

*“But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.” (Deuteronomy 11: 11-12)*

Dear sisters and brothers of the church family, though the snow has seemingly been falling forever, we are standing tall on new ground. A brand new year awaits us to experience. No one can predict what lies ahead, what we will encounter or what our needs will be. But the scripture comforts and encourages us: “...the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.” Over the past 25 years, CCCO experienced God’s rich provisions and abundant grace for His eyes were continually upon us. On the morning of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, our church kick-started a whole series of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating events.

Though the “polar vortex” is still swirling around our city, the English, Cantonese, Mandarin, youth and children ministries at the church are heating up and full of life. The “fast & pray” sessions initiated by the Elders Board are aimed at helping us to reflect and renew. After months of planning and preparations, the Mandarin congregation opened the “True Love 40 Days” curtain in order to learn to “love our Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength”. In addition, there are exciting developments on the calling of a Mandarin Pastor front. The Cantonese ministry is trying to enhance the cell group and adult fellowship ministries. We invite you to pray for the various ministries and, at the same time, to give all the glory and praise to Jehovah our God for His eyes are continually on us.

**Youth Ministry – Pastor Joshua Wang**

*“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far has the Lord helped us”.” 1Sam 7:12*

What Samuel did was a common practice for the early Israelites, the patriarchs would often pile these stones to indicate where they had encountered the Lord. This was an act of worship that expressed gratitude regarding God’s sovereignty. Later, in their journey as passed these stones, the Ebenezer would serve as a reminder of God’s faithfulness.

We look back on 2013 with this same attitude, one of gratefulness and recognition of what God has done. Not only in the previous calendar year, but what He has been cultivating in our midst over many years. We rejoice with the many youth who have accepted Christ and were baptized, but also celebrate the parents, friends and volunteers that have modeled Christ to them over their lives (from childhood to where they stand today).

As we begin a new year, we had some leadership meetings. Our junior high leadership team had a fruitful meeting recently and are excited at how God is working! We have a beautiful and dedicated team of Pure Energy volunteers, and we look forward to the winter semester. We praise the Lord that new students have joined the fellowship and participate on a regular basis. Please pray that we continue to cultivate a safe and warm fellowship where students have the opportunity to encounter Christ through His Word and His people. We were also pleased to have 19 youth that participated in our senior high Leadership Retreat 2014 this year. We discussed the youth ministry vision, looked into Scripture for devotion and study, discovered spiritual gifts and in small group discussion asked the youth how each of them was going to serve the body of Christ in their family, church and school. We also took the afternoon to brainstorm how to improve the fellowship, discuss roles for the upcoming coffeehouse and other events. It is a time to help provide ownership to the youth and discern how we can improve as a fellowship.

The Pure Energy group recently finished an important series entitled Doctrine, where students wrestle with the essential beliefs of our faith and how these impact the way we live and interact with God and others. It is critical for this generation to develop a solid foundation on the Word of God with the new challenges that continue to arise in our day and age. Our YF continue our study on Romans, where we go through the book chapter by chapter, rejoicing in what God has done but also being challenged regarding what it is to be a living sacrifice. Our YF & PE Sunday school continues to focus on lessons of Essential Theology where we have discussed Scripture, the Trinity, Hell, the sovereignty of God, His will and the Kingdom of God. The youth have enjoyed this series and it helps them recognize the depth of our faith and the faithfulness of previous generations of brothers and sisters.

As a brief break from the Essential Theology series, the YF and Pure Energy also completed a brief 3 part series on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood based on the teaching of David Platt. Through three lessons, we looked intently at Biblical manhood and womanhood and what are the responsibilities and accountability within these roles. It was a lively discussion with honesty and humility in the participants. We truly feel that the foundation to be a blessing as a spouse, parent and worker begins with being



shaped by Christ at this early age! Praise the Lord that we have many godly brothers and sisters willing to invest in children and youth!

We had the opportunity to spend our Christmas YF with brothers from Jericho Road. We have had a long history of serving with this ministry but this was our first interaction with the clients. The youth played games with the clients of Jericho, including chess, wii, gingerbread house building and both parties were blessed in the time spent together.

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!

**Cantonese Ministry – Pastor Francis Wong**

**Fasting and Prayer Campaign**

In January 2014, the Elders Board called the first church-wide campaign “28 Days of Fasting and Prayer for Personal and Church Renewal”, which has been supported by many brothers and sisters. One brother originally planned to sign for one time slot only, but after praying and fasting for one time, decided to sign up for every week. A sister shared that she did not feel hungry while doing the fasting although breakfast used to be her most important meal of the day. We trust that brothers and sisters should have rich experience to share. To facilitate sharing, the Cantonese Congregation and the Mandarin Congregation are going to have a joint session on Feb 02 (9:30am) in the church basement. You are welcome to join this sharing event regardless you have signed up or not for this campaign. Let’s grow together on our journey to pursue spiritual maturity.

**Cantonese Adult Fellowship and Cell Groups**

The Cantonese Adult Fellowship has formalized its Committee, Goal and Motto:

Committee: Leon Cheng (Chair); Ivy Cheng (Vice Chair); Wilson Hui and Pastor Francis Wong (Advisors); Karen Leung (Secretary); Maria Ma (Treasurer); Paulus Ko (Logistics Coordinator); Mo Lan Mak (Communications); Hin Lun Kan (Snack Coordinator); Patrick Ma and Pastor Francis Wong (Cell Group Coordinators)

Goal: The goal of the Cantonese Adult Fellowship is to, through fellowship and cell group activities, reach the following objectives: fellowship, spiritual maturity, training in services, and outreach.

Motto: And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews, 10:24-25)

The following table shows the relationship between the Fellowship and the Cell Groups:

Fellowship	Cell Groups
To provide opportunities for the brothers and sisters in the fellowship to know each other	To facilitate the practice in caring and teaching
To learn the principles of the Holy Bible together	To facilitate the practice of these principles in daily life
To learn and practice services in our fellowship	To facilitate the practice in serving each other

The Cantonese Adult Fellowship has four cell groups, with leaders/co-leaders: Leon Cheng, Paul Leung, Wilson Hui, Mo Lan Mak, Patrick Ma and Shirley Kan. The cell groups are going to start their activities in Feb 2014. The following table summarizes the planned schedule for bible studies during the first half of 2014.

Month	Subject	Bible verses
February	Living with a Mission	Philippians 3:5-14
March	Living with a Mission	Philippians 1:12-26
April	Living Out Love	Romans 12:3-16
May	Living Out Love	Romans 15: 5-7, 14
June	Living to be a Blessing to Others	Mathew 5:1-6
July	Living to be a Blessing to Others	Mathew 5:7-12



**Meetings with Pastor William Tan**

Pastor Tan led the 2012 Summer Retreat of the Cantonese Congregation, where brothers and sisters from the Cantonese Congregation experienced spiritual excitement. Pastor Tan will be with us again during Feb. 20-23, 2014 for a series of meetings. All are encouraged to join. Details of the meetings can be found on the Cantonese Ministry bulletin board.

**Missions Ministry – Frederick Cheung**

At the beginning of this new year 2014, the CCCO Missions Department needs to plan for the Missions’ direction, strategies, budget and programmes. The CCCO Missions Department is going to have a retreat at our Chairman Joseph Lam’s place on February 15, 2014. We are going to seek God for the vision in the CCCO Missions. Please pray for the guidance for us from the Lord.

In the year of 2014, CCCO has added two new long-term supported missionaries. They are Ruby Wong and Carmen Yan. After one year of the evaluation of the missionary work of Ruby Wong, the CCCO Missions Department has decided her to become our long-term supported missionaries. Ruby Wong is working at The Power To Change on the school campus of Carleton University at Ottawa. Her ministry work includes the administrative support, strategic planning, discipleship and training student leaders. On the other hand, Carmen Yan, with whom many of us are familiar, is our home-grown missionaries. She has joined Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada in December 2013. Her ministry base is at the Northeastern States of The United States, advocating for the needs of Bibleless people groups around the world and walking alongside with the next generation of the Bible translation team members to help them move outwards into all nations. These two new supported missionaries’ updates will be posted on the CCCO Missions Notice Board on the second floor.

In addition, we have collected a total of \$2,585 Christmas monetary gifts. They have been evenly distributed and sent to our 12 missionaries. Thank you for your support of the CCCO missionaries.

Last but not the least, we are planning for the next year Short Term Mission (STM) in the summer time. If any of you is interested in having a STM this year, please contact us as early as possible so that we can work with you to plan your STM. Herein we would like to thank all of you for the support and wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous Chinese New Year of The Horse.

**Elders Board – K. Tim Law**

We are excited that our church is entering into the 25th year. The celebration committee headed by Paul Leung is working in full swing to lead us into a year of celebration and remembering God’s blessings upon us. The theme for the celebration was hammered out through a church-wide competition which netted the following:

- “From Generation to Generation:
  - Living With a Mission
  - Living Out Love
  - Living to be a Blessing to Others”

There will be year round activities for the celebration, some being listed as follows:

- Kickoff breakfast on February 2;
- Easter celebration with baptismal service, and Enoch and Blossom Mo as our special speakers; and
- Thanksgiving celebration in October featuring a banquet, and special speaker Rev. Larry Wong, formerly of our church.

**Church Planting for The Next Generation**

The Ad Hoc Committee on planting a new church for the next generation has completed their work and submitted a thoughtful and comprehensive report. The report was presented and discussed in detail at the Fall Congregation Meeting. To follow up the work of this committee, the Elders Board is now leading the church to discern God’s will. Therefore, the Board has encouraged brothers and sisters to participate in a fasting and prayer exercise, part of which is to seek God’s will on church planting, and has set up two committees to determine the details and impacts should the new church be planted.

The first committee is headed by Pastor Josh aimed at determining the specifics of the new church. The



second committee is headed by Pastor Cal tasked with assessing the impacts on our church. These two committees are working under tight schedule and let us support them with prayer.

### **Fasting and Prayer for Personal and Church Renewal**

The fasting and prayer exercise will last for 28 days. The meaning, significance and how of it has been taught and preached by the pastors. The schedule and content of it have been described in a booklet published by our church to guide brothers and sisters to participate in it. We pray that through this exercise we experience renewal.

### **Mandarin Pastor**

Praise the Lord that the process of calling a Mandarin Pastor is near fruition. Through the hard work of the Pastoral Search Committee, a special congregation meeting will be called on February 16, 2014 to consider the recommendation by the Elders Board.

### **Children Ministry - Salina Yan**

Let me pick up from the last quarter in 2013, where the excitement in Children's Ministry geared up again after the summer VBS with the return of Friday's Awana programs and Sunday's Together programs in September.

We delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last Sunday Family Worship in October as planned for 2013. Pastor Calvin Fong delivered a message on the theme "Celebrating in Prayer" and challenged everyone to commit to pray regularly as individual and also as family together. All the 3 Family worships were well attended. It is our prayer that this would be a catalyst to encourage parents-children to worship together on Sunday.

Another highlight is a very special Children's Ministry conference in October, **IMPACT: The Next Generation**, which is a series of regional conferences organized by **Children Desiring God (CDG) ministry** throughout the United States and Canada designed to spread the biblical vision for God-centered discipleship of children and youth. Nine children's ministry leaders/teachers from our church attended and were greatly 'impacted' by the passion and vision of the CDG ministry. We learned that teaching requires not only a transfer of knowledge, but to help children and youth make personal application of Scripture in their daily lives. We were also reminded of the importance to encourage and equip parents in their God-given role as spiritual shepherds to their children. All and all, the conference provided us a lot to reflect on our present status of Children's Ministry and to contemplate how we are to impact the next generation in the years to come.

*"When it's all been said and done  
There is just one thing that matters  
Did I do my best to live for truth?  
Did I live my life for you?"*

The lyrics of this song by Don Moen were my reflection by year-end of 2013. Yet I think this is also a good reminder on what and how to prepare for the year to come.

Whatever we do, we do it to the Lord; whoever we serve, we serve as we serve the Lord. So this is good to be reminded again "Children Matters" because they matter to God.

Until the Elders Board meets and discusses what is the best way to carry out the overall direction and governing of this ministry, CM this year will basically be led and conducted by a team of coordinators of the different children programs. That includes: Roger Yip as commander for Fridays Awana program, Amy Kong as coordinator for Sunday Together Sprout Group (Grade 2 - 6), Michelle Wang as coordinator for Sunday Together Seedling Group (JK - Grade 1), Karen Wong coordinator for Sunday children worship time, Amy Wong and Shelly Wang both as the coordinators for Sunday nursery time; and Salina Yan as liaison between the program coordinators and C&Y core team. So we covet your prayer for the direction and governing need in CM.

A joyful start in the New Year for the CM as we welcome Claire Sophie Wong, born to Karen and Andrew Wong on New Year Day. We proudly claimed her to be our CM baby of 2014 after Micah Kan of 2013. Karen has been faithfully leading and training the 3 children worship teams and right now she is taking a break to take care of her new baby. But I know her heart is never away from her role in children worship.

On one Saturday morning in Jan, twenty-three CM leaders and teachers braving the poor winter weather condition to attend our own in-house CCCO CM retreat. It was a full day program. It was such a beautiful portrait, in contrast with the icy, cold weather outside; the retreat was full of joy, love, kindness, faithfulness and passion. Added to the portrait hue was the different age of children workers ranging from teenagers to parents of grown-ups. We pray that through such gathering and the Words of God we heard, it will challenge our faith and strengthen our feeble arms and weak knees. By the end we also committed to pray for each other throughout the year.

Scriptures memorization will be highlighted in CM this year. Children in Awana program will continue to memorize scriptures as emphasis in Awana ministry. Children in Sunday Together groups will memorize Psalms 23 in January. Pray that the children learned to love God’s word and be blessed as they delight God’s word in their hearts.

Many special events have been lined up in Awana program for the first part of 2014 and these will be shared in our next update to you.

We pray for God’s blessings on CM, the children and their families throughout 2014 in every way.

**Mandarin Ministry – Mandarin Core Group**

We thank God for a well attended Mandarin Congregation Christmas Celebration. We had a total of around 140 people attended the Hot Pot Dinner and the Christmas celebration. In addition of the adults and seniors small groups presentation, we also had, for the first time, our student fellowship group presented a skit on the good Samaritan, and our brother Jiping Zhu delivered an insightful message linking the birth of Jesus Christ to His unconditional “Love”. It was a great team work by many brothers and sisters from preparing the hot-pot to carrying out the whole Christmas celebration. Praise Our Lord.

**“40 Days of Love” Campaign**

As we step into 2014, the Mandarin Congregation is launching the “40 Days of Love” Campaign. Our goal is to encourage and help our brothers and sisters to learn to love our God and to love others; and to improve our relationship with God and with others. For the month of January, February and March, we are having 12 worship sermons on the topics related to “Love God and Love people”. Those sermons are primarily taught by Rev. Francis Wong and Rev. Gary Tse. There are also small groups for both Senior and Adults for them to learn together by viewing various video messages and holding discussion. We have 4 adults small groups and 4 senior small groups. In addition, the student fellowship also uses the “40 Days of Love” material for their Friday night meetings.

At the time of this writing, we already had 4 Sundays of sermon on this topic. Both the seniors and adults small groups had met. Please pray for the hosts/co-hosts of each small group as well as the planning team.

**Planning team:** Jiping Zhu, Wenlan Wu, Feng Long, David Zhou and Lapkin Ip.

**Adults Small Groups name and hosts and co-hosts:**

- “Love” : Morris Zhang/Michelle Wang and Jiping Zhu/Wenlan Wu;
- “Joy” : Zhong Chen/Jihong Chen and Michael Wang/Yangjie Gong;
- “Peace” : Gang Li/Gloria Yu and David Zhou/Feng Long;
- “Gentleness”: Zhilong Wu/Yafang Zhu and Chunsheng Li/Jing Yi;

**Seniors Small Groups name and hosts and co-hosts:**

- “Self-Control”: Shuli Chen and Annie He;
- “Kindness”: Zhesheng Song and Esther Ip;
- “Goodness” : Lingbao Huang and Daniel Jin;
- “Faithfulness”: Peizhang Yang, Yuhong Peng and Lapkin Ip.

**Student Fellowship team:** Youlian Pan, Yonghong Guan, Jiping Zhu, Morris Zhang and Chunsheng Li.

We will have a “40 Days of Love” campaign celebration and sharing session on March 30.



## English Ministry - Pastor Calvin Fong

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I trust that as we enter 2014 you have had a great holiday season and eagerly anticipating what this New Year may bring! I also pray that your Christmas celebrations were full of meaning and wonder as we reflect on God's gift of love in the person of Jesus Christ.

The English ministry continues to seek the Lord's leading with regards to the idea of planting a new English speaking church. Even though we have not yet had a clear "yes" or "no" answer to this question the process of discerning God's will has brought us together in prayer and sharing as we seek God's plan for CCCO together. While we still need to better define the identity and purpose of this potential new church and the impact it will have on CCCO we submit ourselves to His plan.

Over the fall and early winter months the ECG presented an outreach and evangelistic opportunity for brothers and sisters through Billy Graham's "My Hope" campaign. This is a personal evangelistic tool and our desire was to encourage each of us to prayerfully consider who in our lives needed to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. However we have had a cool response to this initiative. We will continue to pray that God would lay a burden on our hearts to reach out through "My Hope" or other means and trust that God will work in us to bring others to a saving knowledge of Him.

In Sunday School we began a study on John Piper's book, "A Hunger for God" focusing on the role and need for the discipline of fasting in the Christian life. It has been a very interesting and stimulating study and has allowed us to think and learn more about a discipline we really don't spend much time on. We are about halfway through our study. Please join us during the Sunday School hour (11:15am - 12:30pm).

Our monthly English Prayer Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of each month) continues to draw 8 - 12 brothers and sisters for a time of praise, sharing and prayer. It has been a true encouragement and an opportunity to lift before the Lord the needs of the church, our city, country and world, and personal needs as well. We encourage you to join with us as we unite our hearts before the Lord.

Our LIFE Group ministry continues to plug along! One of our objectives for 2013 was to align our LIFE Groups and encourage each and every English congregation attendee to be a part of a LIFE Group or fellowship group. The ECG was unable to address this need in 2013 and will make it a key area of development for 2014.

From the pulpit we have been studying the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah is considered a true man of vision as he was given the vision and the task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. We have focused on the topic of vision as the English ministry, along with the rest of CCCO, has been seeking God for His vision for CCCO. It is incredible how many of the experiences and lessons from Nehemiah can be applied to us today.

God continues to work in and bless the H2O ministry (College and Career). It seems that every semester God brings 6 - 10 new students, coop workers or young career into our doors and that every week we see newcomers as well. Thanks to John and Levia Chan, Baldwin and Cecile Toye and the H2O committee for their commitment and hard work in this growing ministry. Currently they meet Saturday nights for activities, Bible study, guy's/ladies group and there is a career fellowship that meets on Wednesdays.

Each Sunday the English congregation is blessed in worship led by our many talented and dedicated worship leaders and teams. Chung Kan and Tim Lau will continue to develop the Sunday Worship ministry. We are saddened by the departure of Jeff Soo as he will be heading to Edmonton to start a new job. Jeff has served faithfully and we trust God will continue to use him in the future. Jean and Karen are also taking breaks with the birth of their new little ones. We are thankful for the return of Michael Yip.

The English ministry has also been blessed by a few "new" faces! Congratulations to Pastor Josh and Shelly on the birth of Silas, to Chung and Jean on the birth of Micah and to Andrew and Karen on the birth of Claire (at the time of this writing Claire has yet to make a church appearance!).

As usual, if you have any questions or input regarding the English ministry please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Cal or any of the ECG members (Levia Chan, Andrew Wong, Chung Kan)

