



SFCC 40TH NEWSLETTER

April 2010 Volume 2, Issue 4

Community Service Focus of the Month

Child Sponsorship It is often said, “Children are the future”. Parents especially want to provide the best for their children, not wanting them to be at a disadvantage even from an early age. However, did you know that of the 2 billion children worldwide, half of them live in poverty? In many countries and regions in the world, children struggle to hang on to a hope of survival through famine, wars, natural disasters and illnesses. They lack nutrition and clean drinking water. They have no basic medical services, nor safe shelter. Furthermore, more than 100 million children never have an opportunity to go to school. Perhaps to these children, “the future” is a concept that they cannot grasp.

To help these children, many charity organizations, with the financial help of loving people around the world, provide sanitary living environments, clean drinking water, and an opportunity to be educated; so that these severely disadvantaged children can have the basic rights of human life. The financial supporters can also express their care and encouragement to the children they sponsor through letters.

Maybe you are not able to participate in a short term mission trip to directly help these children. But through child sponsorship, you can share with children the love of God. With a dollar a day, you can bring hope to a child’s life.

There are many organizations worldwide offering various child sponsorship programs. Some NPOs are listed here for your references.



Orgs Focusing on Children in Taiwan

1. 財團法人台灣兒童暨家庭扶助基金會 (Taiwan Fund for Children and Families) <http://www.ccf.org.tw/>
2. 台灣世界展望會 (World Vision Taiwan) <http://www.worldvision.org.tw/>

Orgs Sponsoring Children Internationally

1. Compassion International <http://www.compassion.com/>
2. Partners International <http://www.partnersintl.org/welcome/>
3. World Vision <http://www.worldvision.org/>

Special Guest On April 17th, SFCC will host Reneé Stearns from World Vision as a guest speaker. Renee’s husband Richard answered a call from God in 1998 and accepted the invitation from World Vision to be the president of the organization. He left a successful corporate business career and moved away from their 10-bedroom mansion on a 5-acre lot in Pennsylvania. They uprooted and left their beloved church, schools, community and work environment, and moved to the Pacific Northwest to join World Vision because of their love for God and their desire to follow His calling. They currently reside in Bellevue, WA with their five children. Sponsoring numerous children around the world, the whole Stearns family love and serve the Lord. Please find a brief bio of Reneé in this newsletter on page 4. We hope that you will invite your friends and family and join us on April 17th to hear what she has to share.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- 4/4 (Sun) 12 pm Easter Combined Service
- 4/9-4/10 Youth Group - Acquire the Fire conference
- 4/17 (Sat) Reneé Stearns from World Vision
- 5/9 (Sun) 12 pm Mother’s Day Combined Service
- 8/27-8/29 SFCC Retreat at the Firs (Bellingham, WA)

Topic : Becoming a Family of Significance Both At Home and In the Community

Time : 4:30 pm ~ 7:30 pm Saturday, April 17th

(Dinner and child care for children 10 and under will be provided, please RSVP to Karin Kuo kuo88@comcast.net)

Place : SFCC 333 NE 76th St., Seattle, WA 98115

Sunday Sermon

Change Yourself First – Part II

Pastor Livingstone Chen 01.17.2010

2 Corinthians 5:14~17 John 15: 1~8

First, changes within the self are the easiest to neglect

Secondly, changing one's self is the most reasonable.

Thirdly, changing one's self has lasting and significant impacts.

Fourthly, changing one's self is very difficult.

(Please refer to last issue for above points)

Fifth point, we need God's help to change.

God is the expert in changing people. You can say that it is His specialty. This means that we need to trust in Jesus. You know your own shortcomings and weaknesses, and you want to change. But you always find yourself unable to change. Let me tell you, it is because you cannot. It's not because you don't desire to change. I know that you want to. You even can teach others to change, but you are not able to change yourself. You need God. When you find God and find Jesus, you receive a new life from Him. Our life determines the way we live. Problems in the way we live indicate that there is a problem with our very beings. It's like a man who takes his watch to the repair shop, saying that the hands are broken because they no longer move. The repairman tells him that in fact it is the innards of the watch that have broken down. That is why the hands do not move. Similarly, often times we think that there are problems in the way we live our daily lives, but in fact the problem lies in our inner being, our soul. When we come to know Lord Jesus, he gives us a new life. The Bible tells us that God will give us a new heart and put a new spirit in us. He will remove from us our heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26) A heart of stone is a cold, hard and unchanging heart; but a heart of flesh is soft, able to be touched and be changed. God will also give us new interests and aspirations. Things that we once disliked, we now like. Or we find ourselves disliking things that we once enjoyed. The apostle Paul, when he was still called Saul, persecuted Christians and hated the church. He threw many Christians into prison. Then he met Jesus, and God changed him. He became a

Christian, a follower of Christ; from a persecutor to a preacher. God gives us new interests, and a new value system. Paul says "whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:7-8) Paul had many reasons to boast. In a Jewish society that values pedigree, he was a Hebrew of Hebrews from the tribe of Benjamin. He was well educated in the law, a righteous and blameless Pharisee. But all these, Paul says, are no longer what he would boast about. He boasts in Christ alone. In contrast, all else became worthless.

God changes us. He changes us through various methods.

First, God uses the cross of Jesus Christ to change us. Jesus, the son of God, was innocent of all sins, yet was crucified on the cross. He did not die for his own sins, but for your sins and my sins. He was crucified so that we will know that "I am willing to give up my life for you. I endured the judgment and punishment of sin for you. I died, so that you can have life".

Secondly, God uses the church to change us. After we believe and are baptized, we belong to the church. The church was not invented by pastors, elders or deacons. The church is God's design. After receiving Jesus, we are like new born babies. God designed for us to become a part of the church, growing together with brothers and sisters. God gives us various gifts so that we would serve each other and complement each other. Sometimes problems arise in church, and we have differing opinions and thoughts that might cause friction. Through these God intends for us to learn humility, patience, self-giving and love. And our spiritual life slowly grows and matures.

God also gives us the Holy Spirit. When we believed in God, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in our hearts. When we are willing to open up to the Holy Spirit, He fills us, leads us and moves us. He helps us to overcome sin, and He helps us to bear fruit, so that we may develop godly characters.

God also uses prayer to draw us closer to Him. Through prayer we connect with God, receive our sustenance, and are able to conquer temptations.

Lastly, God uses suffering to help us change. None of us like suffering, but God allows unpleasant things such as illnesses, failures, and misunderstandings to happen to us. Sometimes God allows us to do some very foolish things. We may get upset with ourselves, thinking "how could I have done this". In these moments, we are embarrassed and humiliated. And in these moments, we come before God and tell him "God, I will no longer rely on myself. My confidence in myself is shattered, and I will only depend on you from now on. I will no longer boast about my abilities, but I will boast only in my weakness and your grace. I am weak, but your grace is sufficient for me". Our spiritual life then grows. Suffering is what we want the least, but it is a necessary way through which God helps us change. In John 15, Jesus says that he is the vine, we are the branches and we must abide in him. Let's not forget that there is also a gardener who prunes, God the father. He prunes and cuts two kinds of branches. Those that don't bear fruit, He throws them into the fire to be burned. But those that do bear fruit are also pruned, so that they may bear more fruit. If the branches could talk, they would say that it is painful to be pruned. It's like having your flesh cut and your bones broken. They would say "I don't want this. Why does God let me go through this? Why can't God use some other way?" Truthfully, God is heart broken by our cries of agony. But he says "I have no other way. It is because I love you that I must prune you. This is so that you will bear more fruit".

Sixth and final point, changing one's self is a very long process.

It takes a lifetime. God accomplished two things in us. The first is salvation, and the second is sanctification. Being saved from Satan's powers and from the judgment and punishment of sin is the beginning of a new life. But being sanctified is to wholly belong to God, to learn from Jesus and to live out the glory and beauty of Christ Jesus. This is the nurturing and maturing of the new life. The Bible says that God gives everyone in church different gifts so that we can build the church and know God's own son. Then we can mature into the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. No longer infants, we will not be tossed back and forth by every kind of teaching and deceitful scheming. (Ephesians 4:13-14) This is sanctification. Salvation is instantaneous. Friends, you can receive salvation the moment you open your heart and say "Lord I am full of

(to be continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

shortcomings, and I cannot change myself. I need you and I want to rely on you. I have failed, Lord please forgive me and help me". In that moment, God saves you. As soon as you repent of your sins and turn to God, you receive salvation. Sanctification, however, will take a lifetime. No one on this side of heaven is perfect. So there are many things about ourselves that we need to improve and change.

Chuck Colson was a special counsel to President Nixon. He went to prison for six months because of the Watergate incident. He read Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis, and accepted Jesus. On a car ride soon after he first believed, his heart was greatly changed. He saw that the sky was unusually blue, and the grass especially green. The whole world was just more beautiful than usual. He had never been one to chat with the driver, but on that day he began engaging the driver in casual conversation. The driver was startled, and had to check the mirrors to make sure that he was driving the same boss. Chuck Colson was changed, and later devoted his life to prison ministry.

Once a butcher believed in God, and he too instantly changed. He no longer artificially increased the weight of merchandise on the scale with his thumb. It's because the Bible says that God hates cheating with a dishonest scale, and God takes pleasure in accurate and honest weights and measures. So the butcher no longer deals dishonestly. This is an instant change. But sanctification takes a lifetime. It's like a potter creating a pot. Starting with the clay, the potter spends a lot of time molding and perfecting the creation. This is a very long process.

Since this is the case, we ought to be accepting and patient with one another. We might be tempted to think that in church, everyone should be perfect since we all believe in God. But no, everyone has their problems, and everyone has their personalities. God is in the process of changing every single one of us. It's just that this work of change continues until a person goes to heaven. So we must be patient and accepting to each other. We need to also be kind to ourselves. Sometimes we are frustrated with ourselves, thinking that our progress is too slow. But God takes a lot of time to change us. A man wears a pin on his chest. On it were the letters "GAFWMY", standing for "God ain't finished with me yet". The road ahead is still long. So yes,

let us be accepting to one another and to ourselves.

Lastly, I want to end by sharing with you a gospel song, called "Standing in the need of Prayer":

"It's Me, O Lord!
Standing in the Need of Prayer"
Not my brother, nor my sister,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
Not the elder, nor the deacon,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
Not my father, nor my mother,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
Not the stranger, nor my neighbor,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
it's me, it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.



Missionary Spotlight – Pastor Jonathan Cheng

SFCC Vision:

A purpose driven church that glorifies God by sharing God's love to the unchurched and training them into devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jonathan Cheng has served in Christian ministry in various ways for almost 50 years. The following is a brief biography of Pastor Cheng's ministry:

In 1960, he worked with The Evangelical Alliance Mission in Taiwan to publish the Living Water monthly publication. He was also the principal of Bible Correspondence School and the main leader of Living Water Gospel small group.

After 17 years of gospel ministry in Taiwan, he moved to the U.S. in 1977 and continued to be fully devoted to evangelism of the gospel. He joined The Evangelical Alliance in Wheaton, IL and worked there for 6 years. In this time, he also led a choir to do musical outreach around the world. In 1983,

pastor Cheng was called to be the senior pastor of Oversea Chinese Mission in New York City. In his 6 years there, he helped the church to plan three branches in New Jersey.

In 1989, pastor Cheng established the Orange County Christian Evangelical Church in CA, and served as the senior pastor for the next 9 years. In 1999, pastor Cheng returned to The Evangelical Alliance Mission, and became a full time missionary to China and Taiwan. Although he retired in 2009, discerning God's calling, he has continued to stay in China to do missionary work. He saw that there are only 19 seminaries in China while there are more than 40 in Taiwan, highlighting the urgent need of training and equipping ministers in China. This is the ministry that pastor Cheng is involved in currently. He believes that God will surely lead him to increase the kingdom of God. May God bless and secure the missions work of pastor Cheng.



Pastor Cheng's powerful preaching often touches many



Mrs. Cheng frequently leads congregations to worship with their granddaughters



Pastor and Mrs. Cheng celebrating their golden (50 yr.) anniversary

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西雅圖台語基督教會

Seattle Formosan Christian Church
333 NE 76th Street Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 206.522.8084
E-Mail: Info@seattlefcc.org

台語禮拜 主日上午十時
English Service Sunday 12 noon



Reneé L. Stearns Writer and Advocate for Women & Children

Reneé Stearns draws on her experience and passion as a Christian, attorney and mother of five, to speak on behalf of the children and their mothers she has met in her travels to World Vision projects in many countries. She is particularly passionate about helping women face the challenges of motherhood, whether living in the United States, or in the extreme poverty she sees in her travels around the world. Articulate and compassionate, Reneé is a speaker with a gift for teaching. She says, "My desire is to help people see the world from God's perspective, and to move them to do something about what they see."



Reneé earned her Bachelor of Arts in government at Cornell University and her law degree from Boston College. She served as a legal services attorney for the poor in the Boston area before devoting herself full-time to raising her children. She is active in church ministries, has written articles and Bible study curricula, and is frequently a guest speaker at conferences and retreats. She serves on the boards of a variety of Christian ministries, including the human-rights focused International Justice Mission, and Women's Enterprises International, emphasizing the empowerment of impoverished women across the globe.

In addition, Reneé continues to pursue her lifelong goal of being an advocate for the poor. Her husband Rich became president of World Vision in 1998, and from her travels to see the organization's work, she shares stories of the mothers and children she meets. When she traveled to Niger in West Africa, children were facing starvation. "I was in a triage tent where the sickest babies were being treated," she says. "As I talked with the mothers of these children, what impressed me most was that in spite of their circumstances, these moms had dreams and expectations for their kids, who were so near death, that are not terribly dissimilar to mine. "I'm always so inspired that in the midst of very dark circumstances these women have hope. Something about being a mother makes them optimistic about the future.

" Reneé is a life-long student of the Bible and enjoys "helping others to understand how God's Word speaks to us today." She inspires people to broaden their worldview to include the great needs she has seen around the globe: poverty, war, famine, AIDS.

Sharing from a child sponsor

By : Scott Lee

I've known about child sponsorship for several years but did not actually do it until last year. For me, it wasn't about the money as the amount needed per month is not much. It was more about the commitment needed. I didn't want to be a sponsor who just gave money, did not really care or love the child that I was sponsoring or sponsor the child for a year and then stopped. With child sponsorship, I wanted to make a multi-year commitment and really help the child that I am sponsoring until there is no longer a need. With all the things going on in my life, I didn't think I would have the time or inclination to really care for the child that I was sponsoring.

This attitude changed last year due to a couple of reasons. Early last year, I was inspired by an article about Francis Chan and a book he wrote called Crazy Love. Francis is a Chinese-American pastor from southern California. In Crazy Love, he shared about how God changed his heart to be crazy in love with Him and the impact it had on his life and his church. The most inspiring story Francis shared was how he changed the way he and his family lived so that they could give away more of their money to help others. Francis' life change extended to his church where he influenced his church to change their focus so their church can devote more than half of their income to help people outside of their church. I know that I am very blessed by God and that God has blessed me so that I can pass His blessings to others. During last year's Ministry Conference, I had an opportunity to hear Francis speak in person and it was a further confirmation of what I felt God wanted me to do. Side note - In my small group last year, we studied the book Crazy Love together which motivated our small group to be less self-centered and have a heart to serve and help others. Crazy Love is a book that I recommend if you have not read it.

The other factor that led me to commit to child sponsorship was the good match between child sponsorship and the life mission I feel God has given me. God has given me a heart for children. In terms of serving God, I want to be involved in ministries that help children both physically and spiritually, to see them have an opportunity to know Jesus and have their lives be changed through their relationship with Jesus. Child sponsorship provides me an opportunity to be personally involved in helping a small number of children around the world.

As I thought about whom I would like to sponsorship, I narrowed my choices to East or South Asia. While all children are gift from God and precious in His eyes, I have a special affection for the children of East or South Asia. Because of the countries that I wanted to sponsor children from, I decided to partner with Partners International to sponsor a 13 year old boy (Li Jian Zhuang) from Burma and a 12 year old girl (Sureporn Permia) from Thailand. As a child sponsor, I received information about Jian Zhuang and Sureporn and periodic updates from them (either letters, cards, updated photos) sharing about their life including prayer requests. Both Jian Zhuang and Sureporn are from farming families. Jian Zhuang has two younger sisters. Sureporn has two older brothers and an older sister, likes to attend Sunday school and wants to be a national athlete when she grows up. I have prayed for the needs shared from Jian Zhuang and Sureporn and committed to pray regularly for them. I have also written letters to them. While I have just sponsored Jian Zhuang and Sureporn for about 6 months, I feel like I'm starting to know them and they are starting to become a part of my extended family. I hope that my relationship with Jian Zhuang and Sureporn will continue to grow through the years that I am able to help them and through our relationship, I may be able to encourage them in their walk with Jesus.

If you have never considered child sponsorship before, I encourage you to consider it. While it may involve some sacrifice, the impact of your sponsorship is worth a lot more than the cost. At this year's Ministry Conference, I heard the saying: "The sweetest thing in life involves sacrifice. A free thing will never taste as sweet as a thing that requires sacrifice." There is nothing in life that is sweeter than to help someone know Jesus and accept Him as their personal savior. Through your participation in child sponsorship, you can help someone enter the kingdom of God. This is a priceless reward that is worth the cost!



Sponsor A Child and Change Your Life Forever

Li Jian Zhuang 14 MS2231

I belonged to the Beng Nong Tribe. I come from a Christian family. I go to Lao Jie Christian Church. I am studying at Sheng Guo School. My parents are farmers. I have another younger sister now therefore I have two younger sisters.

About where I live: Myanmar, formerly Burma, is a very poor nation that suffers much political tension. The population is predominately Buddhist. Pray for a way for the Gospel to be established among the Burmese people.

Grade: Five
 Birthday: December 6, 1996 Gender: M

1117 E. Westview Court • Spokane, WA
 (800) 966-5515 • fax (509) 343-4015
www.partnersintl.org

Your faithful gifts provide tuition, school materials, educational expenses, and evangelistic outreach to children.

Figure 1: Jian Zhuang's introduction.

Figure 2: Sureporn's introduction.

Sponsor A Child and Change Your Life Forever

Sureporn Permia TCR309

I live in Mei Si Lie Village. There are five of us in the family. My mother is a farmer. I have an older brother. They are studying. We grow paddy, vegetables, and rear chicken on our farm. I am studying at Mei Si Lie School. My favorite subject is Thai Language and I like to do housework. I attend Sunday school at Mei Si Lie Church.
About Thailand: Thailand is predominately Buddhist, with more than 300,000 monks. The population is a mixture of tribal groups and the surrounding cultures. Farmers struggle to make a living and the mountainous terrain makes travel difficult. Drug use is prevalent.

Grade: Four
 Birthday: February 7, 1998
 1117 E. Westview Court • Spokane, WA 99218
 (800) 966-5515 • fax (509) 343-4015
www.partnersintl.org

Sex: F

Your faithful gifts provide tuition, school materials, educational expenses, and evangelistic outreach to children.



Figure 4: Christmas card from Jian Zhuang

Figure 5: Christmas card from Sureporn.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden..." - Mt. 5:14

RENEE L. STEARNS

BECOMING A FAMILY OF SIGNIFICANCE BOTH AT HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY

APRIL 17TH, 2010

4:30 PM

SEATTLE FORMOSAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Join us as Reneé Stearns discusses what it means to answer God's call to meet the needs of the world's poor - as an individual, a family, and as a church congregation.

Childcare (age 10 and under) and Dinner are provided - please RSVP with Karin:

Email: kuo88@comcast.net

Tel: (425) 653-1599

Schedule

- 4:30pm: Session I - Becoming a Family of Significance
- 5:30pm: Dinner
- 6:30pm: Session II - Partnering with World Mission to Make a Difference!

About the Speaker

Reneé draws upon her experience and passion as a Christian, attorney, and mother of five to serve the poor and encourage others to see the world from God's perspective. Along with her husband Richard - president of World Vision - Reneé has traveled the world and strives to be an advocate for impoverished women & children. Reneé is a life-long student of the Bible, a passionate speaker with a gift of teaching, and enjoys "helping others to understand how God's Word speaks to us today." She inspires people to broaden their worldview to include the great needs she has seen around the globe: poverty, war, famine, AIDS.

Seattle Formosan Christian Church
333 NE 76th St., Seattle, WA 98115

For driving directions, please visit: <http://www.seattlefcc.org/about/location.htm>

For more information about the speaker, please visit: <http://www.worldvision.org/>