

A new year, a new beginning, a new perspective – a year to renew and to revive! This January/February issue of *CCCO-K* has updates from different ministries of the church family. Let us not forget to keep praying for one another as we give thanks to God for His safekeeping grace to enable these ministries to blossom. Our future is bright if we look to the Morning Star (Revelation 22:16) as our true guide and great Shepherd.

English Ministry – Pastor Cal

As we enter 2013 we find ourselves in a place of certain uncertainty! The departure of Pastor Francis and the end of 2012 and Pastor Wan declining our invitation to come and serve as our consulting pastor has left us with varying degrees of uneasiness about our future. Pastor Francis served with us for the past 12 years and we have had staff stability for the last 5 years. Our invitation to Pastor Wan was with the intent of having him help us take the next step forward. So, now what?

Perhaps that is the wrong question to ask. Perhaps the place we find ourselves in right now is exactly where God wants us and in a way, needs us to be. A place where we can renew ourselves in Him, focus our hearts and eyes on Him and allow Him to guide and lead us into the future.

From the English ministry we continue to see God’s hand of blessing and guidance. In 2012 we focused on “discipleship” with a desire to see each and every child of God become a true disciple of Christ and for CCCO to be a disciple-making church. While we still have a long way to go we are seeing the fruit of this desire and trust that God will continue to work in our hearts and lives, individually and together.

From the pulpit we continue our series on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount with the theme: “The Kingdom of Heaven – How God’s People Live.” The Sermon gives us incredible insight into how God desires his people to live and yet too few Christians take the time to truly understand and digest it moving from believer to follower to disciple. There are many “catch phrases” in the Sermon but if we read the Sermon the way Jesus preached it we should be shaken to our very core – uncomfortable with not only its words and implications but with the essence of what true discipleship should really be all about.

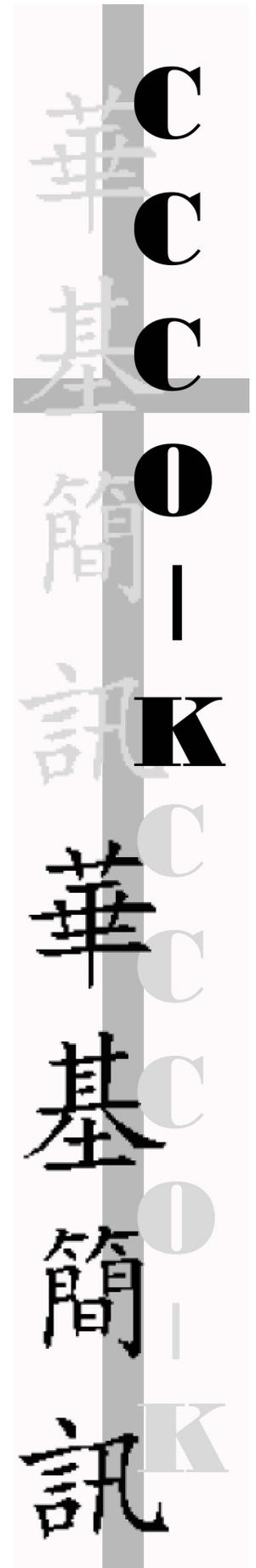
In Sunday School many thanks to Frederick Cheung for leading us through a discussion using the “Perspectives” course materials as guideline. There was good sharing on understanding better how God is at work in the world accomplishing His task of calling a people to Himself. For this term we will try to apply some of the principles from last semester to our situation here at CCCO. We trust that as we seek God in His word, in sharing and in prayer He will show us the next step He desires us to take.

The H2O (College and Career) ministry continues to move forward. Baldwin Toye and John Chan continue to teach and lead their Sunday School time with teaching in spiritual gifts. Along with their spouses Cecile Toye and Levia Chan these two couples have begun to get more involved in the lives of our young adults through the overall H2O ministry and in their small groups. Thanks also to those who have helped in leadership: Jennifer Gin, Valerie Kong, Jonathan Lam, Casey Loh, Calvin Jien, Shaun Liu, Brandon Toye, Emily Wong, Eric Pan...I hope I am not forgetting anyone!

We are also very thankful for the continued growth of our Sunday Worship ministry. Chung Kan has been coordinating and working closely with our worship leaders and the “old” leaders are delighted to see some “new leaders” serving in this ministry. If you are interested in helping out with the Sunday Worship contact myself (Pastor Cal) or Chung Kan.

We have not had much time this past year to intentionally develop the LIFE Group ministry but thankful that God continues to work. There are many needs in our groups so we ask that you pray for the groups themselves and also for the ECG as we hope to move forward in this ministry in a more tangible way this year.

I trust all of you had a wonderful Christmas holiday season. As you celebrated I hope that Christmas became not only a time for you, your family and your loved ones but an opportunity to be “the salt of the earth and the light of the world” the way Christ calls us. Remember that the early church didn’t celebrate the birth of Christ rather they focused on the death and resurrection of Christ. However, “... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”



Mandarin Ministry – Rev. Hua Yu

Since its founding in early 1989, the CCCO will look set to be entering an unprecedentedly eventful year in history. In 2013, changes are sure to affect all aspects of the life of the church, from the pastoring team and the Elder's Board, through to the Mandarin Core Group. These include, in the first place, the resignation of the Senior Pastor at the end of 2012, followed, almost at the same time, by the formal declination by Rev. William Wan to come and serve as advisor and senior pastor at this church. That means that for a period of time, the CCCO will have to do without a leading pastor. Secondly, a rare scenario for many years has unfolded where the Mandarin Ministry is not represented on the Elders' Board.

However, praise the Lord that the Mandarin Core Group (MCG) remains stable despite a slight routine reshuffling, which saw Brother Chunsheng Li's temporary leave from the Group in order to focus more on the ministry of the Central Cell Group and Brother Wanjie Wang's temporary absence from the Deacons' Board for work in the MCG. According to the *Functions and Responsibilities of the Mandarin Core Group*, issued by the Elders' Board last year, such reshufflings will be made a regular mechanism and will become a rule of the day in future. Obviously, only through such a mechanism can "new blood" be injected into the MCG and that the vitality and dynamism of the Mandarin Ministry may be maintained. For now, the reshuffled MCG is made up of Youlian Pan, Lapkin Ip, Esther Ip, Maoli Zhang, Baohua Zhang, Wanjie Wang and Rev. Hua Yu.

One of the focusses for the Mandarin Ministry this year will be on the strengthening of the cell groups. On the basis of the two joint training sessions for cell group leaders, conducted last July and October respectively, the MCG organised another one-day training session for group chiefs and other leaders. Rev. Chi Hung Siu, from Toronto, who chaired all the three events, not only imparted knowledge and methodology, but also passed on his spiritual theory and experience. Those who attended the sessions found the year-end one, centred on the theme of "close-up and face to face", especially beneficial. Correspondingly, the MCG will conduct regular retreats and sharing sessions for group leaders so as to help them with their spiritual growth and needs in ministry.

Another focus for the Mandarin Ministry this year is local missions and gospel ministry. Ever since it started to be run by all the four core groups of this church in the autumn of 2010, the "Alpha Course" has seen its concept and methods in gospel dissemination widely popularised and readily accepted. In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, faith-seekers are invited to the gathering, where they share a simple supper and watch a gospel video before they join in group discussions. Through these activities, faith-seeking friends have come to learn more about the gospel and understand salvation better. In the past three years, quite a few faith-seekers have converted to the Lord and have been baptised. Among these were the four who came to the Lord at the end of the Alpha Course late last year. Encouraged by the above achievements, the gospel ministry of Alpha Course will carry on this year, with 15 February and the end of September (tentative arrangement) scheduled to see the sessions for the first and second halves of the year begin respectively.

Finally, with the traditional Chinese Spring Festival just round the corner, I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes to the brothers and sisters that your new year be a blessed one and your cups overflow with blessings. It is also my sincere hope that all the brothers and sisters keep watch for and be likeminded towards one another for the revitalisation of our CCCO family.

Cantonese Ministry – Grace Wang

We ushered in the new year of 2013 with a trembling heart, because following the departure of Rev. Francis Wong, the brothers and sisters at the CCCO will have to face and adapt ourselves to new challenges. Thank God that we have a group of brothers and sisters who love the Lord faithfully and who are willing to commit themselves to more ministries and step into positions. This year, the Cantonese Core Group will be made up of Wilson Hui, Grace Wang, Iris Lau, Arvin Chung, Vincent Leung and Kitty Ma. The Adult Fellowship, as usual, will be conducted in the form of "large fellowship, small groups". In January, Pastor Gary Tse was invited to deliver a lecture on group leadership and training. For February, joint New Year celebrations are on the agenda. The Caleb Fellowship, with Sister Betty Law as chair and Brother Tim K. T. Law as advisor, will be suspended due to rough weather in the first two months of the year. Thanks go to Esther See-Mold for her promise to continue to teach at the training and cultivation sessions for new believers at the Sunday School. May God lead the way ahead for the family of Rev. Wong and Esther See-Mold.

Brothers and sisters, do please pray earnestly for the church and ask God Himself to lead us, so that we can care and keep watch for one another.



Here's how Children's Ministry roll in the new year:

AWANA resumes on Jan. 11 after a short Christmas break. All leaders return back to their respective roles with refreshed strength and renewed commitment. We anticipate a busy next few months with lot of activities.

Feb. – CCCO AWANA Family Skating and AWANA Grand Prix regional competition

Mar. – AWANA Handbook Quiz regional competition

Apr. – AWANA Game regional competition

Sunday TOGETHER :

Starting this January, a new curriculum 'D6 curriculum' is used for the Sunday classes. Class format therefore has been slightly changed accordingly. We pray that the new curriculum will strengthen the church's role to discipleship the children and to partnership with parents to lead their children to spiritual maturity and vitality. Though we have different age group levels of curriculum, they are all on the same page in D6 curriculum.

Music to the Lord worship time has adapted a new theme 'Sermon on the Mount'. This worship time will continue to lead by three worship teams bringing children to worship God in music.

Discussion Group:

A discussion session on Christian Parenting of young kids will be held on the third Sunday of January, February and March during the lunchtime. These will be sessions with information sharing on various Christian parenting topics and a time for parents to share and encourage each other in raising our children to love God. Details will be posted on Sunday announcement.

Youth Ministry – Rev. Joshua Wang

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" - Ephesians 3:17b-19

My mentor often stresses to me that for something to surpass knowledge, it must be experienced. We can only speak from what we have already experienced. May our young generation be rooted in Christ and experience His love so they may shape those around them!

We rejoice looking back at 2012. We were able to welcome new youth into the kingdom of God, grow in their faith and witness outreach as a natural expression from the hearts of youth. We enter into 2013 with hopeful anticipation with what the Lord will do!

Our C&Y Prayer ministry is also enjoying growth! Praise the Lord that many brothers and sisters who serve in the ministry have been meeting at our home every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month to pray for our next generation and church!

YF and Pure Energy are currently studying a "Parents & Family" series during Sunday school where we have emphasized Scriptural values of expressing gratitude, honoring our parents, living in obedience to them and learning to walk in the shoes of parents. It has been a great series so far and youth have been honest about their shortcomings and some have remarked that God has helped them begin to understand how important their families have been. This is a relatively long series and we still have half the series to journey through!

As we have welcomed some new believers and young believers into YF, we have also begun a Bible studies series introducing some central themes of the New Testament. From the gospels to Revelation, we'll look at unconditional love, grace, being adopted into God's family and being a catalyst for change in the lives around you.

Our YF spent the first weekend of the new year in Leadership Retreat, 12 male students and 4 female students explored their spiritual gifts and committed to serve as leaders in organizing and planning



various events and outreach initiatives. Over the years, this retreat has helped develop greater attitudes towards active community service, sharing the gospel and being the light in their schools.

We also had the privilege of partnering with youth fellowships around the downtown area to participate in a city-wide unity event in January. Our youth spent time preparing and delivering a powerful skit that demonstrated the grace of Christ.

The Pure Energy is continuing learning from a very solid curriculum entitled Your Word is Truth. Our hope is that our junior high students would not be conformed to the thinking of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of their minds, that by testing they might discern what is good and acceptable. Just like Daniel and his friends, they can stand firm in an increasingly hostile culture, boldly and humbly proclaiming the triumphant Truth of the Gospel.

As part of CCCO's mission week we had sister Solina Chy, May Chan & the El Salvador mission team share in our C&Y ministry programs and had a short series on Missions and what God is doing in different parts of the world through faithful brothers and sisters!

As always, we continue to emphasize building relationships with God and others while speaking with students and parents.

Please continue to pray for our church and envision what our entire church body can do to help care for and equip marriages, families and our next generation!

Mission Corner – Fredrick Cheung

Thank you for your Christmas donations for our supported missionaries. We have collected \$3,300 from you and have been evenly distributed to our 11 CCCO supported missionaries for their Christmas Missionaries support.

Brother Joseph Lam was elected to be the Elder in CCCO. As representative from the Elder Board, Joseph will head up the CCCO Missions Department.

The CCCO Missions Department would also like to welcome our new member, BaoHua Zhang to join us. BaoHua will be a very important liaison person between the Mandarin Congregation and the Missions Department. Welcome aboard!

On December 1st, 2012, the CCCO Missions Department had a retreat at Wilson Hui's place to anticipate the vision and the future direction of the Missions in CCCO. We had a good meeting there.

On December 12th, 2012, the CCCO Missions Department met with our supported missionaries, Jazz and Hope Li to discuss their local missions work in Ottawa. Jazz and Hope have come back to Arnprior for more than half a year, and they are actively involved in the campus ministry at the University of Ottawa.

Five young adults from CCCO, Jonathan Lam, Jennifer Gin, Valarie Kong, Natasha Cheung and Shaun Liu attended Urbana '12 intervarsity's student mission conference in December 27-31, 2012 in St. Louis, Missouri. They met a multitude of people from many nations, tribes, people and languages to pray, worship and learn about the Lord together. There were about 13,000 people in the conference and more than 4,000 people have committed their life for long term missions. Our 5 young adults will have more sharing with us in the coming CCCO-K Sharing Edition.

The Missions Department is currently planning the short term mission (STM) trip programmes in the coming summer. If you are interested to go for a STM, please take the initiatives to communicate to us as early as possible.

Also, one important note, we would like to thank the children and teachers in the Children Ministry who have arranged and made crafts for our supported missionaries in the Christmas season.

Finally, the Missions Department would like to wish everyone a fruitful 2013. May you continue to strive for the Lord in the year of 2013!

