

三谷恩泉

Stream of Blessings



三谷基督徒會堂
CCIC-TRI VALLEY

第七期冬季號

2012年1月



尋堂記

❖吳建智

轉眼間 2011 年已過，在神的保守中我們看到三谷教會人數不斷增長，週五成家庭聚會，青少年團契和兒童 AWANA 最多曾達 202 人，聖誕節聯合主日家庭崇拜也有 164 人參加。我們為此向神感恩，但同時也讓我們更加看見場地嚴重不足使用和購買教會建築的緊迫性。

在 2011 年前半年我們曾經花了不少精力在 Koll Center 的一棟建築，經過將近四個月不斷與賣方議價、合約談判和建築查驗，至終神讓我們看到從長遠的考量，這棟樓宇基於各種限制並不合適作為教會。然而，在整個過程中我們學了不少購堂洽商及申請 CUP 的經驗。在這之後，我們曾經看過另一棟 5020 Franklin Dr. 的建築，但賣方並沒有太多的意願在經濟不景氣的時候賠本出售。

在七月底，長執同工經過禱告和討論後，決定換一位新的房地產仲介人。八月初我們開始看 5020 的隔壁一棟 5064 Franklin Dr.，經過幾次實地勘查以及與賣方的洽談，終於在 11/22/2011 簽下購買合同，其中的關鍵是需要 120 天之內取得教會使用准證 (CUP) 和單位變更使用許可 (PUD)。我們相信若是神要賜我們這棟建築，祂必定會保守整個過程。

基於時間的緊迫性，我們要求建築師、土木工程師及承包商趕在 12/16/2011 到 Pleasanton 市府提交 CUP 和 PUD 的申請資料。市政府也於接著的週一 (12/19) 委派了一位市府規劃專員來承辦

教會的申請。在等待市府答覆時，建築師同時也在進行更多細節的設計及規劃。在三月底成交之前，我們仍舊有許多細節的事務要處理和解決，在仰望神中，我們更多來學習「不住的禱告，凡事謝恩」：

1. 求神保守我們與市府規劃人員有順利的溝通，他們的要求也能合理，以便我們的申請案可以在 2 月中提交給市府規劃委員會，也使公聽會一切順利。
2. 求神保守我們與市府工程師的協商順利，需要進行的改建設計不致於牽涉到太多新的建築標準。
3. 求神保守我們與消防人員的討論，可以讓我們以有限的預算來改善消防噴水系統。
4. 求神保守我們的建築師和承包商能將我們有限的預算發揮最有效的價值。

在購堂過程中，我們更要感謝神在建堂基金上的供應。神感動許多三谷的家庭、北區母會及 CCIC 友堂弟兄姊妹甘心樂意的奉獻。到今年的第一週，建堂基金已達 202 萬，如今再次憑信心向主懇求，求主幫助我們能在三月底成交前籌得 220 萬現金。讓我們彼此勉勵，相信今年神要在三谷成就更多奇妙的事！



5064 Franklin Drive, Pleasanton



聖誕節 的 喜悅

❖邢承中

零一一年的聖誕節正好落在星期日，三谷會堂舉行了一個聖誕家庭聯合崇拜。教會中文部、英文部、以及兒童部的弟兄姊妹，不分男女老少，歡聚一堂；用詩歌、短劇、點燭禮等節目一同慶祝佳節。會後大家彼此問安，臉上的笑容無法完全表達出心中的喜悅。是的，聖誕佳節是全世界公認的年度中最大的一個節日。歷史以耶穌基督的誕生為分界點，人們藉著這個生日誕辰親友團聚，交換禮物，彼此問候。即使在回教及佛教國家，聖誕節的氣氛也毫不掩飾的超越了任何宗教與傳統的束縛。只是愈來愈大的世俗與商業氣息往往遮蓋了慶祝聖誕佳節的真正意義；人們似乎忘卻了我們的歡樂是因救主耶穌基督的誕生。

今年在 580 號高速公路將要下到三谷的山坡上豎立了一個巨幅標誌：“**Jesus Is the Reason for the Season!**”〔耶穌基督是這個喜悅季節的唯一緣由！〕。有心人在此提醒我們為何喜悅，為何慶祝。藉著主耶穌基督的降生，神將真正的“喜悅”賜下。這喜悅有異於世人所謂的“快樂”，乃是從心裡發出的生命上的表露。這喜悅是神要賜給每一位尋求祂的人。無怪乎當耶穌基督誕生時，天使高唱“在至高之處榮耀歸於神，在地上喜悅歸於人。”這喜悅是因為耶穌基督的誕生，要帶給世人真正的愛與和平與盼望。正如以色列的先知以賽亞在公元前 700 年預言說：「因有一嬰孩為我們而生，有一子賜給我們，政權必擔在他的肩頭上。他名稱為奇妙，策士，全能的神，永在的父，和平的君。」因此當我們慶祝聖誕時，是慶祝耶穌基督為我們而生。而我們的喜悅是緣於祂乃是：

◆**奇妙**：祂以那奇妙無比的救恩，將我們由罪惡過犯中拯救過來；

◆**策士**：祂以那至高無上的智慧，用生命之道指引我們人生的方向；

◆**全能的神**：祂以神的全能，保護、醫治、並且堅固我們；

◆**永在的父**：祂以慈父般的恩慈與憐憫，體恤我們的軟弱，滿足我們肉體與心靈的需要，並帶給我們永生的盼望；

◆**和平的君**：祂要以君王的威權，為世人帶來真正的和平。這和平不但是人與人，更是人與神，人與己的和平。

當我們思想這一切的恩典與祝福時，我們心中豈能不喜悅呢？

每逢聖誕佳節，世人都有交換禮物的習俗。但願我們都能體會，天地之間最珍貴的禮物乃是神將耶穌基督賜給我們。我們亦當思想：是誰的生日，誰當配得禮物。當我們慶祝耶穌基督的生日時，有甚麼禮物可以獻給過生日的耶穌呢？我們所能拿出最寶貴的禮物，就是將自己的生命獻上：學習主耶穌捨己的榜樣，將神的愛與祝福給出去，將屬基督的喜悅與他人分享。神也必將祂的喜悅更豐盛的加在我們身上！





蒙召 作家庭主婦

◆黃霞

自小有過許多夢想。看見老師以父母的心腸諄諄教導孩子，深覺教師職業的崇高，就夢想成爲一位手執教鞭的老師；當看“紅色娘子軍”時，就夢想長大也許成爲一位英姿颯爽的女兵；有時心潮起伏，就夢想當作家；讀“紅岩”時，就想自己也可以爲理想英勇赴義。這大概都是小學時代的夢。讀中學時，正逢中國恢復高考制度，就老老實實學數理化，預備自己考大學，將來成爲一個有用的人。不管怎樣做夢，從不曾做過也不可能做的夢就是做家庭主婦。

在 60 年代初期，母親生下第一個孩子。適逢國家實施“精兵簡政”的政策，母親從工作崗位上退下來，在家成了一位家庭主婦。隨著家中又陸續添了三個孩子，母親在家艱辛地操持家務，除了做飯洗衣還爲全家人織毛衣做鞋子，常常是做家事到半夜，爲父親和每一個兒女都周全的預備一切。母親默默地做著這一切，卻從未有人體恤過她的辛勞，體會過她的心情。母親長期身心靈疲憊無助，常常身體不適。醫生診斷她是“神經官能症”。意思是，身體沒有任何疾病，但人就是會感覺不適。記得母親不只一次對我說：千萬不能作家庭婦女。現在回想起來，這句話中蘊涵了母親心中多少的幽怨，無奈，痛苦，辛酸。後來，當家中老么 3 歲時，國家政策恢復，母親才又回去上班。

91 年先生有機會來美國攻讀博士學位。不久我也辭去國內的工作來美國與先生一起生活，成爲陪讀太太。好在導師給先生 RA (Research Assistant) 的位置，除了免學費，還有微薄收入可以維持日常生活所需。過了一年，把當時只有兩歲，我們日夜思念的兒子坦坦從國內接來後，我就一邊照顧坦坦，也一邊照顧一個美國家庭和坦坦一樣大的女孩。我常常心中盤算只要先生畢業拿到學位找到工作，我也可以像其他從中國來的陪讀太太一樣去讀書拿個學位找工作。

「人心籌算自己的道路，惟耶和華指引他的腳步」(箴言 16:9)，幾乎就在先生拿到博士學位畢業的同時，我信主受洗歸入主的名下，那時坦坦四歲。先生畢業後，馬上便到西北大學作博士後。這時我自己的如意算盤打得更好了。現在坦坦四歲，讀 Preschool，

我就預備“托福”，申請學校。再過一年坦坦五歲就開始全天上課了(那時 Illinois 州的 Kindergarten 是全天的)我也可以去讀書了。

這時有許多姐妹勸我再要個孩子，理由是一個孩子太孤單了。再要孩子對我實在是太大的困難，因爲我是對生孩子有心理障礙的人，而且再要孩子就會完全打亂我對自己的人生計劃，至少我又要在家呆 5 年，那真是家庭婦女了。後來蒙神的帶領將我要孩子的心理障礙除去(這個見證發表在海外校園 1997 年 25 期題爲“我終於要了老二”)，但對要在家作家庭主婦還是沒有辦法想通。

有一天，我隨手拿起一本“使者”來讀。現在完全忘記那篇文章講甚麼了，只記得有一句話，大意是：一個人價值的寶貴是在神那裡，不在乎他的地位、頭銜、收入等等。我突然意識到我爲甚麼要去讀學位而不想作家庭主婦，因爲學位似乎會讓我在別人(父母、公婆、兄弟姐妹、朋友)眼中看爲有價值。作家庭主婦有甚麼價值呢？誰會看得起一個家庭主婦呢？除了做飯、洗衣、打掃衛生，她沒有自己的天地！當我意識到我的價值是在神那裡，我心中向神發出了一個很深的禱告：父啊，我心想事成是次好的，惟有你的旨意成就在我身上才是上好的。蒙神祝福我們有了第二個兒子耶利米。

當耶利米快一歲時，我們搬到了矽谷。當時經濟繁榮，許多公司到處招工，很多太太們陸陸續續都成了上班族。我也時不時看看報紙上的招工廣告。有一天，一條廣告引起我的注意，這家公司要招 Entry Level 的材料工程師。這正好適合我。我雖然沒有在美國拿學位，但我學的是材料，而且在中國有幾年的工作經驗。另外就是當我帶耶利米出去散步時，也認識一些從中國來探親的老太太，正巴不得要找帶孩子的工作，耶利米的照顧也應該不成問題。

似乎環境各方面都對我出去工作沒有問題。既然如此，最後就是要神通過了。我就來到神的面前，正要跪下去禱告，還沒跪下去，神的話進到我裡面：我給你的還不夠嗎？我心中向上帝回應說：父啊，你給我充足有餘。我明白神要我留在家中，但我不知道我要在家中呆多久。

耶利米 5 歲到了上學的年齡，我想是不是我在家的時間滿了，我又到神的面前求問。記得一個星期三晚上教會的禱告會，負責帶領禱告的弟兄領我們唱：我寧願有耶穌，勝於金錢；我寧願屬耶穌，勝過財富無邊。我們的上帝真是知道我心腸肺腑的神。我想出去上班，並不是家裡
(轉第 7 頁)

Our Decision Point

❖ James & Jennifer Li


When Larry called and talked to us about baptism, we were initially hesitated, wondering what it really means. The same question was asked before, we found ourselves knowing so little about Jesus and the Bible that we were simply not ready. But this time it's different, after some light discussion between us, we decided to be baptized together on Dec. 11, 2011. It's an unusual decision based on our experience, but it's also a natural decision for what we are hoping for the future.

We both came from mainland China, and knew nothing about Jesus and the Bible until just a few years ago. It first started with a biased view without being involved in any Bible study. Reading the first book of Genesis proved to be challenging, adding additional doubts with our scientific background to correctly understand the Bible, to a degree that I had to quietly shelve my kid's Bible book from her preschool. In the meanwhile, each of us trusted ourselves so much that we started to drift away from each other in dealing with many things in our daily life. Relationships between older generations and us, and between ourselves were being strained, and we were under siege by ourselves, and couldn't get out easily. Fortunately we started to be involved in Bible study and other church activities, from which we found a lot of strength, courage, and guidance.

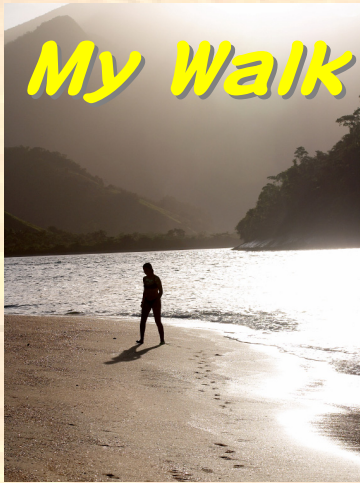
Coincidentally, I was reading "Decision Points" by President Bush, he candidly described his own youth troubles, and at one point considered reading Bible as self-improvement to make himself a better person and attending church a family tradition. That's exactly what I wanted: "to be a better person", but without faith and commitment. But why couldn't I, as a mediocre and unknown citizen without any significant contribution to the society, to embrace the grace of God? I was dawned. I needed to do something, I started learning more about Bible, started to hear the powerful yet simple message in the Bible. I learned from "the parable of laborers in the vineyard", and "the parable of the sower", that being a true leader is being a servant. I am so surprised to see the summed fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Isn't it what we are striving for each and every day, for ourselves and for our children and children's children? There is only more to gain, with nothing to lose. That's the beauty and power of God's salvation!

Also during this time, we are having a new baby boy. We received so much blessings and love from the church community that we believe they are God's powerful glory and grace. We are grateful for our newly arrived healthy baby boy, we are grateful that our parents have helped out so much at home and our kids are growing well, and we are grateful that we find this incredible community of sharing burdens and caring for each other. We start to find faith in Christ.

I also found it's equally valuable in workplace. Applying values from Bible makes work more enjoyable, helps establish better relationship with co-workers with diverse background and varying personality, and positively influences overall career developments that are under pressure and subject to change constantly. After all, we are spending at least one third of adulthood at workplace, how important it is to make it as enjoyable and fruitful as other activities. Time has become more scarce resource than ever before, and there is never shortage of things to do at home and at work. However, there are fundamental teachings in Bible that can help us balance the work and life and become a contributing member while enjoying the harvest of hard work.

So the baptism is our humble beginning in search of eternal purpose of life, we are so happy that we've found the right path. The path may be winding, and we may get lost on the way, but God's grace will save us, will bring us back to right place, all we have to do is to learn and follow God's words, it will give us simple directions that allow us to do a good job at work, rearing good children, accomplish something bigger than ourselves. Despite inexperienced learning of Bible, we start to find ultimate compass of life in Christ. We believe our decision is well made. 





With CHRIST



❖ Jeff Koh

I was born in Tai-zhong, Taiwan. My parents migrated from mainland China to Taiwan with the Nationalist government in the late 1940's and were introduced to Christianity by our neighbors. Since then, our family went to church regularly and learned about this new and foreign religion.

When I was about ten years old, our home was burned to the ground by an electrical fire which started in our neighbor's home. My mother was out that day and all the kids were at school. When the fire first started, my father was the only one home and he went to help put out the fire. However, the fire was fierce and spread quickly and consumed our home as well so we practically lost everything. The church pastor visited us and he basically took his clothes off and gave to my dad. In addition, the church as a whole provided for many of our family's needs while we recovered from this unfortunate disaster. I was touched by their love, care and affection which left me a positive perspective on Christianity.

As I grew older, my family had an opportunity to go to Libya, Africa. My father was a part of the Taiwan medical team consisted of about a thousand doctors, nurses and their families. They were sent to help build hospitals, train medical personnel and provide medical treatment to the sick. Most of the children including myself and my siblings were sent off for schooling on the island of Malta (the same island that Paul was ship-wrecked, stranded and bitten by a snake in Acts 28:1-6). However, the boarding school was Catholic and we were taught by priests and also lived with them. At the time, I did not really comprehend the difference between the Christian and Catholic faith and just went along with everyone else. However, having been exposed to attending mass on a daily basis enabled me to gain better understanding of the two religions. I saw how the Catholics worshiped various apostles and elevated people to sainthood (e.g., Joseph) and use the Virgin Mary as intercessor to talk to God. This later convinced me that I was on the right track of being a Christian since I could pray to God directly without having to have so many intercessors.

It was not until 1969 when many of the kids (now known as the Gang from Libya) all came to various cities

in the U.S. to pursue and continue our education. My brothers and I, plus a few others ended up in Seattle, WA. It was in Seattle during my high school years that I started to attend church regularly again. I was introduced to a local Christian church through some friends and attended youth group every Saturday morning. We had wonderful youth leaders who taught us the fundamentals of the Christian faith (e.g., God is the creator of the universe, the birth of Christ, Jesus' death and resurrection, the Trinity, the importance of evangelism). Besides attending weekly bible studies and Sunday worship, our youth leaders also took us out to play football, Frisbee, ice-skating and other fun activities. It was something that I looked forward to weekly and I really enjoyed the fellowship as well as learning about God. It was then that I decided to get baptized and be a Christ follower.

Later when I graduated, I went to a college which was about a hundred miles from Seattle. However, it was there that I became a static Christian. It is estimated that more than 70-80% of church-going kids that goes off to college no longer attend church. I lived in the dorm and instead of going to fellowship or church on weekends, I hung out and partied with my roommates and classmates. We spent a good portion of our college lives attending parties, watching movies, playing games, drinking, hanging out with friends and enjoying the "worldly pleasures". All this time, I did not have any desire to go back to church and stayed away until I graduated from University of Washington. In 1978 I left for sunny California since I was tired of the rainy and gloomy Seattle weather, not to mention that I wanted to seek out more "worldly pleasures" that awaited me in Southern California.

I managed to work for a few companies to stay self-sufficient. Yet, all along I still had no desire for church and just lived it up anyway I could. Eventually everything became old and seemed to come and go with no sense of purpose and meaning for me "I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind." (Ecclesiastes 1:14) I was desperately seeking for a sense of belonging and something permanent to hold on. It was then, my Christian sister-in-law, invited me to return to church with her. At first, I was very reluctant since I did not feel that God would take me back as I had abandoned Him for so long. However, through her persistence, I finally relented and agreed to

To Page 6



Continue from Page 5

go. I was able to settle at her church and served in the choir and attended young adult fellowship. However, even though I was going to church again, I did not feel God's presence in my life and was simply going through the superficial routines and treated church as a social environment instead of a place of worship.

Several years later I moved to Northern California due to job relocation, and was introduced to CCIC San Jose at Newport Ave by some friends and started to go regularly. Most brothers and sisters were around my age and were seeking after God. They also expressed love and care towards others openly (especially towards new comers.) One young couples had a weekly bible study at their home with dinner provided. God was able to transform my life and made it purposeful and meaningful as I joined them. I also attended Friday fellowship and Sunday services and really enjoyed the love and care of the church body. I felt like the prodigal son that had wandered away and that God had opened His arms for me and welcomed me home.

I also met my wife Angela at CCIC through a unique youth group camping trip. We were married a year later and were blessed with two lovely daughters in the years ensuing. Meeting Angela and marrying her was truly a blessing as God was able to provide me with the lasting relationship and the sense of belonging that I longed for. Angela was an encouragement to me and helped with my Christian walk and growth in many ways. For example, I had never been very open about praying in public, but while dating Angela, she would always pray openly in restaurants and in public. Her example and attitude of not being ashamed of her faith has helped me learn to pray openly in public as well.

Since Angela was already serving in the youth group, I joined her and served together for many years as youth co-workers until we relocated to CCIC-NV in 1999. We were recruited by Elder Aleck Lee to join the newly formed Coffee Talk since they were in need of new people to help the group grow. We also started to help out with the youth Sunday school program several years later as we got back into the youth ministry.

In 2009 we then had the privilege of being a part of the church plant in CCIC-TV. Elder Joseph Wong inspired me to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity. He came and spoke to us regarding the purpose of church plant. He shared that the main reason for the

church plant was to evangelize and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19). This was very scary for me since I was always very uncomfortable when it came to evangelizing others. As he shared how CCIC started with one church and how we grew to six churches within 20 years, I finally realized the importance of church plant.

I'm not the person who can talk to people easily and evangelize them as some others can do. Therefore, I thought by participating in the church plant, it would give me an opportunity to work with new believers and to overcome my weakness in evangelism. I conferred with Angela and the kids to see if this was the right thing for us to do, and they were all very supportive of the idea.

Now that we've been at CCIC-TV for over two years, there are still a lot of challenges ahead of us. Angela and I are still working with the youth group and focusing on the youth Sunday school program. We still have many kids that come on Friday nights but are unable to come on Sundays. We are hoping that both the parents and kids will come to realize the importance of attending the youth Friday night as well as the Sunday worship programs.

As for my growth in witnessing to others, I've started to attend the BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) program on a weekly basis earlier this year (thanks to Angela's persistence in asking me to attend) and have found it to be very helpful to learn and study God's Word. I've also attended the special BSF session on "How to Share the Gospel" which proved to be very helpful for me in order to be better equipped to spread the Good News to others.

Thus, I feel that as long as we can put our trust in God and that *"Whatever we do, we'll work at it with all of our hearts as working for the Lord and not men"* (Col 3:23) God will take care of all of our needs and He will help our church to grow and enable me to share the Good News with boldness and confidence!



(接第 3 頁)

的錢不夠，只是想更多一些，更寬裕一些。我再次明白神還是要我呆在家中。

又是幾年過去，耶利米就要進初中了，真的不再需要我了，而坦坦也將進大學，開銷一定會陡然增長。我又一次到神的面前說：父啊，我現在在家中的日子應該滿了，是不是可以出去工作了？慈愛的父神再次藉著一篇文章（好像是“生命季刊”）上的一句話：“我是你的產業世代無窮”來對我講話。

我當時只知道神依然不想我出去上班，但這句話的深意卻要等到現在我第三次教完“民數記”明白什麼叫“神是我的產業”，我才真的是伏在神的面前向祂獻上讚美敬拜。我當時以為神就是要我留在家中好好照顧先生孩子，卻不知神的意念是何等的深。祂藉著我留在家中多方的模造我，餵養我，使我可以承受神為我的產業，而且世代無窮，不僅是我就是我的後代子孫也可以承受神為產業。天父的意念是何等的深，何等的高又是何等的美何等的善。我如今依然還在家中，也深信父必為祂名的緣故引領我走義路（Right Path）。

現在坦坦大學就快要畢業了。神就在坦坦讀大學前夕，年年把大學所需的費用都加給我們，使坦坦讀大學一無所缺。使我們經歷到“先求神的國和神的義這些東西都要加給你”是神信實的應許。

親愛的弟兄姐妹，我們所信靠的這位神是創造宇宙萬有的上帝，是掌管萬有的神，你的頭髮有幾根祂都知道。我們若專心依靠祂，跟隨祂的帶領，祂所賜的美福是你從未夢想過的。

聖誕家庭崇拜



藉神的道，在三谷地區建立基督化華人家庭，薪火傳承耶穌的愛與教訓。

To **build up** Chinese Christian families in Tri-valley with the Word of God, and to **pass down** the love and teachings of Jesus through generations.

建堂基金進展：

350萬

12/16 已向市政府呈遞 CUP 及 PUD 申請，等待批准，請代禱記念！



★現金奉獻目標：
3/21 成交時最少
能籌得 220 萬！

若有感動，支票請寫
“CCIC” 並註「三谷建堂」
寄到 399 S. Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035
Att: Tri Valley 會堂



感謝神...

恩雨點滴

- 11/22 正式與 5064 Franklin Dr. 樓宇的賣主簽署「購買合約」
- 11 月與北區母會舉行聯合感恩節退修會，三谷共 118 人參加
- 12/4 兩位受浸者：李俊旭、錢鶯夫婦
- 本季帶領五位慕道朋友決志：呂桂芬、蔡署生、丁曉路、周虹、王春海
- 去年 12 月底建堂現金奉獻超出 200 萬目標。
- 12/25 主日聖誕家庭崇拜共 164 人參加。

「蒙我們神施恩的手幫助我們...」 (以斯拉 8:18)

主日聚會

崇 拜： 9:45 - 11:00 AM

主日學： 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

禱告會： 1:30 - 2:30 PM

Four Points by Sheraton
5115 Hopyard Road
Pleasanton, CA 94588

週五聚會： 8:00 - 10:00 PM

兒 童 AWANA

青少年 IMPACT

Pleasanton Evangelical Free Church
6900 Valley Trails Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

✦主編：陳海山

✦插圖/排版：薛忠勇、麥美玲

聯絡電話：(925) 963-6688
www.ccictv.org