

Elders Board (1) -- K. Tim Law

2014 – 07/08

Church planting

We thank brothers and sisters for participating in the two town-hall meetings in June on the church planting initiative. Exchange of ideas at the meetings have been helpful in identifying God’s will on this initiative.

This initiative was originally proposed by the Elders Board for the whole church to consider. We are striving to seek God’s will through a unified effort of the church on this initiative. Therefore the Board has organized three study reports with corresponding town-hall meetings, and prayer and fasting aiming at leading the church to go through a joint exercise to identify God’s will. We believe no matter what the outcome of this exercise, we as a church will emerge stronger and more united in glorifying Him.

The next stage for this exercise consists of the following:

- 1. A call for special summer prayers focusing on new church plant

This is a 60-day period of intense prayers the details of which have been described in a special information sheet distributed in a July Sunday service. One can still access this information at our church website (www.ccco.on.ca). Let us all participate in this vital activity.

- 2. Special assignment of Pastor Josh Wang

The special assignment of Pastor Josh Wang consists of 4 weeks in September for him to devote exclusively on the church planting initiative.

- 3. At an appropriate time, a congregation meeting will be called to discuss and decide on this initiative.

25th Anniversary Theological Foundation

After extensive deliberation, the Elders Board has resolved to establish the Great Commission Theological Foundation to commemorate our church’s 25th anniversary. The objective is to encourage CCCO members to pursue seminary study and to develop a culture of giving towards theological education. A detailed account of this Foundation is given in this issue of CCCO-K Abridged Edition. You are encouraged to peruse it. May God use this Foundation as a channel of blessing to all involved.

Thank you Note

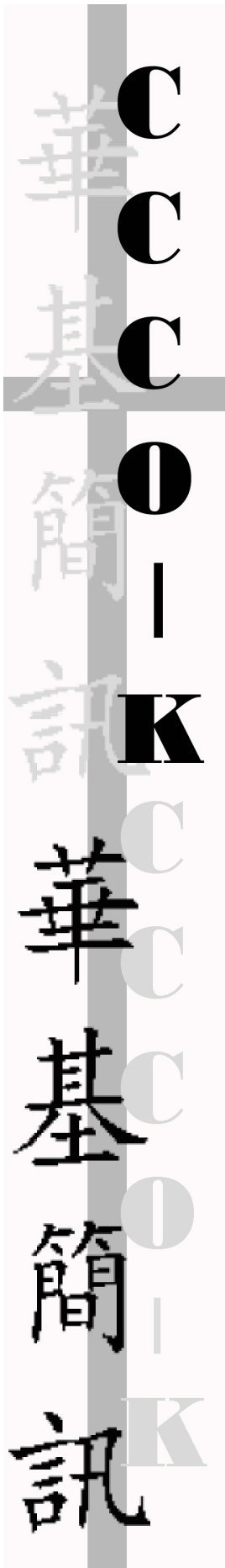
We have just completed two significant events: the open house and farewell party for Pastor Cal and his family. Both events ran very well, thanks to all the brothers and sisters sweating in front of and behind the scene to make them a success. Thank God for the success, indicating the healthy state of our church in which each part played its role.

The Elders Board would like to express deep gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success. Praise the Lord!

Elders Board (2) -- Theological Foundation Working Committee

25th Anniversary Theological Foundation

It is with excitement and gratefulness that the Elders Board shares with the CCCO family an initiative to establish The Great Commission Theological Foundation (“the Foundation”) to commemorate our church’s 25th anniversary.



What is the Foundation?

The Foundation is a collection of donated funds to assist CCCO members who require financial assistance to pursue full-time seminary studies. The assistance can be in the form of bursaries or interest-free loans.

Why such a Foundation?

The objectives of the Foundation are two-fold:

1. To encourage CCCO members to pursue seminary studies in preparation for full-time ministries; and
2. To develop within CCCO a culture of giving towards theological education as a means to leaving lasting legacies in the Kingdom work, thus echoing the 25th anniversary sub-theme of “From Generation to Generation – Living to Be a Blessing to Others”.

When will the Foundation take effect?

Through a three-year gift drive – from the end of 2014 (church’s 25th anniversary) to the end of 2017.

How to achieve the financial target of the Foundation?

Brothers and sisters are invited to donate to the Foundation’s principal fund over three (3) years to raise an aggregate sum of \$200,000. This principal fund will be used to provide bursaries or “interest-free” loans while, at the same time, to generate interests to add back to the principal fund.

During the three-year drive period, everyone in the church family is encouraged to give to the Foundation’s principal fund.

The Foundation’s principal fund is targeted at \$200,000. This sum (\$200,000) will be divided into 200 units of \$1,000 per unit. Families and individuals are invited to pledge and give one (1) unit or \$1,000 in total over the three-year period. That is, each family / individual may make a donation of about \$335 per year (or about \$28 a month or about \$1 a day) over three years.

After three years – what happen?

After the Foundation’s principal fund reaches the target of \$200,000 in three years, there will not be any further specific drive for additional pledges. However, all Christ-followers are encouraged to leave a legacy sum in their wills towards the Foundation. It can be a specified amount or a percentage of the estate. In addition, Christ-followers are encouraged to donate to the Foundation to commemorate special occasions, such as wedding anniversaries, graduation of their children or grandchildren or in memory of their loved ones or other significant events.

Suffice to say, legacy donations to the Foundation are welcome at all time – including during the three-year drive period.

As seminary graduates repay their loans, the principal amount of the Foundation will be replenished over time. At the same time, brothers and sisters are encouraged to continue to make bequests to the Foundation as well as donations to commemorate special occasions or events.

Administration oversight of the Foundation

A four-member Board of Trustees will be appointed by the current Elders Board to oversee the administration, operation and accountability of the Foundation fund. The



Board of Trustees shall comprise of one CCCO trustee, one pastor, one representative from the Mission Committee and one congregation representative (terms and mandates to be determined). It is anticipated that the church’s Mission Committee will administer the day-to-day bursary or “interest-free” loan applicant selections and awards.

Accounting review on financial statements of the Foundation fund shall be conducted annually.

Loan Repayments

With respect to loans, the repayment terms and conditions will be agreed upon between the loan recipient and the Mission Committee.

Transitional period

During the three years from 2014 to 2017, CCCO will continue to disburse the current theological education financial assistances under the Missions budget, with the view to transition over by 2017. After 2017, it is anticipated that the Foundation will be the sole source of financial assistance to seminary students.

Mandarin Ministry News -- Pastor Gary Tse

In the last few months, brothers and sisters in the Mandarin Ministry showed love to one another in unity and seized opportunities to spread the good news (to those who have not believed in God).

“40 Days of Love” Campaign

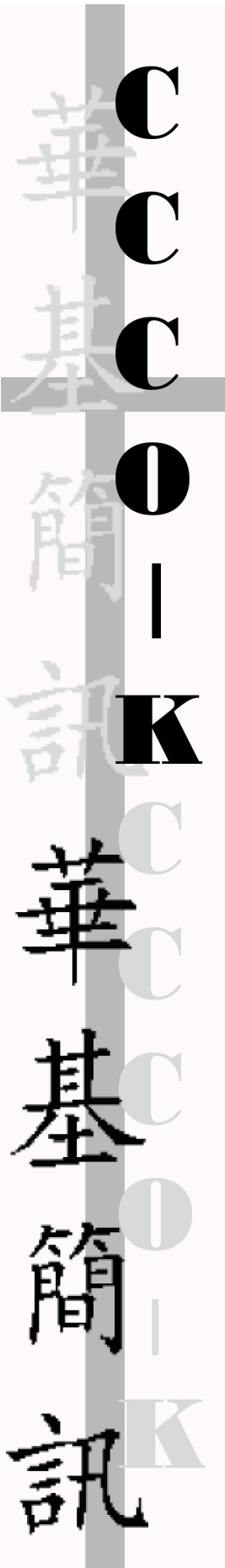
From January to March, we launched the “40 Days of Love” campaign. During this time, we read the book together to learn how to have relationships (with others) from Jesus Christ. The book taught us the truth of God’s love with vivid examples. The message from the podium every Sunday in these three months focused systematically on teaching the six topics of the book. Each Small Group also used a teaching DVD made by Rev. Rick Warren, and discussed how to practice one’s love to God and to others. From April to June, the Seniors Group used the discussion outlines prepared by Pastor Tse, brother Lapkin Ip and sister Xiaohong He. Brothers and sisters were thankful to God because they benefited greatly from the book. Everyone was doing their best to love people around them, to love neighbours and to love brothers and sisters in Christ.

Evangelical gatherings

On May 9, we organised an evangelical event in Ottawa together with Christian Communications Inc. Supported by many churches in Ottawa, we had over 110 people who attended the event. Four people accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour that night. On June 21, seniors in the Mandarin Ministry organised an evangelical gathering, where seniors attested God’s presence in their life through singing, drama, and dancing. Pastor Tse also delivered a short message at the gathering. Seniors made great efforts in inviting new friends to come to the gathering; there were 82 attendees, of whom 24 were first-time comers.

Adult Group Ministry

Mandarin Congregation has been looking for an environment in the form of small



groups where we can love each other and grow together. Besides good materials like the book “40 Days of Love”, the quality of group leaders was considered to be an essential aspect. In January this year, we reorganised four small groups based on geographic distribution. Group leaders were all dedicated to serve with joy and love, with their best efforts, and opening their homes. We also provided regular gatherings every two to three months for the support and training of group leaders. The last two were held on May 19 and July 5. Group leaders received training, support, and prayer for each other in order to minimise or avoid the loneliness or helplessness one might experience in the service.

Worship

Thank God for the dedication of the worship teams. Every Sunday, the team leads us to worship God through singing; songs were selected according to the topic of the message. Pastor Tse planned a series of topics in June for middle-aged people. Since the Sunday of June 15 was also Father’s Day, Pastor Tse encouraged brothers and sisters to invite friends to attend the Sunday service, and the message was evangelical. There were 91 attendees that Sunday. Average attendance in that month rose to 83 people; some brothers and sisters who had left the Mandarin congregation came back; and there were also some new friends.

Mandarin students fellowship

Every Friday evening at 6:15 pm, students from universities and colleges came to church for dinner. The dinner was prepared by brothers and sisters with a loving heart. To the students who were studying abroad alone, the dinner meant to them the love, the warmth, and a connection to the people from their home country. Starting in April, we led to study the miracles in the Book of John and provided different talks to meet their needs, such as how to deal with pressure, how to know oneself, how to plan their life journey, and how to hunt for a job. Many graduate students and senior undergraduate students attended. In September, we hope to reach out more undergraduate students in the campuses.

Mandarin core group

Thank God for having sister Jing Yi joining the core group in March. Together with newly arrived Pastor Tse, we now have seven core group members. During our meetings and fellowships in members’ homes, we thank God for the vision He provided regarding how to serve in the Mandarin congregation. We reorganised Mandarin ministry into five service areas and identified key personnel. Mandarin Ministry will accommodate the needs of students, adults, and seniors, and will provide service in the following five areas: Worship, Christian education, Caring/Support, Small group fellowship and Evangelism.

My wife and I have been in CCCO for five months now. Our hearts are filled with thanks. We are especially grateful to brothers and sisters for their accepting and trusting us, for their willingness to work with us in serving God in church. We are very blessed. May God continue be with us, His name be lifted up and His miracles be shown to us.

Missions Corner -- Frederick Cheung

Praise the Lord! Summer is here, flowers blossom in this season and there are many missions work going around.

Thanks for our supported STM missionary Eliza Ho who has come to both our Cantonese and Mandarin Sunday Worship Service in June. Thanks for her sharing about the missions work in Asia. She will have another STM trip to Asia again between coming September and December through Bless China International (BCI). Please keep her in prayers.

Thanks for our supported missionaries Janet and Jonathan Holden for their visit at CCCO in July and their sharing about their ministry at Angola, Africa. Jonathan has shared his testimonies at the meetings of YF and H₂O, plus delivering a sermon message on the English Worship Service on the Sunday July 13.

Hillary Ma has successful completed her STM in Toronto through Power To Change. She will provide a sharing of her STM experience with us in August.

In addition, YF Ouje STM Team has successfully outreached the cree youth in the Northern Québec. Special thanks to Oscar Cheung for his last minute to take a week off from work to be the driver and adult leader for this Oujé STM. Thank for your prayers and your generous financial support in the fund raising campaign of this Ouje STM. We have raised more than CAD \$6,900. YF Oujé STM Team will provide a sharing with us in August.

Last but not the least, the CCCO Missions Department wish you having a wonderful summer. While you are enjoying the summer sunshine, please remember to share God’s love and the salvation message with your neighboring friends.

Cantonese Ministry -- Pastor Francis Wong

Summer Fellowships and Groups

With the warming weather, the senior brothers and sisters in the Caleb Fellowship are becoming more and more active, organising outdoor events and activities in both July and August. This month, the seniors took an active part in one of the events at the Lord’s Garden. August will see an outing to Iron Bridge, Major’s Hill Park. Let us pray for the safety of their trip.

In May, 20 members from the Cantonese Adult’s Fellowship went to the Tulip Festival, enjoying a lunch gathering afterwards. Fellowship gatherings in June focused more on Joint Devotional Meetings, although unfortunately the attendance was lower than expected. The Fellowships take a break as usual during July and August, and they will resume in September and continue into December. These monthly meetings will follow the theme “Moments of Life for a Christian”, and will explore aspects of a Christian’s life in different ways and from



various angles. For details please see the posters on the bulletin board for Cantonese Ministry. Since their reformation and resumption about six months ago, all the four Cantonese groups have come back on the right track. Before summer break, group members have completed the “Questionnaire on Life in a Group”, in order to evaluate our group ministry and seek further improvement. Please pray for the development of the group ministry.

Gospel Outreach Group

Since its founding a few months ago, the Gospel Outreach Group has had two prayer sessions, praying for non-believers and those visited by the Group. Two gospel visitations have been made, and each involved two teams, with a total of five non-believers visited; gospel has been shared with four of them. Thank our Lord! We are even more thankful that two of the friends committed their lives to the Lord. Please pray for their faith and their nurturing at this early stage of spiritual growth.

Reading Campaign

In order to further encourage brothers and sisters in their pursuit of spiritual growth, the Cantonese Core Group has initiated a reading campaign during the summer holidays, introducing to them two books, *Devotional Life* and *How to Experience God's Presence in Your Life*; the twenty-five copies of the books that had been ordered sold out a while ago. Two sharing sessions on the books have been scheduled on July 27 and August 24 respectively, so that brothers and sisters can share and discuss what they have read. May the Lord use us, so that we can encourage one another and grow together in Him.

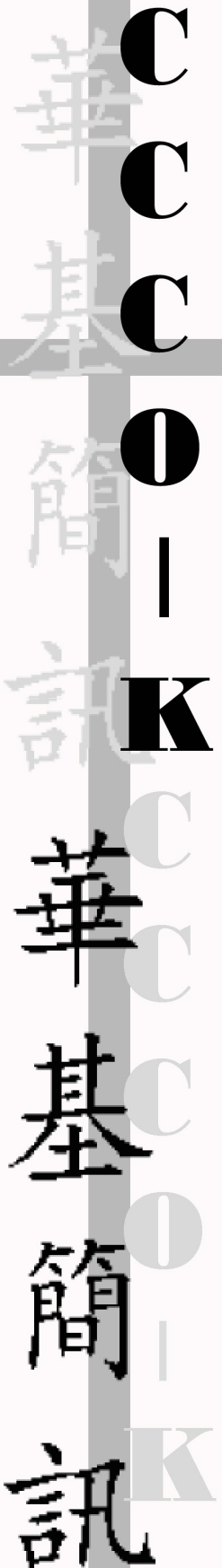
Wednesday Evening Worships

After a few months' praying, waiting and discussion, the Cantonese Core Group has decided to start a monthly evening worship service on the fourth Wednesday of each month, intended for those who cannot make it to the Sunday services. Thank God that, with the support provided by many brothers and sisters, the first Wednesday evening service took place successfully on July 23. The session was attended by around thirty people, ten of whom were brothers and sisters who cannot attend Sunday services due to their work schedule. We were even more delighted to see the coming back of a brother who had been absent from worship services for a number of years. Please pray for our next evening service, which is scheduled on the evening of August 27. If you have the burden to get involved in the ministry, please contact Pastor Francis Wong.

Transition Team (English Ministry) -- John Chan

A Time for Reflection, A Time for Transformation

The English Ministry at CCCO was started soon after the church was first established. Though there have been many changes and challenges over the last 25 years, the divine mandate for the congregation to exalt His name and make disciples of all nations remains unchanged.



2014 – 07/08

There is a time for everything (a loose paraphrase of a notable verse in Ecclesiastes). As Pastor Cal Fong, our English pastor, has departed to start a new ministry in Saskatoon, it is an opportune time for us to reflect and assess the state of the English adult ministry. With the blessing of the Elders Board, the Transition Team has been formed to take on the responsibility to sustain, grow, and transform the English Ministry. While the word “sustain” may sound passive, it is clearly understood that sustaining would only be possible with constant reflection and evaluation, No ministry can be fruitful or carry on for a long period without ongoing improvements. As we seek and strive for improvements, transformation will be inevitable. By the grace of God and the work of the Spirit, spiritual growth will take place as transformation takes root.

The Transition Team consists of the following members:

Allison Yu, Andrea Yu, Andrew Wong, Andy Zhu, Baldwin Toye, Cecile Toye, Jennifer Gin, John Chan, Levia Chan, Manson Yan, Tim Lau, and Vincent Wong.

While these brothers and sisters may be of different ages and at different life stages and Christian experience, they all share the common passion to be obedient to God’s Word and to build up the body of Christ. They are expected to think big and to challenge the status quo if necessary. They will seek answers to questions such as:

- How are we doing as a spiritual community in fulfilling the Great Commission?
- What is God’s purpose for the ministry in the context of the English-speaking community in greater Ottawa and beyond?
- What are we doing well and not so well, and how should we improve?
- As a community of God’s people, what have we overlooked or ignored? What should we repent from as His people? How should we change to address the oversight?

In many ways, the mandate of the Transition Team is also about establishing or forming an identity and culture for the English congregation that sees worship and discipleship to be primary and critical for its well-being. As the congregation moves forward and faces the future that the Lord has in store for us, it is important to always focus on His purpose for the church and place that at the forefront of everything that we do. Such a mindset will serve well as the basis for ministry strategy and direction for many years to come.

The road to spiritual transformation will be bumpy and filled with obstacles. There will be confusion and sometimes even conflicts. If we are doing something in accordance with His will, the devil will undoubtedly try its very best to disrupt, deceive, divide, and destroy. For brothers and sisters in the congregation who sign up to join this journey, it is not expected to be a joy ride. More likely, it will be a spiritual journey on which we will begin to better understand God’s purpose for the English-speaking community in CCCO. It will also be one in which both the community and individuals involved will get to know God better, experience Him through His own special ways, and become more dependent on God.

With all these challenges in mind, we ask for unceasing prayer support and unwavering loving patience from the church-wide community as the Transition Team and the English congregation walks along this journey and seeks the Spirit’s guidance for a future in which God’s name will be exalted and glorified for many years to come.

