



十二月廿六日（ 禮拜三 ）早上在多倫多機場準備乘搭聯航班機回休士頓市時，看到 ABP 11/26 記者 Jeff Brumley 的報導：有關德州福和市華人浸信會於聖誕前夕遭遇火災的情況：

The fire that heavily damaged Chinese Baptist Church of Forth Worth, Texas, on Christmas Eve has left its congregation shaken during one of the most sacred seasons of the year.

News reports about Monday's fire in Fort Worth do not indicate whether Chinese Baptist will be able to rebuild, or how soon. But television and newspaper stories, plus the Southern Baptist congregation's web site, indicate that church members are being sustained by their faith.

"First, we are thankful that no one was injured," a statement on the church homepage said. But most of all, they are grateful "that in whatever circumstances, good or bad, God is still God for He promises not to forsake us."

The congregation celebrated its 20th anniversary this month and last worshiped in the sanctuary on Sunday, The Dallas Morning News reported.

No cause has been given for the fire, which was reported shortly after 7 a.m. on Christmas Eve morning. Firefighters told WFAA-TV in Dallas/Fort Worth that first and smoke damage occurred throughout the building.

For the time being, worship services will be held in the church fellowship hall, which was not damaged in the blaze. And that's just fine with one member of Chinese Baptist Church.

"The fellowship hall may not be big enough, but I think it will bring us closer together," M.C. Leung told the television station.

"When you see that, you have the strength to go and be the presence of Christ."

與福和市華人浸信會會牧黃馨傳牧師跟進教會遭受火災的情況時，從其教會網頁看見黃牧師給會眾的函件轉錄如下：

Peace to you all and Merry Christmas at this special moment of Chinese Baptist Church of Fort Worth. As you all know from the news, the church was on fire early morning of the day of Christmas Eve. What a special day and memory to all of us as a part of this spiritual family. My heart just goes out to the Lord and all of you!! Many of you might ask what the cause of the fire. The fire investigator has not yet provided an exact cause or clear explanation at this point. However, we will let all members know after finding out the cause. It is a joyful day we celebrate the birth of

Jesus Christ but also a forever meaningful event to CBCFW, the church I always keep in my heart.

First, we are thankful that no one was injured, but the greatest thank is that in whatever circumstances, good or bad, God is still God for He promises not to forsake us. In fact, this is the email I ever write with a heavy but strong comfort from the Lord to you for I know no matter how there is something great and purpose coming along with it. As we mourn over the property loss, brothers and sisters, let the faith in Christ keep us as we walk through this tough moment together. I truly believe that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. Therefore, hold onto the faith that the Lord of the church is still in charge and let the love of the Lord keeps us strong to walk through this hand in hands!! In some ways, this fire might be a turning point for the church.

For your info, although the sanctuary was damaged, we will still hold the church Sunday service as usual, but the location will be in the fellowship hall. The youth service will be held in the children building. Nothing could deter the church to continue worshipping God!! When faith tested, I say again let us join hands in hands with joy and love to worship and witness what God will be doing among us. I believe, as well as all the church coworkers and all staff ministers, that the fire did not visit with no purpose!! Let us wait upon the Lord to witness the outcome that God will show ultimately as we walk through this together.

The church Sunday activities will be held as usual as follow:

1. Adult Sunday school will be in different classrooms from 9:45-10:45am.
2. Youth service and Sunday school will be in the main hall of the children building from 9:45-10:45am and 11-12pm, respectively.
3. Children choir and Sunday school will be in the children building classrooms from 10-11am and 11-12pm respectively.
4. Adult Service will be in the dining hall from 11-12:15am. (We will facilitate English and Cantonese translation by the time)
5. Lunch is still served after the adult service in the dining hall.

Here are some items I need you to pray for the church:

1. Pray for the spiritual strength of each brother and sister as we face the trial together.
2. Pray for the wisdom of the church staff ministers and all coworkers on how to restore the building.
3. Pray for the meeting with Hartford insurance company as to lay out a good restoration plan for the building.
4. Pray for the church Sunday services and all other weekly activities during this period of adjustment.

5. Pray for a quick restoration of the building.
6. Pray for each one of us that this is the time we bond together in God's love to face the trial

My heart goes out to the Lord and prays for each one of you. In fact, I really need you all to walk with me in Christ to face this trial! May the words of God keep us encouraged.

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ, Tommy Wong, Minister of Chinese Baptist Church of Fort Worth

當我在臉書發佈這新聞時，瞬間台灣的 David Sha 轉來福和市華人浸信會其中一位會友 Linda 姊妹所寫的見證，與你分享：

「人在，心在，神的殿就在」

就在聖誕節的前夕，教會的大堂無端端地著火了，不知怎麼燒著的，也不知燒了多久，從新聞報導看，被稱做是二度火災 two-alarm fire damage 奇怪的是，雖然火燒強度很大，而火燒範圍卻是非常地小，只在講台右前方，一個小小的角落，一個連五分之一都不到的小小的角落，完全被燒掉的，只是一張挪動的講台。雖然，上空濃濃的黑煙，復蓋住了半棟建築，而完全燒壞的卻只是一根窗柱。

火災，火災，的確是個災，但在這災背後，定有神的計畫。

太奇怪了，太不可思議了，禮拜一，偏偏是禮拜一的大清早，如果是禮拜天，哇，不敢想了，且不說禮拜天的聖誕崇拜，那一舞台的道具，棉花做的小羊，紙板做的馬槽，堆起的草垛，全部都是易燃物啊！

再晚一天呢，禮拜二的聖誕節，又是雨，又是雪的，就算是大堂不被燒壞，也要被水淋壞。

偏偏就是禮拜一，禮拜一的大清早，有足夠的時間將火破滅，有足夠的時間請工人封補破壞了的門窗，又有足夠的時間，讓大家冷靜一下。

救火隊到場了，新聞電視台到場了，教會的老老少少，也陸陸續續地到場了，看完大火的場地，談得最多的，就是禮拜天如何聚會，有一些好心的教會要為我們提供場地，而我們異口同聲的回答是，不要：

「我們可以在交誼廳聚會」

「如果沒有交誼廳，我們可以搭帳篷聚會」

「就算是沒有帳篷，我們還可以打著傘，在停車場聚會」

「我們寧可在我們自己的地方聚會」

本該是嚴肅的，傷感的的討論，卻變成了快樂的，浪漫的談話。如果這一次沒有被上帝「趕」出大堂，大概也不會感到我們的教會居然是這樣的富有。

禮拜天就要到了，急不及待的要到交誼廳去聚會，就像是每一次過節，每一次過年，熱熱鬧鬧地聚在一起，熱熱鬧鬧地濟在一起，那就是我們的家，那就是我們的家人。

教會不是一棟建築物，只要人在，心在，神的殿就在。

恩浸人，懇請為這教會禱告，為他們重修事工仰望主，若可以的話，請你捐獻一些獻金資助他們，耶和華上帝必償還給我們的。