

Cantonese Ministry—Pastor Francis Wong

Even though 2016 started not too long ago, the Cantonese Ministry has been making progress at different areas. The Cell Group Leaders Gathering which has been put on hold for several months met after Sunday service on Jan. 10th. All leaders made an effort to attend amidst their busy schedule. I thank God for their dedication and faithfulness. Whenever I see cell group members tarry after Sunday service to care for one another, I know that shepherding through cell group is the right direction. Our goal for the Cell Group Ministry this year is to help members to learn to study the Bible and to apply the Bible in their daily living.

As the result of the Parenting Workshops and Parenting Course last year, a group of parents gathered on Friday nights during AWANA. The Cantonese Core Group decided to take advantage of this opportunity to conduct a Cantonese Alpha Course starting in January. The talks are given by a Cantonese speaker, Dr. In-Sing Leung who is a well-known author, speaker and host of radio programs. At the time of writing, we have conducted two sessions with an average attendance of 25, about 10 of them are seekers.

Since the later part of last year, the worship teams and some other brothers and sisters have been spending extra time learning and practicing songs in preparation for a special music worship service to be held around the time of Chinese New Year. A sister has been invited to give a testimony of her unusual spiritual journey. This special service will be held on Feb. 14th (Sunday). A repeat service will be held on Feb. 24th for the Wednesday evening service. All who understand Cantonese are welcome!

Mandarin Ministry—Pastor Gary Tse

In the second half of 2016, Mandarin Congregation concentrate on shepherding each other in God's word. We selected the New Testament book of James as a learning goal, hoping to become people who obey the Words through Inductive Bible study method — let the Bible speak to us. We try to understand the Bible through the context and background of the book and apply them in our lives.

Both the elderly Sunday school and adult groups use this Bible study materials as a base. The entire Bible study is written by Pastor Gary. We have bi-weekly Bible Pre-Study sessions on Wednesday morning and evening for the elderly group leaders and Adult group leaders respectively. The leaders are prepared to lead the study with good understanding of the content and skills. Brothers and sisters enjoyed the study, the discussion and application of the Bible in their daily lives.

In order to achieve the goal to finish studying the entire Bible in three years, the Pentateuch was studied in our adult Sunday school. It was taught by sister, Feng Long, the attendance increased, the teacher was dedicated and making a lot of effort to prepare materials. The students read the Bible at home to prepare for lesson while the books were studied systematically in outline style in class. Both the teacher and students were benefitted.

From July to December, we have new guests to attend our Sunday Worship. Some of them are travellers, and some are transients due to different reasons, who stay in Ottawa for a short period of time. Some of them are already believers, but some are not. We took the opportunity to share Christ and His love to them through our pulpit, love of brothers and sisters, Sunday school and small groups.

Thank God, Christ is preached in our midst. Young adult fellowship held a retreat early September, not much attendance, half of which are new students to the city and half the attendance decided to believe in the Lord. The Ottawa Mandarin Joint Evangelistic was held on September 18th—20th, Speaker: Dr. John Tse, the meetings were packed every night, there were more than 25 people raised their hands to believe in Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. There were a few who has decided to believe in Jesus Christ at the second night too. We also had Thanksgiving Gospel Sunday on October 11th, Elderly Christmas gospel meeting on December 12th and Christmas hot pot dinner celebration on December 24th. There were many new guests attended these meetings, we had spe-



cial events, testimonial and gospel message from the pastor for each of these gathering. At the end of the year, we had an Ottawa Mandarin Joint Student Winter Conference on December 28th—31th. It was held in Quebec with a total of 80 students attended, five gospel messages and four workshops centred around the gospel of John were delivered by five pastors in the City. More than 10 students believed in the Lord, and some have dedicated the life to follow Jesus in their lives.

ELDERS BOARD--K. Tim Law

News on church planting

With a trembling heart and great joy we gathered together at the Christmas Joint Service to conduct the Commissioning Ceremony to send Pastor Josh and family, and the Launch Team off to begin the process of planting Renewal Church. They are currently immersed in an apprenticeship program in another church plant called The Journey. After 8-months of training, they will start to meet independently as a group and work towards becoming public as Renewal Church.

Our financial arrangement for Renewal presented at the 2015 Fall Congregation Meeting is worth repeating here:

1. Church planting is a leap of faith and we trust God for His guidance and provision in the whole process.
2. During the formation of Renewal Church until she obtains the registration as a charity/religious body with the Canadian Government, Pastor Josh is the Minister of Church Planting of CCCO commencing in January 1, 2016.
3. The total financial support for Renewal Church will be coming from two sources as presented in the CCCO Church Plant Report March 2014.
4. The first source of support comes from the general fund of CCCO and the second source from faith giving by the participants of Renewal Church.
5. The financial support from CCCO will last for three years as set out in the CCCO Church Plant Report March 2014. Year 1 will start in January 2016.
6. CCCO will commit forty thousand dollars in 2016 from the general budget to support Renewal Church.
7. CCCO will set up a separate designated account by 2016 for anyone interested in financially supporting Renewal Church. The money collected in this account will be used exclusively for the ministry of Renewal Church. This account will be carried forward to subsequent years.

New Staff

Thanks to the Lord! He has timely provided us a youth worker Brother Jethro Cheung starting in September 2015. In the past few months under the mentorship of Pastor Josh he has already established a strong rapport with the core students and the adult volunteers, and has gained a good handle on the nature and scope of the youth ministry.

We are still in the process of searching an English Pastor and a part-time children worker.

New team at our church

Brothers David Zhou and Tim Lee have completed 6 continuous years in the Deacons Board and are taking a mandatory one year break in 2016. Sister Linda Ma has completed a 2-year term in the Deacons Board and Brothers John Chan, Wilson Hui, Joseph Lam, and Eddie Yan have completed a 3-year term in the Elders Board. We thank all of them for their faithfulness and commitment to God and His people here at our church. At the Fall Congregation Meeting, Brother Charles Ma was elected deacon, and John Chan and Wilson Hui as Elders.

Appointed workers to help serve the church are: Personnel Deacon—Linda Ma; Mission



2016-01/02

coordinator—Patrick Ma; Membership coordinator—Kitty Ma; Coordinator for receiveable—Iris Lau; Coordinator for payable—Maria Ma. The coordinators for Mission and for Membership are used to be part of the Elders/Deacons Board. This year in order not to burden them with the general responsibility of a Board member, they are taken out of the Board to work exclusively on their specific tasks.

Leadership Retreat

At the end of February this year, we are conducting the first part of a three-part leadership retreat to seek the Lord's will with regard to long term planning for our church that will affect our course of action of today. May the Lord open our eyes to see what He has in store for us and give us the strength to march forward in unity.

Church Planting—Pastor Joshua Wang

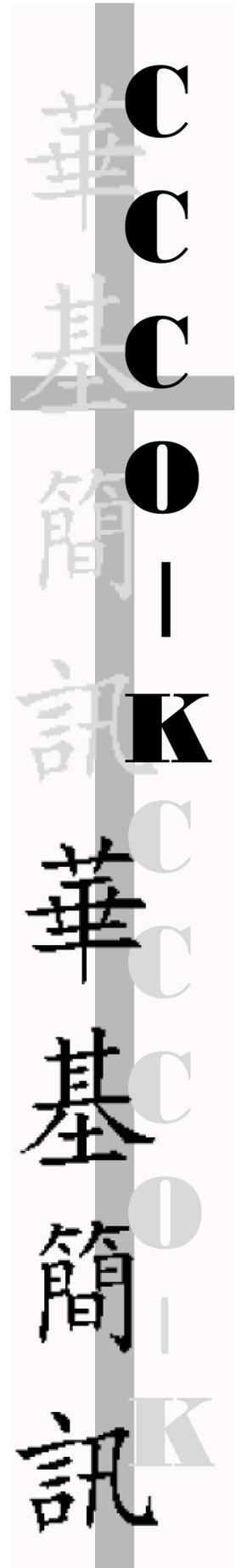
This journey has been an incredibly rich experience where the gospel has helped us re-discover the church's missional identity and reoriented our priorities. Our team has embraced the healthy challenge of creating space in our lives to build meaningful relationships with people that have yet to encounter Jesus. Our shared value, as distant as it may seem; is to consider living in the same place and becoming an incarnational presence in a neighborhood. This way we can gradually move toward a non-commuter church model and move toward modeling the gospel in everyday life to our neighbors, colleagues and friends.

We have been developing more of a mission minded posture in our daily interactions with our spheres of influence. Many of us have had opportunities to share the gospel or engage in spiritual conversations with friends. Shelly and I have visited several church plants, interviewed pastors and planters and learned a lot from mentors across the city. It has been a privilege to continue participating in a two year planting incubator course with experienced pastors and planters across the city. Monthly sessions are filled with hours of quality teaching, coaches and constructive criticism on preaching. C2C partners with local ministries like One Way Ministries to ensure that the gospel centered churches being planted are also appropriately ministering to the local context.

During the fall, our launch team divided into three weekly gospel discovery groups. This gave us the opportunity to invite those who have expressed interest in this process and for leaders to take initiative in various groups. Some of the participants in our groups have expressed their desire to participate in the vision of Renewal Church. Our central and south groups comprised of believers, but our downtown group had open and profound dialogue with seekers. The seekers expressed deep interest in the gospel and their movement toward Christ has encouraged the believers in the group to pray and trust that God is at work. Our groups became safe places to share life stories, dialogue, wrestle with issues and be vulnerable.

The C2C Summit in Toronto was an incredible week to network with over a hundred planting couples across Canada. There were many sessions where we were moved to tears about God's goodness and His Sovereignty. We were blown away with what God has been doing through C2C plants all across Canada (especially Quebec). It was a catalyst in our lives to begin trusting God for the impossible.

Our team is beginning to immerse ourselves into our C2C host church to learn and observe missional culture. They have been such generous hosts and it has been a blessing to worship alongside them. Attending their weekly staff meeting has been a blessing and filled with learning opportunities. This season allows our team to be exposed to different approaches, styles and cultures. We continue to meet each week as a team and are sharing, praying, consolidating and articulating what church we hope to become. This season has been exhilarating as we are maturing but filled with challenges as we intentionally reorient our priorities and lives around the gospel. Please pray that God would shape Renewal Church into a gospel centered, Spirit-led and mission focused church.



Missions and Community Outreach—Frederick Cheung

Praise the Lord! Welcome to year 2016 which are full of challenges and opportunities for our supported missionaries.

Please pray for the country of Angola whose economy is collapsing because of the big drop in oil price. Our supported missionary Janet Holden has informed us that “basic living items have up to tripled. Stores close with no businesses to replace them. Foreigners are leaving. Banks have placed limits on what any one individual or business can withdraw from their local currency accounts. Crime and theft are on the increase.”

As you probably know, our supported missionary Carmen Erwing is pregnant! Praise the Lord.

Missions and Community Outreach Department continues to encourage you to “love your neighbor as yourself.”(Mark 12:31) Please outreach and help those who are in needs and celebrate with those who are happy.

At the beginning of this new year of 2016, the CCCO Mission and Community Outreach needs to plan for its direction, strategies, budget and programmes. We have had a retreat at the church on January 16th to seek God for the vision. Please continue to pray for His guidance for us.

Last but not the least, we are going to celebrate the Chinese New Year of Monkey which is on February 8, 2016 in the Western Calendar with our families and friends.

Youth Ministry—Jethro Cheung

By God’s grace, YF continues to grow and mature during this season of transition at CCCO. Every Friday, youth from all across the city continue to gather at CCCO for a time of fellowship, prayer and biblical teaching. Our goal is to introduce the next generation to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide an environment for them to develop in their faith. Praise God, as several of the youth have expressed a desire to publically identify with Christ through baptism this year.

In October, we had the privilege of having Pastor Steve Zhang share with us in conjunction with CCCO’s Missions Week. YF was introduced to the history and vision of Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF), and confronted with the reality of missionary work across the world, starting with our own communities. Many of the youth left wondering how they could effectively share their faith with friends and family, and the following Sunday school was used for follow-up discussion on this topic.

The main event in recent months was our YF Leadership Retreat held over the holidays at Baohua and Jennifer Zhang’s home. This overnight retreat was designed to provide the youth with a time to grow individually, and to bond as a community. Each of the 26 youth who attended left with a better understanding of their spiritual gifts and an idea of how they could steward these gifts to serve the body of Christ.

The main teaching series’ in previous months have been on the Psalms and on Advent. Through the Psalms, YF studied important topics such as worship (Psalm 33), spiritual lows (Psalm 42), and walking daily with the Lord (Psalm 23). Advent was spent learning about the true meaning of the Christmas season – celebrating the coming of Christ and anticipating His return. I have been discovering that no matter the topic of study, every lesson will eventually lead back to the gospel, which is the center of our faith.

At the beginning of 2016, YF spent some time discussing New Year’s resolutions and comparing them to the resolutions that the early church had (Acts 2:42). Some of the youth committed to reading through the entire Bible this year, while others resolved to pray and fellowship more. Personally, my resolution this year is to grow in love for the youth and for the Church, and to be used by God for furthering His kingdom here.

Please continue to pray for the YF leadership team (Eric Pan, Elysia Pan and myself) as we carry on the youth ministry. Your support is greatly appreciated, and may we together endure in laboring for His purposes here at CCCO.

