

THE MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER

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THE MESSENGER

CCC NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

This is the second edition of the CCC Newsletter for 2019.

In this newsletter, the Pastoral Team and the Elders share their strategy for the church moving forward. This is expanded by the Pastoral Team. Pastor Eric Shing writes about Growing in Christ. Rev Chris Chua talks about the need to serve one another. Rev Ying Yee and Pastor Jeff Wang promote the need for evangelism and missions. Lastly, Elder Sammy Liu and Elder Stephen Lowe share about church maintenance and 1C2L.



STRATEGY

THE CHURCH STRATEGY 2019

Our vision for our church is aligned to churches of similar faith. This is stated as: "Compelled by Christ's love, we seek to be a community where people are - Growing in Christ, Serving each other in Love, Reaching the world with the Gospel." In other words, "One community, growing in Christ, serving in love, reaching the world".

GROWING

GROWING IN CHRIST

Growing in Christ requires both time and effort. Although it is our Lord who eventual cause this growth (1 Cor. 3:7), we need to be like Apollos and water our plant every day. Setting out time to read the word of God, reflect and meditate on it. Pray for ourselves and try to work it out. It is God's expectation for us to follow His ways and seek to grow in Christ so that we can become mature followers of Christ.



SERVING

SERVING EACH OTHER IN LOVE

Whether you have this or that spiritual gift (or you think you don't have any gift at all), if each one of us do for another or to receive from the other, what Apostle Paul says we should do, our church will grow to be a loving Christian community by the grace of God. Then we can all praise and give glory to our God.

REACHING

BEING ONE COMMUNITY

God is very passionate for people to hear the good news of His Son. It is His business and it is something He has been doing for millenniums. Therefore, we need to pray that God will give us the OPPORTUNITY to share the gospel with people we are praying for. Then when God gives us the opportunity, we need to be ready to take it!





MISSIONS

REACHING THE WORLD GLOBALLY

The apostle Paul urges that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Tim. 2:1). Our missionary families in the mission front lines need our prayers and intercessions. I like to challenge my brothers and sisters: Please pray weekly for our supported missionary families.

MAINTENANCE

CCC CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

One of the key parts of our church strategy is to build up the congregations in Milsons Point. Therefore we need to ensure that the church building is well maintained and in good shape. In addition, we may wish to extend our capacity to enable growth for our ministries. The costs are expected to be significant but the work will be spread over several years with priority given to more critical repairs.



1C2L

UPDATE ON 1C2L

The Board has come to the reluctant conclusion that a second location is not within God's immediate plan for CCC. The current focus of the Board is on a spiritual revival of the church together with an uplifting of the facilities within Milson's Point. The 1C2L strategy will be put on hold. This needs to be further discussed amongst the members.





THE CHURCH STRATEGY 2019

THE STRATEGY OF THE CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 2019

As a church, we, the leaders affirm the objects of our church as stated in our constitution which is:

The objects of the church are the advancement of Christ's kingdom by spreading the Gospel; the education of the members in the Scriptures, in worship, in Christian service and in witness; and the co-operation with other churches of similar faith in evangelism and missions at home and overseas.

Our vision for our church is aligned to churches of similar faith. This is stated as:

Compelled by Christ's love, we seek to be a community where people are Growing in Christ, Serving each other in Love, Reaching the world with the Gospel.

In other words, **"One community, growing in Christ, serving in love, reaching the world"**.

Given this vision, our overall **strategy** is to grow the church in line with the objects of the church and to have a church planting strategy to advance Christ's kingdom.

Our priorities are – spiritual revival, building relationships, reconciliation, building our church and planting new churches.

- We want renewed spiritual interest in our congregations for a vital and fervent relationship with God.

- We want to be united and working together to be a loving Christ-like church where everyone is part of a spiritual family.
- We want all levels of leadership to work together and to have better pastoral support for the congregations.
- Where there were conflicts and discord, we want reconciliation among all brothers and sisters in Christ's family.
- Our initial focus is on building up the congregations at Milsons Point and the Redeemer City Church in Chatswood.
- Subsequently, we want to continue the work that our church had been doing in the past which is advancing Christ's kingdom through church planting.

Our Situation

At Milsons Point, our church has two key core strengths which creates opportunities:

- Our central location with a train station within walking distance.
- We are well known.

There are a large number of Chinese people in Sydney. This presents us with an opportunity to reach these Chinese people. In particular, we will try to reach the people within a 20 minute walk from Milsons Point. Similarly at Chatswood, there is a sizeable Chinese population and it is near a train station. Hence, Redeemer City Church will continue to reach people in Chatswood.

We recognise that our congregations want to be fed spiritually and have a spiritual home. This is particularly true for our mature Christians and those with families. We understand that the younger generation want to know where the church is going; and they want to get involved. Our church have to provide opportunities for them to learn, take up challenges and grow in maturity as they are our future leaders. We recognise that the world around is changing rapidly, and we need to adapt and change while maintaining the purity of the biblical message.

As leaders, we recognise that we need to improve our communications to the members and to articulate where the church is going. We need to explain our overall plans, develop solid actions and communicate the steps to achieve our objectives.

As a church, we need to work together as a spiritual family for the glory of God. We need to be humble, gentle, patient and bearing each other with love. We should do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than ourselves. Let each of us look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others. In this way, we will work together as a family with churches of similar faith to advance God's Kingdom.

Our Humble Servants In Christ,

Pastoral Staff and Elders



GROWING IN CHRIST

By Pastor Eric Shing

The education of the members in the Scriptures and in worship

In John 13:15, after washing His disciples' feet, Jesus said, "For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done to you." Jesus reminded us that we need to live out the Christlike character. Mature Christians can reflect our Lord's attribute in their lives.

Being practical, in praying to God for the Colossians, Paul suggested that as they received Christ as their Lord, they needed to grow in Christ in terms of their spiritual wisdom and understanding, "bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col 1:9-10). In 2 Thess 1:3, Paul suggested that Christian maturity should be reflected in two areas: growing in Christ and their loving relationship in their Christian community.

Using the analogy of an infant, Peter illustrates the importance of growing in Christ. In 1 Peter 2:1-3, "put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." Just as infants need milk to give them sufficient nutrients, we need the Word of God to help us to grow. As infants long for milk, Christians long for the Word of God.

Facing the problems in Corinthian church, Paul condemned some of their practices, "but I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. ... you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?" (1 Cor 3:1-3). Paul

commented that he began to feed them with milk: spiritual basics. They were still not ready for solid food because of their lack of spiritual maturity. They were still spiritual babies and living of the flesh. They were doing things according to their own personal interest and never could reflect the attribute of Jesus.

Sharing similar idea, the author of Hebrew described those Christians who failed to grow in Christ as “for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. (Heb 5:12-13).” It is vital for us to learn God’s Word but it should not simply stay in our heads. We should also apply it daily. Knowing without applying is nothing. James reminds us that we need to be the doers of the God’s Word and not just hearers who deceive themselves (James 1:22).

Looking back to the church of Corinthians, their lack of spiritual maturity not only affected their relationship with God. On top of different types of sexual immorality, the church was full of disagreements, conflicts, schism and jealousy. Their level of maturity manifested not only in their relationship with God, but is also displayed in their human relationships.

As we seek to grow in Christ, we will not be jealous of one another or attempt to set ourselves apart as better than others. Things that happened in the Corinthian church will never take place among mature Christians or in a mature church. With the “powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:14), we will “do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil 2:3-4).

Growing in Christ requires both time and effort. Although it is our Lord who eventually cause this growth (1 Cor 3:7), we need to be like Apollos and water our plant every day. Setting aside time to read the Word of God, reflect and meditate on it. Pray for ourselves and try to work it out. It is God’s expectation for us to follow His ways and seek to grow in Christ so that we can become mature followers of Christ.





SERVING EACH OTHER IN LOVE

By Rev Chris Chua

The education of the members in Christian service

Apostle Paul describes the church as the body of Christ. Members are different parts of the body arranged by God. They have been given various spiritual gifts to **serve one another**. The purpose is to build up the body of Christ so that members will become mature in Christ (Rom.12:4-8; 1 Cor.12:7-26; Eph.4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11). For this reason, members have been encouraged to discover whatever gifts God has given them, such as teaching, pastoring, encouraging and leadership. Some churches have more controversial spiritual gifts such as speaking and interpreting tongues, prophecy and healing. Apostle Peter says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received **to serve others**, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).

Often you would hear members saying that they do not have any spiritual gifts. This should not stop us from **servicing one another** to build up the church, the body of Christ.

Apostle Paul and others have mentioned that the following are what we should do for one another in the church:

- **Be devoted to one another** in love;
- **Honour one another** above yourselves (Romans 12:10);
- **Live in harmony with one another** (Romans 12:16);
- **Accept one another**, just as Christ accepted you (Romans 15:7);
- **Encourage one another** (2 Cor.13:11);

- **Serve one another** humbly in love (Gal.5:13);
- **Bearing with one another** in love (Eph.4:2);
- **Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other**, just as in Christ, God forgave you (Eph.4:32);
- **Teach and admonish one another** (Col.3:16);
- **Spur one another** towards love and good deeds (Heb.10:24); and
- **Offering hospitality to one another** without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9).

Whether you have this or that spiritual gift (or you think you don't have any gift at all), if each one of us do for another or to receive from the other, as what Apostle Paul says we should do, our church will grow to be a loving Christian community by the grace of God. Then we can all praise and give glory to our God.



Reaching the World



Being One Community... Reaching The World

By Rev Ying Yee

In evangelism at home and overseas

Jesus commanded his disciples, all disciples, to make disciples of all nations. As part of our CCC vision we want to be "**one community..... that is reaching the world with the gospel**". Unfortunately it is easier said than done. Often we talk a lot about it but do very little. We are fearful, feeling inadequate or our lives are far too busy. So what do we need to do to be a church that is reaching the world?

There are a lot of things we could do. Organise more events so that we can invite friends? Get better equipped. But a better place to start with - is to PRAY (which is easier and yet paradoxically harder at the same time). It is true to say that what we pray for, reveals our heart. If there is no evangelism in our church, it is not hard to trace it back to the sad reality that there is no prayer for our unbelieving relatives, friends, colleagues or neighbours. On the other hand, if we want to see more evangelism happening we need to start by talking to God about people rather than talking to people about God.

Given this, what should we pray for? When we do pray, we often pray that they will come to know the Lord Jesus. How could you go wrong this? But I want to suggest something more. In addition to this, we could and should pray that God will give US the OPPORTUNITY to share the gospel to them.

People often say that they have no opportunity to share the gospel. If this is the case then we need to turn to God and ask Him to give us opportunities. Will He do so? Absolutely. Why? Because he wants those around us to hear the good news. For this reason, this is one of the prayers that God will very quickly answer. Our problem is that often in our unbelief we don't pray for opportunities.

I remember challenging one church member to pray for an opportunity. She was sceptical but decided to give it a go. The following week at church she raced over to me with the exciting news. God had given her an opportunity to share the gospel with her colleague that she had prayed for. She was in disbelief.

God is very passionate for people to hear the good news of His Son. It is His business and it is something He has been doing for millenniums. Therefore when we pray for this opportunity - be ready to take it!





REACHING THE WORLD GLOBALLY

By Pastor Jeff Wang

In missions at home and overseas

John 12:24 says “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

In this parable, a grain of wheat falls to the ground. It gets buried deep in the earth. It sits there and nothing seems to happen. Then one day, the shoot appears. The grain of wheat blossoms into a full grown plant and produces lots of grain. These fall into the ground and the cycle produces an exponential growth of wheat. This is what Missions is about.

Does “Missions” have to be overseas? Does it only refer to reaching out cross culturally or to the poor? Although this is a popular usage of the word, by definition “Mission” is an important assignment given to a person or a group of persons. So what is the mission of the church? Jesus in Matt 28:19 says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”. This is our sacred mission. Hence in our church context, be it a local outreach or a global outreach, “mission” is the important assignment that Jesus has given us.

Although the work of missions is done by the missionaries, the church is the sender. Our church currently supports and sends eight missionary families. Most have grown up in our church. We thank God that they have become the grains of wheat. They gave up their jobs, left their professions and brought their families to completely new and strange places. There they showed love to each and every person they meet – people they have never known. These missionaries are part of our church family. They are not among us but they have not left us. They have been sent by us to places where the gospel needs preaching and hence fulfill the mission given to us.

The apostle Paul urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Tim. 2:1). Our missionary families in the front lines need our prayers and intercessions. I like to challenge my brothers and sisters: Please pray weekly for our supported missionary families. If you are unsure about what to pray, please email me at jeffwang2002@email.com. The Missionary Committee receives prayer letters from our missionaries. Let's join together in asking the Lord to keep them safe and to look after their needs. Our prayers can help them be more effective in the mission fields.

In addition, you can support our missionaries but making a contribution to the mission fund. We have specially marked envelopes that you can use to ensure that the money goes to the mission fund.

We can also visit them. This will be a great encouragement to them. To this end, the Missionary Committee is organising four short-term mission trips this year. Pray that God will put it in your heart to join one or more of this trips.

Do you know? The fields are ripe for harvesting and if no one is harvesting, the crop will rot in the field.

Do you know? A quarter of the world's population has no chance to hear or understand the Gospel. These 2 billion people need to hear the gospel.

Pray that we will have the heart of the prophet, Isaiah. When God asks: "Who can I send? Who will go for us?" We can respond, "I am here, please send me."





CCC CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

By Elder Sammy Liu

Introduction and Thanks

The spire repairs may seem to be a distant past. Some may be aware of the repair on the rock face at the back of our church that was completed recently. These are examples of significant maintenance work that were carried out in recent times due to the advanced age of the church building. It does highlight the importance of regular maintenance of the church and the need for continual monitoring during the course of the year. The BOE has commissioned a Structural Investigation Report which was completed in March 2019. The overall assessment indicates that there are several maintenance issues that need to be addressed but essentially, there are no immediate safety concerns for the use of the building.

Not many know that we have a dedicated Church Maintenance Team. The team members are Russell Loon and Ken Gock from 915 service, and Daniel Yuen from Cantonese service along with a number of volunteers from different congregations who perform repairs and maintenance around the church. I like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank these brothers and sisters who have worked tirelessly over the years, mostly behind the scenes to keep our church building in shape. They keep things

working and running around the church. A special thanks go to the church office for their role in coordinating and overseeing the maintenance work.

1. Annual maintenance schedule

These recent experiences have highlighted the need for an annual maintenance schedule. The schedule will list tasks necessary to prolong the use of the building and to identify potential issues early before it gets to a critical stage where they may cause safety concerns or increase the repair costs significantly.

I am pleased that the maintenance team has developed this schedule and is in the process of implementing the tasks over this year. The maintenance cost is approximately \$17k per annum. It is split evenly between the General Fund and the School Building Fund as some of the work is performed on the Christian Education Centre.

2. One-off repairs and improvements

Based on a comprehensive review of all required maintenance items and the recommendations from the Structural Investigation Report, the maintenance team has put together a list of one-off repairs and improvements for the Milsons Point building. The BOE has approved the work to be carried out over the next few years according to the order of priority recommended by the maintenance team and relevant professionals we engage throughout the process.

The most significant item on the list in terms of cost is the tuck pointing and resealing of external brickwork in the main church to stop moisture from getting through the walls. The maintenance team has engaged a professional to provide a masonry condition report to identify any potential issues with the aging sandstone and brick fabric to recommend any necessary make-safe or future conservation works that are necessary.

The total estimated costs for all repairs and improvements is in the order of \$800k, of which \$400k is for the pointing of the walls (this can change subject to final quotations received). Most of the costs are expected to come from the General Fund as they relate to the main church building.

3. Redevelopment of the Christian Education Centre

It is fair to say we have struggled with space for many years given our numbers. Especially on Sunday mornings where we have worship services and concurrent Sunday school and ministry group meetings. As the church continue to grow in numbers, this space issue will get worse, so we started initial discussions on the longer term redevelopment opportunities of the Christian Education Centre with the aim of creating more space for growth and ministry opportunities.

Initial discussions have highlighted that a large part of the existing building does not comply with current National Construction Code of Australia and Australian Standards. In order to provide safe facilities that can accommodate the growth of CCC and foster the spread of the gospel at Milsons Point, we will conduct initial investigation of the site and its possibilities. The BOE has agreed to explore this in conjunction with the 1C2L review and commissioned a comprehensive site survey for further investigations. This is an exciting development and more details will be shared with the church as they become available.

4. Maintenance Funding Strategy

One of the key parts of our church strategy, as noted in the first article, is to build up the congregations in Milsons Point. Therefore we need to ensure that the church building is well maintained and in good shape. In addition, we may wish to extend our capacity to enable growth for our ministries. The costs are expected to be significant but the work will be spread over several years with priority given to more critical repairs.

As part of the maintenance funding strategy, a "Repair Fund" will be set up to set aside money specifically for the repairs and maintenance of the church building. For the past two years, \$50k per year has been budgeted to come from the general fund offertory and will continue as long as the general offertory can support this.

For brothers and sisters in the church who are moved to contribute to this cause, you can place your additional offertory in cash or cheque into an envelope and mark it as "Repair Fund". Then place the envelope into the weekly offertory bags. The money will be set aside for this very purpose. Alternatively, you can transfer funds electronically (EFT) into our general church account (ending in 3060) with a description of "Repair Fund". The money spent on the Christian Education Centre comes from the School Building Fund. Hence, you can consider contributing to this fund and you will be eligible for a tax deduction on this donation.





AN UPDATE ON 1C2L

By Elder Stephen Lowe

It has been nearly ten years since the decision was made to look for a second church location - preferably in the Macquarie University region. During that time, much energy and investigation have been expended on fulfilling that objective much to the detriment of the main church at Milson's Point. Even up until February 2018 there was a possibility of procuring a long term investment in the area which subsequently failed.

The Board has come to the reluctant conclusion that a second location is not within God's immediate plan for CCC. It may be preferable to resume our historic approach of planting churches. This needs to be further discussed amongst the members.

Since then with the current Board of Elders and the Pastoral Team working together, it has been determined that all our efforts should concentrate on our major asset located at Milson's Point.

The 1C2L strategy will be put on hold; the Board will not be actively pursuing a second location. This may need to be ratified by the church members at an AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting if deemed necessary.

The focus of the Board will be a spiritual revival of the church together with an uplifting of the facilities within Milson's Point. We hope to deliver more details at our proposed Town Hall meeting in July 2019 at Milson's Point.

