

# CBM NEWSLETTER

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*Pastor Jerry Wong*

*...WHO IN CHRIST LEADS US IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION, AND THROUGH US SPREADS THE FRAGRANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM EVERYWHERE. (2COR. 2:14)*

My growing up years followed the typical course experienced by many of our forbearers who came to America as immigrants. Arriving at SFO in June 1963, I joined many of my fellow “fresh-off-the-boat” (in my case, fresh-off-the-plane) travelers negotiating immigration, customs and finally meeting my aunt and uncle who sponsored our family from Hong Kong. I vaguely remember traveling to Oakland riding in my uncle’s car on the upper deck of the Bay Bridge (back then the lower deck was for trains and the upper deck carried traffic both ways). Coming from Hong Kong, their four-bedroom home felt like a mansion. They had a front and back yard covered with grass and a rickety swing set that their kids had already outgrown, but perfect for my brother and me. We soon moved to San Francisco

after three months living with them into a flat in a little alley midway up Telegraph Hill, in the shadow of Coit Tower. We were quickly introduced to San Francisco Chinatown and my parents quickly enrolled us in Chinese school soon after introducing us to the local elementary school. My brothers and I spoke no English, but we quickly picked it up and easily assimilated into western culture.

In many respects, my story mirrors many in the CBM 50+ community and reflects the foundation of the church planting work of Pastor Sen amongst the English speaking Chinese. There are still pockets of immigrant communities in the San Francisco Bay Area very similar to what I experienced when first coming to America. The Visitacion Valley and Oceanview districts of San Francisco where CBM is actively working on planting churches are majority immigrant families. However, much has changed in the intervening years. Though

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## FUTURE EVENTS!

- ❖ Junior High Camp.....Jul. 28 - Aug. 2
- ❖ Senior High Camp.....Aug. 4 - Aug. 9
- ❖ 50 Plus Conference .....October 17-19
- ❖ More details at: [www.cbm-bayarea.org](http://www.cbm-bayarea.org)

## From the director

Wow, with May here it means summer is near and my children are counting down the days till the summer break! Counting the many blessings of God, here are some: 1) We are thankful for God resolving issues concerning Hope Bible Church's facility rental, and for the host church to continue our decade long partnership to reach the Vis. Valley community. We can now focus on the upcoming summer. 2) We are thankful for making connections with the Visitacion Valley community through the after-school tutoring program, especially with the moms. Through the "Mom's network," we're seeing an increased enrollment for the 6-week long day camp that begins on Monday, June 2nd. 3) Lastly, we are thankful for the Baptism of three of the youth on Easter Sunday publicly declaring their faith in Jesus Christ. On Mother's Day the moms we're taken on a field trip outing! Pray for the continuing contact with these moms and the upcoming day camp ministry.

With summer camps coming soon, the camp directors

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*Senior High Camp 2013*

## From the director

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are busy working in organizing all the details (theme, promotion, workshops, activities, etc.). One of the biggest needs is the recruitment of staff who invest their time and energy in the lives of junior high and senior high students. It is the directors and counselors that have great spiritual impact in the lives of the campers. They will spend much time over the week of camp encouraging and challenging them in their walk with God. During the week of camp they will seek the wisdom of God as they counsel the campers in their on going life situations. It is amazing to see God in His providence match up the campers with the counselor who have similar experiences in their life with Christ. We need your prayers preparing the staff for the ministry ahead. Go to our website for more information: [www.cbm-bayarea.org](http://www.cbm-bayarea.org)

I praise God for the family He has given me. My two older ones, Sarah and Jonathan, will both be attending Junior High camp this year, and little Christopher just can't wait for his turn to come! Peggy and I recently celebrated our 15th anniversary of marriage and also ministry together serving our Lord and Savior at CBM.

Gratefully yours,  
*Tim Wong*



*Wong Family*

## CHALLENGE FACING CBM

the immigrant mind-set is very similar, the receiving culture has changed dramatically. This the challenge facing CBM in its future planting efforts as even in the neighborhoods mentioned, there are other immigrants besides Asian and long time residents who need the gospel. Gone are the days where racial isolation required a narrow focus. The ongoing planting efforts require teams of people who understand the word of God and the world of God. The culture has changed and demands our adjustment. While indeed, there is really nothing new under the sun, nevertheless, each generation has the mandate to proclaim the gospel and the responsibility to make the proclamation as clear as possible. We see this challenge every year in our summer youth camps. The questions of faithful living is becoming more and more complicated, but the staff continue to bring biblical answers and the model of devoted lives for all to see. The joy of the work is to see God raise up men and women who gladly serve the Lord Jesus by taking the time to pour their lives into the younger generation. They sacrifice their time, talent, and treasure by paying the camp fee and spending their valuable vacation with the youth.

Your continued support, or new support, of the ministry of CBM is greatly appreciated and needed. More and more churches are hearing about our camp ministry and are entrusting their kids to our care. The reputation of the camp is very high. The camp weeks are a great opportunity to point our youth to a life-long commitment to the gospel of the Lord and his mission for the world. Church planting requires teamwork and the labor of forming planting teams begins best with people preparing to enter the ministry. Your gifts go to support seminary education and the equipping of men and women to serve Christ amongst diverse communities. We are recruiting interns and local missionaries to go to the places where the poor and unchurched live. These interns and missionaries need outside support to continue the work. Would you please consider how you can further God's kingdom here in America where even as more and more people want to come, yet less and less people believe. It has been my privilege and joy to go overseas to witness the Holy Spirit transform entire communities with the gospel and bring light and life as I work with local pastors. It has also been disheartening to return and see the spiritual apathy here at home. But we are placed here for such a time as this. What an honor to live for and serve our savior in this climate and at this place. CBM remains committed and optimistic in our efforts because we serve a triumphant God "who in Christ leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere" (2Cor. 2:14). Now is the time, we are the servants and you are the ones who supply richly. Thank You!!

-Jerry Wong