

The arrival of May and June means conclusion of the AWANA children program and the Pure Energy Group. However, it also means preparation for the OJ mission trip, English, Cantonese and Mandarin Retreats and many other activities to enable members of the CCCO family to be disciplined and to have more fellowship with one another. Details can be found in this combined issue of the church newsletter.

Mandarin Ministry – Pastor Joshua Yu

It might be an overstatement to say that the spring this year in Canada has witnessed almost all the four seasons, but it is by no means exaggeration to say that God's grace for the Mandarin Ministry of the CCCO is to its fullest and richest this spring.

First of all, the Alpha Follow-up Ministry conducted through the first few months of the year has come to a successful end. Starting from January 6 through to April 27, the ministry saw 11 Friday-night gatherings, dedicated to the gospel lecture series, titled "Why I Am Willing to Be a Christian", by Pastor Fan Xuede. Formally, the follow-up ministry was conducted in the same mode as the Alpha Course itself, with the audience having a simple meal and watching the videos together, and having discussions in groups. Despite a smaller audience size than last year, it is very delighting to see faith-seeker friends taking a very active part and, even more encouraging, two of them becoming believers. Praise the Lord that a number of brothers and sisters devoted themselves to the service without the slightest fanfare, even when their young children fell ill. May the Lord remember these brothers and sisters and may Him bless and protect their families.

Secondly, it was encouraging to see that, at the joint Easter worship service on April 8, four brothers and sisters from the Mandarin congregation were baptised and joined the CCCO family. They are the Liu Yuanli and Lu Jingjing couple and the Sun Xiangming and Zhou Fangyun couple. Having heard the gospel as far back as they were in China, Liu and Lu came to this church upon their immigration to Canada and after attending the Alpha course held last fall, they decided they would believe in the Lord. As a comparison, the Sun and Zhou couple had not taken part in any church activities, and nor had they heard anything about the gospel. Led by the Christians living in the same apartment building, they came to the CCCO last fall and attended the Alpha course, before they came to believe in the Lord. The two couples are new fruits borne through the Alpha course. May the glory go to the Lord. In addition, both the couples attended the gospel follow-up ministry this spring.

Thirdly, on the afternoon of Saturday May 5, Brother Michael Wang, coordinator for the Mandarin Ministry worship and praise team, organised a successful retreat for the members of his group. The first of its kind for the group, the event was attended by all of the members, except two of the brothers and sisters who were absent due to business causes. Before that, similar events would invariably be organised and conducted by the worship and praise team under the Cantonese Ministry, with members of the Mandarin Ministry were invited to attend. Short as the afternoon session was, the brothers and sisters joined one another in singing, praying, sharing and studying, which benefited them greatly. The event culminated with a dinner for all at which the group members promised to hold retreats more frequently. Praise the Lord that the Elder Lapkin Ip and Sister Esther opened their home for the event.

Finally, the annual Joint Mandarin Spiritual Development Conference in Ottawa took place from March 30 to April 1, with the theme of "True Love and Life", delivered by Rev. Johann Lai of the Sacred Logos Resource Center. In addition to the sessions on the three weekend evenings, Rev. Lai also conducted a Saturday afternoon lecture on the introduction of his "Ten Steps to Interpret the Bible". What is worth a mention is that more brothers and sisters attended the session than ever, with seniors even more active. It is our wish that this may serve as a good starting point, from which we have a hungry and thirsty heart for righteousness and humility and that we try our utmost to grow in the truth and spiritual life.



Youth Ministry – Pastor Josh Wang

Praise the Lord for the fruit that He is producing in our young people in this season of ministry. Pure Energy and YF just had a fantastic weekend (May 4-5) at FM 4:19 which is a 2 day gospel training course provided by the Billy Graham association for youth. It is a course specifically designed to equip them in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ for the rest of their lives. Our youth had a fantastic time and many continue to share the gospel and be an intentional light to their friends at school.

The previous weekend, our youth helped raise \$3200 for World Vision to provide clean water to those who need it most. We also raised lots of food for the local food bank and provided encouragement for the senior residence. This is in advance of our initiative to help feed 5000 people in the city of Ottawa for our community action project on June 2nd in partnership with Billy Graham.

In April, several parents gathered at Michael and Duoduo's home to have a wonderful time of discussion regarding parenthood and the challenges that come with raising youth. We looked into Scripture, difficult subject matter and how to communicate these issues with teens. Many meaningful questions and discussions took place and truly felt that the Lord was working. It was very encouraging to spend time with parents with such faithful hearts and a real desire that their children love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

On Good Friday, 33 of our Pure Energy and YF students attended 'No Other Name' which is a full day youth event where almost 1000 youth from around the city gather for worship, fellowship, workshops and communion! Many of our youth were incredibly excited and this event was a catalyst for one youth in her journey to seek Jesus Christ.

Pure Energy has recently wrapped up another year of ministry where they delved into Trek material, had meaningful responses through bonus questions and life application. This year they enjoyed their first fall retreat and partnered with YF in all the Rock the River events and enjoyed a fantastic time of fellowship with bubbletea treated by one of our beloved volunteers! :)

Our youth continue to plan for our coffeehouse outreach event (May 26th) which consistently has many unchurched friends attend to hear the gospel as well as enjoy an evening with their friends. Pray that the youth would continue to plan efficiently and that their friends would accept the invitation.

In March, 23 of our youth took part in our "Here I Am" Getaway retreat where we focused on our desire to surrender to God and be used boldly for His kingdom. 17 of our youth were heavily involved in planning the retreat in various areas of worship, games, small groups etc. 9 of our youth had the courage to share in front of 100 people what God had been teaching them and our youth had renewed courage to share the gospel and reach out to their friends at school.

Please pray for our youth as 13 of them have been approved by the C&Y core group to attend our mission trip to Ouje-Bougoumou this year. Currently, some exam schedules have yet to be released and others schedules have conflicts with our mission trip. Pray that students would be able to make special arrangements to write the exam as they have in the past for this trip. This opportunity to share the gospel is urgent and has done so much to shape our own youth and the heart they have for others. The importance of the trip cannot be overstated. The youth have learned so much about life and God's grace through the challenges and stories they have encountered throughout the years of ministry we've had the privilege of being a part of.



As usual, we continue to meet with students, pray with them and be available to them as they experience the joys and trials of life. Recently, a couple more of our youth also began relationships with Christ! That is the kind of news that makes the burden worth it all year around. Pray that the Lord would raise new volunteers in the youth ministry for the upcoming year. May we as a church learn what it means to truly disciple our children and youth and model healthy families and lives surrendered for His will.

Weekly updates available here: <http://youth-fellowship.blogspot.com/>

English Ministry – Pastor Cal Fong

There have been a few significant going-on's in the English Ministry over the last several months. First, we are thrilled to have sister Levia Chan join the English Core Group. Levia has spent the last several months sitting in on ECG meetings to understand the needs of the English ministry and prayerfully consider where God would have her serve. Levia has brought a very new and fresh perspective to our discussions and she is a wonderful addition to the existing team of Chung Kan, Andrew Wong and I. In addition, John Chan attends our meeting as a representative of the PST.

The English Retreat is being held the weekend you are likely reading this (May 25 – 27). After several years without a retreat the ECG felt it was time to bring this event back to our calendar. The staff and Elders Board have been discussing the need for CCCO to be more intentional about discipleship – both in being disciples of Christ and being a disciple-making church and we hope to kick-start this desire in the English ministry during the retreat. Our theme is “iDisciple” – making discipleship personal and we trust that God will speak to us during the retreat and that we will respond. Rev. Dan Cavey will be our speaker. Thanks to Andrew for coordinating the retreat team and for all those who have helped with various aspects and needs. Please remember the English congregation in your prayers during this time.

As a means of following up with the retreat, the ECG has arranged a time for prayer and sharing on the area of discipleship for Saturday, June 9th. We want to bring brothers and sisters together to share about what God saying to them and follow up on any commitments and decisions that are made. The ECG will then map out a plan to bring people together – those that want to be more intentional about being a disciple and those that feel God is calling them to disciple another. We hope and pray that we are able to get a network of people and relationships together and then provide a systematic means by which we can be journeying together and helping each other grow in our knowledge, love and service to the Lord.

We have continued to have our weekly English Prayer gathering on Sunday mornings, 11:15am – 12:30pm. We are thankful for those who gather to pray primary for the work of the Spirit in our church. While we do at times share specific needs we have tried to keep the focus on praying for God's work in us and through us. Our focus for the past few weeks has been praying for Pastor Wan as he also prayerfully considers God's leading and plan in coming to serve at CCCO. The ECG will be looking at re-starting a more formal Sunday School class for the fall and whether to increase the frequency of our now, monthly Wednesday prayer meetings.

As I write this update and I formally on an extended study leave. It has been nine years since my last extended break and I am thankful to the Personnel Committee and the Elders Board for working out this leave with me. I have already completed the classroom portion of a Seminary course in my new program – Leadership and Management – and will take the next few weeks to complete the assignments as well as take another course by correspondence. After these two courses I will take a few weeks of holiday before ramping up at the end of summer in preparation for the fall. I hope to share more another time but already I am seeing the providence of God in providing me this time away, the change of my degree and the course I recently completed. God knows exactly what we need and He provides it in the most amazing ways! PTL!!!



If you have any questions regarding the English Ministry please don't hesitate to contact any of the ECG members. Levia Chan will be the lead person in this regard during my leave. Thanks to Levia and the ECG for taking on these added responsibilities.

Cantonese Ministry – Pastor Francis Wong

Subsequent to the end of AWANA year, the gathering of the Alpha follow-up has also been ended at the end of April. Due to the repair work of 118 Empress heating system, the meeting place for the Alpha follow-up is not quite ideal and it was necessary to change meeting place from time to time. This situation affected the atmosphere of the participants. However, in spite of this condition, they were still interested to the explanation of Ecclesiastes by Rev. So. In addition, we are delighted and thank God that one of the participants has accepted Christ during this period. Moreover, a few friends need to work on Sundays and are not able to attend church (some of them have accepted Christ) would like to continue having such a meeting during the week-day evening. Presently we are planning to have a Bible study for new believers in one of their homes. Please remember this in your prayer. If you are touched to participate in the Bible study, please contact Charles Ma or Pastor Francis Wong.

A special meeting for brothers of the Cantonese congregation was held in Brother Wilson Hui's home on May 26. The dinner started at 5 p.m., followed by a movie entitled "Courageous" which is a touching story, to explore the teaching of fatherhood in the Bible through the story of four policemen. After that, Pastor Gary Tse led a discussion on the movie.

For brothers and sisters who yearn for God's Word and spiritual growth, this year there are many opportunities. In the coming few months, there are three different events: (1) "The Word of Life" - Devotional and Vision Meeting on June 9 at ECAC. (2) A joint "Devotional Meeting for 2012 Ottawa" on June 22-24 at OCAC. (3) A Bible Conference by CES Canada on July 6-7 at OCUC. All speakers are Bible scholars in their respective fields.

Besides, there will be a Cantonese summer retreat on August 4-5 at Ottawa Valley Pentecostal Camp. The theme is "Being a Disciple of Jesus" and the speaker is Rev. William Tan. We have set up a special planning committee, members are: Paul Leung, Karen Leung, Iris Lau, Maria Ma, Mo Lan Mak and Pastor Francis Wong. We welcome your questions to any of these members. Please pray for them!

Elders Board – Pastor Francis Wong

In accordance with the decision at our last congregational meeting, we have issued a formal call to Pastor William Wan to serve as our Consulting and Senior Pastor. Pastor Wan has promptly replied, expressing his overwhelmed gratitude and desire to seek the Lord's will. He and his family will take until end of June this year to make a decision. Meanwhile he is committed to head up the Singapore Kindness Movement until end of March 2013, after which he needs some time to tie up loose ends. If he does accept our call, he will begin his ministry here in June next year. Let us praise the Lord and pray that His name be glorified as we seek His guidance.

