



# CABC Connect

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

1st Service:	9:00 am
2nd Service:	11:00 am
Sunday School:	9:00 am 11:00am

## WEDNESDAY PRAYER HOURS

Morning Prayer:	9:30 am
Evening Prayer:	7:00 pm

SPRING 2013 VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

“The true measure of success for Christian parents is the parents’ own character. To the degree that we have followed God’s design for parenting, we have succeeded as parents before God.”

— JOHN MACARTHUR





# The Loving Father Heart of God

by Pastor Jim Wright

In the parable that Jesus told about the two lost sons in Luke 15:11-32, I would like to point out three important insights into the loving heart of our heavenly Father. I have adapted these thoughts from the great teaching by Timothy Keller on this parable in the *Gospel in Life* series that a group of us has recently studied at CABC.

## 1 *the freeing love of the Father*

First of all, we see the freeing love of the Father. Perhaps the saddest part of the story is not the picture of the younger son squandering his life with prostitutes, but when the younger son comes to his father and asks for his inheritance. In effect, the younger son was saying, "Dad, I wish you were dead. Give me your inheritance now so I don't have to wait for you to die." It was a completely selfish way of thinking, and it must have been very painful for the father to experience such callous disregard for his life and love. He had been a good father, and did not deserve such rejection. And yet, in spite of the hurt and rejection, he did not try to manipulate or control his son. He gave him the respect and dignity and autonomy to make his own decisions, and he proceeded to liquidate his property and possessions to make a half of his inheritance available to his younger son. Then he watched and waited anxiously hoping for his son to return.

Is this not our own experience with our heavenly Father? Who among us has not rejected his love, and asked for our inheritance, and chosen to go our own way? And God has never coerced us, or forced us, to do things His way. He gives us the dignity and genuine freedom to make our own choices. He knows that this is the only way to win our true love and devotion, when we give it freely from our hearts. Then he waits patiently and lovingly for us to return to him. In the same way, we need to give our own children the genuine freedom to make their own choices, and then to love and wait and pray for them, and support them through their choices and decisions.

## 2 *the initiating love of the Father*

Secondly, we see the initiating love of the Father. As soon as the father saw the son from afar, he cast his dignity aside, lifted the hem of his stately robes, and ran to his son, and fell on his neck weeping. He extended grace and forgiveness to his son, and prepared a feast for him. But not only did he initiate his love for his younger son, but also for his elder son. The elder son was just as lost as the younger son. The elder son who stayed was just as alienated from the father as the younger son who left. The elder son was furious that the father wanted to use his part of the inheritance to prepare a feast for the younger son. Both sons were the same at heart – they wanted the father's things, and not the father. But in the same patient and loving way, the father came and initiated love and entreated the elder son to come to the feast.

We need to respond to the initiating love of the Father, and come to the feast of salvation that he has prepared for us, whether we have left for the world, or stayed in religion. We also always need to be initiating our love for our children, and always letting them know how much we love them, and that we are always there for them, whatever the circumstances.

*Jesus Christ is our true elder brother, who willingly lay down his life to bring us back into the family of God.*

### 3 the sacrificial love of the Father

Thirdly, we see the sacrificial love of the Father. The only way for the Father to welcome back the younger son into the family was at the expense of the elder brother, by using some of his inheritance to make it possible. In the parable that Jesus told, unfortunately, the prodigal did not have a gracious elder brother, but we do. Jesus Christ is our true elder brother, who willingly lay down his life to bring us back into the family of God. He was stripped, and beaten, and cast out, and paid in full the penalty of our disobedience so that we could be restored to an intimate relationship with the Father. Jesus was sent from the Father, to show us the sacrificial love of the Father through the Son, so that we could be welcomed into the family of God. Jesus is our true elder brother who has willingly shared his full inheritance with us so that we can enjoy a new life with our heavenly Father.

As a result of the Father's freeing, initiating and sacrificial love, we need to repent, not just of doing wrong things, but also of the wrong reasons for doing right things. We must repent, not only of our sins of immorality and irreligion, but also of our sins of moral and religious and prideful living. We also need to extend the same kind of freeing, initiating and sacrificial love of the Father to our own children when they choose to go their own way. Regardless of what they may do in life, they need to know that we love them, and that they belong to our family, and that we will be there to do whatever we can to help them in the journey of life.

I trust that these insights into the loving Father heart of our heavenly Father, will be an inspiration and encouragement to us as we struggle through the choices of our own lives, and as we seek to help our children through the struggles of their lives.

## THE GOSPEL IN LIFE

The Gospel in Life is an eight week video driven discipleship series taught by Pastor Timothy Keller. This study series encourages, challenges, and equips, participating members to integrate and live out their faith more effectively in every area of their lives.

The series includes a DVD teaching time, and a thorough interactive Bible study and discussion time each week. The series topics include: **City:** The World that Is; **Heart:** Three Ways to Live; **Idolatry:** the Sin Beneath the Sin; **Community:** the Context for Change; **Witness:** An alternate City; **Work:** Cultivating the Garden; **Justice:** A People of Others; **Eternity:** The World that is to Come.

As a group of about 20 people who have been participating in this series, we have been challenged, and blessed, and stretched, in our understanding of the significance and power of the Gospel, and in the way we live out our faith in our present world. I believe that this series will have a profound and lasting impact on the way we live out our faith in our community, and that it will increase our commitment, compassion and effectiveness to reach out to our world with the life changing message of the Gospel.



# HIS Grace is Sufficient

by Juancho Chu

"Wow that was quite a shock! Somebody was actually listening to me? Praise the Lord, somebody indeed was listening!" That was my initial reaction when I first read the note of my fellow deacon, Mike Borja. However as I dug further into his note, I was rather feeling queasy. He told me that what I shared as a devotional during the deacons' board meeting had really made an impression on him; that he wanted me to put my thoughts down on paper to be published in this quarter's Connect issue. Not only that, he even copy furnished his editor-in-chief, and they even had a deadline! Of course my initial reaction was to explain that I just really read it in a book and that I am afraid to be sued for plagiarism! In my mind, my wife and kids will be thrown out of the house and fend for themselves because we have to hire a lawyer and... you know the drill. Kidding aside, after much prayer and a plea to reconsider, here I am penning this little article and praying that the Holy Spirit will use it to touch more hearts for the glory of God.

A week before the deacons' monthly meeting, I was already trying to decide on what I could share with them. After much prayer, I believed that the Lord led me to the book by C.J. Mahaney, *The Cross Centered Life*. As I read one of his articles, I suddenly jumped up and paid attention, so to speak, about the creeping danger of legalism in our spiritual lives, which C.J. simply defined as "seeking to achieve forgiveness from God and acceptance by God through obedience to God". I said "yes, this is it! I need to share this with the deacons". I especially like his example of the plate spinner who in the heydays of the variety shows, like the Ed Sullivan show, was one of the attractions. The plate spinner usually was a skilled performer who is able to spin all these plates on thin sticks which are usually taller than him. Generally, he is able to keep them going by sheer agility and skill without any one of the plates dropping to the floor.

C.J. Mahaney compared this story to a brand new Christian:

"Stuart...who after being initially introduced to a plan on reading the whole Bible in a year, proceeded to add meditating on Scripture as one of his spinning plates, then the glories of attending a weekly accountability meeting with the guys from the church was added. His pastor emphasized the importance of church prayer meetings. He then proceeded to attend a conference on evangelism as he needed to be witnessing every day. Then he heard a radio program about fasting and another about personal holiness. Each was good, others were vital; yet without realizing it, Stuart allowed a dangerous shift to take place in his mind and heart. What God had intended to be a means of experiencing grace, he has changed it into a means of earning grace. Instead of being a further expression of his confidence in God's saving work in his life, his spiritual activities became spinning plates to maintain. The shift is plainly seen on Sunday mornings, when a single plate has not wobbled or dropped, Stuart sings and praises God with evident sincerity and zeal however when in a week where several plates fell, he finds it difficult to worship freely. He feels that God disapproves of him, because of his poor performance."

Stuart forgot the one thing that God says should be the most important—the matter of first importance in our life, which is the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:1, 3 "I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you," Paul wrote, "For what I received I passed on to you of first importance: that Christ died for our sins".

As I did to my fellow deacons, I therefore challenge each one, about the emphasis that we place on all the activities of the church which might take away from the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) that the Lord entrusted to us; and about the importance of missions in ensuring that the gospel of our Lord will be, or rather should be, shared by us to the world outside of CABC.

I'm not saying that the above-mentioned activities are not important. In fact, they are vital for our Christian growth and we need to take advantage of them. However, let us not use them as means of earning more grace.

*<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. — EPHESIANS 2:8-10*

# Mother's Day

by Adriane Jermaine D. Capinpin

My name is Adriane Jermaine D. Capinpin ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
 here's a speech about my mom. My mom is a good  
 mom because she helps my whole family do things  
 like cleaning the house, helping us with our homework  
 and packing our lunch when we have school. When  
 I was little my mom taught me how to read  
 and write. My mom is the one who told us about  
 JESUS and that he is the son of GOD. My mom  
 is special because she always have time for us  
 and she puts us first before anything else. She  
 wants to make sure that we will have a life  
 that is pleasing to God. My mom is so keen  
 on disciplining us with regards to our behavior that  
 we may grow the way she wants us to be. My  
 mom doesn't give us all our want but she gives us  
 every thing we need. My mom is working so hard  
 to save for our future.

Happy Mother's day to all.

## A Rose

by Linda Robinson  
 (contributed by Leah Facun)

It is only a tiny rosebud  
 A flower of God's design;  
 But I cannot unfold the petals  
 With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers  
 Is not known to such as I  
 The flower God opens so sweetly  
 In my hands would fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
 This flower of God's design,  
 Then how can I think I have wisdom  
 To unfold this life of mine?

So, I'll trust in Him for His leading  
 Each moment of everyday  
 And I'll look to Him for His guidance  
 Each step of the pilgrim way.

For the pathway that lies before me  
 My Heavenly Father knows,  
 I'll trust Him to unfold the moments  
 Just as He unfolds the rose.





### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINING** **APRIL 27**

The SS and VBS committees held a whole day "Child Evangelism Training" at CABC with about 53 participants. Vance S. and Catherine T. of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ontario conducted comprehensive training which included lectures, biblical concepts and hands-on-training.

The group was highly motivated, refreshed and reminded about the big responsibility of being "teachers of the WORD"; ending the day with renewed confidence, strength and commitment to answer the call of being the 'light and salt' of the world through the eyes of the children.



### **CHURCH LEADERS PLANNING SESSION** **MAY 4**

CABC leaders and key people for subcommittees spent a whole day for Church Planning Session at OMF International at Avenue Road, Toronto. The goals of the session were for each attendee to assist in preparing CABC's general program and activities including budget for 2014; and to clarify and unify the decision making procedures from committee level to BOT/BOD and up to the Advisory Board vis-à-vis the administrative staff.

### **PRAYER RALLY FOR MISSIONS** **APRIL 3**

Starting the Missions month by coming together in prayer and expecting God to do great things for His glory through our speakers has been annually done by CABC. About 30 faithful members/adherents lifted in prayer, every single missionary we partner with in reaching out to the nations.

APRIL

**MISSIONS MONTH** **APRIL**

MAY

### **START OF "GOSPEL IN LIFE" STUDY** **APRIL 7**

This is an eight-week discipleship series that met at the multi-purpose hall every Sunday afternoon. SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS

### **PRAYER RALLY FOR MAY 4 PLANNING SESSION** **MAY 1**

A time of prayer specific for the following Saturday's church leaders planning session was set during the Wednesday evening prayer meeting. Projecting into 2014, the need to call unto God for guidance that His plans for CABC will supersede that which our limited human minds may plan. Majority of the 35 participants are from the church leadership seeking God's purpose and asking for His discernment. We can all rest assure that plans for next year are led by His Spirit.

### **MOTHER'S DAY** **MAY 12**

The R.I.C.H. and Family & Friends bible study groups joint forces to facilitate both services as we celebrated Mothers' day. Jermaine Capinpin rendered a tribute to her mom (SEE PAGE 3). Simple tokens were given to all moms to show how we appreciate all they do. God bless all mothers!

### **ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING DAY** **MAY 18**





### **CABC CHOIR FELLOWSHIP** MAY 25

The first and second service choirs along with production folks from the Easter cantata got together for BBQ, and fellowship at the multi-purpose hall. The fellowship had a dual purpose: to celebrate God's faithfulness during the recent cantata and to encourage a good attendance for the upcoming choir retreat this fall.

### **YOUTH SUNDAY** JUNE 2

In light of God's goodness to the youth ministry, the annual Youth Sunday was organized through the collaboration of the current youth leaders as well as the new student leaders. From the praise and worship to the youth choir's song and interpretive dance, the Holy Spirit's work is evident in these young lives. May Christ continue to be the centre of this ministry as we look forward to the coming generations.

### **FATHER'S DAY** JUNE 16

The More Than Love couples ministry facilitated both services honoring the fathers of CABC. Testimonies were shared by AJ Poquiz, as a teenage son; D'Elijah Ballaret as a wife; and Brian Facun as a father. A special song was rendered by the MTL men about the loving relationship of a father and son. Pastor Elbern's message based on Luke 15 (the Prodigal son), was a reminder of God's fatherly love that releases, restores and reassures us, His children. Tokens were given to every father present recognizing that every father is indeed special to every child.

### **CABC'S 29TH ANNIVERSARY**

**JUNE 9** SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS

JUNE

### **DEACONS' WIVES MINISTRY FIRST PRESENTATION** JUNE 1

The Deacons' Wives Ministry initiated a unique way of getting together by sharing some tips on menu planning, how to keep leafy veggies and fruits fresh, and a cooking demo. The presentation was facilitated by Niknik Labayen and Ruby Chu, with about 13 participants including some of our Deacons, who enjoyed the fully prepared meal at its culmination. One of the DWM's goals is to share some cooking tips, crafts and certain hobbies to interested CABC members and adherents. This will be done at the multi-purpose hall at least quarterly. Be on the lookout for the next one to be announced soon!

### **YOUNG @ HEART: INTER-CHURCH SENIORS' FELLOWSHIP**

**JUNE 15** SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS

### **BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY** JUNE 23

Congratulations to all our graduates from different levels. Praise God for this achievement and for excelling for His glory. SEE PAGE 8 FOR LIST OF GRADUATES

### **SALUTE TO CANADA SUNDAY** JUNE 30

In celebration of Canada day, CABC members and adherents were encouraged to wear red as they came to worship that Sunday. The Church choir led by its officers facilitated both services. It was a time to praise God for all the blessings we enjoy as residents/citizens of this great country.





# Celebrating 29 Years of God's Blessings

JUNE 9

by Lyncie Antonio



CABC celebrated its 29th Anniversary on June 9, 2013. Sunday School hosted the event. Highlights of the celebration included the Provincial Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship Ontario, Rob Lukings, as the guest speaker during the 1st and 2nd Services; music ministry by the Sunday Choristers under the direction of Ness Navarro and John Isip; Dr. John M. Moore as the guest speaker during the afternoon celebration; and a food festival to round off the celebration.

The theme for the 1st and 2nd Services was "The future of a local church is in the raising of God-revering children". Rob Lukings delivered a message based on Mark 10:13-14 where three different attitudes were shown towards children. Jesus' attitude was to warmly welcome children. Jesus considered children precious and an integral part of God's kingdom. Our attitude should be the same. The best legacy we can leave our children is to value them and raise them from a very young age in the ways of the Lord.

The Sunday School Choristers was formed specifically for the 29th Church Anniversary and for the coming Sunday School Promotion Sunday in September. The music ministry is composed of Sunday School children from Pre-K to Grade 7. About 42 were present for the presentation proper on June 9. Dr. John M. Moore, a prolific author of Bible studies and composer of music, came with his concertina at Lyncie Antonio's specific request. He delivered a message entitled "The church that God blesses" based on Acts 2:41-47. Dr. Mootre also ministered with his concertina, sharing

humorous stories behind the music or anecdotes tied to the instrument.

For a change from the usual anniversary dinner where food is laid out in the gym, a food festival was organized for the 29th Anniversary. Competently headed by Ana Lissa "Niknik" Labayen and assisted by CABC's youth and helpful family & friends, decorated food stalls were set-up and streamers strung across the parking lot to create a fiesta or bazaar-like atmosphere. Ably managed by Rene Diwa, current Chair of Social Concerns, Church members were requested to bring a favourite dish of their motherland, region or ethnic group. The food were displayed in food stalls representing 1) the three primary island groups of the Philippines – namely Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, 2) the Caribbean, 3) Canada and 4) an International stall for all other countries. Music played in the background while everyone enjoyed each other's company and the smorgasbord of delicious food.

The fiesta was a resounding success—as was the entire 29th Anniversary celebration. The Lord had graciously provided a bright, sunny day and a cool afternoon in which to celebrate together as a Church and with family and even friends outside the Church, 29 years of God's blessings.

The Lord has seen CABC through ups and downs, times of joy and sorrow. He will see us through the same in the coming years and until He returns. May CABC remain faithful and true until He returns! To God be the Glory!



# Young@Heart Hosts an Inter-Church Seniors' Fellowship

by Beth Umali JUNE 15

"To serve God's purpose in our generation gracefully and carefully is our greatest vocation." This was the challenge Bro. Ferdie Umali gave the seniors and other guests present during Young@Heart's joint fellowship with other churches held on June 15, 2013.

Quoting Acts 13:36 (For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed), Bro. Ferdie noted that when Apostle Paul summed up the life of David, he described him as the man who served God's purpose in his own generation. Likewise, Bro. Ferdie encouraged his listeners to age with a purpose. He proposed four things to have in order to fulfill that goal:

1. *a heart that pleases God* (1 Sam. 16:7; Acts 16:22)
2. *a life empowered by the Spirit* (1 Sam. 16:13)
3. *a prepared life for service* (1 Sam. 17:34-37); and
4. *a readiness to act anytime* (1 Sam. 17).

The mini-worship service also had Bro. Quirino Calura as presider and Sis. Sheila Herbert as song leader. Pastor Elbern Latorilla acknowledged and welcomed the guests from five other churches, namely Grace Bible Church

International, House of Faith Tabernacle, First Filipino Baptist Church, Walmer Road Baptist Church and Master's House Bible Fellowship. Members of Young@Heart sang an anthem entitled "If I Had Thousand Lives to Live" complementing Bro. Ferdie's message.

After a sumptuous lunch, the group enjoyed some light moments during the afternoon program. Grace Bible Church International and First Filipino Baptist Church participated with special song numbers and Sis. Lyn Elson read a poem, "ABC of the Christian Life." Sis. Rose Damian introduced a body-and-mind coordination game, "Does and So." Six emerged as winners. Sis. Lorna Latorilla then challenged the seniors' memory with a quiz on "Seniors in the Bible." It was won by Sis. Lyn Elson. Insightful and inspirational, fun-filled and friendly—this was the aura of that day's event.

To someone younger, seeing how this group of seniors had demonstrated spiritual receptivity and enjoyed camaraderie was a sweet reminder of a promise fulfilled in their lives: "Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).



*"Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." —2 Corinthians 4:16*



## CONGRATULATIONS

*God Bless all CABC Graduating Students of 2013*

### Post Graduate Study

Sheila Herbert

Master of Theology

### University/College

Joy Garcia

Bachelor in Graphic Arts

LA Lambino

Bachelor in Commerce

Oscar Rivera Jr.

Bachelor in Graphic Arts

Regine Laserna

Bachelor of Arts with Honours &  
Bachelor of Education

Jeremy Bautista

Computer of System Technology

Derek Dulay

Automotive Mechanic

Aira San Diego

Fitness and Health Promotion with Honours

Jun Esguerra

Personal Support Worker

### High School

Ace Abellanosa

Mark Ares

Melanie Bautista

Earl Cabaluna

Erxien de la Paz

Nate Delos Reyes

Camille Lachica

AJ Poquiz

Joby Ann Quiambao

Joshua Panganiban

Rebecca Regio (with Honours)

Francis Vidal

Rafael Ybernias

### Middle School

Aim Abellanosa

Bradley Bartolome

Tristan Dean Castro (Valedictorian)

Melanie Courtenay

Czarina Facun

Keren Gregas

Kezia Gregas

Jed Joshua Montemayor (Valedictorian)

Joy Poquiz

Michael Sia

### Elementary School

Ayl Abellanosa

### Senior Kindergarten

Alyssa Capinpin

Allison D' Agostino

Noah Laserna

Visit our church web site at

**[www.cabchurch.org](http://www.cabchurch.org)**

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or be involved in any area(s),  
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