



Current

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*Equipping the church to reach the world
for the glory of God through Christ*

Almost There...
Church Camp

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A Prayer about God's Most Repeated Command

By Scotty Smith

He placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." **Rev. 1:17-18**

Lord Jesus, it's stunning, liberating and timely to know the most repeated command throughout the whole Bible is "*Do not be afraid.*" The angels spoke these words to startled shepherds at your birth, and you repeated the command to a devastated Mary on the morning of your resurrection. Now, through the gospel, you speak the same soul-centering life-giving words to our hearts. "Do not be afraid!" It's not about bucking up, but believing you.

Because you are the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, we don't have to be afraid of anything in between those brackets. You are God, and we are so very not. You will never say "Oops" about anything you decree in world history or anything you bring into our daily lives.

Lord Jesus, you never "try" to do anything, as though there could ever be "trial and error" with you. You never have to scratch your head in confusion, or resort to some plan B or C. You are *perfectly* executing your sovereign will all the time, from naming the stars to numbering our hairs.

Because you are the Living One, who was dead and who is now alive forever, we don't have to be afraid of Judgment Day or *this* day, for your cross was our Judgment Day and your resurrection is our assurance of complete acceptance by God. We no longer live under the weight of our guilt, for we now live in the delight of our Father. He persistently shouts to our hearts, "There is now and forevermore no condemnation for those who are in Christ!" To which we shout back, "Hallelujah!" Many times over!

Jesus, because you hold the keys of death and Hades, and to everything else, we don't have to be afraid to die or live. You have robbed the grave of its victory; you have removed the sting of death; and you have defeated the devil and all the powers of darkness! We don't have to be afraid of difficult people or devastating circumstances. We don't have to be afraid of failing health or heart-wrenching providences. We don't have to fear more terrorists in the world or failures on our part. Yes, yes, YES!

We know you will never leave or forsake us, and we know we are secure in the palm of your hand. Free us more fully from our fears that we might live more fully to the praise of your glorious grace. So very Amen we pray in your loving and powerful name.

Meet the Staff: Administrative Assistant, Ingrid Chung

By Ingrid Chung

Hi Ingrid, Thanks for interviewing.

Ingrid: Well, this is a bit strange, interviewing myself, but I hope you'll bear with me.

Question: First, let's start off with how you came to this place called Taft Avenue.

Answer: Well, one year ago, I ran across this job posting, and almost didn't apply for it because it was technically part-time and only 30 hours. I figured it wouldn't hurt to apply, especially since I had been an administrator for my church in Vancouver, BC, where I lived from 2007-early 2010. Well, I was offered the job! It happened so quickly! I remember walking into the courtyard and admiring its peacefulness. I remember sitting in Pastor Bob's office interviewing with all of the staff and even Mike Wojtanowicz, feeling really comfortable. I had had another interview earlier that day that was NOT comfortable. In hindsight, I see how God provided this job.

Q: Are you glad you accepted the job?

A: Oh, yes! It's been a good place for me to sharpen my administrative and interpersonal skills. I have fun interacting with the staff, volunteers, the UPS man, and most everyone else who makes up a day in the life of the Taft Avenue office. I was sad when the postal carrier, James, switched routes and we got a new one.

Q: What are some of your responsibilities?

A: Besides the usual reception duties, I coordinate the bulletin, Sunday slides, website updates, newsletter, facility use...basically, keep the various aspects of church life coordinated and communicating, so we can function healthily. Have a question and don't know who to ask? Ask me! I probably don't know the answer, but I'll direct you to someone who does!

Q: Why don't we see you on Sundays?

A: Confession: I attend another church, Redeemer Church in La Mirada. I had been going there before I started this job, and was rather involved, so I was relieved that I could work at TACC and attend Redeemer. Being part of two churches is difficult at times, but I'm learning to transfer ideas and practices between churches, which is hopefully beneficial to both congregations. For example, interacting with solicitors in the office gives me insight in developing a soliciting policy for Redeemer, which I'm working on.

Q: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?

A: Well, I've only lived in southern California and Vancouver, so I don't really know what living in the South, New England, or Asia is like. And yes, my name is Scandinavian, but I'm ethnically Korean. I did fall in love with the temperate rainforests of Vancouver, and felt quite "at home" there. I've always been entranced by the beauty and mystery of rainforests, and found it amazing that I lived in a rainforest. If you come to my office, you'll see a panoramic photo of a rainforest that I bought up north. Sadly, I don't know the forest's location. So yeah, I would love to live in the Pacific Northwest.

Q: What's "Ingrid after 5" like?

A: It's actually after 4, except on Wednesdays. I get off at 4. Yay! Well, I drive home in way too much traffic, sustained by NPR. Usually, when I get home, I spend as much time away from screens (ie. the computer) as possible. I'm a sucker for good conversation; "never let a good conversation pass you by." And for good books. I also love walking, hiking the Whittier hills just one block away, exploring LA, and talking theology.

Q: What's one thing you love about Taft?

A: That I get to interact with people I wouldn't normally meet—people a lot older than me, with different personalities and interests, but brothers and sisters in Christ, like Nancy, Kimberly, Gordon, and even Pastor Bob. That I get to make mistakes and people give me grace to learn from them. And that I get to interview people for this newsletter! Look for more to come!



"Simple Church" Camp

What is church? Simply speaking? What does God have to say about this, through Paul, in 2 Timothy? Elders will exposit this epistle to us Friday, November 11-Sunday, November 13 as we gather in Oak Glen Christian Conference Center. Why come? Hear the Word, be in a beautiful space, learn about church, and be the church. Together. 3 days. Are you ready?

The Fishers, East-West Ministries

By Bill Petersen



At the end of the first week of leadership training in Myanmar, the men met a retired policeman who responded in faith at the first hearing of the good news. That man found his own way to meet at a house church the very next day worshipping with us and sharing a meal afterward. The men were all so joyful to be with this man as a brother in Christ.

K. reports about the water project: "The holding tank has a water level "monitor" on it so that water is not wasted by spilling over. They still have to carry the water up the side of the ravine, about 20-30 feet, where they pour it into the concrete tanks that have been there for some time full of clutter. Now they are both cleaned out. One side of the tank is designated for drinking and cooking. The other side is designated for bathing. They are so very proud of their readily accessible water!

Not only do "our" village of 28 families benefit, but two nearby villages come for water, too, with a total of nearly 100 families enjoying the clean, healthy water! They walked me through one of the nearby villages and showed me three "new" huts that had been built by people who moved there because of the new water.

Also, I noticed immediately that the children were all clean-faced, clean hair, clean hands and feet. And didn't smell bad! I'm anticipating that health problems will be greatly reduced, too. I didn't see the usual sores on their little bodies.

Thank you for your prayers, and the many ways you bless us, and may God bless you in the same way,

The Fishers

Mission to Orange, India and the World

By Steve Hicks

"My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand." Romans 15:20-21

When TACC began going to India to share the gospel, our desire was to find an unreached people group--meaning that fewer than 2% of the population is Christian and involved in an organized, evangelical church. God led us to the Adivasi people near Siliguri, India. Indeed, the majority of the Adivasi people we come into contact with in the tea gardens of northeast India have NEVER been exposed to the gospel, have NEVER heard the name of Jesus and are not involved in any form of Christian worship. We are in agreement with the Apostle Paul in wanting to take the gospel to people who have never heard, and watch as the Holy Spirit opens their eyes so that they will see, and opens their minds so that they will understand the awesome wonder of knowing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior..

Home after a week in India, the 2011 team is tired, but excited to share their

stories of how God is working among the Adivasi people. The team conducted small worship gatherings in each village they were in so that the new believers would see that they were not alone, visited previously planted churches, and ended with a large discipleship gathering of over 500 people in Merryview Tea Garden. As a result of this trip, over 350 people asked Christ to be their Savior, and acknowledged that there is only one true God!

Members of the team will be sharing their experiences in Discipleship Hour classes in the coming weeks. Here is a sampling of what you might hear:

"After I shared the gospel with a family that had never heard the gospel before, they said they could not believe because they already believed in so many gods. My translator and I then re-explained that there is one god and He is jealous for His people's worship and love. They could no longer worship false idols and needed to repent and turn to God. After we shared, the whole family accepted Jesus as their Savior. " [Katie Burris]

Does this not get you excited? Do you want to be a part of what God is doing in Siliguri? If so, stay tuned for our 2012 dates. Get ready!

Quickly Passing, You Are

By Ingrid Chung



As September schoolbooks
slip into
October leaves
and pumpkin pie
I remember
beams of July sunlight
and a whisper
of endless summer nights
that one May evening.

June gloom is gladly gone
but November doldrums await
their fifteen minutes
quietly heralding
once again
Advent.