



北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

Dec 2017

Season's Greetings



*Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year*

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, it shall not be used as a tool to promote any personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit all submissions to ensure that no inappropriate contents appear in any issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter. Please send all your communications to editors@lscobaedm.org.

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Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members :

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Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)
San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976), Ambrose Lee (1998)
Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Kevin Kwok (1988), Jimmy Chang (1966)
Vancouver	Nick Domingo (1963), Richard Choo (1977)

Reminders

East Coast (USA)

Sunday Dim Sum Lunch

Date every Sunday
Time noon
Venue Asian Jewels Seafood Restaurant
133-30 39th Avenue, Flushing NY 11354
Tel. 718-359-8600
Contact dimsum@nylscoba.org

Global Reunion 2018

Date August 1 – 8, 2018
Website www.2018lscoreunion.com
Contact laip888@gmail.com

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date Dec 1, 2017 (first Friday of each month)
Time noon
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓
Contact billshwong@shaw.ca

Christmas Party

Date Saturday Dec 9, 2017
Time 6:00 pm
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓
Contact billshwong@shaw.ca

Southern California

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date every first Sunday
Time noon to 2 pm
Venue Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., 3/F, Monterey Park

Toronto

New Year's Eve Dinner 2017

Date Sunday Dec 31, 2017
Time 6:30 pm
Venue Casa Deluz Banquet Hall
1571 Sandhurst Circle Unit 107,
Scarborough
Cost 98.00



Chapter News

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

LSCOBASF Chapter BBQ 2017

Photo & written by Ambrose Lee '98



Top row: Frank Hon '66; Alan Sien '93; Patrick Wong '69; Ephrem Fung '76; Andrew Sien '63;
Bottom row: David Tong '01; Ambrose Lee '98; Chris Ngai '78; Derek Choy '93; John Kwan '79;
Not in the picture: Lawrence Chow '80; Homer Yau '85

"Sunshine came out when we started our BBQ, it was a pleasurable BBQ"

On Oct 29th, 15+ LaSallians & family came together to share a pleasurable morning barbecue at Fremont Central Park.

There was a sprinkle in the morning, but we were blessed with great California sunshine when our barbecue started.

It was a pleasurable picnic on the beautiful green by Lake Elizabeth with a gentle breeze and great companies. Thank you all for coming and made this an enjoyable afternoon!!

We would like to thank *John Kwan '79* for agreeing to help us organize our first fishing trip next summer. For more information, please stay tuned for our Facebook announcement and invitation.



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The drumsticks, wings and burgers were delicious!



More pictures can be viewed at our Chapter Facebook.

Yours in La Salle,

LSCOBASF (Bay Area) Chapter

Our official facebook webpage: www.facebook.com/lscobasf



Special Contribution

This 10-part series, contributed by William Lai (1961), is based on his trip to Israel and Jordan in 2016. There are many Biblical quotes in the article. William wishes to note that he uses King James Version for the quotes.

Our readers are also encouraged to express their views here in the Newsletter any time. Please send your contributions to editors@lscobaedm.org. The Editorial Board of this Newsletter reserves the right to edit submissions to ensure quality and the right to make final decisions whether to publish any article or not to protect the integrity of this Newsletter.

Editors

The Promised Land (Part 7 of 10)

William Lai (1961)

Sermon on the Mount

The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The most famous aspect of the Sermon on the Mount is without the slightest doubt the Eight Beatitudes. That, however, was not the only thing Jesus did on the mount. He had a whole pile of other lecture material that he delivered to the masses gathered on what is now called the Mount of Beatitudes, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Topics included but not limited to the salt of the earth, higher righteousness, the Golden Rule, loving your enemies, false prophets, anger and reconciliation, wise and foolish builders. This prolonged oration was meticulously recorded in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6:17-49. There was no indication that Jesus was speaking from a script. He was apparently adlibbing with no pauses or Q & A breaks. He was on a verbal high.



Mount of Beatitudes Church



Looking down slope where Jesus used to preach and view from Sea of Galilee



A Child of God



By the seventh beatitude, you can call me a child of God as I was with the Canadian UN Peacekeeping Force in the Former Yugoslavia.

Tabgha

Not far from the Sermon Mount is the place where Jesus allegedly fed 5000 people with only two fishes and five loaves of bread. This occurrence was the only one recorded in all four gospels – Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:1-14 *“He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men”* (Mark 6:38-44).



The Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes. The rock is believed to be where Jesus put the ancient fishburgers. Mosaic in front shows one loaf of bread and two fishes.

The very spot this feeding happened is now a church. It has a mosaic showing two fishes and some bread right on top of where Jesus was supposed to have ordered the fishes and loaves of bread to be split. We visited that church.

But Hmm - let's see now - the multitude consuming fish with bread. I think Jesus beat MacDonald's to the Fillet-O-Fish burger by about 2000 years. It's not known if Jesus issued any franchises of his fish sandwich business.

But he did repeat the feat later for another 4000 with seven loaves of bread and *“a few little fishes”* (Matthew 15:29-38 and Mark 8:1-9). That left no doubt that fish burgers have definitely been a big seller since Biblical times. MacDonald's has caught on to something here with some upgrades. The gospels did not mention whether cheese or what drink options came with that particular menu item.

St Peter's Primacy

This section is a little off the narrative sequence of this paper, but it's relevant to the Sea of Galilee.

Close to Tabgha right at the shore is the Church of Primacy of Peter. This location was where resurrected Jesus met the disciples for a meal and reinstated Peter as the head of his mission. (Peter had been in Jesus' dog house after denying him three times before the crucifixion). A large rock inside the church, built in 1933, called Mensa Christi, is where the meal took place.

Jesus' way of restoring Peter's status was to tell him: *“Feed my lambs”* (John 21:15).



Mensa Christi Church – Jesus ate with Peter on this rock.



Jesus' Transfiguration

We passed by Mount Tabor several times. Jesus' transfiguration was supposed to have occurred on the top of this hill. Jesus took his closest disciples, Peter, James and John, to the mountain to pray, *"And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him"* (Matthew 17:1-3). Mark (9:2-4) and Luke (9:28-30) gave similar accounts.

There are various interpretations of this event. Most consider this occurrence as a confirmation of Jesus' status as the Son of the Divine. His illuminated transformation was regarded as a sign of his glorification. Meeting with Moses and Elias (or Elijah) was meant to signify Jesus' legitimacy by following the laws as represented by Moses and by fulfilling the prophecies of Elijah. The problem was that Moses and Elijah were by then centuries-old legendary figures. Was Jesus (again) seeing things and talking to people that were actually not there? Also was there a medical reason for his face becoming luminous?



Mount Tabor or Transfiguration, from a distance.

Exorcism of two demoniacs

The healing of the two demon-possessed, dishevelled, half-naked men was supposed to have occurred in Gadarenes, or Gadara near Umm Quais in modern-day Jordan across the Sea of Galilee from Jesus' usual hang-out.

"And they came out over into the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes...there met out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.....For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit" (Mark 5:1-20). This incident is also in Matthew (8:28-32) and Luke (8:26-39). But Matthew counted two possessed men whereas Mark and Luke referred to only one.

We visited the site. We did not encounter any possessed or demonic characters there.



Gadara – unlike Jesus, we found no demons here.



Inn of the Good Samaritan – the victim was more likely housed in the cave shown.



The Good Samaritan

Jesus often used parables as a teaching tool. The most well-known of these parables is that of the Good Samaritan. The story is familiar to everyone. Basically, the plot goes like this – some guy was hurt as the victim of a highway robbery lying on the side of the road and nobody cared to stop by to give assistance until a Samaritan showed up and “brought him to an inn” to be treated (Luke 10:25-37). The lesson was that one should show mercy and kindness to all people including strangers in order “to inherit eternal life” (Luke 10:25).

The story was even more remarkable because Samaritans and other ethnic groups had poor regard for each other at the time, and earlier Jesus, travelling with James and John, had been rejected by the Samaritans: “and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him”. Jesus did not retaliate and rebuked James and John for wanting to destroy the Samaritans for their indiscretion. He simply took James and John to another village (Luke 9:52-53). The idea was that others should follow Jesus’ example of forgiving those who might not treat you with respect, even your adversaries.

The tour went to the location where this parabled incident allegedly occurred. The road goes between Jerusalem and Jericho and you can see its isolation and barren landscape even today. The “inn” turned out to be a cave. The site’s history dates back to Old Testament times and have been rebuilt over many times. It is an ongoing archaeological site.

Old City Jerusalem

Apart from the pilgrimage visits, the tour also included some “normal” sightseeing and a walk-about of the Old City.

The Jerusalem Old City has four quarters – Jewish, Armenian, Muslim, and Christian. Each quarter is supposed to have its own history, unique characteristics, and worship venues. There are no obvious barriers between quarters. To the untrained tourist eye like mine, there did not seem to be a whole lot of difference on the street level. Just about every narrow street in the Old City and passageway is lined with hawkers’ stalls and vendors peddling everyday goods, clothing, foods, and souvenirs. It’s like walking through the Stanley Market and Lee Yuen East/West Streets in Hong Kong. There were a few street money changers waving some cash at tourists while yelling “cambio..cambio”. According to the Bible, these individuals would not be Jesus’ favourite people.



Streets of Old City Jerusalem



Gates and walls of Old City Jerusalem – Dung Gate on left, Jaffa Gate in centre



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There are several gates to the Old City. Some have been sealed for quite some time. One of the most famous gates is the Jaffa Gate which is the main entrance to the Old City. As the name suggests, the road leading to the gate comes from Jaffa. Most visiting dignitaries would enter the Old City through this gate. More about this gate later.

There are so much history and significant sites in Jerusalem that it's impossible to see everything in one go. We did visit some of the more prominent spots such as the Western (or Wailing) Wall, Temple Mount and Via Dolorosa (more later). The Israel Museum has a very meticulously built large model which gives a fantastic panoramic birds' eye view of ancient Jerusalem. I would strongly recommend a visit there for an insightful orientation to the Old City.



Temple Mount and Western (Wailing) Wall



Model of ancient Jerusalem at the Museum

We also went by the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, and the iconic Menorah, symbol of wisdom, enlightenment, and divine inspiration. We paid our respects at the Holocaust Memorial.



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Knesset and Menorah



Holocaust Memorial

The question always arises as to whether it is safe to tour places like Israel or other parts of the Middle East. I had some mild trepidation at first. But then again, one can rationalise that the region has been in some form of turmoil, varying in intensity, since the time of Abraham, and if one were to wait for absolute peace before visiting, that is not going to happen. We did not encounter any problems in our travels there. There were more alleged terrorist incidents in European capitals and even Sydney, Australia. There was a small incident of bombing in southern Jerusalem on our last day there. That turned out to be the doing of some deranged person. That kind of incidents happens just about anywhere, even in Ottawa or the Fort Lauderdale airport. In addition to these incidents, more recent tragedies such as the alleged terrorist mass shooting in La Vegas, the vehicular attacks in Downtown Manhattan and in Edmonton, and yes, in Edmonton, have made it harder to say that travelling in the Middle East is more dangerous than staying at home. The suggestion is that if you are interested in touring the Holy Land, just go ahead and do it. Use some discretion, of course, and do not go when there's open warfare or widespread unrest.

Now back to our BFF, Jesus the Christ.

to be continued...