

# Voice of China and Asia

MISSIONARY SOCIETY, INC.



*Touching Asia for Christ for Over 100 Years!*

*The Newsletter for our Co-laborers and Friends of the Voice of China and Asia*

FEB/MAR 2018

***Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. – Revelation 14:13***

Dear Missions Friend,

I am so grateful for all who have joined our efforts as we have expanded our outreach into rural China. Such



Newly baptized and receiving a Bible from Mr. Simond Kwan (right), President of our sister organization, the China Peniel Missionary Society, Inc. of Hong Kong.

work is in line with two of three guiding principles, we (1) proclaim the Gospel and (2) make disciples.

For those who have sustained this work, some for multiple generations, another aspect of our ministry is well

known, we (3) leave self-sustaining churches wherever we serve. Our ultimate desire is to produce mature believers who will support and sustain their own churches.

This has been our practice since our first Peniel Church was established in Hong Kong over 100 years ago. (“Peniel” means “face-to-face” with God, Genesis 32:30.)

Today our Hong Kong work continues in six vibrant self-sustaining congregations and one senior citizens outreach center.

They continue the tradition of our founder, Albert Reiton, in that they remain “one church worshipping in multiple locations.”

Whenever joint services are held it is like a family reunion. Many who worship with us today are descendants of original converts. They came to know Christ as our evangelistic teams rowed their boats

from one sampan to another sharing the gospel many years ago.



Thousands of fishing families were unreached until our Peniel Family began boat-to-boat evangelism.

Today’s Peniel believers in Hong Kong fondly remember the support that came their way after the tragic days of war and during the massive waves of refugees that often filled the city. This is why they will always remember you, a partner with the Voice of China and Asia, as their brother or sister in Christ.

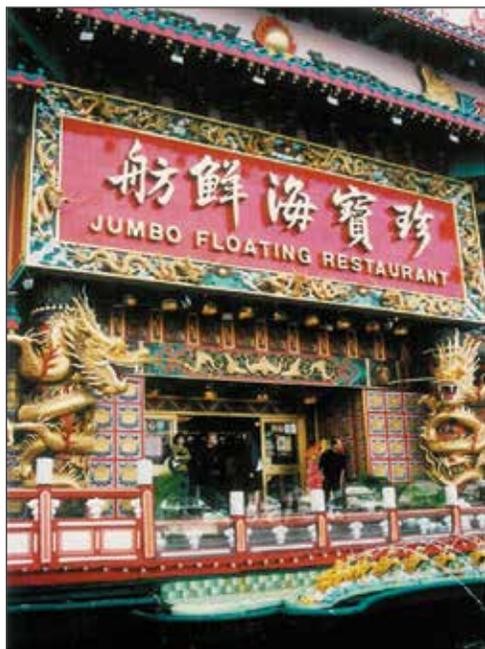
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Welcoming the evening from The Peak.

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This was keenly evident when our latest Bible Distribution team stopped in Hong Kong on our way to rural China. As is their custom, we were given a royal welcome. Our



Treated like royalty at Jumbo's Floating Restaurant.

tour to "The Peak" to watch the city slowly light up after sunset was unforgettable...as was a boat ride to the tourists' favorite Jumbo floating restaurant in Aberdeen Harbor.

Most memorable for us was going to church "Peniel style" as members of all six congregations came

together for a joint baptismal service on Cheung Chau Island. "Peniel style" meant we took the Star Ferry for a one hour boat ride to church.

Fully restored to their World War II look, these were the same ferry



Going to church 'Peniel Style' on the Star Ferry. Pictured (L. to R.) David Brooks, Jonathan Brooks, William "Bud" DeBoldt, Art Van Bruggen, Lola Moore, Peder Hansen, Mary Hansen, Willie Knox.

boats that had once transported our entire Voice of China and Asia family to prison camp at the beginning of WWII, when Japan

invaded Hong Kong. As we passed through beautiful Victoria Harbor, it crossed my mind these boats that had once carried a previous generation to prison, were now taking us to church!

After a short walk uphill from the ferry terminal, we entered the church and sensed we were among family. Along with local members, with each arriving ferry even more of our "family," filled the church. When they ran out of seats it was standing room only! Among them, we too felt like we were at home. This was the fruit the Lord promised would remain.

It was baptism night. From our churches all over Hong Kong they had come to celebrate with those who were publicly professing their faith in Jesus Christ.



Our Peniel Family filled the church for the baptismal celebration..

After asking us to preach, and tolerating our singing, each candidate entered the waters of baptism. For some, it meant separation from family traditions and idol worship. They had been freed from the bondage of bowing in honor to their ancestor's graves and lighting incense to gain their favor.



Jonathan Brooks preaching, 'Jesus Christ—The Son of God.'  
Carmen Leung interpreting

And for all participants, it meant Jesus Christ had transformed their lives and given them a reason to live.

As each candidate rose from the water, the rafters echoed as the congregation sang the first line of the



Candidates young and old prepared for Baptism.

old hymn, "Happy day, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away."

It struck me, "that was my missionary grandmother's favorite song!" Now, I knew why. Here I

was one hundred years later, in the same city, experiencing the glorious moments she had known. In



Celebration time with the newest believers in our Peniel Family!

different eras we both rejoiced that one more soul had committed their life to Christ.

Each newly baptized believer was given a Bible to begin a life



How do westerners eat with chopsticks? Very slowly! Pictured above: Art Van Bruggen, William DeBoldt, Willie Knox.

of discipleship by Peniel President Kwan. Testimonies were shared. And the celebration began. Families showered the newly baptized with flowers and a traditional Chinese banquet was prepared.

Late into the evening, in the same way we arrived, our church family returned back to Hong Kong on different ferries. Each team member's heart was full of the love of God. We had been refreshed in His presence, and met our family in Christ.

Fully renewed, we were prepared for ministry just ahead beyond the Bamboo Curtain in rural China. Encouraged, we left Hong Kong with a heaven-sent confidence the work before us would also produce eternal fruit that would multiply and remain forever.

Yours for souls,

*Jonathan Brooks*

Jonathan Brooks



With heart and soul refreshed, we say good-bye to Hong Kong and prepare for ministry ahead in rural China.

# Cheung Chau – How God Build A Church

(Excerpt from *Bondservants – The Story of the Voice of China and Asia*)

Ten miles from Hong Kong is an island called Cheung Chau. Some of the residents who made their living by fishing attended the Yaumati Church [in Kowloon] and asked the Reitons [our founders] to come to their island for a meeting.

Cheung Chau was, and still is today, a typical Chinese village. In the 1930's the Island's population was about 15,000. There were no cars or buses, but there were the ever-present bicycles. Everyone used what the Chinese call "number eleven bus." In other words, they walked on two legs. Two legs look like number eleven.

In May, 1930 a Chinese flat was rented. The top floor of the two story building, which was 10 by 20 feet, was used as a home. It was hot, humid and abounded with malaria-infecting mosquitoes, as well as many very large brash bull-flies. The people, however, were friendly and soon came to love the "Jesus People," as the missionaries were called.

There was no electricity, no water, no modern sanitation and no convenient shopping centers. But God was there with His handmaiden [missionary Ethel McPherson] and gave her victory as He answered her prayers.

Soon it was necessary to enlarge the mission and God miraculously worked it out. A wealthy Chinese widow owned an ideal lot in this village which she would not sell to a business firm. It was to be used for a church or school only. The South China Peniel Holiness Missionary Society (the name Albert Reiton called their work) was the first of nine church

organizations to apply for the property and was granted the right to purchase it.

Albert began to supervise the building of the Cheung Chau Church. As God sent in funds, Albert bought granite stones 6" by 8" by 16" costing forty cents each, which he and church members laid as God gave them the funds. Then a Christian friend gave these hard working people one thousand dollars toward their church building. But Albert was led to stop construction when this was spent for he felt that he could not let the men labor without receiving wages and follow the Scripture teaching. The friend who had given the one thousand dollars upon hearing this, insisted on loaning them another one thousand dollars with the understanding that they could pay it back when money was available. So they continued to build -on faith. The Reitons and the staunch and faithful helper Ethel McPherson kept praying, working and witnessing.

On the eventful day of the cornerstone laying, many friends came from Hong Kong for the ceremony. Etta Reiton arrived with the others. She handed her husband a letter urging him, "Read it before the service." When he opened the letter he found that it contained a check from a will which was exactly enough to pay back the loan and finish the building — debt free.

God, working in the hearts of Christians, had been in complete control of the building of this church. It was built large enough to seat about 350 persons. All through the years, even during World War II, God protected this church and the national workers, and today it is a thriving place of worship, service and soul saving.



Our Bible Distribution Team at Cheung Chau Peniel Church in Hong Kong.

**BONDSERVANTS**

For a free copy of our missionary classic, *Bondservants – the Story of the Voice of China and Asia*, please call or write to us today.

(877) 392-0560  
info@voiceofchinaandasia.com

# Arising to Newness of Life

## Baptism Testimonies



I met a very important young man in 2012. He is a very faithful Christian. He led me to get to know God. Although I was not a Christian before, even though attending Christian school since elementary school, I knew a little about Christianity. But, my family was Buddhist.

Sometimes I felt close to God, and at other times distant. I still had doubts about Him. But after meeting my friend, his mother passed away from cancer. That was difficult for us. Even so, I decided to still follow God, because I believed He was always by my side.

We were recently married. Unfortunately, my mother also got cancer the next year. So, I prayed and through surgery, her tumor was successfully removed. I was convinced God was present to take care of us.

Now I know whatever I face, whether good or bad, I will thank Him and believe He will help me face every circumstance for His glory.

Mrs. Liu Yin Ting



Before coming to Christ, I was jealous of all my friends who got into better universities than me. I struggled with this, until I came to know God. Once I understood how great He was, I realized my own insignificance.

I now know that all His blessings are because of His grace toward me. I am no longer jealous of others, because I know God has given each of us different gifts and abilities. With Him guiding my life, He will give me all the opportunities I need. I now have great peace, and I know it is from God.

Miss Yuan Chien Wen

After I confessed Jesus as my Lord, I felt God would take care of everything for me. Before coming to Christ, I was a very short-tempered person. But after receiving Him, a change came over me. I was much more peaceful and calm. Having patience and a listening ear became my way. It was no longer necessary to demand that my opinions were always right.



Accepting Christ has humbled me. I realize there is so much to learn. I have no reason to act proud or boast in front of others, or before God.

Before becoming a Christian, I tried every way to get rid of my smoking habit. Somehow, after receiving the Lord it became easier to stop. This is clearly the Lord's blessing. He has wonderfully restored my health. Because of Jesus, I am a new man. My life truly belongs to Him.

Mr. Tan Tzih Chi



Cheung Chau Peniel Church Pastor, Rev. So Sui Soon, receiving an offering from Voice of China and Asia partners and a Bondservants book detailing their story.



The Voice of China and Asia honors Mr. David Chan (c) and family. A product of our early evangelistic efforts, he once served as a gardner for our first Eric Hammond orphanage in Hong Kong in the 1940's. He continues as a revered member and inspiration to our Peniel family.

## O Happy Day

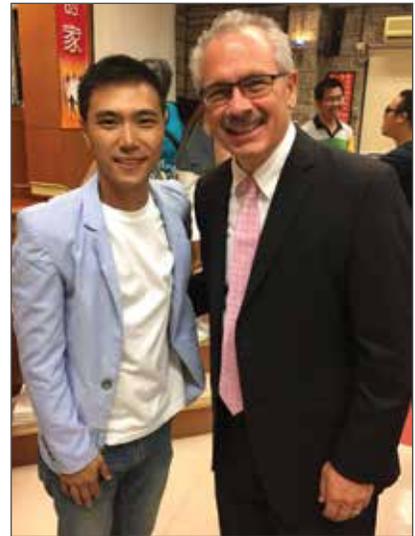
O happy day that fixed my choice  
On Thee, my Savior and my God!  
Well may this glowing heart rejoice  
And tell its raptures all abroad.

Happy day, happy day,  
When Jesus washed my sins away!  
He taught me how to watch and pray,  
And live rejoicing every day;  
Happy day, happy day,  
When Jesus washed my sins away!

By Philip Balddridge



Remembering our first generation.



Preparing the next generation.

## Looking Ahead!

**March 28-30** – Rural China Pastor’s Study Bible Training and Motorcycle Awards.

**April 24, 2018** - “Why is China so Nervous about Christians?” – First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, OK, 11:30AM. Contact: Tom Marberry (918) 852-8851.

**May 4-6, 2018** – 60th Anniversary Celebration, VOCA Mucha Peniel Church, Taipei, Taiwan.

**June 22-28, 2018** – Rural China Bible Distribution, Pastor’s Study Bible Training and Motorcycle Awards.

**July 1, 2018** – 60th Anniversary Celebration, VOCA Busan Peniel Church, Busan, Korea.

**July 29, 2018** – Town & Country Christian Church, 401 W. Chicago Ave. Yale, OK, 9:45AM. Contact: Jack Ritchie, (918) 613-2800.



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