

New Year came and past. But our God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. For he does not change and His mercy endure forever. God's love and compassion towards CCCO are evidenced in the various ministry updates. Moving forward, let us learn to "F.R.O.G." – Fully Rely on God.

Children's Ministry – Salina Yan

2012 first quarter updates from Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry carries on the regular Friday AWANA program and Sunday Together children programs in the New Year. At the same time the ministry objectives were renewed and new plans set to strengthen our church's families and children workers.

AWANA

We made a special arrangement this year to host our own CCCO AWANA Grand Prix on Feb. 3. All AWANA kids were encouraged to make their own racecar. We invited David Hudson from Bridlewood Bible Chapel to help set up a long race track and help us to run the Grand Prix night. There were lot of excitement and lot of joy for both young and old. Just like last couple years, our AWANA leader Roger Yip continued to coach and to help kids build the cars. This year he also invited Uncle Ben Yeung and brother Baldwin Toye to help, resulting in more nicely shaped cars emerged this year.

Again this year we will continue to send a CCCO AWANA team to join the regional AWANA Bible quizzes competition and the regional AWANA game competition.

Children Worship Training

The new initiative on Children's Worship Training had just finished a series of three training sessions. Thanks to Karen Leung who spent much time to coordinate this together with the help and participation of a very gifted musician team (Tim Lau, Manson Yan, Jonathan Lam and Jeffrey Soo). There were good numbers of youths signed up to attend. We pray that team(s) could be formed after the training sessions and will eventually lead the children to worship in music on Sunday Together program.

Training and Equipping Children Workers

There have been a number of training opportunities for all children workers in the month of Feb. and Mar. The 4th annual VAULT children's ministry conference in Ottawa on Feb. 11 was an inspiration and encouragement to many children's workers who attended. A CPP/First Aid certificate course is booked for Mar. to be held at CCCO. A two sessions practical training on 'working with children with Autism' are planned for Mar./Apr.

For Parents and Families

For those families who brought their kids to attend a Fantastic Family Fun Night organized by the VAULT Children's Conference committee on Friday Feb. 10, they not only had a wonderful time with their kids but they also gave a two thumbs up for that special evening.

With still an enjoyable memory of last year's family skating time, one is planned again on the Family Day holiday (Feb.20 noon time) at the Rideau Hall skating rink. We attempt to organize a monthly Sunday noon hour workshop starting in March on topics related to Christian parenting. The first topic is planned on 'Family devotion'.

Details of all these events are posted on the Children Ministry bulletin board on 2nd floor.

It's our hope and our prayer that through all these ministries our church can partner with you to facilitate the upbringing of your child to know, love and serve God. Therefore, we hope to see many of you participate and provide us feedback and, most of all, your prayer support.

Youth Ministry – Pastor Josh Wang

Youth Ministry – February Updates



At the end of 2011 we were privileged to witness several baptisms, 5 of whom were students! What a wonderful way to kick off another year of youth ministry!

In January, we hit the ground running with our annual leadership retreat. 17 of our youth and 5 adults explored our spiritual gifts, shared our vision and worked together to plan our ministry and schedules for 2012. The youth really can see that they have a role to play and are essential to the body of Christ.

Pure Energy, YF and H2o students have dedicated themselves to a worship training initiative that has been lovingly put together by a wonderful team of caring adults. Pastor Cameron Dunn (Biker's Church, City Church) who has started city-wide ministry events like 'Worship this Day' came to speak to our young people about worship, we also enjoyed a fantastic night of worship through music and will have one more session on children's worship and logistics of being a worship leader.

YF has continued our series in Philippians where youth have shared powerful testimonies of God at work in their lives and facilitated studies. We also had a edifying talk on God honoring relationships and continue our Sunday school series on Heavenly wisdom in Proverbs. Our youth are also involved in planning the Getaway 2012 retreat as they are members of the worship team, administration, small groups, games etc. Our desire is to provide guidance and work with these young people as they grow in faith and maturity. Christ Himself provided an amazing model of discipleship as He worked with and through His disciples all the time.

Our Pure Energy team enjoyed some bubble tea as an amazing reward for being so responsive in follow-up questions regarding the week's lesson, and out of the loving hospitality of an adult volunteer. These young people continue to amaze our growing Pure Energy team (praise the Lord!) with their thoughtful interaction through Trek, discussions and Sunday School.

I have the privilege to be part of the Billy Graham Association's planning committee for Rock the River 2012. This is a massive outreach effort that aims to have thousands of children, youth and university students hear and accept Christ. This is a journey where our Jr. High and Sr. High students will partake in several city-wide discipleship efforts to lead up to this weekend. Please consider this in your prayers in the months leading up to Rock the River.

I'll try to keep this update brief and as always weekly updates, schedule and info are available at <http://youth-fellowship.blogspot.com/>

Our loving team of adults continue to invest in these young lives and desire that they make godly decisions, leading lives that bring Christ glory. Please pray that as a church we can all work towards building these children and youth while being faithful models as adults of this body.

Mandarin Ministry – Pastor Joshua Yu

The first month of 2012 has gone by in the blink of an eye, yet each ministry did not stop serving diligently over the holidays. The Alpha course follow-up started on the first Friday of January which was the 6th and Sunday school started on the second Sunday which was the 8th. We would like to share our different ministries with you as follow:

Alpha course follow-up: We continue to have our fellowship every Friday night from the beginning of January to the end of April following the completion of our Alpha course last year while the children Awana program is running at the same time. The topic of discussion this time is based on a series of 12 CDs entitled "Why do I want to be a Christian" by Pastor Fan (範學德). Since the contents of these series put emphasis on believers from China, we have noticed a very positive response from the last few gatherings. We have to give special thanks to two groups of workers involved in this ministry. The front line "on the floor" team led by brothers Youlian Pan, Morris Zhang, Zhilong Wu and other team leaders and the "kitchen" team organized by Andrew Wu and Daniel Jin. The Alpha course was made possible due to the fervent hearts of many brothers and sisters in serving our Lord diligently and silently. May our Lord remember their dedication in His service.



Fellowship lunch: Our Mandarin congregation has been serving a hot lunch for brothers and sisters to enjoy after the Sunday service starting from the first Sunday worship last Dec. till the end of Apr. We had a particularly joyful fellowship on Jan 22, the day before our Chinese new year, to celebrate our traditional holiday together as Christ family. Perhaps, some of our brothers and sisters are wondering what is happening with these luncheons. Praise the Lord, fifteen families and seniors from the Mandarin congregation are volunteering their time and money as a thankful offering to serve hot meals to others. Not only they have brought love and warmth to us in this chilling, cold season of winter, they have also helped create a valuable opportunity for brothers and sisters to communicate and to get to know each other better. There are too many workers involved in this fellowship ministry to be named individually. May the Lord bless them for their offerings.

Sermon topics: In support of the direction of our board's vision on "Discipleship training", we started on a series of topics with a special focus on "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7). We will learn from the training and teaching Jesus gave directly to his first group of disciples through a series of Sunday sermons for the first half of the year and messages from our invited speakers. We hope that our brothers and sisters and those who are seeking Christ will revive their understanding about the meaning and the fulfillment of discipleship. These messages will strengthen our faith to follow Christ and will help morph us into devoted Christians.

Besides all of the above sharing, we will also start a baptism class for those who have chosen to follow Christ and will host a Mandarin retreat for church leaders. We invite every member of our CCCO family to pray for each ministry in our Mandarin congregation. Thank you wholeheartedly for your prayers.

Cantonese Ministry – Pastor Francis Wong

Due to space and staffing issues, we were not able to run our Alpha course follow-up as anticipated last fall. We have now decided to start this program on Feb. 27 every Friday night at 7:30pm. We will meet at the main floor of 118 Empress and watch a series of DVDs on "Ecclesiastes" by Rev. So Wing Yui to continue our discussion on life and belief. We welcome all new believers and those who are interested in the topic to join us. Please pray for this ministry.

Since our Cantonese congregation is facing an aging population and some of our brothers and sisters at the leadership level are approaching retirement, the Cantonese Core Group will focus on discipleship training and leadership mentoring in the next few years. We hope that the new believers will receive training in devotion, bible study and outreach ministry so that they can become disciples for Christ themselves and be equipped to lead others to be disciples one day. In the meantime, we would also like to provide opportunities for our mature believers to be trained as next generation leaders of our Cantonese ministry. This can be reached through different formats such as one-on-one mentorship, lectures and training.

In support of the above plan, we are considering restructuring our Good Morning CCCO fellowship and our different cell groups. With the purpose of discipleship in mind, we would like to group all cell groups into a large "integrated cell group". We believe that our brothers and sisters can receive not only different mentoring and training through this integrated group they can also practice what they have learned and apply it to their smaller cell groups. For example, we can arrange special speakers in our program to teach us how to lead bible study and inherently, they can practice it during their own cell group gatherings. On the other hand, this fellowship can provide more opportunities for brothers and sisters to learn how to serve in various positions such as worship praise team, worship leader and fellowship staff...etc. This can be an important platform for training our leaders in the new generation. However, this proposal is still at a preliminary stage. Since cell group restructuring can raise different concerns among our congregation, we need to have careful planning and discussion before we implement it. Please pray that God will guide and envision our core group leaders in this ministry.

English Ministry – Pastor Cal Fong

As we enter 2012 the ECG has discussed the following as focal areas for the coming year.



First, a need for intentional, structured discipleship. While all of our ministries should fall under the umbrella of discipleship in one way or another we need to be clearer about our approach and plan for this most basic of responsibilities for the Christian church. We need to understand how to tie in all of our various ministries; LIFE Groups, Sunday worship, Sunday School, fellowship, prayer, etc. and use them to help brothers and sisters grow in their faith, their love and their service to God.

Second, an active outreach ministry. The area of outreach has been discussed for many years within the English leadership and it has been hard to fully understand where God is leading in this area. Does he want us to focus on CBC's? Campus outreach? Neighbors? If so are we to reach out to those around our physical building at 116 Empress or those in our home neighborhoods? Both? And then there's the question of "how?" These are not easy questions but there has been a growing burden for outreach and perhaps the time is right for God to reveal to us the answers.

Over the last month the ECG has engaged in a needed discussion about the direction of the English ministry and how two components in particular fit – our LIFE Group ministry and our Sunday worship. As I mentioned in last month's sharing Baldwin Toye has helped us discuss the LIFE Group ministry and ECG member Chung Kan has helped lead the worship discussion. There has been progress made in each of these areas and I trust we will share more with you in the coming months.

George and Julia Kong have been leading, over 2011 an Alpha follow-up group after the Fall, 2010 Alpha course. This group has been doing a couple Bible studies and have recently felt the need to go through the Alpha Course again. We are still seeking the possibility of running Alpha at 100 Empress as a couple members of the group live there. If you are interested in joining please let George or Pastor Cal know.

Another area of focus is the H2O Ministry. H2O has been blessed and used by God under the leadership of Jon Lam, Val Kong and Jen Gin. There are considering a shift in strategy for the overall ministry – adding a stronger small group element and the group is praying about this change. There is also a need to improve the relationship between the ECG and H2O and there have been some strides made to address this need in the past month.

Once again I would like to take this space to say a word of thanks. A BIG THANK YOU to Tom Ho who has served over the past many, many years in the ECG. Because of his current work situation Tom felt he was unable to adequately meet the needs of the English ministry at this time and has stepped down from the ECG. We have been blessed to have Tom serving with us and for us. His love for God, his love for people and his desire to see God at work have been most evident and we appreciate his love, sacrifice and time.

Because of Tom's situation the ECG is once again praying for new members who feel God's call to serve in this capacity. Please pray for the ECG (Pastor Cal, Andrew Wong, Chung Kan) as we seek new members. If you would like more information on this ministry please talk to Pastor Cal

Blessings!

Elders Board – Pastor Francis Wong

Our church will be having an ordination service for pastors Joshua Yu and Joshua Wang on Saturday, Mar. 3, at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary. Rev. Yat Tse and Rev. Paul Racine are invited to say a few words in this sacred ceremony. Rev. On Chen and Rev. David Yuan will take the honor to lead the pastoral prayer. Please reserve your time to attend. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

The Elders and the Deacon board had a combined retreat at Elder Grace Wang's home in January. In the morning the focus was on prayer worship. Since we all felt the need for communal growth in our board, we decided to pair pastors, elders and deacons as prayer partners to meet every month to support and pray for each other. In the afternoon, board members from each congregation shared and reported their recent ministries and challenges they were facing. We all agreed on the urgency of discipleship and leadership training in our church and sought ways to achieve this direction. Please pray for the pastoral staff and board members. May their hearts be filled with the Holy Spirit and be prudent in seeking God's desire and guidance. May our Lord be pleased with their faithful ministries.