Religious Education

Hope for Tomorrow — Pr. Wen-Chuan Yeh

Tomorrow will be better.

Everyone works for tomorrow, for tomorrow is our hope, no matter what tomorrow will be. Without hope, our lives will be pale, meaningless, passive, negative, and depressed.

The Bible says, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:13)

God is our hope, because He is a Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. If we pursue after God, and put God as the first priority in our lives, our tomorrow will be better.

When King David was a young shepherd, his country encountered a big challenge. This challenge would decide his country’s fate: either his country would survive or be destroyed by the war between Israel and the Philistines. At that time, no one dared to challenge the great man, Goliath, but only David stepped out to face the challenge. Why did he have the great courage to face this challenge? It is because he just wanted to let everyone know that God is in Israel. He wanted to glorify God’s name, and as a result, he defeated the giant Goliath with God’s help. The Bible records that David struck the Philistine and killed him, but there was no sword in the hand of David.

This incident tells us that David had no natural advantages, but he had a good heart to glorify God’s name, so God gave him success. And it turns out that he behaved wisely, and he was accepted in the

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Looking Back, Moving Forward — Sis. Lenny Wong, R.E. Coordinator

Hallelujah! May the peace and grace of the Lord Jesus be with each and every family. Praise and thank God for guiding us through the 2011-2012 school year. By God’s grace we were able to successfully host another SSC in Houston this summer. Here are some of the highlights from the year.

- Three students attended the 2011 Winter SSC in Houston
- Four students attended the 2012 Summer SSC in Houston
- Two R.E. teachers received certification after attending the Special RETS in Dallas
- The R.E. Coordinator attended the R.E. Coordinators’ Workshop in Irvine, California
- Many teachers attended the R.E. Teachers’ Fellowship where we discussed R.E. Goals

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Meet Our Newest E1 Teacher

Sis. Jackie Hsu

My name is Jackie Hsu, and the other members of my family are Simon Hsu (husband), Andrew Hsu (elder son), Thomas Hsu (younger son), and Wishbone (dog). My family moved from Dallas to Houston in April 2012. As a Religion Education teacher, I have taught E2 and J1 classes in the past. I am now teaching the E1 class and, although it is new to me, I enjoy teaching this class.

Currently, I work at the University of Houston-Clear Lake as a Quality Assurance Evaluator. Simon is an engineer for the Rolls-Royce company. Andrew is an analyst for Deloitte. Thomas will attend the University of Houston with a Tier-One scholarship in the Fall. I praise God that my family is able to reunite and attend Houston Church together after three years of separation. By His grace, we were able to sell our old home within one month and buy a new home in Pearland within three weeks.

May God guide and bless us continuously as we walk the path to His kingdom.

Meet Our Newest Kindergarten Teacher

Sis. Lisa Chang

Dear Houston Church, my name is Lisa Chang, and I am so happy to be part of the Kindergarten class. My family and I recently just moved from cold, cold New Jersey to nice and warm Houston. My husband (Daniel Chang) grew up in Houston and always wanted to move back home, so thank God, here we are. I have a daughter who is a year old named Amelia Bailey Chang, and I am currently a stay at home mom. I enjoy eating, cooking, painting, and hanging out with brothers and sisters. I am originally from Vancouver, Canada before I got married and moved to New Jersey. Before I became a mother, I was working as a Montessori directress teaching ages 2-5. This will be my first time teaching Kindergarten-level R.E.; in the past I taught E1 and E2. I look forward to starting my new life here in Houston and so far, I like it a lot already. Praise and thank God for His wonderful arrangement for our family to be here.
Religious Education

Living in the Word of God

2012 Summer ESSC Reflections

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I give a reflection about the 2012 Summer SSC. The theme was "Living in the Words of God." In some ways, I have changed a lot in this SSC, but in other ways, I still need MANY improvements. While I was attending SSC, my prayers to God were about repenting. I realized how sinful I really am. Although I may not say it out loud, sometimes I am very boastful and conceited in my heart. During the SSC, I learned that it is just a matter of time before all of my ugly traits come out, revealing the evil inside of me. I also learned in James chapter 3 that we need to tame our tongues, which are worlds of iniquities. In order to do this, we need heavenly wisdom. When we use the Bible to tame our tongues, we are using the Bible as a mirror. With this method, I have been able to see the devil inside of me, or maybe just experience a taste of it, because deep down, I know I am not as pure as I appear to be.

But thank God, through all of this, I have been able to experience God's true love. Throughout this week, I have been pondering how He still loves us amid all our sins. But it is an unconditional love He has for us. His love has to be repaid every single day, in every single moment of our lives. We have to be able shine His love and His light on others.

To sum it all up, after this SSC I want to be able to obtain heavenly wisdom. I want to transform myself into a new person, to be able to put on a new man. Controlling my tongue is also one of my main goals after SSC. Another thing I want be able to do is resist temptation and listen to the Holy Spirit. Right after SSC I felt so scared to go out into the world because it is so evil, and the things of the world are often hard to resist. When Pastor Yeh heard me say this, he said, "It is okay. We have to go out into the battlefield." So after he said this, I realized that every single member of our church has to face this, and it is something that we have to overcome. As long as we have God on our side, we will win.

All the lessons I learned this SSC really touched me. They all helped me reflect on my actions and see the sin in myself. I know now that I always need to repent and read the Bible daily so that I can correct the flaws I see in myself. Thank God for this wonderful SSC. May all the glory and praise be given unto His Holy Name. Amen.

— Sis. Sophia Wong
Living in the Word of God

2012 Summer ESSC Reflections

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I bear my reflection. This SSC's theme was “Living on the Words of God.” This SSC gave me a lot of encouragement and also gave me a sense of direction for my daily life.

One of the most important encouragements I received was that even if you sin, we should not lose hope. God is merciful, and we can still repent. Additionally, our teachers make us memorize memory verses, but we cannot just memorize them; we have to do God's word too. Lastly, to the people that have the Holy Spirit, when the Holy Spirit's current tries to pull us in or change us, do not resist because together with the Spirit, we have the power to transform ourselves.

Hearing these encouragements, I want to be able to be a doer, not a hearer only. Currently, I only memorize the Word of God, but hopefully now I can start to change that. I am going to be more determined to pray longer and read the Bible more fervently. This way I will know God's will more deeply. I will also try to remember to repent when I sin; and when I do repent, to do it with a willing and repentant heart. I hope that with this start I can get closer to God.

May all the glory and praise be unto His Holy Name. Amen.

– Sis. Deborah Lin

Final Thoughts about the 2011-2012 R.E. Year

Some things we learned this year

“Joyful, exciting, faithful, service, and holiness”

“Love, peace, righteousness, faithful, and honesty”

“Exciting, happy, wonderful, holiness, and promise (God's)”

“Rely on power of God”

“Pray for God's will”

“Practice what we preach”

“Serving God, fulfilling, joyous, never-ending”

“History, Dealing College, Awesome God”

“Live in God's Word”

“Imitate Paul’s submission to God”

“Joy in trials develops patience”

“Teaching means more learning”
Looking Back, Moving Forward

We also had several R.E. students graduate and move on to new classes. Suli Fang, Henry Lin, and Thomas Hsu all completed the J2 program and will be in the Senior Youth Class in September. Also, Timothy Yen completed the E2 program and will be in the J1 program in September.

As another R.E. year is finished, a new year is waiting for us. There is a lot of work that still needs to be done. As teachers, we need to cultivate ourselves even more and set good examples for our students. We need to love and nurture our students as parents love and nurture their own children. In addition, we also need to be faithful to God and His Church and be submissive; pray unceasingly for R.E. ministry and students.

We are so blessed to have a growing number of students in Houston, especially in the younger classes. We need more workers who are willing to be trained and repay God’s love by becoming R.E. teachers.

Let us all continue to strive to reach the most important goal in Religious Education, which is to bring every student and child closer to the Lord and to preparing every student to eventually be a Vessel For Honor for the Lord, worthy to be a noble instrument.

May the Lord guide and bless Houston’s R.E. Ministry.

Hope for Tomorrow

sight of all the people and in the sight of Saul’s servants. (1 Sam. 18:5, 14, 30)

How can we learn from David to have a better tomorrow or future? Here are two principles we can follow:

- Glorify God’s name – “Whether [we] eat or drink, or whatever [we] do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Pray for the church and love our church – “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you.’” (Ps. 122:6)

May all the glory be unto God’s holy name. Amen.

“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

– 2 Tim. 2:21

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