships for grades 6-12; Oct-Jul from 7:30-9:30pm at VCBC; Contact Alfred at alfredlu@gmail.com
2. 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. Various times. Contact Cindy at cindyso@vcbc.bc.ca

Announcements

1. **Board of Directors' Report** - Please refer to today's bulletin insert.
2. **Nomination Committee Election Results** - Please refer to today's insert.
3. **Members' Bi-monthly Meeting for November** - Will be held Sunday, **Nov. 29**, at **1:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Please see insert or bulletin board for the Motions. Lunch buns will be available for sale in the basement before the meeting. **Registered VCBC Members** please sign in and obtain a Ballot at the registration tables in the foyer before the meeting. **Notes**: (1) Non-members do not have voting rights; (2) Obtaining a 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 you leave; (4) Minutes of the Sept. 27 MBM is now posted in the foyer and also available at the Church Office.
4. **Christmas Celebration 2015** - Come celebrate Christmas with us. Enjoy a special evening on Saturday, **Dec 19** at VCBC. Mark the date in your calendar. More details to follow.
5. **Children's Family Celebration on Dec 4**. Invite a friend or a neighbour! See insert for details.
6. **Do you want to follow Jesus' command to be baptized?** The next baptism is scheduled for **Dec 20**. Talk to Pastor Don or Pastor Gilbert for more info.
7. **Operation Christmas Child** - Thank you for your participation, out of the 268 shoeboxes that were given out, we got 252 back, stuffed with goodies, which will surely put a big smile on the faces of those children in poor countries, giving them love, hope and joy! These shoeboxes have all been delivered to the collection centre at Westside Baptist Church (8506 Ash St.). If you still have a box with goodies and donation, please deliver it directly to the collection centre. Thanks and please continue to pray for this ministry and the children.
8. **2016 Church Calendars Have Arrived** - You can pick one up at the foyer or Church Office (one per family please).
9. **2016 Flower Offering** - The Flower Chart is now posted on the bulletin board in foyer. Please put your name beside your special date, and make an offering of $30 in an offering envelope with your name, your offering number, and your special date on it. Thanks.
10. **Ministry Team Leaders** - **(1)** Please submit your ***annual report*** for your ministry to the Church Office by **Dec. 13**. **(2)** Cut-off date for ***2015 expenses*** is **Dec. 20**, please submit all claim vouchers by that date.
11. **Save the date!** On January 9, 2016 Paul Johnson will be with us to help us learn to make disciples through small groups. All small group leaders are encouraged to attend and everyone is welcome.
12. The **Dayspring Ladies** Bible Study group is inviting all ladies to a social Christmas lunch and afterwards we will make Christmas cards on Wednesday, November 25 from 12:30-3:00. Come and join us for a time of fun and getting together with friends. Please email carolynyip1949@gmail.com to RSVP. Thanks for your cooperation.
13. **Understanding God's Heart for Missions**: Kairos Course. *Where are you on your life journey?* Why has God put you there? Need help figuring it out? Kairos offers a compass for navigating life-intersections. Kairos is a nine lesson interactive study of the unchanging purpose and plan of God from Genesis to the end of the age. Focusing on the biblical, historical, strategic, and cultural dimensions of God's mission, this course creates space where you can realign with God's purposes. There is a course running from Jan 5 to Feb 20 in Surrey. For more information, go to www.kairoscourse.ca (Cost $99; after Dec 1: $125)
14. **The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel**. Please read this little booklet and then pray about picking up more to give to friends, neighbours, family members, etc. These booklets can be given away with Christmas presents and may help start conversations about your faith.
15. **"For God so Loved"**: **A Christmas booklet from Our Daily Bread** - Please pick up one at the foyer and consider giving this precious gift of hope to a loved one at Christmas.
16. **Impact Ministries in Guatemala** is looking for donations of new or little used musical instruments for their music school. If you have any instruments around that you would like to donate, please contact Henry Lew (helew@hotmail.com).