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1st Quarter Report 2017

Greetings from St Joseph's College, Hongkong. Peace and Joy is within you.

I am writing this report at SJC Hongkong. I have been away from LSSC Changjiao since 22nd February. I went to the Philippines on 24th Feb to attend the Senior Brothers' Assembly and after the assembly I decided to stay back to have a cataract op done to my right eye at our De La Salle University Medical Centre at Dasmaringas. I was examined and told that the cataract was at stage 3 and an op procedure could be done. Thank God all went off well. I stayed at the Brothers' Residencia at DLSU-D after the op and while recuperating, I set about writing my book "PinPhonics: An Alternative Approach to Reading in English for Students in China". I am still working at it here and hopefully the first draft will be ready for proof reading and some translation into Chinese when I return to LSSC Changjiao after Easter.



BD at DLSU-Dasmaringas Residencia after cataract operation

As usual, the 1st Q report of LSSC Changjiao each year is mainly on the activities of the Winter English Reading Programme. This year, I left Malaysia for Hongkong early on 8th January so as to be able to return to LSSC Changjiao to prepare for the Winter Programme scheduled to begin on 16th January. Students helpers started checking in on 13th Jan to help with the registration of students on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th January. I no longer have a stay-in assistant and so I am completely dependant students staying in to assist me. Altogether there were 17 secondary and uni students (14 girls and 3 boys) staying in. I thank them for assisting me in running the programme and I enjoyed their company and their cooking skills. I also wish to thank villagers for giving us vegetables and parents for giving us cooking oil, rice, noodles, other provisions and a good supply of fruits.

We had 300 plus students and most were former students as I did not want to take in new students unless those applying to join were introduced by regular students who have been teaching them and they can fit in easily. I was very pleased with the classes especially the Class Two and Class Three students who showed great improvement in their reading skills and understanding of basic grammar skills. In fact when I introduced the “be” and “been” into our 15 basic sentence structures Class Three students picked it up very fast and all of a sudden they realized that they could easily make 40 different sentences with the same Subject-Verb-Predicate. We had great fun making sentences in English and translating them into Chinese and Chinese sentences into English ... with Chinglish turning up now and then. The more creative students were able to read short articles on screen and immediately re-read it is slightly different sentence structures. Thank God the 10 days of lessons went by very smoothly and safely.

The Winter programme ended on 25th January. The next day we slaughtered a 18 months old pig. The meat was beef-like coloured and there was little fat between the skin and meat. I had, since 2015, stopped giving meat to every family in Baijiang, so although the pig is just slightly over 200 kathies, I had enough to share with close family members and helpful friends in Dabu. I had 22 lunches and dinners this year and I left for Hongkong on 22nd Feb so that I could fly to Manila for the Senior Brother’s Assembly on 24th Feb.

In my 1st Q report last year, I mentioned that building of the Catholic Cathedral in Mexian was more or less completed and that a Hongkong Lasallian had donated a beautiful mini-grand piano. At the end of last year I spoke to the Bishop about the necessity to install Biblical events stained glass windows. I met him again before I left for Manila in February and he assured me that it is possible after Easter a contract will be signed to begin installation work. The estimated price is between RMB 1.2 to 1.5 million. Those who are interested in making a donation please contact me. I promised to help raise the fund for this project.



The Mini Grand Piano donated by Wofoo in honour of Brother David Liao FSC





The Catholic Cathedral of the Diocese of Meizhou in Meixian City



The Sacred Heart Plaza and the Bishop's Office and Residence

With this I end this report. I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Healing Holy Week and experience the Hope and Joy of Easter. Thank you for caring about us and supporting us at LSSC Changjiao.

As always with love in the service of youth and nation through De La Salle,

BDLiaoFSC

St Joseph's College, Hongkong.

31st March 2017



Assembly before class



Attendance taken



Reading confidently



The boys are shy



The girls are smiling



Our little community



Our Hot Basin dinner ... help yourself!



Big sister serving ... wait!



BD getting ready for the Spring Festival



Look at my Hong Pao trees!



Scraping off pig's hair with hot water



Cutting it open



Relatives from Chong Qing visiting



Mei Hua and baby



Lucy my former assistant

