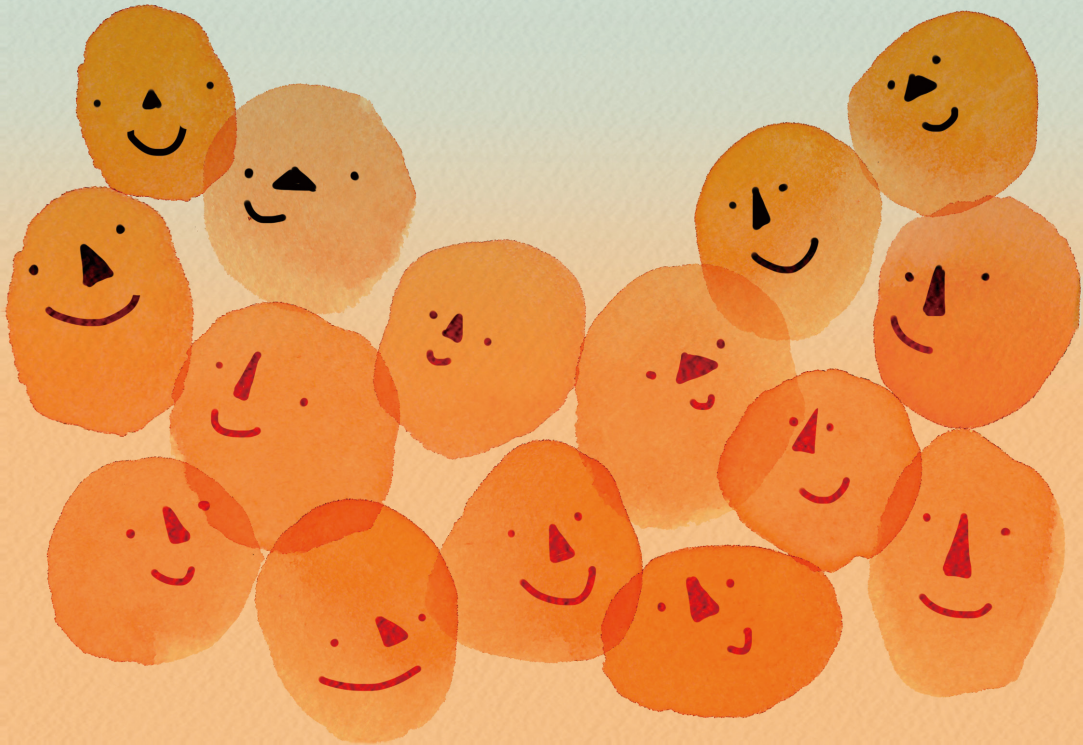


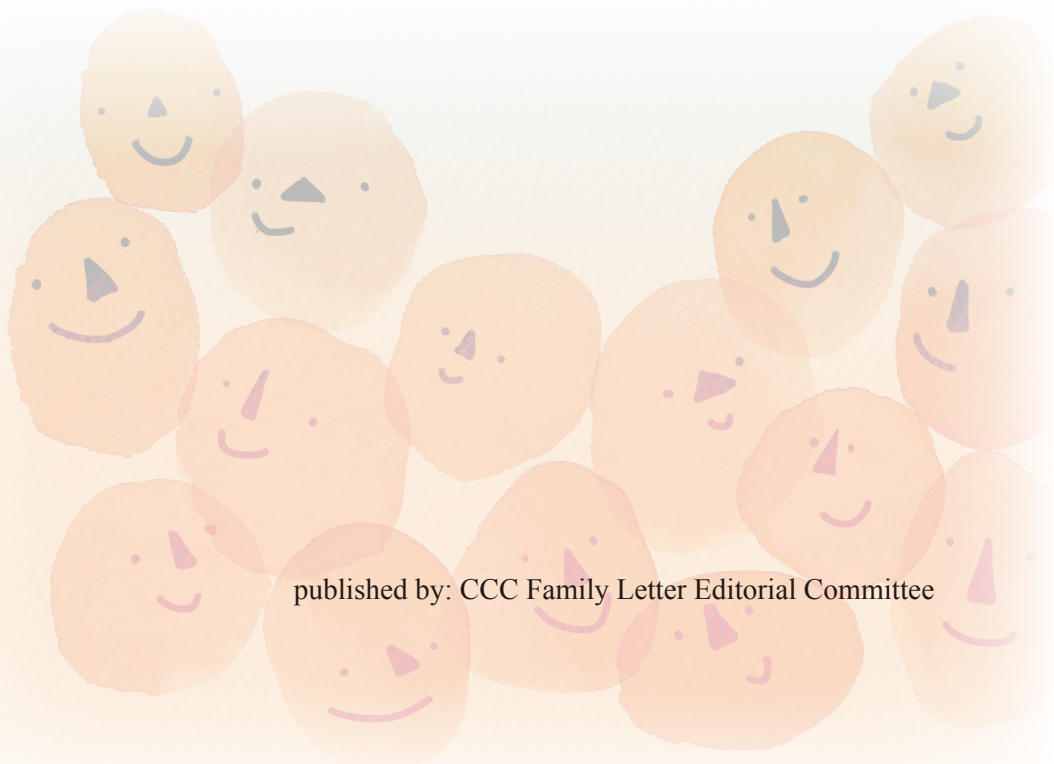
WE ARE FAMILY

我們一家



God's household, which is the church of the
living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

(1 Tim 3:15b)



published by: CCC Family Letter Editorial Committee

Editor's Note

Welcome to our Summer edition of our quarterly family letter.

Of all the word pictures and metaphors used to describe the church, one stands out above the rest: **FAMILY**. In fact, it is so much of the essence of the church that it cannot even properly be called a metaphor.

Metaphors describe what the church is like or similar to – light, flock, field, building – but family is not metaphorical; it is a literal description of the phenomena we know as church.

The church is not like family; it is family!

In this edition, our elders and pastoral team will be sharing with you their experiences of CCC being a **family**. Each congregation will also be sharing some of their family news in the past month. We have also created an infographic to give you some insights of our family, so you may care more. Of course, there are other church news that you don't want to miss. There are also plenty of family and outreach events in December and January. It is our desire that, as you read and enjoy the sharing of our brothers and sisters, you will be spurred to share greater love and do good deeds to one another.

You will find that we have launched a new look for this edition. From size to layout, and even the emphasis is made afresh to the past editions. This new look only demonstrates our belief in the value of the art of writing. Whether it is in a soft or hard copy, it has a binding function.

CCC as a family, though from various backgrounds, different languages, and variety in age, it binds our brothers and sisters together and made us one as a family. Writing is an indispensable tool that binds our family in communication. Writing can break down time, space and language barrier, and bring the relationship of our family member much closer. Therefore, it is our desire that our brothers and sisters will use this newsletter as a platform to share, to know and to bond with one another.

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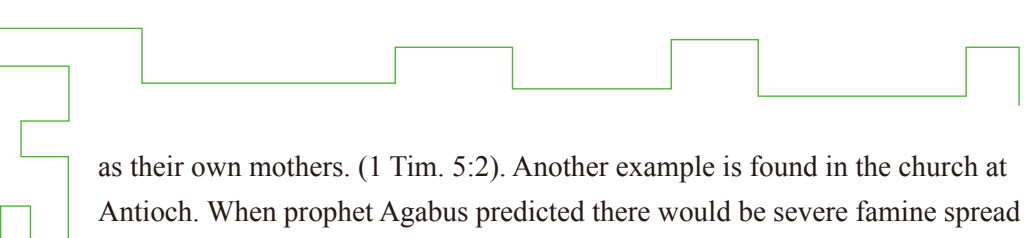
CCC *the family of* God

by Rev Chris Chua

There are many biblical images of the church –the Body of Christ (1 Cor.12:27), the bride of Christ (Rev.19:7-8), the building (1 Pet. 2:5), the Temple of God (2 Cor. 6:16). One of them is the church as a family of God (2 Cor.6:18). Christians are God’s sons and daughters. We are bonded by the Holy Spirit through our faith in Christ Jesus. We call God our ‘Abba, Father’ (Rom. 8:15). We address Him as our Heavenly Father when we pray – “Our Father in heaven...” (Mt. 6:9). Like our earthly father, He would provide our daily needs. We can stop worrying about tomorrow. (Mt. 6:25-34). Many earthly fathers like to give inheritance to their children. Likewise, our Heavenly Father would give to His children the inheritance of eternal life in the Kingdom of God (Mt. 19:29). Unlike the earthly inheritance, it is imperishable and immortal. However, Apostle Paul warns those who follow the loose living of the secular society based on sophisticated argument will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:20-21). Those who belong to Christ, live by the Spirit and produce fruit of the Spirit has the inheritance kept for them with the Spirit as the deposit guaranteeing it (Eph.1:14).

We are brothers and sisters

As God’s children we address one another as brother or sister (Acts 6:3). When Christians are in need we are meant to support them as our brothers and sisters in the Lord. For example, the early church took the responsibility to look after the widows that were alone and in real need. They treated them



as their own mothers. (1 Tim. 5:2). Another example is found in the church at Antioch. When prophet Agabus predicted there would be severe famine spread across the entire Roman world, the disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea (Acts 11:29). Finally, Apostle Paul praises the Thessalonian Christians for their love for one another. “Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more.” (1 Thess. 4:9-10)

Our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ should also extend to others. As the bible says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) In the late 60s and early 70s, CCC shared the gospel and extended their love to the overseas students mainly from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. Some became Christians and found their “spiritual home” in this church. After their graduation and settled in Sydney, they became the core members for the English Service started in 1976.

In the mid-1970, Rev and Mrs T. K. Tjoe who were then members of CCC, devoted their lives to care for the Timorese refugees. They brought them to the church. Members reached out to them with the gospel and assisted them in their daily needs. Many of them not only found a new life in Sydney but more importantly, in Jesus Christ. Chung Chen CCC was eventually established in 1987. Over the 55 years, our members had welcome migrants from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taiwan and China. Cantonese and Mandarin Service were established. Branch churches were planted in Strathfield (WSCCC), North Epping (NDCCCS), Glenhaven (HDCCCS), Kingsgrove (SWCCC). We even

adopted ESCCC in Randwick. Our Heavenly Father has blessed His children through the love of His Son Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We have problems

It is a reality that family members sometimes do have quarrels and conflicts with each other. As a result they may not talk to each other. In worse cases they may even leave the family. Such incidents also happened in our church, God's family, for we are no saints. These quarrels were often arised from miscommunication and misunderstanding. Certainly, our different personalities and cultural differences might have been the contributors to these. They can be resolved if only we are patient to listen to one another. As James says "be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19). Someone once said to me God has given us two ears but one mouth is for a purpose – to listen more and speak less.

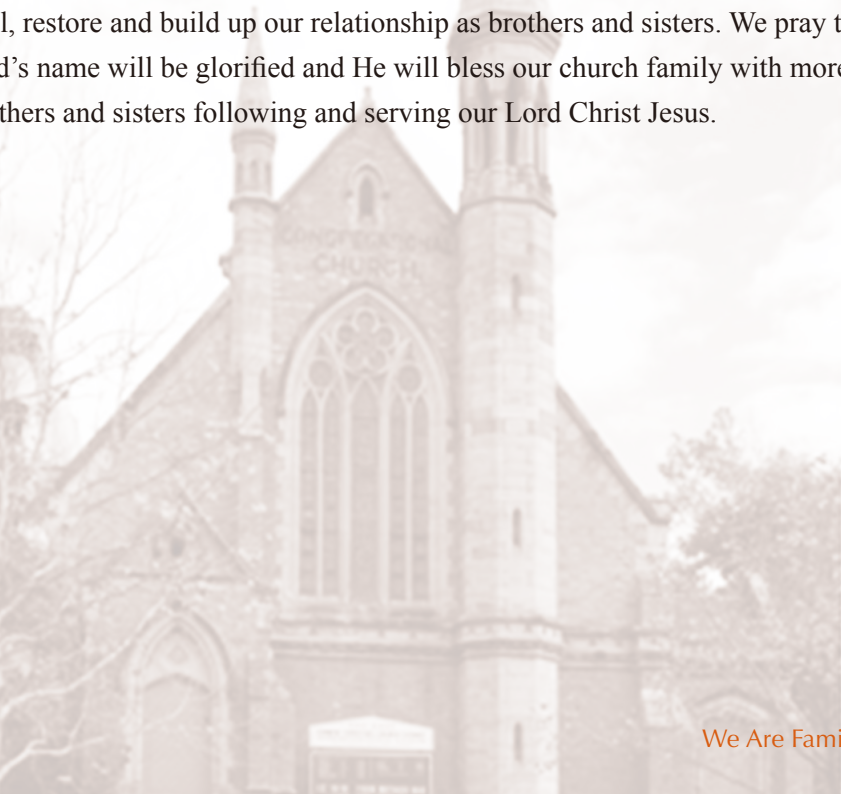
Being judgmental is another big problem in the church. We often jump into conclusion before knowing all the facts. We pre-judge a person based on our preconception of the person. We do not give the person a benefit of doubt. We don't even realize our own problem in the disguise of "being concerned" for the other person. Pride or self-centeredness is a deadly enemy. The bible says, "God opposes the proud" (James 4:6) Pride steals the glory from God. Pride stops us from listening to the others, accepting others' view, admitting our wrong and saying "Sorry!"

Living in peace and harmony

Many broken relationships can be healed and restored if only we humble ourselves before the Lord. We are to forgive as we have been forgiven

(Mt. 6:14-15). To have a strong and healthy family, brothers and sisters living in peace and harmony, Apostle Paul instructs us, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:2-3). “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Gal. 6:9-10)

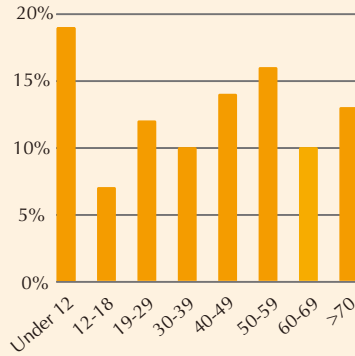
We praise and thank God who has adopted us as His children. We are comforted to call Him “Abba, Father”. As His sons and daughters we will live by the Spirit to inherit the eternal life He has prepared for us in the kingdom of God. As we love one another as brothers and sisters, we are also glad that our love has been extended to others through the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ and in many practical ways. We confess our weaknesses and sins, which have led us to conflicts and division in the family. We will strive to heal, restore and build up our relationship as brothers and sisters. We pray that God’s name will be glorified and He will bless our church family with more brothers and sisters following and serving our Lord Christ Jesus.



DO YOU KNOW??

CCC INFOGRAPHIC

AGE DISTRIBUTION



65%

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES



6 IN 10 CCC GOERS ARE WOMEN

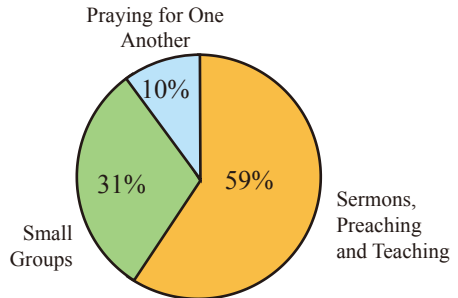
GIFTEDNESS IN CCC

**YOUR
SPIRITUAL
GIFTS
CAN HELP
YOUR CHURCH
GROW**

- ★ MUSIC
- ★ HOSPITALITY
- ★ INTERPERSONAL
- ★ COMMUNICATION

WHAT PEOPLE VALUE ABOUT THIS CHURCH

CCC ATTENDERS
MOST VALUE
**SERMONS,
PREACHING AND
BIBLE TEACHING**



IMPORTANCE OF GOD

60% **God is the most important reality in my life**
says:

Our Family —

Sharing from the Elders

I have been part of CCC since 1980, so effectively I have been part of the CCC family for 39 years. It was through the Youth Ministry that I have become a Christian and felt the need to serve God at CCC since that decision. (Frank Lee)

I have been part of this family since October 2003 when I joined the 5pm English Service. We were part of the 5pm Service until the evening service time changed (to 4pm) and my family (Samantha, Evan and Sebastian) moved to the morning service. We settled in at 9:15 Cantonese from June 2014. (Edwin Choi)

I have been part of the CCC family for 42 years attending the fledgling English service with a fifteen-month-old daughter. We have been blessed with two girls and a boy all of whom have now married and provided us with eight grandchildren. (Stephen Lowe)

My wife Peggy was worshipping at CCC and I joined my wife when we got married in 2005. It was a great struggle for me at the time as I had to leave the church which I grew up in since I migrated to Australia in 1988 and many of my friends who grew up with me who served together with me for so many years. In hindsight, I am thankful that God has led me to CCC and given me the privilege to serve in various capacities in CCC since I joined until now. (Sammy Lui)

How long
have you been
of this
Since when

I became an attendee at CCC when I married Lorna in 1975. We have very fond memories of those early years where Derek and Jackie were born and meeting the many emerging families at the time. This young group later became one of the biggest Y12 later in 1994 and 1996. To take account for the increasing number of ABCs; I assisted Wilfred and Pastor Lim Kim Bew to start an English service in 1976.

One of the attractions of the English ministries was getting to know all these ABCs and later more Malaysian / Singaporean / HK families who are still good friends with us today. (Jack Mock)

part
family?
?

My family and I started worshipping at CCC about 16 years. Before that, we attended local churches close to where we were living in North Narrabeen. My wife, Ai Lin and I with our two children Joshua and Michelle decided to visit CCC after Ai Lin met some ladies from the church. (Swee Yeo)



Elder Lowe's family

Coming from a non-church and non-Christian family, I would say, CCC has been my spiritual family. It is through relationships with older, more mature Christians who have nurtured my growth in Christ. In my view, that is one most attractive aspects of our church family. We help grow each other, to be mature in Christ. It is not without problems or shortcomings, but this work of nurturing has been foundational at CCC. (Frank Lee)

The relationships that have developed from the fellowship that I have enjoyed from Small Groups, going to Houseparties, social gatherings and serving in various ministries at CCC. I have been greatly encouraged by these relationships and subsequently have made many good friends throughout these years. (Edwin Choi)

What
the most
loving thing
this fam



CCC has been our spiritual home that has enabled us to grow in the knowledge of God providing us with the opportunity to serve in many ways. Indeed, it is the faithful teaching from the pulpit and Sunday School about loving Jesus. (Stephen Lowe)

Elder Lee's family

Back in 2017, my wife was diagnosed with cancer which created a lot of uncertainty and anxiety within the family which followed by a yearlong of treatment. What made it particularly difficult was my 3 children was very young, my youngest daughter was only 2 years old with my 2 older boys not much older. During this time, there were many brothers and sisters in the church who continually prayed for us, cooked for us, introduced doctors to us and just simply came up to me and asked whether I was OK. I felt the love, the care and the support the church gave me and my family which carried us through this difficult time. We sincerely thank God for such a wonderful display of God's love through the church. (Sammy Liu)

is
about
family?

We were warmly welcomed and immediately made to feel at home. Robert Yap, Howard Wong-see and Silan Yeung invited us to their place within a few months of attending CCC. This helped us to meet new people and to settle in. The inclusive family atmosphere of CCC and the faithful preaching of God's Word are what impressed us most and are key elements that made CCC so special. (Swee Yeo)



Elder Yeo's family

My fondest memories are from Christian church families who have welcomed my peers and myself into their homes to minister to me in fellowship over a meal. Sometimes a bible study happened too, but it was the opportunity of sharing life with them. Other times we were able to make short weekend trips away socially.

I recall times when my peers would encourage me to persevere in my walk with God. Sometimes a word of correction or encouragement was received. Other times it was listening to my fears or hurt. I am also encouraged to see this happen to my children. It is also a reminder to me - I need to do the same for others. (Frank Lee)

**Share
unforgettable
experience**

One unforgettable experience was a couple representing the English congregation brought ham and other goodies such as Vegemite whilst we were in Malaysia. The other was seeing many of the children of our church friends becoming Christians by making a confession of faith and being baptised.

The above young group later became one of the biggest Y12 later in 1994 and 1996. Thankfully the church had already started a youth service in 1992. We saw the 9.15 English service full and then in 1999-2000 we had two 5pm services one in the main church and the other in the Chapel. This brought great joy to many parents of our age. (Jack Mock)

Back in 2011, I was very privileged to be given the opportunity to be the convenor of the 2012 combined Houseparty at Merroo. This is a new experience for me as I have not being involved in organising such a large event before. I thank God and the board at the time for this opportunity to work with a team of amazing brothers and sisters who worked tirelessly over the course of a year towards the house party. I still remember very clearly the moment I stepped into the camp site after a year’s worth of organisation wondering how the house party will turn out. I truly thank God that the house party turned out to be a time of encouragement for many and I personally have enjoyed it very much. (Sammy Liu)

For a few years, a group of men started a “tradition” of meeting up on the second night of English Houseparty to share and encourage one another in our daily walk and also in what we learnt or was challenged by at the talks. I thoroughly enjoyed and cherished the times that were spent chatting and sharing with a group of men, some of whom I don’t usually have a chance to share with, and gain wisdom and insights. (Edwin Choi)



Elder Liu's family

I have personally benefited so much from this church through learning and serving in CCC and I have grown as a Christian since I joined this church which I call my spiritual home. I expect that CCC can continue providing opportunities for brothers and sisters to use their God given talents to serve God as disciples of Jesus, to proclaim the gospel of the Lord and continue to grow His kingdom.
(Sammy Liu)

My prayer is that as a church community, we can continue to encourage each other. Jesus' example was of sacrificial servanthood. He gave himself willingly and wholeheartedly to others to see them saved and be in a relationship with God. I hope and pray God will enable myself, and my fellow CCC brothers and sisters to do the same.
(Frank Lee)

What is your
expectation
for this
family?



Elder Choi's family

The inclusive family atmosphere of CCC and the faithful preaching of God's Word are what impressed us most and are key elements that made CCC so special. So my hope is that these key elements which attracted my family to our church will continue. That as a church, we will continue to welcome new visitors warmly, to look after the individuals and the families who attend our church, to help them grow spiritually, and for them to become part of our Christian family with God the Father as the Head of this Family. (Swee Yeo)



Elder Mock's family

My burden is that members of this family will grow in their relationship with God. Not just knowing God but have an active and living relationship with God that will bear fruit. (Edwin Choi)

What is your
burden in this
family?

One of the current challenges is grow again both the young workers and the recently married to be integrated into one community of believers and to worship and serve the Lord together at the Redeemer City Church. (Jack Mock)

My burden in this family is to contribute to raising up the next generation of pastors to carry on fulfilling God's command to "go and make disciples of all nations". (Stephen Lowe)

Ordination of Pastor Jeff Wang



Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!

On 15th September 2019, CCC conducted the Ordination Service for Pastor Jeff Wang. The whole ceremony and the refreshment and fellowship went smoothly and successfully. A good number of ministers from churches around Sydney was invited to attend the ceremony, and people from various congregations in CCC were also present to witness this significant moment.

Thanks to God in the calling of Rev Jeff Wang for the sake of His Kingdom. The

work and services of Pastor Jeff Wang has been well recognized by fellow brothers and sisters in the church. After training and continuous learning and with the approval of the Ordination Committee, he has been approved to be the minister of the church. In response, Reverend Jeff Wang has willingly accepted the position and dedicated himself to serve faithfully to our Lord.

During the Ordination Service, we have the encouragement and admonishment of Reverend Peter Wong-so. Reverend Jeff Wang in response replied, that he himself may be like the seed that has fallen into the soil, being covered and spent, to accomplish the purpose of God, producing many fruits and experiencing the miracle of life..." This truly touched our hearts. We are grateful for their genuine dedication to Christ. It is our prayer that God will grant Reverend Jeff Wang



strength and wisdom, submission to the will of our Father as he shepherds our church. May our Lord strengthen his faith, and that in all things, he shall set examples as a follower of Christ, wholeheartedly loving God and serving others in love. May all who see his work will be encouraged in their faith and matured in their love. (Wendy Yang)



Canto Picnic Day

With the passing of bitter cold winter wind, spring has quietly descended and brought the rise of warmth to the air. Blooming flowers, shining rays, chirping birds, it is a great time to travel.

The young and energetic deacons in the Cantonese congregation organised a day trip to the Royal Rehabilitations Centre in Ryde during the October Long Weekend on October 7th. It was for a family gathering, as well as bringing some of our disconnected old family members.



In the warm sunshine, stepping on the lush grass, breathing the freshness of the spring's fragrance, about 100 people, excited and with endless smiles, helping the old and carrying the young, were gathered at the destination. As brothers and sisters, we joyously playing games together. There is no age boundary, just a sight of caring, sharing of lives, and relationship building. Besides family gathering, it is also our desire to make this outing a call

for "homecoming" event. Such that, some of the non-believers or friends who have left us may have the opportunity to know our spiritual family better. Meanwhile, we have children playing tennis, basketballs, riding bikes and chasing one another outdoor, filling the air with joyous laughter. Truly we have both old and young rejoicing together.

Some faithful brothers and sisters worked tirelessly to prepare a fine buffet lunch for us all. There were Chinese and Western cuisines, giving a scrumptious and satisfying taste. Under the shade of spring light, many pretty portraits were taken, leaving behind many pleasant memories.

Church is God's family, we are all a part of it, loving one another, building this body of Christ. As we gathered, it surely deepens our relationship. (Mrs Y. Y. Tso)



HP 2019 Reflections



One of the ways God's been working in the wider English community at CCC this year has been the breaking down of artificial barriers between congregations, bringing together leadership structures, and creating spaces for intentional inter-congregational fellowship. This generated great opportunity to serve each other in love, as one wider English community.

Undoubtedly, the capstone of this has been the Combined English Houseparty. With nearly 200 people attending over October long weekend, we heard from God's word as one community, studied it together as one community, praised God through song as one community, and sought to apply it practically as one community.

The topic of this year's Combined English Houseparty was Hope, in particular, "Hope that Transforms". We were privileged to have Reverend Stuart Coulton (Principal of Sydney Missionary and Bible College) unpacking this transformative theme of Scripture over three deeply encouraging talks. We then split off into smaller inter-congregational bible study groups, digging deeper into what God had to say about the end goal of our transformative hope (in Heaven – from Revelation), and what it means to wait in hope (in a hostile world – from 1 Peter). And of course, it wouldn't be a Houseparty without "compulsory fun", where members from different congregations were grouped together to answer trivia questions, and complete various challenges involving household objects.



Not only was this year's Houseparty a great time of inter-congregational fellowship, so was the many months' worth of effort put in by all the volunteers. We had members from every English congregation in each team, leveraging each other's strengths and sharing the load.



Post Houseparty, by far the standout feedback we received was that everyone loved the opportunity to get to know brothers and sisters from other congregations.

Houseparty was truly a testament to how God is moving in the English community at CCC, to be one community that is growing in Christ, serving in love, and reaching the world. (Yong Tan)

Maintenance Update

Main Church Major Repairs

Stage 1 – Jan/Feb 2020, external stonework make-safe, masonry repointing, rainwater goods and associated flashings remediation work for the main church building commences, should be completed within 2 - 3 months.

Stage 2 – Jul/Aug 2020, internal render repairing and repainting work is expected.

Redevelopment of the Christian Education Centre

With the endorsement of the BOE, an internal project management team has been set up to facilitate a feasibility study into the possibility of redeveloping the Christian Education Centre. The project team has commissioned various professional consultants to assist, including heritage consultants, quantity surveyors, financial and tax experts etc. to provide advice to the church about the implications and costs of this redevelopment.

Consultation and dialogue with various Board of Deacons (BODs) has commenced and a draft of the feasibility study will be available to our church for feedback and suggestions by first quarter of 2020, possibly towards a vote in the AGM in 2020.

Maintenance Funding Strategy

A “Repair Fund” has been 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.

How you may contribute?

The money spent on the Christian Education Centre redevelopment will come 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.

Methods:

- (a) Additional weekly offertory can be made in marked envelopes stating “REPAIR FUND”.
- (b) Transfer Fund Electronically (EFT) into our general church account (ending in 3060) with a description of “REPAIR FUND”.

BRING A FRIEND TO JOIN US

COME & CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 聖誕崇拜

ENGLISH | CANTONESE | MANDARIN
英語 | 粵語 | 國語

WED DEC 25th 10 A.M.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY & FUN DAY



DEC 1ST & 8TH
SUN 9:15AM OR 11:15 AM

LET'S HAVE FUN!

國語堂
聖樂崇拜

MANDARIN CHRISTMAS MUSIC SERVICE

Dec 15 十二月十五日 | 11:15am
Church Main Hall 教會大禮堂



Nursing Homes Christmas Carolling

報佳音—安老院舍

12月 (DEC) 14日

If interested, please contact Pastor Eric Shing
如有興趣,請聯絡成傳道



Join us this January Holiday

BACK TO BIBLE TIMES

為短宣隊祈禱

PRAY
ALONG

FOR OUR
MISSION TEAMS

OMF VIETNAM
MISSION

越南短宣
(DEC十二月2-13日)

為兩位隊員及越南未信者禱告
Pray for our 2 members
& the unreached in Vietnam



CEM THAILAND
MISSION TO
CHIANG MAI
泰國短宣
(DEC十二月20-30日)



為八位隊員及當地未信者禱告
Pray for our 8 members
& the unreached

事工：地方教會、孤兒院、
戒毒中心、學生事工等等
Ministries: Local Chinese Church,
Orphanage, Detoxification
Center, Student Ministries, etc

預告

CCC 2020
CONFERENCE

CCC 2020 特會

JULY 七月 4 - 5, 2020

PACIFIC HILLS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, DURAL