

Cantonese Ministry – Pastor Francis Wong

On Jan 18, 2015, a group of brothers and sisters had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of Mr. Hunan Liang at his house. Mr. Liang is the father of Irene and Amanda Liang who were baptized recently at the Christmas service in 2014. Mr. Liang was quite sick in the hospital only a month ago. After believing in Jesus Christ, he experienced a dramatic recovery. After witnessing his changes, Mr. Liang’s mother who is almost 90 years old also decided to accept Jesus and to forsake idols that she had been worshipping all her life. The Gospel is indeed the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

The theme of the Cantonese congregation this year is *Becoming Good News People*. The sub-themes are: Being the Gospel (Jan.-Apr.); Telling the Gospel (May-Aug.); Living the Gospel (Sept.-Dec.). There will be joint evangelistic meetings by the 4 Chinese churches with Cantonese ministry in June. We plan to mobilize the whole congregation to participate in this evangelistic effort.

From January to March, 10 brothers and sisters are taking the course *New Testament Introduction* through the Chinese Online School of Theology. Also the Word of Life Bible study course will study the Book of Hebrew this year. May God bless those brothers and sisters who invest their time and effort in studying God’s Word.

There will be a Cell Group Ministry Training in Cantonese on the weekend of Feb. 13-15. For those who are interested in this training to learn the philosophy and practice of shepherding through cell group, please refer to the details in the Chinese edition of CCCO-K or contact Rev. Francis Wong.

Missions Ministry – Frederick Cheung

At the beginning of this new year 2015, the CCCO Missions and Community Outreach Department needs to plan for the Missions and Community Outreach direction, strategies, budget and programmes. We have had a retreat at the church on January 17, 2015 to seek God for the vision. Please continue to pray for His guidance for us.

We would like to thank our supported missionaries Elizabeth, Cara and Jonathan Holden who visited us and educated us with a Sunday morning sermon on January 4. Congratulations to Jonathan’s engagement with Cara. Praise the Lord. May the Lord continue to greatly use this couple for His work in Angola.

In addition, we have collected a total of \$2,635 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 Short Term Mission (STM) in the summer time. The STM opportunities are posted on the CCCO Missions Notice Board on the second floor. 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 Ram.



Mandarin Ministry – Pastor Gary Tse

The Mandarin ministry in the second half of 2014 continued what started in the beginning of the year, that is to enhance the support for cell group leaders to serve their group members, and to reach out to the newcomers and those who attended the Parenting workshop. On September 14, all cell group leaders attended the training, and agreed to step out of maintenance mode, and move on to reach out to new friends.

For the second half of 2014, we held two Parenting workshops on November 14 and December 5 in collaboration with the AWANA ministry. More than 40 people attended each workshop; and among them, three couples have started to join the cell groups. In addition, Sister Yijing and Mrs. Lisa Tse started a women's group through praying and planning for those sisters who participate in the service of Mandarin congregation or church ministries. The first meeting was held on November 1. Sisters had in depth sharing and prayed for each other. Praise to the Lord, now we have a place for these sisters to pray together to support each other for their service in church and for their husband and family.

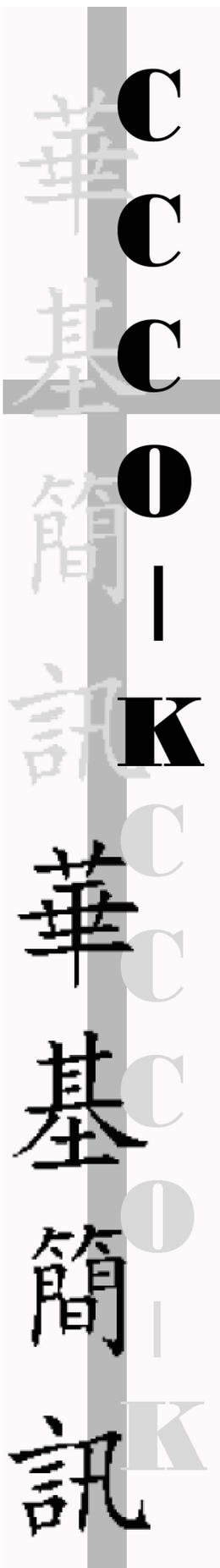
In the aspect of evangelical work, the Ottawa Joint Mandarin Ministry Committee organized an event on September 19 to 21, where Pastor Bingcheng Feng was invited as a speaker. There were more than 600 attendees for the first night and after three nights, more than 10 attendees decided to have Jesus as their Saviour. In addition, the first Student Winter Conference was held on December 22 to 24, where 39 students from 6 churches attended, and their pastors preached or gave workshops there. Out of this conference, 3 students decided to have Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and more than 10 students rededicated themselves to follow the Lord for life. On December 20, the Mandarin congregation organised a Christmas Celebration -- hotpot dinner. The number of participants reached a record high, 200. Praise the Lord, for the joint effort of brothers and sisters and the gospel was preached through hymns, games and a sermon.

The second half of 2014 was a busy 6 months. I am thankful for a group of dedicated co-workers who lead and/or participate in different meetings and events. We see the Lord using us, and see the increased number of people in cell groups, workshops, and worship service. Pray to the Lord to continuously use us for His work and to bear abundant fruit.

Youth Ministry – Pastor Joshua Wang

We look back on 2014 with hearts of gratitude, the Lord is good all the time! In December, we were excited to witness 5 young people identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through baptism: Irene Liang, Amanda Liang, Sophia Li, Julia Chen, and Jiaying Liu. Each of them has had an incredible journey and we pray that brothers and sisters would continue to walk alongside them as they continue to grow!

During the Christmas season, our youth wanted to do something special for the community so they put together 40 stockings complete with handwritten notes, home-made cookies, warm mittens, treats, and care products for the clients of Jericho Road Ministries.



At the beginning of January, 25 youth and 5 adults participated in our annual YF Leadership Retreat. As usual, we renew our focus and remind the youth of our ministry vision and the purpose for everything that we do. We spent time discerning how each youth could function according to their gifts for the benefit of others. The youth have already demonstrated their initiative by using creative ways to bless others through encouragements to every member of the fellowship, committed prayer from the faith team, giving flowers through a difficult time or serving someone! It is incredible to see their desire to take ownership and initiative for events. Some expressed a desire to lead Bible studies and become more missional in their daily lives. We look forward to how what the Lord has in store for the year!

In YF & Pure Energy Sunday School, we began a new series spanning from Hosea to Malachi in the Minor Prophets. Few Christians deeply explore the Minor Prophets yet there is so much in these stories that can help us see God in all the details of life. Each week, we cover a minor prophet and provide a good overview of each book in order that the teens gain a deeper understanding of the prophets and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

The Pure Energy continues in the “Your Word is Truth” curriculum. Junior high is a challenging season of growth as the youth are introduced to a barrage of challenges in an increasingly hostile culture. Please pray that through the renewal of their minds, the youth would learn to discern how a follower of Christ is to live. Manson, Ruby, Oscar, Samantha and Anders continue to work toward helping the youth see and interpret all of life through the truth of Scripture.

In YF we began an especially important series on the topic of prayer. Christians often experience a sense of guilt and inadequacy regarding prayer. We understand that it is vital to our relationship with God, but wrestle privately with doubts regarding whether God will answer. Each week we look into Scripture and explore what the Bible has to say about prayer.

To cultivate a healthy culture, we have incorporated regular testimonies where friends would hear powerful accounts of how God has transformed lives! Different youth have shared what God had been doing in their lives whether conviction of sin, shaping their hearts or bringing healing in their families. These youth continue to foster a safe environment where there is vulnerability and intimacy.

As always, weekly updates are available on www.cccoyouth.com. We encourage you to join us in prayer for the children, the youth and their parents!

Elders/Deacons Board

Hallelujah, praise the Lord! After much prayers in seeking God's will the Boards, with the support of the congregations by a majority “yes” vote in the recent Fall Congregation Meeting, have come to the position to proceed with planting a new church, the Renewal Church. The Boards are greatly encouraged by the support of the congregations and trusted that God will lead us all the way to accomplish this task to His glory. Presented below is a summary of the Process, Present and Plan for the new church planting.



The process

The missional vision of the church leaders for planting a new church dates back to as early as 2006. This vision did not just come out of the blue recently and is a part of the church's continuing effort to carry out the Great Commission. As we wait for the Lord's guidance and in the early part of 2013, we sensed that essential factors to consider church planting have emerged, i.e. a praying spirit, a dedicated pastor and a significant number of brothers and sisters who desired to plant a new church. It became apparent that it is high time for our church to take concrete steps in this direction.

We believe if the vision of the church leaders on the timing for the new church planting is right, God will affirm it with a clear support of the congregations. In the process, we have conducted studies on potential issues related to this vision for dissemination, and encouraged brothers and sisters to pray and fast in seeking God's will. These activities have culminated in an affirmative vote in the recent Fall Congregation Meeting of November 30, 2014, with a result of 70.9% voting yes which is above the needed two-third majority.

The present

What we have voted for are: an effort to fulfill the Great Commission by reaching out to more unchurched English speaking friends; affording more opportunity for the English speaking young adults to learn to serve as servant-leaders in the new church; and a response to the natural progression of first generation Chinese immigrant churches.

This vote is in no way intended to: split our church family; abandon our existing English ministry; encourage a large number of people leaving to join the new church; nor separate the English speaking children and teenagers from their parents to worship at a different place.

We recognize the church planting decision is of an immense magnitude, the largest ever undertaken by our church since its existence 25 years ago. We also recognize this is not just a regular organizational growth but a spiritual battle that we can only win by relying completely on the Holy Spirit. Together let us trust the Lord's leading and thrust ourselves into this spiritual battle. In doing so, this would mean supporting the new church with temporary human and financial resources, and willingness to sacrifice. We believe the ensuing experience will be challenging, but exhilarating as God has promised: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.

The plan

The preparation for planting the new church will start in 2015. A launch team has been formed to carry out this task. This team is headed by Pastor Josh and comprised with some English speaking adults and two elders, with the ministerial team providing advisory insights.

Equally important to the new church planting, we acknowledge the needs of our existing church and have resolved to procure appropriate ministerial staff needed in the English, and the Children and Youth Ministries.

We welcome any comments, suggestions and help as we battle together on this front. Together we can make a difference in fulfilling the Great Commission and bringing glory to God our Almighty King.