



KAIROS NEWS LETTER

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「開路者之友」通訊

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Dear Friends of Kairos: Peace be with you!

Chinese New Year greetings to you! May the Lord who cares for His own, fills your life journey with His gracious and rich blessings! Although everyone celebrates the New Year according to the Gregorian calendar, many still celebrate the Lunar New Year as the Spring Festival. And many Chinese New Year traditions are still practiced today during this festive time. For example, family eating dinner together on New Year's Eve, paying New Year visits to friends and relatives on New Year Day, lighting lanterns, parading with dragon dances, children receiving red envelopes with money in it. My memories of celebrating Chinese New Year during my childhood are sometimes 'less than picture-perfect'. I was 7 when the Sino-Japanese War broke out. Many residing in Henan province packed up and moved to Chongqing to escape the war. My maternal grandmother was one of those who wanted to move. My mother was concerned about her not being taken care of, but my father's working unit would not let him leave. Therefore, my mother brought all 5 of us little ones to go with grandma to Chongqing. Mail service during the war was unreliable. Often we would not receive father's support in time and have to go hungry. My mother would make fluffy yeast dough, stuffed with thin mung bean noodles and cabbages to make fluffy steamed buns. Being a fair mother, she would give each one of us 2 buns per meal regardless of our age. My little siblings would be completely stuffed but I was in my 'growing age' and those buns could not fill my stomach. When New Year Eve came, mother decided to celebrate at lunch instead of dinner. She added tofu in the buns as bonus for the occasion. There I was, at lunch time, showing off my puffed up tofu, mung bean noodle, and cabbage buns to my playmate telling him that we have tofu to celebrate New Year Eve! My playmate replied: "Tofu! My mom told us that we will have preserved meat, fish, and chicken soup tonight!" I turned around and saw tears coming down my grandmother's face... At the time I wondered who had provoked her?

What I really did not understand then was the practice of giving/receiving red-envelope when paying visit to people on New Year day where the adults would give red envelopes to the children. My playmate whose father lived in Chongqing with him, regularly received spending money from his father. Since my father was not with us, I never received any spending money. Therefore, when I was given the red envelopes, I thought: that's "MY" money, so I used it to buy things that I wanted. But when mother found out, she gave me a good spanking without explaining why! For a long time I did not understand why I was punished. I dare not hold any grudges against her though. I just did not understand until I grew up, got married and became a poor pastor in Taiwan. Our heavenly Father blessed me with 4 children, only then did I realize my mother's dilemma back then. While I received red envelopes, she also had to give red envelopes to the children of those who gave to me. Those red envelopes contained the money that was desperately needed to keep food on the table for our family. She needed to collect the red envelopes we received in order to feed us and keep us alive.

In the past, with my busy life I did not have time to think about myself. But with this New Year, I will soon turn 89. I can no longer do much physically, but my mind is still "working busily". With the arrival of the Spring Festival celebration, memories of my childhood years often appeared in my mind at night. I now realize that my mother had carried the heavy burden of taking care of the family and yet was misunderstood by her own son. After I grew up we had to be separated geographically. By the time I was able do something to repay her, she was no longer with us. My heart is filled with regrets.

In the same way, with our faith, we are often carelessly negligent. We focus only on what the Lord can do for us. When we received blessings we would praise and worship the Lord, and then just stop right there and neglect to "repay". Oh Lord! Forgive us!
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February Thanksgiving and Prayer

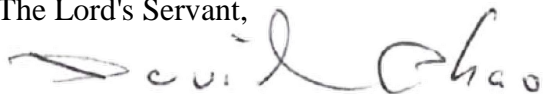
You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.
(Psalm 65:11 NIV)

1. We thank God for your support and prayers. Kairos has launched a new website: www.getrefresh.life which contains several types of devotional programs for you to listen. At www.getrefresh.life, you will find a newly created short talk program titled: "2 minutes Chat". You will also find devotion programs such as Melody of Life, Fountain of Inspiration and also a short drama series. Our plan is to continue offering more new programs on this site for you to listen. We pray and hope that you amidst your busy life you can to "stop by" a little while at www.getrefresh.life and listen to God's words, and be spiritually refreshed.
2. We have also launched an updated version of the E-learning website at: www.kairos-elearn.org. This new website is designed to make it easy for people using mobile phones to access our Bible study curriculum. You can also listen to the audio files without having to register as a student.
3. The "Gospel Media Production Workshop" started last month has 14 participants. This workshop is held on Saturday afternoons at Kairos. We thank God for Mr. Joseph Zheng (lecturer) and the 14 brothers and sisters who came to learn. Under the lively and vivid explanation and guidance of Mr. Zheng, everyone studied joyfully with a serious attitude.
4. The second lecture on dementia was successfully held on the afternoon of January 26 with 81 attendees. We thank Dr. Hsiao Fen Chen (Kairos Board member) for inviting Ms. Rebecca Pai, spokesperson from the American Alzheimer's Association, to talk about how to communicate effectively with Alzheimer patients. We also thank Ms. Li Yung Hou (Kairos Board member) for sharing her testimony of taking care of her parents. During the Q&A time, audience was able to get helpful information as well as available services to help them deal with their situations.
5. We would like to give special thanks for the generous support from a friend of Kairos for the production of more Cantonese Bible study programs. We are deeply encouraged that we are able to take a step forward with our Cantonese ministry. Please pray for God's continue provision for more Cantonese Bible study productions.
6. The hearts of several friends of Kairos were moved to help organize a Friends of Kairos Fellowship. Their plan is to gather friends of Kairos to meet periodically. The first of such meeting will be on March 23 from 10am-12 noon. It will be a fun time with sister Teresa Keung (who had recorded 2 CD albums for Kairos and are with considerable knowledge and experience in vocal music) teaching and leading us to worship the Lord with songs and hymns. Fun programs and activities will be planned for the future depending on the Participant's interest. You and your family and friends are welcome to join the fun. Attached is a response slip for you to send in or you can contact us at 626-282-8470 or email kairosusa3927@gmail.com.

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Dear Friends of Kairos, May our Lord grant the fullness of His grace in this New Year. With our hearts united, let us join hands together in serving Him, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. May the Lord bless you!

The Lord's Servant,



David Chao

February 1, 2019