

Reflections: Hitting Every Chord



Next to nature, I believe there is nothing in this world that gives me as much joy as music. I have so enjoyed the opportunity to explore using the guitar to play and sing simultaneously both for personal enjoyment and as a way to praise my Father. (Thank you again to those of you who gave to make this possible!!) Almost as soon as I sit down to play a couple songs, a half hour or more slips by without my notice as my fingers, heart, and mind become engrossed in the words, music, and techniques of the piece. A part of my soul is touched in a place nothing but music can reach.

While playing and singing are joyful and pleasurable, learning a new instrument is also work. I noticed a particular challenge the other day as I played a song that required frequent chord changes. The music was written in a way that suggested a new chord to be played every beat or two in certain sections, which is quite often. Most songs are written with chord changes about once a measure (typically four beats). This difference can make a simple song quite a challenge! As I struggled through making these quick changes which also included the F chord which I am still struggling to master, I felt pretty pleased at the progress I've made to just be able to play these half-way decently. Yet I knew that I couldn't play the quick chord changes smoothly enough to maintain the desired flow of the song. I remembered my brother's advice to me that you don't *have* to play all the chords. Often times, playing the same chord over the entire measure will do just fine as long as you know which chords are central to the song. I sighed inwardly as I recognized the battle within me of wanting to perform the song exactly as prescribed and wanting to play the song well even if that means lowering the bar.

As I recognized this struggle, what struck me was not that I was making a big deal over a piece of music but that this is a pattern true for me in much of my life. I see a standard and I want to hit that standard and I am not satisfied with myself unless I hit that mark. Not only that, I have goals in each area of my life – teaching, ministry, Hindi study, relationship with God, household tasks, exercise, relationships with others, and the list goes on – and I desire to achieve excellence in each of these "chords" of life. So I play through my song of life attempting to hit every chord exactly right each time. But because I am still learning how to play each of those on this new instrument – the new city I am living in – the result is that my lack of focus leaves many chords half-played or very poor in quality. Each of these chords has value in their own right, but I know that I can't play them all well at one time. I must learn to give myself grace to focus first on only those that are most important for the song to go on and then I can learn to add the others in.

This is not a new concept for me. I have been on a journey of realizing the importance of focus and of giving myself grace to not be perfect, or even do well at many tasks of life. My Mom always said that God gives us enough time to do what He wants us to do. I believe that this is also true of our focused energies; God is not expecting me to do more than I am able but rather He expects me to do that which He has called and therefore equipped me to do. As I spend some time intentionally evaluating my ministry, my teaching, my self-care, and my household duties this weekend, I ask you to **pray with me as I seek to know exactly what He wants me to focus on and that I would truly focus on that above and beyond all else.**

Thanks and blessings,
Carolyn

Update from Anna Holmes

Church Family,

Thank you again for your support and prayers towards my trip to Taiwan! God is teaching me so much in so many ways. Please continue to pray for opportunities to form relationships and share truth with those of Taiwan.

Blessings,
Anna



Fellowship - Tuesday, July 4th at 3 p.m. at the Crowe's home! Bring your bathing suits, and a side dish to share - Meats will be provided. Please sign up on the sheet on the foyer table at church so we know how much meat to provide!!!



Will meet on Sundays, July 9th and 23rd

We will have an Elders Meeting on Sunday July 30th.



Sunday, July 23rd after a.m. service - everyone is invited to attend!

Eighth Letter Next Steps

1. Write Heritage's 8th Letter: June - July

Task Force will review and combine the submitted 8th letters that were drafted from those in attendance of the retreat (April 28-29)

2. Write Heritage's Response to God: July

This is our plan to address our weaknesses

Example:

Weakness: Conflicts not addressed/resolved

Response: Seek Biblical reconciliation (Matthew 18) and encourage one another to seek reconciliation: no gossip

3. Solemn Assembly: August

This is our corporate response to God.

Corporate reading of our 8th letter.

Responses to God from different groups within HBC (Pastor, Elder, Sunday School, Worship, Congregation, etc.)

Repentance

"YOUNG AT HEART"

For July will have lunch at PoFolks on 15th Street on July 21st @ 11:30 a.m. Don't miss it!



Facts & Figures

Finances for Jun

For Jun 1 through Jun 27

General Operating Fund (GOF) Monthly Budget:	\$ 18,655.00
GOF Tithes & Offering Received(4 Sundays):	\$ 16,778.75
General Operating Fund Weekly Budget:	\$ 4,305.00
GOF Avg. Weekly Tithes & Offerings (4 Sundays):	\$ 4,194.69

For Year to Date 2017, (based on 6 months and 26 Sundays):

GOF Year to Date (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (monthly basis):	\$ 111,930.00
GOF Funds YTD Tithes and Offerings Budget (weekly basis):	\$ 111,930.00
GOF Year to Date Tithes and Offerings Received:	\$ 125,000.50
GOF Year to Date Budgeted, & Non Budgeted Disbursements (\$5,995 for new printer/copier) and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$(118,324.20)
GOF Receipts vs GOF Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ 6,676.30
GOF Balance as of Jun 27 (200% of monthly budget):	\$ 37,364.38
Average Weekly Tithes and Offerings Received (26 Sundays):	\$ 4,807.71
YTD Avg Weekly GOF Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers:	\$ (4,550.93)
Missions YTD Income: Receipts (\$6,225) & 24% of Tithes and Offerings (\$30,000.12)	\$ 36,225.12
Missions Fund YTD Disbursements:	\$ (31,530.08)
Missions Fund Balance:	\$ 8,422.70
Building Fund YTD Receipts including \$2,925 In Memory Of Gifts:	\$ 3,235.56
Building Fund YTD Disbursements: New telephone switch system	\$ (2,243.60)
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 4,877.45
Associate Pastor Fnd YTD Receipts:	\$ 6,764.00
Associate Pastor Fnd YTD Disbursements: Compensations out of Assoc Past Fnd:	\$ (18,000.00)
Associate Pastor Fnd Balance:	\$ 15,531.51