

April 2009

Dear Friends of City In Focus – Asian Ministries:

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Chinese Christian Business & Professional Association (CCBPA) held its Gala Dinner at the University Golf Club, attended by 95 guests. It was very encouraging to see that over half of the guests were the younger generation professionals (< 35 years old). With **Dr. Isaac Tam**, a 30-year old dentist, as President, the goal is for CCBPA to involve the younger generation. Previously, CCBPA members consisted of mostly the “oldies.”

The keynote speaker was **John Stackhouse**, Professor at Regent College. He spoke on “Why? The Question Business and Professional People Forget to Ask.” Most of us seldom ask “why” before we set out to do our everyday tasks. Two things matter in life – our work and our faith, but it seems we’re always trying to do more than we can, to the point where we are burning out – at work and in church. As Christians, we should not just be evangelizing, but also living out our faith. We’re called to be good human beings, to do justice, and to walk humbly with God everyday. John challenged us not to do as much as we can, but to do things in a way that honours and glorifies God. May we make shalom in whatever we do – to make this earth a better place to live.

### ***Reflections of a Christian in the Marketplace:***

A couple of weeks ago, I had lunch with an old friend. He shared about how well his family was doing. He has been gainfully employed during the current economic crisis. His ministry with the young adults at his church was going well. Then he said something that really caught my attention. He said, “Bill, this may sound funny, but things are going so well that I’m a little scared. I keep waiting for the big letdown. I can feel it coming.” Come to think of it, he was not the first person to say something like that to me.

I must confess that there have been times in my life where I felt the same thing. Sadly, when life is going along so marvellously well, we’re often scared to enjoy it. I think our human nature is just naturally inclined to think the negative. We have a tendency to worry about what may or may not happen rather than enjoy the moment we are in.

It is true that testing and hard times are a part of the Christian life. The book of James in the Bible tells us that it’s not a matter of “if” we encounter trials and temptations, but “when” we encounter them. I suppose that in the back of our minds we get conditioned with that thought. Hard times, letdowns, disappointments are all part of this journey here on earth. So, we tend to hold off on experiencing joy and not savour what is going on during the moment because this great question mark about tomorrow is looming in our minds. However, I truly believe that God wants us to live and enjoy the moment. Think about it. All we have is right now, and why wouldn’t God want us to savour this moment?

As you study David’s life, he was continually praising God for His goodness and wonderful blessings. He wrote in Psalm 21:3-6, “*You welcomed him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head. He asked you for life, and you gave it to him – length of days, for ever and ever. Through the victories you gave, his glory is great; you have bestowed on him splendour and majesty. Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.*” Although David knew life was full of hardships and sorrow, he took a moment to thank God for the good times and blessings in his life. We should do likewise – take time to savour the goodness that God has bestowed on us. Take time to express our thanksgiving and gratitude to God. We shouldn’t cheapen or dilute God’s blessings by worrying about what may or may not happen tomorrow.

Remember this *today*. Relax. Enjoy where you are. Allow others to see God’s peace ruling your life. God will give you the grace to deal with whatever comes next. For now, don’t be so uptight or anxious that you can’t enjoy His blessings. Have a happy Easter! We worship a risen and living Lord!

Blessings and shalom,

Bill Wong

Upcoming event to mark on your calendar - RSVP to [events@cityinfofocus.ca](mailto:events@cityinfofocus.ca) or call 604-687-7292.

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – BC Leadership Prayer Breakfast** at the Westin Bayshore Hotel at 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. This annual event serves as a quiet way to reaffirm our faith in God and provide an opportunity for fellowship for leaders in the business, government and faith communities. Special guest speaker: **Nazanin Afshin-Jam**, an International Human Rights Activist, was former Miss World Canada, Miss World first runner up, and a singer/song writer. She has a Christian faith and pursued celebrity as a means to elevate her advocacy – to be a “voice for the voiceless” and to deliver her messages of freedom, peace and love.

*City In Focus – Asian Ministries*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 107 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1C7  
604-687-7292 (office) / 604-240-3968 (cell) / e-mail: [billw@cityinfofocus.ca](mailto:billw@cityinfofocus.ca)