

Though the recent summer-like weather is now behind us, we could all say that the 20+ daytime high was “warmly” welcomed. With the “co-ordination” of our two pastors – Rev. Joshua Yu and Rev. Joshua Wang – a few weeks ago, the CCCO church family also feels the warmth and excitements from the affirmation of their callings. You can read more about their and other ministries in this March-April combined CCCO-*Konnnect* updates.

Cantonese Ministry – Pastor Francis Wong

The Alpha Follow-up Gathering started in mid-February on every Friday, 7:30 PM. About 15 people have been attending. Among them are new believers and non-believers. The format includes singspiration, watching a VCD on the Book of Ecclesiastics and group sharing and prayer. Rev. So’s exposition on the Book of Ecclesiastics has been well-received. A few weeks ago, one gentleman prayed and received the Lord Jesus at the end of the evening. He came to the church through the English class and ping pong game on Tuesdays. He attended the Alpha Course last fall. He cannot attend Sunday worship because of work. May God strengthen his faith and give us opportunity to provide follow-up for him. May God continue to bring many people to faith through the English class and ping pong ministries.

There will be three persons from the Cantonese congregation receiving baptism at the Joint Easter Service. They are Nancy Quach, Vincent and Bing Mok. They have been attending our church for about a year. We welcome them joining the church family.

In the last issue of CCCO-K updates, I shared the need of intentional development of younger leaders for the Cantonese congregation. Praise the Lord! Sister Iris Choi rise up to the challenge and joined the Cantonese Core Group after prayerful consideration. Please pray for Iris to discern her role in the Core Group. With the addition of Sister Iris, the Core Group now has 7 members. May God help us to serve the Cantonese brothers and sisters better!

After so many years without a retreat for the Cantonese congregation, the Core Group is planning to have a retreat on Aug. 4, 5 (Sat. and Sun.). Rev. William Tan will be our speaker on the theme on discipleship. Rev. Tan is a veteran pastor after years of pastoral ministry in both Hong Kong and South America. Please remember the planning of the retreat in your prayer!



Mandarin Ministry – Pastor Joshua Yu

In the past month or so, the Mandarin Ministry has seen two major events happening: First, the Mandarin Leaders' Retreat, and second, the ordination of both the pastors of the Mandarin and the Youth Ministries at the same time.

The Mandarin Leaders' Retreat unfolded at the home of Lapkin and Esther Ip's on the afternoon of Saturday, February 18. It was attended by over ten brothers and sisters, including members of the Mandarin Core Group, leaders of the various cell groups, leaders of the Seniors' Fellowship, and three sisters who are involved in the Children and Youth Ministry. Under the theme of "Retrospection and Looking Forward", the Retreat lasted a very brief three hours, but the participants enjoyed unreserved sharing and communication in the Lord and, after the session, they had a relaxed and happy time over dinner, with more sharing. We would like to extend a thank-you to Brother Youlian Pan who helped out by keeping the minutes of the Retreat and writing down the constructive proposals, which boil down to 12 items. Some of the proposals, such as enhancing the spiritual atmosphere of the Sunday services, are already being implemented. It is our hope that brothers and sisters should work together and make concerted efforts in order to push the Mandarin Ministry up onto a new level. We also thank Lapkin and Esther for opening their home once again to host so many participants and their families. May the Lord greatly bless this family.

On the afternoon of Saturday, March 3, the CCCO organised a grand ceremony in the main auditorium on the third floor, for the ordination of Joshua Yu, pastor at the Mandarin Ministry, and Joshua Wang, pastor at the Children and Youth Ministry of the Church. Over two hundred brothers and sisters from this Church and pastors, elders and deacons and brothers and sisters from the sister churches in Ottawa were present at the rite of ordination and witnessed that solemn and dignified moment. In the speeches that they delivered, the two pastors thanked the Church, the brothers and sisters for their care of and support for their service and life. Please keep on praying for the two pastors so that the Lord continues to bless their ministry on their road ahead with the church.



In addition to the above-mentioned two major events, another ministry has been carried out by a number of brothers and sisters at the Mandarin Ministry: a special gospel ministry in which these brothers and sisters have been taking part in, unsung and voluntarily, spreading the gospel to those Chinese seniors, together with their families, who are hospitalised for serious illnesses and who are nearing the end of their life. The brothers and sisters bring love of the Lord to the bedridden invalids who may have never heard of the gospel until the last moments of their lives. Participants in the ministry include, but not limited to, Sister Esther Ip, Brother Daniel Jin, Sister Xiu-Zhen Guo, among others. At this time when their ministry has lasted at least over a year, Brother Youlian Pan, who, upon learning about the burden of the senior members of the church, offered to provide gospel-preaching training to them in the coming days. A thank-you to Brother Pan. Please remember them in your prayers.

Finally, as Easter draws closer, we have had four brothers and sisters and two couples of the Mandarin Congregation signed up for the Baptism Course and the Easter Baptism. Please pray for them.

Youth Ministry-Pastor Joshua Wang

Praise God for a significant season of ministry. These months will be packed with meaningful retreats, ministry and outreach. Seventeen youth who have taken an active role in leadership have helped plan out the ministry/outreach that we have been carrying out since our leadership retreat.

Our youth have been heavily involved in planning the Getaway 2012 retreat as they are members of the worship team, administration, small groups, games etc. In Scripture, Christ provides the most amazing (and effective) model of discipleship as He was with His disciples, worked with them and through them all the time. Twenty three of our Sr. High students registered and we had an awesome weekend! Our theme is "Here I am" and living our faith in a bold and genuine way to shape the people and culture around us.

The Billy Graham Association has invited me to serve on the lead steering committee for Rock the River which is a massive outreach effort that aims to have thousands of children, youth and university students hear and accept Christ. Our Pure Energy and YF students will take part in city-wide discipleship efforts to lead up to this exciting weekend, our kickoff event in February had almost 1000 students!



Our Pure Energy, YF and H2O students have completed a four part worship training series with a team of caring adults. These nights included praise, guest speakers, training children and music workshops. It's been a great discipleship method for young people with a desire to serve in worship.

With the heating problems in 118, our Pure Energy students have joined YF in our study through Proverbs each Sunday. It's been a wonderful environment as we look into the Scripture and share about life as we learn to apply these principles of fearing God, wisdom, humility, honoring parents and diligence.

Pure Energy continues to work through the Trek curriculum and YF has started exploring Colossians after we completed Philipians. We also had a two part series in God honoring relationships that applied to all areas whether single, dating or married.

Our Jr. and Sr. High students are looking forward to a packed calendar which includes our No Other Name, 30 Hour Famine, Billy Graham FM 4:19, Coffeehouse, Mission trip preparation etc. Many of these events are already in the works!

Just as importantly, we continue to meet with students, communicate with them and be available to them as they experience the joys and trials of life. Pray for us as we continue to try modeling faithful lives to Christ's call, in our marriages and character for the youth to follow. Pray that we as a church can take part in that same effort to model those same characteristics in our families and to the church.

Weekly updates have always been available at <http://youth-fellowship.blogspot.com/>