

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRY—Salina Yan

Summer time is a breather for many Children’s Ministry (CM) leaders/workers, as the major weekly children programs will take a break in the summer months. I think this is a needed and well-deserved break for our dear CM leaders/workers as they poured in their hearts and time to serve faithfully throughout the school term. My prayer is that from the hustle and bustle of life, this summer break would provide opportunity for our CM leaders/workers to seek rest and be refreshed in the quietness of God.

*“Quietness allows room for God to speak or to be silent. Both are gifts.” - Mark Buchanan*

“The quietness carved out time to think, reflect, and pray.” I like this saying, which I read from a book. Too often, we are so busy in serving that we easily lost the peace when we face trouble. It is only in quietness that we will remember that God is sovereign.

However, not all CM will put on hold in summer. We will still need one seedling summer class (JK – grade 3) during the Sunday Mandarin worship time. VBS is planned for Aug. 8 – 12, under the leadership of Pauline Tsang and Kelvin Cheung with a team of youths and adults VBS volunteer workers.

As the children are also having a break from their regular school term, let’s not forget to pray and bless our children in whatever they do and participate in this summer months. I read of using the acronyms BLESS to pray for detailed needs in the lives of our dear children.

- B** – Body. We can pray for physical needs and protection.
- L** – Labor. We can pray for daily activities, whether at home or at play.
- E** – Emotions. We can pray for emotional health, strength, and maturity.
- S** – Social. We can pray for relationships with friends, family and teachers.
- S** – Spiritual. We can pray for a growing and thriving relationship with Christ.

Let’s follow this acronym and to pray for God’s blessing for all our children throughout the summer.

In quietness and prayer, may we experience God this summer and hear His call to serve.

***“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10***

## YOUTH MINISTRY—Jethro Cheung

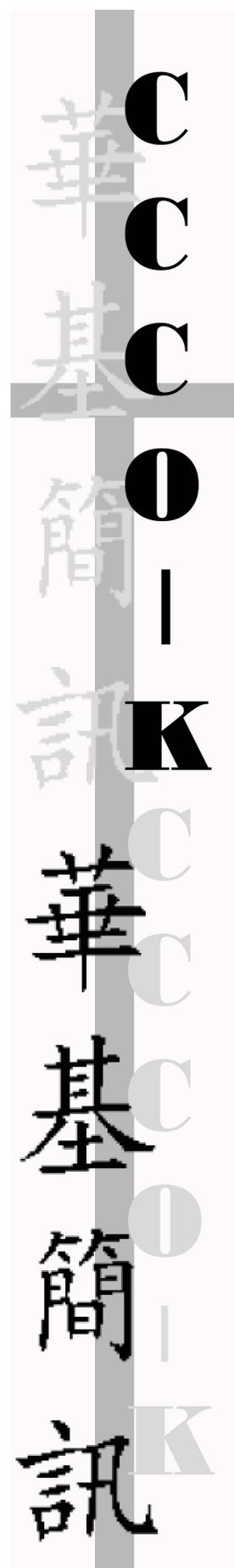
I can’t believe we are almost half way into 2016. Time has certainly gone by quickly, and YF has had many exciting events and experiences to reflect on.

We had 31 youth attend the Spring Retreat at Galilee Bible Camp from March 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Over the weekend, we spent quality time together in fellowship, and studied the topic of “Rest for the Soul”. We were reminded that God graciously accepts us as the broken people that we are, apart from any merit of works. We were also reminded of the firm foundation we have in our relationship with God to face times of uncertainty and difficulty.

On Good Friday, 27 of our youth attended “No Other Name” at the Metropolitan Bible Church. The youth had an opportunity to fellowship and worship with youth from all across the region, listen to several speakers, and attend smaller workshops of their choice. Our youth also came in first in the annual dodgeball tournament!

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated the baptisms of Michelle Wang and Vivian Lam. They both shared wonderful testimonies of God’s grace and love in their lives. It is clear that God has been working mightily in both of their lives this past year, and we are excited to witness their continued growth in the years to come.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the youth hosted their annual “Coffeehouse” event. This is an outreach event put together entirely by the youth. It is amazing to take a step back and watch the youth be so



driven in organizing this event and inviting their friends. The event itself was a memorable night, with roughly 80 guests attending. There were music and skit performances, as well as a personal sharing by Rebecca Tsang. We pray that the intent of the night was conveyed to and received by our guests, and that we will see some of them come back in the future! YF continues to benefit from the dedication of Eric and Elysia Pan, who tirelessly invest their love and energy into the youth. I cannot say enough about how important they are to the youth ministry, and to the church. It is especially encouraging to see former youth like Eric and Elysia grow to love the church even after university. In March, Stephanie Ko also started helping out in YF as an adult volunteer, providing another older female presence for the youth.

As we move towards the summer, we will also be preparing for the Ouje Mission trip that will be happening June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please pray that God would build up the team going this year, and that He would use us mightily when we are at Ouje. This will be my first time on a mission trip, as it is for several of the youth, so pray that we would also grow tremendously during this week.

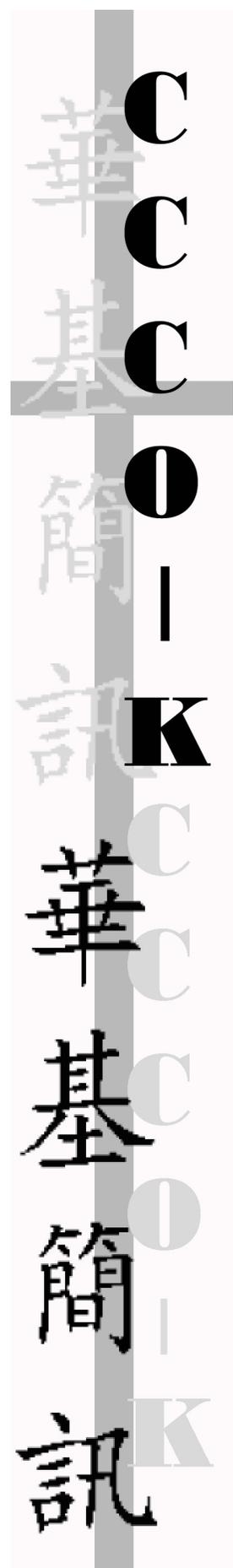
Thank you for always supporting the youth ministry and keeping us in your prayers. Please pray that YF would be a welcoming environment for every youth that enters the church building on Fridays, and that they would encounter the Gospel through their friendships and through the activities.

**ENGLISH MINISTRY—The Transition Team (John Chan)**

Surely God has been good to the English congregation. While many onlookers have been focusing and emphasizing on the drop in average attendance in Sunday worship services, the real highlight has been God’s ongoing provision to sustain and grow the English congregation against all odds.

In late summer of 2014, the Transition Team anticipated that no experienced song leaders and musicians would be left to serve in the worship ministry by the end of 2015. Recruitment was done and plans drawn up with the intent to train up a new generation of praise leaders and musicians to pick up the slack. However, due to some unforeseeable reasons, the training had not worked out as planned. By December 2015, the English Ministry Team was in a panic mode and it tried to come up with contingency plans that might help mitigate the lack of a praise team for worship. With no experienced song leaders and musicians in sight, any hope of keeping the English worship service contemporary and suitable for people of all ages appeared dashed. The God of hope and grace, however, answered our prayers for His intervention. Within a very short time, different people, primarily from the university and youth group, responded to the call to serve in the praise team. Some expressed their willingness to serve even without prompting. These group of young brothers and sisters are committed to worship and grow with the English congregation. They readily make themselves available and are willing to take up and serve in the different roles that they are given. Suffice to say, with the addition of so many members to the praise team, there is an enormous but welcome challenge for us to train, disciple, and mentor them. Pray that God will give them teachable hearts and the right attitude to serve Him in worship, and that they will grow in discipleship and their love for Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. May He grant us the wisdom and love to bring up a new generation of praise team members who desire nothing but to serve and please Him only. All for His glory!

The rebuilding of the praise team is only an example of God’s abundant grace having been bestowed upon the English congregation. The Lord has also raised up different people to take up roles in areas such as teaching, praying for one another, and community building. Witnessing God’s hand in the ministry is not only a faith-building and humbling experience, but it also drives us to worship the One who is sovereign over the church that He purchased with His blood. Surely God has been good to the English congregation.



## ELDERS BOARD--K. Tim Law / John Chan

### **Seeking the Lord's will on our tomorrow**

In late February this year, our church held the first part of the retreat to begin the process of seeking the Lord's will on our future in view of the fast changing world of today. There we prayed, shared our visions, and identified different areas needing attention. The proceedings of the retreat in English (in electronic and printed forms) are available for perusal with Doka at the church office.

Since then the Elders Board has been working on the other parts of the retreat. The second part of the retreat consists of forming three committees to consider the needs and possible developments of three areas identified in part 1 of the retreat. The three areas are: 1) Building Facilities; 2) Discipleship Ministry; and 3) Church Models. Each committee will provide a report by the beginning of the fall.

The third part of the retreat will be a one-day meeting in the fall to discuss the reports by the committees and to formulate an action plan.

### **Prayer Booklet**

It is an extremely tough thing to figure out the future and plan for it. However, the Lord Almighty says, 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit.' We need to pray to our Lord for wisdom and courage to know and embrace tomorrow. Let us have the honourable desire of Jabez who prayed to God for enlarging his territories, i.e., to expand our life so that we could influence more people for God. Therefore we have issued a prayer booklet to help us make concerted efforts to pray to our Lord. Please use this booklet in our personal and group prayers.

### **New development in university and college student ministry**

In response to the many challenges in ministering to the current and future needs of university and college students in the English congregation, the Elders Board has given Brother Jethro Cheung the mandate to collaborate with the English Ministry Team and explore ways to develop and grow the post-secondary student ministry within CCCO. This is an additional role for Jethro on top of his existing roles and responsibilities for the youth ministry. If and when there are competing demands that draw on Jethro's resources, the youth ministry will take first priority. Brother Jethro has gladly accepted this added responsibility. Please welcome Jethro to this new role and provide all the support that he may need in fulfilling the mandate. As part of this initiative, Jethro has already restarted the University/College Fellowship weekly meeting on Saturday night since early May. Let's pray for Jethro and the students in our church.

## CANTONESE MINISTRY—Pastor Francis Wong

Aging of the Cantonese population in Ottawa is an undisputed fact. Furthermore, half of the Cantonese congregation of CCCO is 60 years old or above. Although these numbers could be regarded as our limitation, but they can also be God-given opportunities. I thank the Lord that brothers and sisters in the Cantonese congregation choose to look at the situation from a positive point of view and still have a great burden for evangelism! In the last few months, we had the opportunities to visit the seniors living near Chinatown three times. We organized a social gathering for these seniors on April 23. There were about 70 people in attendance;



about half were non-believers from the community. Through these contacts, a number of seniors from the community are now attending the Caleb Fellowship. Seniors face many challenges. Apart from deteriorating health, many also face difficulties, such as, death of life-partner, family conflict, loneliness, etc. They need our care. Above all, they need the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray with us that God will give brothers and sisters wisdom, patience, health and strength for this seniors outreach ministry!

Since the beginning of this year, we held a Cantonese Alpha Course on Friday evenings. There were between 6 to 8 non-believers constantly attending the course. The course was concluded on May 13. Although none of the non-believers made the decision to follow Christ, the seeds of the Gospel had been sown and in God’s own timing, there would be a great harvest!

The Annual Joint Cantonese Bible Conference will be held at OCAC from June 17 – 19. The theme of the conference is looking at ‘Face and Shame’ from a biblical perspective. This topic is especially relevant for Chinese Christians. The speaker Rev. Stephen Leung wrote his Th.M. dissertation on this topic. Please refer to the Chinese version of CCCO-K for details of the conference.

Lastly, Shing and Grace Wang will be moving to Vancouver after mid-June. Sister Grace Wang has been a long time member of the Cantonese Core Group, serving faithfully during the time that the Cantonese congregation was without a pastor in 2013. Along with leaders from other Churches with Cantonese ministry, she was a member of the original committee that organized the Word of Life Movement in Ottawa. In order to prepare herself for greater service, she has registered for a theological diploma program. Although we will miss Shing and Grace, we will continue to pray for them and bless them in this new season of their lives!

**MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH—Frederick Cheung**

Praise the Lord! We were glad that our supported missionary Corey Porter has visited us and attended the CCCO Easter Combined Sunday Worship Service. The Mission Committee also had a breakfast with him and his family to encourage them to do the work of God on school campus.

Our supported missionary Ruby and her husband Manson Yan are in East Asia now and are having STM to outreach the students there. In addition, Andy Zhu, our supported “Power To Change” Intern, is now in Paris, France to do STM work to outreach the students there. Please pray for their safety and their outreach work on campus.

Alice Chen will come back to Toronto Canada to take care of her parents in this summer for a year. She will finish her Master Degree in Counseling Programme soon.

Peter and Bernice Wang have had several International Christian Leadership Meetings in Germany and Thailand. Please pray for their leadership in the World Mission Direction and Strategy.

Carmen Yan will have her baby due date this month. Please pray for the good health of both the mom and the baby.

Finally, as you enjoy the sunshine and warm weather of this summer, please remember to outreach and do good to your surrounding people (Mark 12:31). May the Lord well bless you and your family.

