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Speech Day of SPKC
June 22, 2012

Ignite the Fire Within

Beloved graduates of Pooi Kei College, It is indeed my honor and privilege to be able to have a part in the building of Pooi Kei right from the beginning. I am proud to be part of this partnership between Pooi Kei College and Abundant Grace Church in the nurturing of a new generation of servant-leader for the 21st Century.

In this age of unprecedented change and uncertainty, it is crucial that each one of us have the discernment, and set our priorities right in a world of distractions. Furthermore we need to equip ourselves as we face the challenges ahead of us, whether we pursue further studies, or take the first step of career path in the community.

Dr. Steven Covey, the renowned author of “7 Habits of Highly Effective people” reminded us to fulfill the physical, mental, social and spiritual needs in an integrated way. “When we reach a “critical mass” of integration, we experience spontaneous combustion – an explosion of inner synergy thus ignites **the fire within** and gives **visions, passion** and a spirit of **adventure** to life” (《First Thing First》)

“The Fire Within” symbolizes the inner energy that sustains and propels us as we move forward in life.

Inspired by one of my mentors, I believe we can learn from the birds (《Birds our teachers》 Dr. John Stott).

(1) Vision



Practice solitude like the owl, and we can see more clearly.

I shall never forget my tour on Amazon River on a canoe through the darkness of the night. I was in awe as I looked up the clear sky and beheld the glorious sight of the Milky Way, with the occasional meteors flying through the serene sky.

Then the tour-guide drew our attention through his powerful search light, and I beheld a solitary owl standing peacefully at the tip of a towering tree. The eyes of the owl shined through the thick rain-forest like two pearls hanging in the sky.

I am reminded of a verse in the Bible, which helped me tremendously over the years: “In returning and rest is your salvation, in quietness and confidence is your strength” (Isa 30:15). Hong Kong is a busy and noisy city, with further distractions offered by the internet, very often I could get lost in noisy activities and addictive surfing on the web. In solitude, in silence, I can listen more clearly to my inner voice and clarify my self-understanding and my life goal. If I seek to humble myself before God, I can catch the vision from above more clearly. For the past forty years, I am thankful for the vision given by my Lord to serve young people in Hong Kong and Mainland China, which has become my vocation. I am blessed as I serve the young people with passion in my heart.

(2) Passion



Enter the community of mutual support like the geese, and we can live more lovingly.

A story from the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” disclosed the secret of the geese who always fly as a community. Flying together, they create a current in the air that saves at least 30% of their energy. The geese take turn to lead the flight, daring the challenge of the head-wind. When one of their fellow members is wounded, two geese will accompany the wounded one, nursing him until he recovers, or stay by his side until the final moment of his life.

I still remember the days when my eldest son went through two major surgical operations and 25 sessions of radio therapy for his brain tumor. How I treasured the loving support of the entire family and compassionate prayer support of my friends. It is one thing to enjoy the chatting on facebook, a social-network; it is more precious to enter the community of soulful connections with committed friends.

(3) Adventure



Soar like the eagle, and experience the reality: “I believe I can fly!”

I enjoy watching the eagles soaring the heights over the Shek-O cliffs, gliding gracefully over Victoria Harbor, and dancing with joy in front my home at Tsing-Yi.

The eagle relies not only on the spread of his wings or the strength of his legs. Dr. John Stott captured the eagle’s secret in his book.

“ Brothers, if you are defeated, it is because of the lack of faith. Air exhorts the Eagle: “Trust me, stretch your legs, let go of the stones beneath your feet; spread your wings, let the invisible power lift you up” My beloved brothers, eagles in the sky - fly! Respond to God’s invitation: soar, trust Him!”
《Birds our teachers》

Let me tell you the truth, I used to be a person with shaky confidence. I did not even have the courage to stand in front of the class and read aloud. Now, I have experienced the strength given to me by the Holy Spirit and when I venture into Szechuan to serve the people affected by the “2008.5.12 Earthquake”, the love and power from the Spirit gave me the courage to fly in the midst of stormy weather.

Beloved graduates of the 2012 class, I believe you can fly, make sure you spend time to clarify your vision in solitude, and enjoy the loving communal support of your family, your fellow students, your teachers. Above all, trust in the Lord who promise to give you courage and strength to soar the sky.

By God’s grace, keep the fire within burning!