



October 2013  
**CCCCO-K**  
Volume 20

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made  
everything  
beautiful  
in its time. He has also set  
eternity in the human heart;  
yet no one can fathom what  
God has done from beginning to end.



But the fruit of the Spirit,  
is love, joy, peace,  
forbearance, kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,

gentleness and  
self-control.

Against such things  
there is no law.

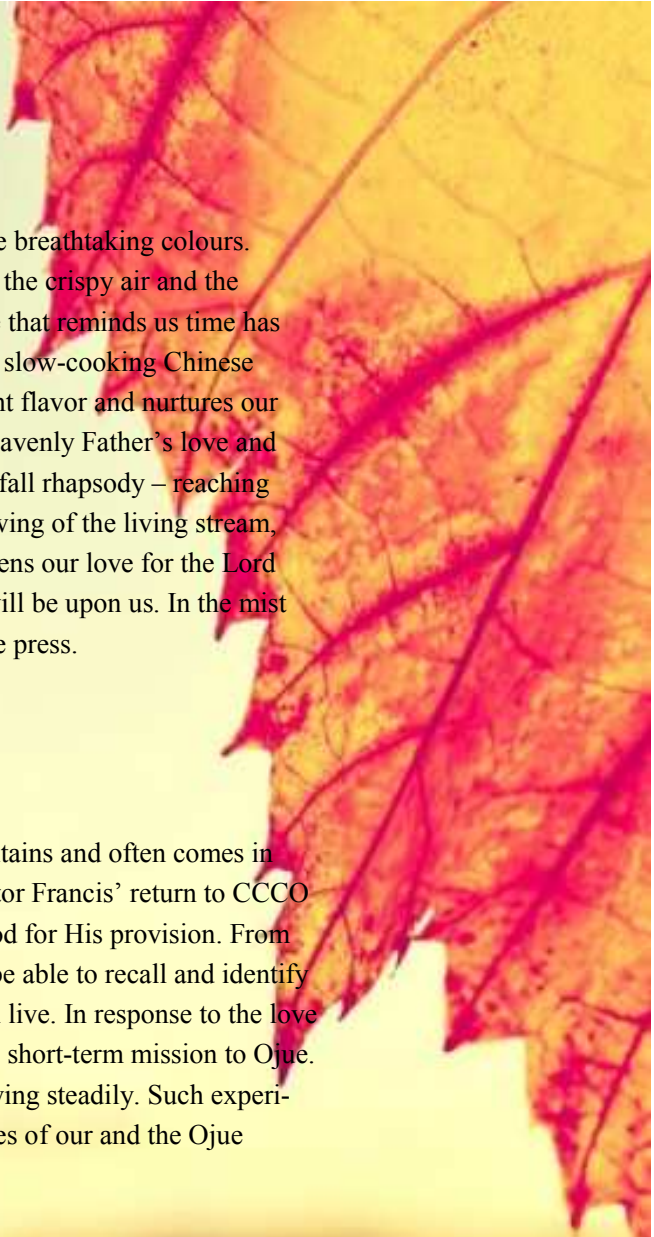
Galatians 5:22, 23



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Many poets write about the autumn splendor with its immense breathtaking colours. After Mid-Autumn Festival, we entered into deep fall. Often, it is the crispy air and the sound of the shedding leaves combined with the wonder of nature that reminds us time has quietly passed. Interestingly, some equate the fall beauty with the slow-cooking Chinese soup, each colour painted by mother nature gives rise to a different flavor and nurtures our sight sense in an unprecedented manner! The same is with our Heavenly Father's love and mercy – prettier than the maple beauty and more intense than the fall rhapsody – reaching to the ultimate of the ultimate in all dimensions! With the out flowing of the living stream, not only does it quench our thirsty hearts, it also gushes and heartens our love for the Lord and challenges us to move forward. After Thanksgiving, winter will be upon us. In the mist of our thankfulness, this new issue of CCCO-Konnnect rolls off the press.

God's grace is as abundant as the rock-solid mountains and often comes in ways which surpass our expectations, such as For Pastor Francis' return to CCCO to shepherd the Cantonese congregation. We thank God for His provision. From reading the different baptismal testimonies, you may be able to recall and identify with some of the sharing which happened in your own live. In response to the love of Christ, many of our youths participated again in the short-term mission to Ojue. Some of the gospel seeds planted earlier are now growing steadily. Such experiences become another memorable milestone in the lives of our and the Ojue youths. For this, we give thanks.

Though Sister Blossom Mo now lives in Toronto, her love and care towards CCCO is once again demonstrated in her sharing about faith. Brother Eddie Yan's a piece on the issue of church planting for the next generation is timely. It warrants our consideration and provokes us to pray earnestly about it.

Sister Carmen's Harvest Harold's shares with us her call to serve in Bible translation. In Mark 16:15, our Lord Jesus commended us to go to all the world to preach His words to all nations. With words that people understand, how can we preach the gospel? What are your responses to Carmen's questions?

Dear brothers and sisters, as Paul said, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." May all the glory and praises be unto our triune God!





# Renewing Our Vision

(2 Timothy 1:1-10)

Pastor Calvin Fong

Over the summer months we have spent a lot of time talking about the will of God, the vision for CCCO and related topics and needs. These last several months have been a most interesting journey in the life of CCCO and it will be interesting where this all will lead. As we stand here today, on the verge of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary I believe we stand at the verge of something special and this will be a key chapter in the history of our church.

If we are going to understand where God is leading us in the two main issues we face today-the planting of a new church and the return of Pastor Francis to serve as our Cantonese Pastor-we need to walk in closeness, fellowship and intimacy with Him. Let's not focus or desire that God simply show us where we are going rather let's focus on our walk and relationship with Him and through that allow God to lead us. It's not an easy thing. Our tendency is to want solutions and to want answers. But God desires relationship so let's focus first on that.

But does that mean God is going to just leave us in the dark? Does that mean we just live in a somewhat aimless manner in some pie-in-the-sky fantasy like a day dreamer never thinking or concerning ourselves with the future? The obvious answer to that question is, "Of course not!" Scripture clearly and plainly teaches us that God has a plan for us-individually but arguably more importantly, together. Ephesians 2:8-10 says, **"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."** So while our focus should be on our day to day walk and relationship with God we still need to understand that God has a plan for our lives and He wants us to discover and follow that plan. But it is in the intimacy of relationship with our God that we not only discover that plan but we submit ourselves in obedience to God's plan. Dr. William L. Pettingill, a well-known Bible teacher and author of many books, at a meeting of the Philadelphia Fundamentalists made a penetrating remark on this subject. **"Most people," he said, "don't want to know the will of God in order to do it; they want to know it in order to consider it."** The closer we are in our relationship with Him the less and less disobedience becomes an option when God reveals to us His perfect plan.

But there are times when we can become discouraged either because we are uncertain about God's will. There are times when we are frustrated because God seems to be hiding from us. There are times when we are confused because what seemed a few days or months or years ago to be God's will is not so certain today.

Pastor Josh and I of course talk regularly during the week about lots of things from our personal lives, our family lives and ministry needs. Most of the time we agree. But there are times when we disagree-not about theological things mind you-but

about how we might do something or how we might handle a certain situation. **There's a story of two pastors who were having quite a lively discussion about some ministry needs. They obviously had two different approaches to how to handle a particular issue. After several minutes of arguing one pastor said to the other. "Look. Why are we arguing? We are both doing the Lord's work. We should fight just because we see things differently. You go ahead and do things your way and I'll do things His way."**

Getting back to the two major issues we face today as a church-the possible planting of a new church and the possible return of Pastor Francis to serve as our Cantonese pastor-we have had some disagreements and different views. In my opinion that isn't always bad. In fact, there are times when it is probably good. However, not all of you may share my position or optimism. There may be some here who are confused with what's been happening and therefore uncertain of what God's will is. There are those of you here who disagree with what's been shared by the Elders and other leaders. And there are probably some of you here this morning who are concerned, disappointed and even frustrated with our attempts to discern God's will and vision for CCCO.

What do we need to do? What should we do? Well, I can't give you a definitive answer this morning but there are words in Scripture that may help us. Over the next few months we are going to explore this area of vision and how to follow God's plan and vision for us but I thought I'd begin today by addressing this need at times in our lives and perhaps for us today as a church, to renew our vision, get back on track to what God calls us to. If these two major issues have created some concern, disappointment or confusion for us how can we get refocused and redirected towards God's desire?

Timothy was a young protégé of the apostle Paul. He was mentored by Paul and eventually Paul left Timothy to pastor the church he planted in Ephesus. Timothy was converted during Paul's ministry in Lystra. Timothy was probably around 16 years old when he first came to Christ. Paul took Timothy under his wing and Timothy accompanied Paul on his second ministry journey and the relationship between Paul and Timothy grew to be more like a father-son relationship. Timothy, during his pastoral ministry in Ephesus was probably in his late twenties or early thirties.

Ministry in Ephesus was not easy. If you remember from the book of Acts Ephesus, being the major port city to what is now Turkey and much of the Middle East was not only heavily populated but populated with peoples from all around the known world. The city worshipped the goddess Diana (also called Artemis), the love-goddess of the Greek world. It was Timothy's task to minister to the church that was opposing the blind idolatry, and pagan superstition of this darkened, heathen city-a formidable task to say the least! The faith of the believers in Ephesus was still relatively new as the church sought to deepen its roots in the truth. Add to that Timothy's young age. Even the church didn't know if he really knew what he was doing! They didn't always have confidence in him or listen to him and Timothy was always fighting the battle for respect and credibility. The two letters written by Paul to Timothy were probably written a few years apart but both have this flavor running through them-stick with it. Don't be discouraged. Don't give up. It is Paul who writes those well-known words to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12-**"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."** It is Paul who tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15, **"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth"**-words that I have adopted as my own life verse. It is in this context that Paul writes to Timothy to remind him that he has been called by God and in times of discouragement and disappointment to renew his vision. Turn with me to 2 Timothy 1:1-10 and let's take a closer look at what Paul has to say.

### **A. Renew our Vision for Worship**

First look at 2 Timothy 1:1-3. **[READ]** The key word in this passage is the word, "serve". This is not the usual New Testament Greek word for "serve," but this is the Greek word *latreuo*. This word *latreuo* is used 20 other times in the New Testament, and it always refers to service offered to God as an act of worship. This kind of service is never directed toward other people, but it's always directed toward God. This Greek word *latreuo* is where we get our English word liturgy from, which refers to the order and structure of a Christian worship service. In fact, we call our corporate worship a "worship service" because of this word. The first way we renew our vision is by renewing our vision for worship. As Paul looks back on his own life, he views his entire life since coming to faith in Christ as an act of worship directed to God. For Paul worship was a life-



style of devotion to God, not just a Sunday morning church activity.

We say it all the time but we really need to understand that worship is not about what we do here or in some other building on a Sunday morning. Worship is how we live our lives-in total submission and service to God. Remember our passage in Romans 12:1-2. We are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, a lifestyle of devotion to God, as our spiritual act of worship.

We renew our vision when we renew our vision for worship.

### **B. Renew our vision for Prayer (v.3-5)**

Let's continue. Look at verses 3-5. **[READ]** Look at how Paul expresses his heart in v. 4-5. In v. 3 Paul reported how he prayed day and night for Timothy. And in vv. 4 and 5 we find the content of Paul's prayer, that as he prayed he remembered Timothy's tears and his longing to be reunited with his apprentice. As he prayed for Timothy he was reminded of how Timothy came to faith in Christ. It all started with Timothy's grandmother Lois, and then his mother Eunice. Timothy was a third generation Christian, someone raised in a Christian home. What Paul does here is simply pour out his heart to God. The second way we renew our vision is when we renew our vision for prayer.

We see lots of gimmicks about prayer these days. We often try to boil prayer down to a formula including the words to say, the place to say them, the time to say them and the people we should say them with. But for Paul, renewing his vision for prayer simply came from pouring out his heart to God. Paul's life was so directed that whatever was of concern in his heart automatically bubbled up in prayer to God. No technique, no seven easy steps, but simply expressing his heart to God. I've been sharing over the past few weeks that I believe we need to recommit ourselves to praying with each other not because Wednesday night, 7:30pm is some kind of magic formula but because we need to renew our vision for prayer and for praying with each other if we are going to see what God wants us to see. At our last English prayer meeting we had 14 brothers and sisters come together to pray. That was awesome! But it's just the start. We will continue to have our monthly Wednesday night prayer meetings and in addition we will take the month of September, at minimum, to meet after service at 11:15am in 118 Empress to provide an additional opportunity to pray together. I urge you to join us for this essential hour. It has been said, **"Prayer doesn't prepare us for the battle; prayer is the battle."**

We renew our vision when we renew our vision for prayer.

### **C. Renew our vision for Service (v. 6-7)**

Let's continue with verses 6 and 7. **[READ]** Paul encourages Timothy to fan into flame the gift he received from God when he was commissioned into the ministry and to not let the outside circumstances he faces or the inner feelings of discouragement snuff out the flame. God had given Timothy all the equipment he needed to be effective as God's servant. But the fire of God's gift in Timothy's life was going out. It had become like a fire in the fireplace when no new wood has been added for a while. The flame wasn't burning anymore, but instead there was a glowing ember that's gradually losing its heat. The third way we renew our vision is when we renew our vision for service.

Paul encourages Timothy to "fan the flame" of his gift, so it would once again burn brightly and with intensity. The way we fan the flame of our spiritual gifts is by using them. The flame loses its blaze through lack of use, and gradually our gifts become glowing embers. We fuel the fire when we use our gifts.

We learn here that fear was holding Timothy back from using his gifts. The word "timidity" here means "a state of fear because of cowardice or lack of moral strength". Paul tells Timothy that this timid fear doesn't come from God. What comes from God is an attitude of power, love and self-discipline. Power is the capacity to face our fears and use our gifts, even when we're shaking like a leaf. Love is the capacity to express God's love through our gift when we do use it. Self-discipline is the courage to go forward even when we're timid and fearful.

Let me be blunt. How many of you are using your spiritual gift here to build up the body, to encourage and to serve your brothers and sisters here at CCCO? While I am thankful for all who serve and many of them thanklessly, tirelessly and sacrificially if you are here and you know that you aren't using your God-given gifts to their fullest then I challenge you to renew

your vision and passion for service. Step out of your comfort zone if necessary. Trust that the Holy Spirit will give you power to move forward. Give your life to serve God and one another.

Some churches have the slogan, “Every member a minister” and I subscribe to that kind of thinking. That everyone here who calls themselves a Disciple of Christ is called to minister to this body in some way, shape or form. I may not have identified it yet. The Elders Board and the Core Groups may not have identified it yet. But you need to serve. Do you see a need? Maybe that’s God speaking to you and urging you to ministry.

We renew our vision when we renew our vision for service.

#### **D. Renew our Vision for Outreach (v. 8a)**

Next comes the first part of verse 8. **[READ]** Paul encourages Timothy to not shy away, to not be ashamed or fearful about testifying about Jesus Christ. In addition he says not to be ashamed of himself, Paul, just because he is in prison for preaching the Gospel. The fourth way we renew our vision is when we renew our vision for outreach.

Christians are often tempted to be ashamed of Jesus Christ. We’re tempted to hide our witness about Jesus, to keep our faith in Christ hidden inside our hearts and our churches, rather than letting it flow into our words and our actions. Do you need your vision for outreach renewed? Notice again that this doesn’t come through a special evangelism seminar or a book. It comes through facing our fears and testifying about Jesus. This means putting into words how Jesus has changed our lives. It means sharing with those around us the good news of Christ, about his life, death and resurrection. It means building relationships with un-churched people so we can shine as lights in their lives.

We live in the same neighborhoods as dozens, perhaps hundreds of un-churched, unsaved people. We have friends and family that do not have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. And yet it sometimes feels like we live in completely different worlds. Our role, as a church is to partner with each of you so that we all can be more effective at reaching the lost around us. My desire for each of you is that you would, in the power of the Holy Spirit, reach out to those that God brings into your circle of influence and impact them with the message of Jesus Christ. My desire for the church is that we be loving and relevant to those God brings to each of you and at the same time uncompromising in our commitment to biblical truth and principles. Outreach is something I believe we need to pray seriously about and have our vision renewed in this area, because I fear that many of us are becoming so busy and distracted by life that we’re no longer living out this partnership.

We renew our vision when we renew our vision for outreach.

#### **E. Renew our vision for Nurture and Care (v. 8b-10)**

Finally look at the second part of verse 8 to verse 10. **[READ]** The gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, is what brings us into a right relationship with God. It is God’s grace that saves us because there is nothing we can do to contribute to or to earn our salvation. It is the work of God and God alone and is a free gift of grace.

But with the gospel also comes a call to live a holy life, a life of spiritual depth and growth. This is what we mean by nurture, being nurtured in the life God calls us to. Although we do not contribute anything to our salvation, once God saves us, he calls us to live differently. He calls us to a life of transformation, a life where we grow and mature. He calls us to put down deep spiritual roots that are nourished by the truth of God. He calls us to nurture a holy life.

One of the most important and essential ways our lives are nurtured is in the context of fellowship and community. Even in our relatively small congregation of 100-120 it is difficult to really KNOW each other. Small groups aren’t just a fad or trend that we use to be like everyone else. Our small group ministry, LIFE Groups, is meant to be a means by which we can truly grow in our relationship with one another so that our Christian lives can be nurtured. We need to truly care for each other and be willing to invest into each other’s lives.

We renew our vision when we renew our vision for nurture and care.

With any vision there should always be a always tension between the vision and the way things are. This is because if vi-

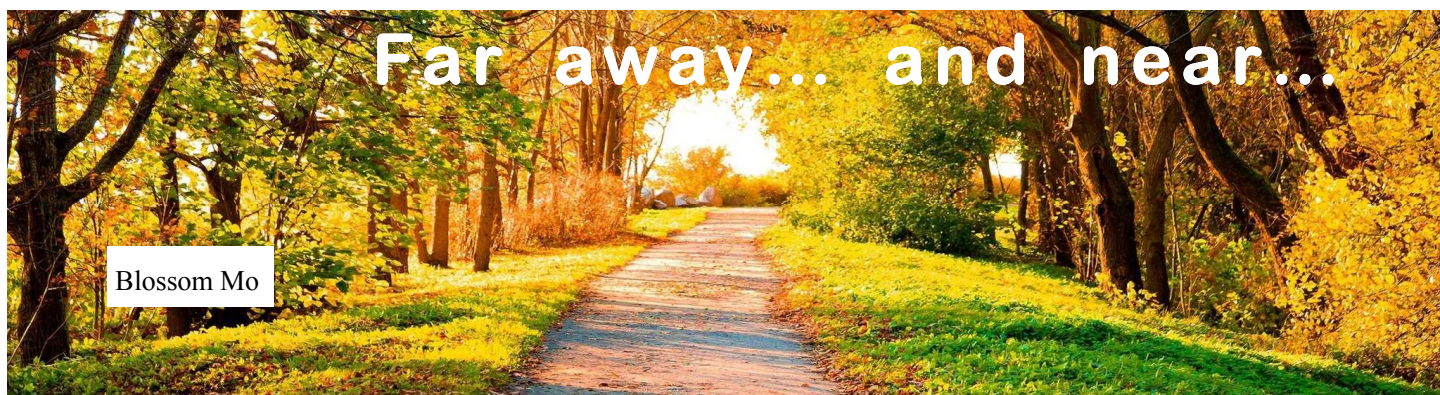
sion only described the status quo, it wouldn't be vision. So the disparity between vision and the status quo creates tension, like a rubber band that's been stretched. Often we're tempted to let this tension pull the vision down to the status quo, to soften the vision and make it more palatable to the way things are. Instead, we should let the tension pull the way things are closer to the vision, creating the necessary changes in our lives needed to pull us toward what God has for us.

I believe God wants to pull us closer to our vision this year. Specifically what that vision is I don't know-not yet. But I believe God wants us to be a congregation of renewed vision for worship, prayer, service, outreach, and nurture. We need to let the tension between this vision and the way things are today stretch us, to pull us, to excite us, and to fan the flame so we once again burn bright. But vision isn't renewed by just hearing a sermon or reading a book. Our vision for worship is renewed by actually worshipping; our vision for prayer is renewed by actually praying; our vision for service is renewed by actually using our gifts to serve; our vision for outreach is renewed by actually testifying about Jesus; and our vision for nurture is renewed by actually responding to God's call to a holy life. There is no substituted for action, for doing what God has called us to do. As we continue to seek God's will, direction and vision for CCCO let's commit ourselves to action.

(Originally Preached English Congregation September 8, 2013)







Blossom Mo

Recently a missionary who serves in South East Asia shared the following incident with me:

A family in our church consists of 6 persons--a father and a mother, and four under 10 year-old children. The father cannot work due to an accident a few years ago. The mother Mei works as a kindergarten teacher with salary of US \$75 per month to make ends meet.

One day, the kindergarten principal talked to Mei, “You’re a Christian, and I don’t like people to have belief. You have a choice--either to denounce your belief and keep your job, or to hold on to your Christian faith and lose your job.” Mei asked him to let her think for a week.

Mei then brought this up at the church prayer meeting and asked brothers and sisters to pray for her. One week later, she went to see her principal and said to him, “I decided to continue to believe in Jesus Christ because I know He’s a true and living God.” Immediately Mei lost her job. The whole church knew about this and prayed for her.

Two weeks later Mei received a phone call. A kindergarten will be opened in a couple of days, and the principal offered her a job of US \$100 per month. This is a Christian School. When the principal heard of Mei's testimony, without hesitation, she wanted to hire her. God indeed cares for those who trust Him.

[illegible]

A missionary left his country and came to a city in Panama to start evangelism. This is a place where drug addicts meet and have business. The missionary leads ex-addicts who have become Jesus' followers to distribute Gospel tracts in the city. He says, "This is an evil place, surrounded by darkness and wickedness. We have to work hard to bring people to Christ, so that they will have new life and hope in Him."

[illegible]

A 6-person short term mission team, Canadian born Chinese young people, left Toronto and arrived a small village in Guatemala in August, to visit and help a missionary couple. They shared the same comment after coming back, “It really opens my eyes!” Below is their first-hand experiences:

The children and youth each has only one set of clothing. The mission team carried 7 suitcases, in which half of them were clothing for them. They don't have any toys. They were excited when the mission team played soccer and a tug of war with them. One of the objectives of the mission team was to rebuild the playground for them to be used in the future.

Rice and beans are planted in most families, which are their daily food. Most of them have never entered a restaurant. As an award to hard working and good conduct students, the missionary couple would bring them to restaurants to introduce to them different kinds of food. The mission organization has built a “Feeding Centre” to provide free meals to children and youth three times a week. Each time more than 200 people attended.

If we compare our Canadian living standard with those in the village in Guatemala, we are like “God’s favored one or an unusually lucky person”. We have lots of material belongings. Some families have a full-house of toys in the basement, we never lack of clothing and daily commodities, and no need to worry about putting dishes on the table. God has provided us with abundant resources. What is His purpose? Our Lord Jesus has said, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” (Luke 12:48b) Besides to be grateful for God’s blessings, should we share what we have with others, and offer ourselves to God and let Him use us?

# **Sharing on New Church Planting**

## **for our English-speaking**

### **Next Generation Christ Followers**

Eddie Yan

In the 2013 Church Ministry Outlook, the Chair of the Elders Board, Brother Tim Law quoted “A Tale of Twin Cities” by Charles Dickens – “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times” – to describe the church situation at that crucial time: “It is a bad time as we are losing two pastors within a few months. It is a good time because it allows us to pause and turn our eyes upon our Lord before we forge ahead.”

This is, indeed, an opportune time for our church family to experience God’s faithful provision and to reposition ourselves to move forward. While the church family and the PSC are diligently searching and praying for new Chinese pastors, at the same time we must be vigilant and continue to humbly seek the future direction of CCCO as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As a church, we need to be faithful to the cross. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading. We need to catch the spiritual waves that are coming our way and to rise above them so that we, the CCCO church family, can be faithful to our Father’s calling in ministering to God’s people here and afar. God’s people encompass every human being that goes beyond, way beyond just the Chinese immigrants living in the city.

Canadian Chinese churches came about in the 60’s when a large influx of overseas Chinese students accepted Christ in the CCFs (Chinese Christian Fellowships). By God’s grace and through the dedications of faithful Christ followers, many of whom were college students and young adults, the number of Chinese churches grew rapidly in response to the huge incoming immigrants from Hong Kong in the 80s and 90s. By the Millennium and until recently, Mandarin-speaking immigrants have been coming from China. Over the last four decades, major Canadian metropolitans were blessed with significant increase of Chinese churches. Chinese Christian Church of Ottawa was one of them.

Like most of the Canadian Chinese churches, our church serves largely first generation immigrants. Not unlike other N. American ethnic churches, CCCO provides an environment which is conducive for reaching out to the Chinese immigrants. At the same time, the Lord has blessed the immigrant families with children. These children grew up in Canada. They are the next generation *of* immigrants. They are *not* immigrants. However, Chinese churches in Canada, indeed immigrant churches around the world are experiencing this phenomenon – our children are parting from their faith and are departing from their parents’ churches.

Church leaders, in general, “know” intellectually they must “do something” to plug the leak and to stop the *silent exodus* of our English-speaking next generation youths and young adult families. In reality, though, not much has been done. Each church must humbly ask God for guidance on what, how and when to plug this leak – a leak which, if left unattended, will likely lead to the eventual demise of Canadian Chinese churches as government immigration policies continue to drastically tighten the admission criteria. Couple this with an aging generation of Chinese immigrants, we begin to see the writing on the wall. This is not about playing with immigration statistics. It is about facing the reality and being faithful to our call as God’s people. As stewards, we have been entrusted with the awesome responsibility of raising our children and leading them to Christ. Without a conducive environment, this is easier said than done. Our children, indeed the English-speaking next generation youths and young families require a faith community which is conducive to their culture and thinking, much like the Chinese immigrant churches of their parents’ generation. No wonder they quietly walk away when that faith community is no-



where to be found.

Chinese churches in North America have tried, and try they did, to integrate the next generation believers with their parents in church leaderships and in different ministries under a 2-languages/3-dialects church. CCCO tried that too, but to no avail. The status quo is no longer acceptable. He who does not advance loses ground.

### **Why plant a new church?**

Rev. Timothy Keller is founder and pastor of New York's Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. Over the past 20 years, the church has grown to five services at three sites, with a weekly attendance of over 5,000. Rev. Keller advocates that "[a] vigorous and continuous approach to church planting is the only way to guarantee an increase in the number of believers, and is one of the best ways to renew the whole body of Christ." When asked "why is church planting so crucially important?" Rev. Keller summarized:

A. We plant churches because we want to be true to the Biblical mandate in that (i) Jesus' essential call was to plant churches (Matt. 28:18-20; cf. Acts 2:41-47); (ii) Apostle Paul's whole strategy was to plant urban churches (cf. Acts 16:9, 12; Rom. 15:19, 23).

B. We plant churches because we want to be true to the Great Commission since (i) new churches best reach new generations, new residents, and new people groups; (ii) new churches best reach the unchurched.

C. We also plant churches because we want to continually renew the whole body of Christ since (i) the new churches bring new ideas to the whole body; (ii) new churches are one of the best places to identify creative, strong leaders for the whole body; (iii) the new churches challenge other churches to self-examination; (iv) the new churches may be an "evangelistic feeder" for a whole community (converts from the new church may end up joining older, existing churches for different reasons).

D. We plant churches as an exercise in Kingdom-mindedness. Our attitude to new church development is a test of whether our mindset is geared to our own institutional turf or to the overall health and prosperity of the Kingdom of God in the city.

[Adopted from "Why Plant Churches?" by Rev. Timothy Keller, Feb. 2002]

Evidently, there are not only better ways to serve the next generation, but more next generation to be had if new churches are being planted to proclaim the gospel in a linguistically and culturally relevant environment directed to this group.

And now is the time! Why? As pastors and leaders, we must constantly try to sense God's leading in the church. A few years back the Lord laid the burden on the heart of our Youth Pastor, Joshua to seek for the opportune time to share his vision of a next generation church with the other pastors and the Elders Board. It was not until the beginning of this year that he felt convicted by the Holy Spirit that the time is ripe. At this year's January Elders Board retreat, Pastor Josh shared this with our English Pastor, Calvin and the Elders Board. Pastor Cal echoed a similar desire to build up the English-speaking young adults. The Elders Board shared the same sentiment and resolved to start contemplating this novel development of planting an English speaking church for our next generation sisters and brothers.

Without a doubt, the Pastors and the Elders feel it is extremely crucial we put our utmost efforts to call for two pastors to fill our current Mandarin and Cantonese pastoral voids. At the same time, we realize it could be a lengthy journey if we were to plant a new church. We believe the preliminary tasks of church planting need to begin now. An *ad hoc* Committee was thus struck. As the church celebrates her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, may it please God that CCCO begins the church planting process in order to better equip and empower our next generation of believers to exercise their faith by having a community of Christ followers in which they feel completely at home. A church that does not discriminate between skin colour or their parents' countries of origin. A church that comes alive with outreach to their peers at school and at work. A church that fulfils the Great Commission!

A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. There will likely be a thousand questions being raised along this journey. While we, with our finite understanding, may not have all the answers, though we will try our best to address these questions, we must be willing to let go and let God to take charge.

This may not be the best of times or the worst of times. But the times, they are a changing. Change is here. Don't be left behind! Get concerned. Start praying. Share your thoughts and ideas. Look up, way up!

[Editor: Views expressed are those of the author' s]

# Harvest Herald!



Carmen Yan

Dear family & friends,

Greetings from Calgary! Wish I could say I'm here to participate in a stampede, but actually I'm living with 19 others in the middle of the prairies. We're all huddled together in a "lodge," getting a 2-week crash course on (almost!) all things related to cross-cultural ministry + the organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators Canada. We even get to sit in a Wycliffe van. :) After this course is done tomorrow, I'll be just one step away from becoming a full Wycliffe member!

Below, I have shared with you a time-sensitive request related to this new season of my life.

## Language & literacy = rooted in communication

The theme of *communication* has been running through my mind a lot this summer. Why do we use language, and why is literacy such an important set of skills to have? The answers all seem to revolve around our needs as humans to **communicate clearly** with one another. We are created to connect with each other through the **use of language**, and across times & distances through **reading & writing**.

I'm afraid I haven't been very good myself at communicating many details regarding what the battle schools of "seminary" and "SIL classes" have been all about. I've been exposed to an incredible wealth of new learning and I keep meaning to write it down and reflect/share...hopefully more these next 2 months, after the schooling part is over (...for now)!

Briefly though, I think it can be said that these last 3 years at **Westminster** have been about learning **how & what God has communicated to us**, while my 2 summers at **SIL** [Summer Institute of Linguistics – training for Bible translation work] have been about **how people communicate with each other** and **how to best communicate with others from different cultures** and **how to clearly communicate God's Word in each of the 6900 presently-spoken languages around the world!**

## Reflecting a God who communicates

*"How does language reflect God? According to the Bible, God himself can speak, and does speak. We are made like him, and that is why we can speak. When we use language, we rely on resources and powers that find their origin in God...[L]anguage reflects God in his Trinitarian character. We can appreciate language more deeply, and use it more wisely, if we*



come to know God and understand the relation of God to the language we use... The gospel, in coming to a new language, opens the door to the people of that language to receive deliverance."

– *In the Beginning was the Word* by Vern Poythress, former SIL teacher & present WTS professor (a very thoughtful book containing rich reflections on how human language bears the fingerprints of the Creator of language. Read it all for free [here!](#))

Isn't it amazing to think about the fact that when we use language, we are reflecting the One who has created us? Whether you're telling a friend how much you appreciate them, explaining a math problem to your younger sister, singing a song, or asking for directions... when we communicate, we are speakers (like God the Father, who is the **original speaker**), we use words (like God the Son, who is the **original Word**), and those words travel through a medium (like God the Spirit, who is the **original breath**).

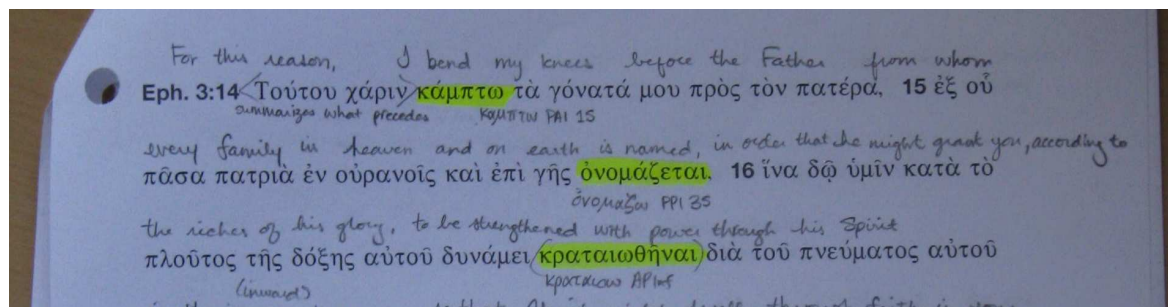


We are practice-teaching "how to learn to read in English"

Perhaps we can say that our primary task as the worldwide Church is **to clearly communicate to others what our Triune, communicative God has communicated to us.**

Each of us who make up a part of the body plays a unique yet significant role in accomplishing this task!

"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." – Jesus, the Word [John 20:21]



A bit of my homework from seminary, showing translation between Greek and English of Ephesians 3

### Communicating a request to you

For the last 2 years, I've been moving towards joining an organization which focuses on getting translations of the Bible into the hands of people who don't yet have *any* portions of written Scripture in their mothertongue. Wycliffe Bible Translators (founded in 1942), has played a central role in accelerating the pace of this language and translation work. In these last 70 years, international Bible translation organizations have sent **thousands of workers to dozens of countries**. As they've laboured, by God's grace, **hundreds of languages** have been written down and re-vitalized, **hosts of resources for literacy, education, and health purposes** have been produced, **around 830 translated New Testaments + 35 complete Bibles** have been published, **numerous churches** have been planted, and **countless lives** have been transformed by the life-changing gospel of Christ.

However, there are **still around 2000 more minority language groups** in which **NONE** of this work has even been started, and another 3000 in which the work has only just begun.

Although I have now received the full training needed to start serving in this work as a literacy specialist, the Lord has

guided me (back!) to Philadelphia for my first assignment with Wycliffe Bible Translators, as mentioned briefly in HH#38. It will not be the “frontline” work of developing literacy programs in a cross-cultural missions field, but rather, at least for these next few years, contributing to this work a little further *upstream* – i.e. mobilizing more workers to head into the fields. As a “missions mobilizer,” I will travel to different places around the northeast corner of the USA, raising awareness about this work and helping interested parties take further steps to be involved with it.

Before even starting on this upcoming task, I need to have a solid partnership team standing alongside me. Yohannes, a friend from Ethiopia who is here in Calgary with me, shared a proverb from his culture: “*If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go farther, go together.*”

We can learn so much from different cultures!

So, this is my request to you: **would you come on this journey together with me?**

Since you probably can’t literally travel around with me (though you’d be very welcome to do so if you *are* able!), here are 2 other kinds of partners I am looking for so that my job can be done well; if you see yourself excited about being one kind of partner or the other (or both), please let me know!

**1) PRAYER PARTNERS** – individuals or families who can add the fuel of their prayers to my work.

“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you. [2 Thess 3:1]

If you’d like to partner with me in prayer, you will receive prayer notices which I will send out every month, separate from these Harvest Heralds. They will be much briefer ;) And of course, *any prayers* that arise *from anyone* reading these updates *at any time* are also incredibly welcome. This aspect is foundational to ALL that I will be doing, not just some nice thing to have on the side! Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

**2) FINANCIAL PARTNERS** – individuals or families who can support my work monetarily (as a full-time Wycliffe worker, I must raise sufficient funds for my own salary and other ministry expenses).

“Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver... You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” [2 Cor 9:7,11]

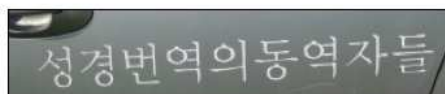
If you’d like to partner with me in finances, you can choose to give on a monthly basis or give one-time gifts. Either would be GREATLY appreciated; however, monthly giving would be preferred, since it would help me budget for long-term ministry costs more effectively. You can commit to however many months or years you feel would be appropriate, keeping in mind that amounts can always be adjusted should life circumstances change, as they often do.

I will not yet receive an account number with Wycliffe Canada until I become a full member, hopefully by mid-September. Once I do, financial partners can give to my work through Wycliffe and receive a tax-deductible receipt (note that one-time gifts under \$25 will not receive receipts). I will be sure to share that information with you when it is available. In the meantime, **I would be very grateful if you could still let me know as soon as possible about any decisions you make regarding financial gifts that you would like to commit to**, monthly or one-time. That way, I can start planning next steps sooner rather than later (including applying for a visa to return to the States and officially start the work there). :)



An example of me doing “missions mobilization work”, speaking to groups about the needs around the world





Sitting in a Wycliffe van (many different languages are written around it!)

Furthermore, if you'd like details about my ministry budget (the monthly amount I need to raise, set by Wycliffe Canada) and/or if you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

God has granted me these next few weeks in Ottawa as "open time" for meeting up with people and groups to share more deeply about this ministry, either in person or through Skype. I would be so delighted to connect with you, even if you are not able to commit to personally partnering with me in this work right now. It has been wonderful to have you so far along the journey already, and I would love to just continue sharing life with you and know more about how you are doing as well!

(Note – thank you to CCCO as a church, plus a few individuals/families within CCCO, for already committing to pray for me and to provide for a measure of my financial needs. Very blessed by how you've continually encouraged me all these years to follow the Lord's leading in these matters!)

### Communicating the gospel: central to God's plan, central to our lives

In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was **with God**, and **the Word** was **God**. [John 1:1]

And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And **how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?** Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we **hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God**. [Acts 2:7-11]

We will not hide them from their children, but **tell** to the coming generation **the glorious deeds of the LORD**, and **his might**, and **the wonders that he has done**. [Psalm 78:4]

And **[Jesus]** said to them, "**Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel** to the whole creation." [Mark 16:15]

### Please pray with me...

for my upcoming "open" weeks to be spent wisely and fruitfully;

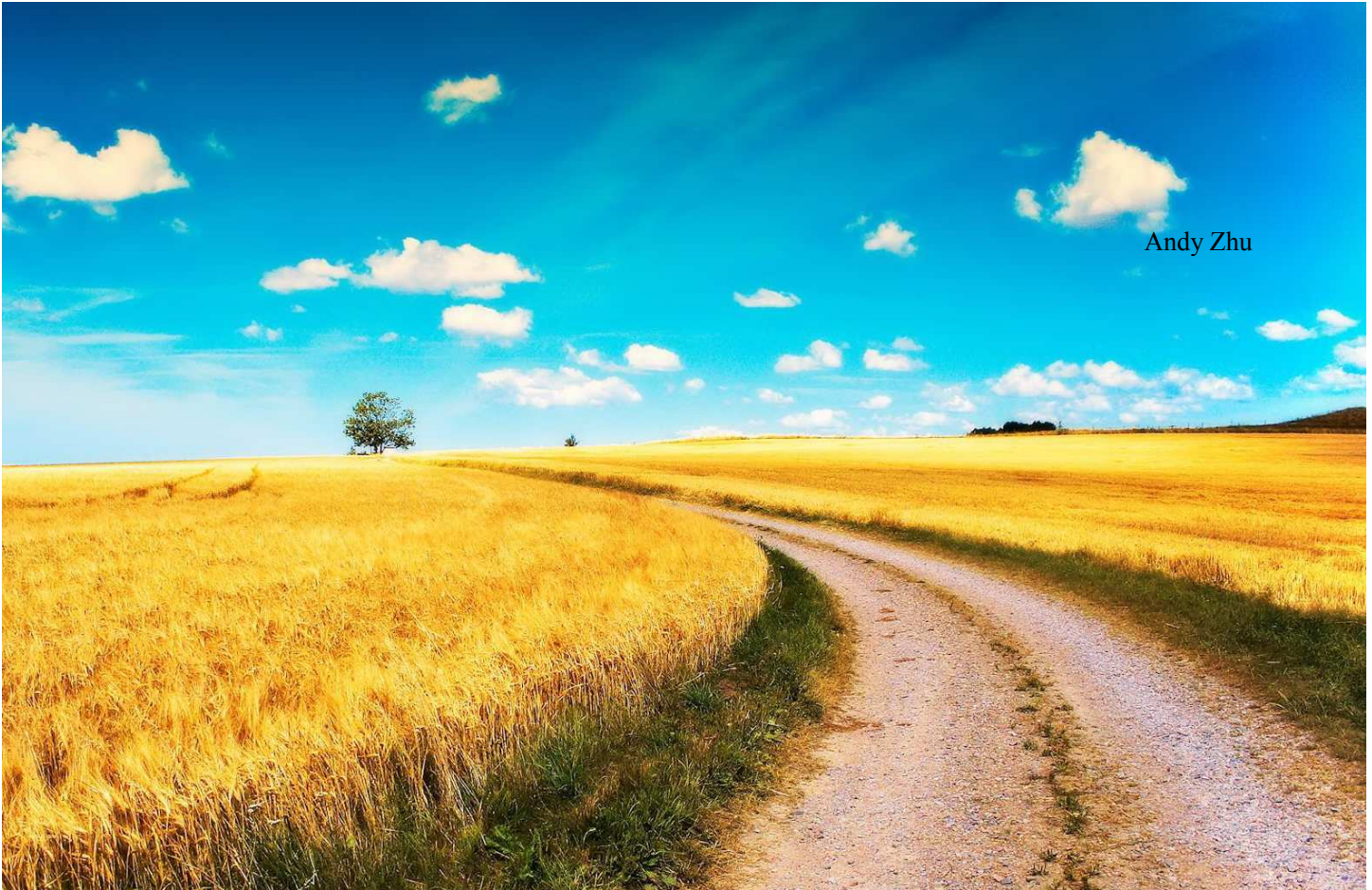
for the last 2000 language communities where no work has yet been started; may the Lord raise up the right people to love and serve them, in His time (see [here](#) for a prayer list if you're curious);

for me to be patient and trusting as God raises up the partnership team He desires me to have walking alongside you in the blessed light of His Word.

Carmen Yan (carmen.yan@gmail.com)

[written August 23, 2013]

# My Quebec Experience



Wow. How do I go about summarizing what has happened over the past 6 weeks in a concise way? God has been so good, working in each of us and through each of us while on Project, changing both fellow Project members and people we met on the campuses.

One person that really sticks out in my mind is Guillaume, a student in the Pavillon des Sciences (Faculty of Sciences) at L'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM). Guillaume was from France and was in Montreal doing an internship. I was sharing my faith on campus with Michael that afternoon, and felt tired and drained after a long day and nearing the end of a long, intense week. I may have told myself that I was excited to be able to go sharing, but deep down, my attitude was probably more along the lines of 'let's get this last one done and finish the afternoon well' or, to be more blunt, 'let's get this done and over with'.

Guillaume said he leaned more towards atheism, but he seemed to me to be more of an agnostic. In any case, I felt as though I had conversations with people like him many times over the course of



From left to right: I, with Brad and Andrew





Clockwise: Karina, I, Michael and Sandra



Our team

the previous two weeks, someone who was a rationalist, closed to the Gospel, and who thought that his life was fine the way it was and that he could just solve his own problems as they came. I felt as though our encounter was probably going to be a one-time thing or, at best, he gives us his contact information but we don't get much out of it. Little did I expect that we would meet up again, or that almost everyone from Project would meet him. I would never have imagined that he would come to church with us just 10 days after our initial conversation, or that he would genuinely enjoy the experience. To say that God proved me wrong would be an understatement.

I also thank God for people like Meg who kept me going through times like that. Meg was a little fireball, a dynamo. She was always energetic, optimistic, and always had something to praise God for. Although Meg could not join us in Quebec City, she always encouraged us and made us smile while we were in Montreal. She probably faced more intense spiritual attack than any of the rest of us, but always persevered through it and kept going, and thus inspired me to do the same.

It also goes without saying that I experienced significant personal spiritual growth and deepened my relationship with God while on Project. I learned a lot about prayer through a book study we did of Andrew Murray's *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. I attended Montreal Chinese Baptist Church for two weeks while in Montreal, and the congregation there was finishing up a series on sabbathing which I did not appreciate at the time but, looking back, was exactly what I needed to hear. I learned to rest; I learned that it was OK to rest, that rest was necessary and that I could not and should not try to go hard ad infinitum. I was able to refocus my priorities, rediscovering the importance of having Christ at the centre of my life and realizing how everything else pales in comparison.

Lastly, I was asked during Debrief to consider one word to describe how I see Quebec and one word to describe what God has taught me over Project. As a way of summarizing all that I have said so far, I would like to share what I came up with back then: 'ember' and 'renewal', respectively. By the end of Project, I had the sense of a renewed relationship with God. I felt as though my relationship with God was re-focused, re-centred, and that I had re-learned a lot. There was a distinct freshness to everything. As for how I saw Quebec, to me the situation is like that of an ember. There once was a great fire, symbolizing the influence of God and the Church in peoples' lives. That fire died, but not completely. A small fire still remains, and so although Quebec is spiritually a lot darker than it once was, an ember remains and with it the possibility of re-ignition and a revival of the fire.

Although I have now left the province, I am glad to be able to still support the work in Quebec through prayer and through financial giving. I am happy for friends who are able to continue the work they, I, and others did during Project. Although I am back in Ottawa now, my ministry is far from over, and I am excited to see how God will use what I learned in Quebec and apply it to the University of Ottawa.

## Jocelyn Ma's Sharing



“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”(Galatians 2:20).

Whenever I read the Bible talking about being crucified with Christ, I realized that this verse was telling me to kill off all of my old sinful habits, like how Christ died for it. I should be striving to throw off all of my old self and seek the things that are above. But I just couldn't say with conviction that I understood what it meant to be crucified with Christ. At the root of it, we are sinful because our desire is not to bring glory to God, but to serve ourselves. Although I loved God, I think I still loved myself more. I mean, in Kingston, why was I so much more passionate about studying so I could do well, and not studying the Word of God? Why could I spend hours watching tv online every day, but never once said “Oh oops, I prayed an extra two hours longer than I planned”? When I passed a homeless person on the street, why was I too selfish to sit down and have a conversation with him and tell him about Christ?

These convictions were my primary motivation to go to Bolivia. There were clearly many parts in my life that I had not completely given up to Christ, and I was determined to allow Him to convict me of these, and reveal to me His will for my life. I went to Bolivia for two months this summer with an organization called Serving In Missions, primarily to work at a women's health and counselling centre called Elijo la Vida.

I ended up spending my mornings at a Christian School and also at a children's daycare and in the evenings went to doctrinal classes and other activities, but it was in my work with Elijo la Vida that God taught me the most. The main purpose of Elijo la Vida is to spread the gospel by building relationships with women, through offering health and counselling services. The organization is run by two amazing women who worked at the office full time; Marilyn (the doctor) and Criss (the biochemist). I would go every afternoon to the main office, and would usually do some administrative work, or redesign pamphlets. But we would also frequently go to churches, school and recreation centres to do medical examinations, and talk about health care and cancer prevention. Every other Friday, a group of single mothers would meet up at the office to share and go through a book on parenting, and every Monday, we would have staff devotions. As well, we often went into the jungle to dis-



tribute parasite medication to the children and, while I was there, we started up a nursery.

What really convicted me when I was in the jungle was the eagerness of the kids to learn about God. Here in Canada, we sometimes forget amazing the gospel is, but this was really brought to light from looking at the children. They were so excited to participate in the Bible study that my friend Miguel led, and were always asking whether or not there would be another one. It made me just wish that I had that raw passion for His Word as well.

I also found an immense joy in worshipping in another language. Especially at the beginning of my trip, I didn't understand much Spanish, and couldn't get the words, but worshipping at church in another language reminded me of Revelations 7, where every nation is reunited when Christ comes, and gathers to praise God. I always imagine that to be in multiple languages, so it was really amazing to experience.

But the biggest thing I learned was this; I can go overseas all I want, but a life truly dedicated to Christ can be lived out at home as well as overseas. If I am not living a life crucified to Christ, it's a heart issue, not a location issue.

Going into Bolivia, my greatest desire was to be able to learn Spanish, because I wanted to be able to communicate with the local people and encourage them and actually tell them about the gospel. I was pretty sure that being able to speak Spanish would be the key to fully and whole heartedly serving God. By the grace of God, I ended up picking up quite a lot of Spanish. However, I found that my problem with being unable to completely serve God was not related to speaking Spanish at all.

For example, when I was in the jungle, I met a girl named Dinah. She is the same age as me, but at the time, had already had two children and was expecting her third one. She is also going to be the only nursery school teacher when the school opens. The first time that I met her, we connected, maybe because of the fact that we were the same age. Our friendship was still pretty casual though, but the second time that Elijo la Vida went back to the jungle, I felt a conviction to have a conversation with her in which I could encourage her personally with Scripture and pray for her. Because of many factors (mainly my laziness), I never ended up having that conversation with her, and didn't even write her a letter of encouragement or anything.

Although words cannot express how utterly blessed I was to be in Bolivia, how much I learned about culture, worship, God, and everything, I am sorry to say that my prayer life did not increase, nor did my devotional life, nor did my attitude towards others. Overseas, I still felt the conviction that my old life was not really given up. It was still a struggle to read my Bible or pray over watching TV or going out with Bolivian friends. Going to Bolivia did not cause me to magically lose all desires for worldly things.

When I was in Canada, I made excuses for the reasons why I was not spiritually revived for God, saying that perhaps it was because I was living at university, or because I had too much work, or that in modern society, there isn't any really large ways to stand out. But it took going overseas to make me realize that while the style of life that I am living in Canada is not the one to which God has called me, going to Bolivia will not change it. The only thing that can change my life is for my heart to be changed by the working of the Holy Spirit, and He is working everywhere I am. The standard that He calls us to live is one in which Christ is truly all that we need. In 2 Corinthians 12:10, Paul says "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." How I wish that I could say that I could be content with all trials, for the sake of Christ!

I still am not satisfied with the standard of life that I am living, but, in the words of Paul; "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one this I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on for the goal of the upward call in Christ Jesus." (Phillipians 3:13-14).



## Andrew Leung's sharing

Hello! This is now my second year going to Oujé. I want to thank everyone for their support because without it, this missions trip wouldn't have been possible. This year we tied for the highest amount of youth present, with over 20. It was definitely a bit more challenging because there were a lot more youth than councilors. However, by the end of the week everyone was getting along and having a great time. Everyday followed the same schedule with a service in the morning, free time in the afternoon, and then another service in the evening.

When I first saw the amount of youth that were coming, it gave me a bit of a shock because it was over double the amount from last year. Later on I realized that this is another year and a different camp. It was a blessing that we had this many youth come to hear about God. This year, over 10 youth accepted Christ. It was amazing for me to see as most of the youth come from a rough background. What I noticed was that everyone just wanted to be shown that they were loved and cared about. I still strongly believe in this missions trip as this one week is the only time all year that most of the youth get to hear about God.



## Gloria Cheung's Sharing

This year's Oujé trip was my second time going. The first time that I went I was very young and our involvement in the camp had just started. Even though I do not remember very much about my first trip I can tell that a lot had changed. The youth were obviously more familiar with our church's youth group and were very welcoming towards us. They were voluntarily open about their lives and most of them would willingly tell us about their problems or what they thought about the sermons. It was amazing to see how much they changed even during the very short week at Teen's camp. Many of the teens have been made to feel worthless or unloved either by their classmates or family members. After talking to them and the sermons/videos I was able to see their attitudes towards others and towards God changing. The trip was an overall great experience and I feel so blessed to have been able to be a part of it.





## *Allan Liang's Sharing*

This year, the weeks and even hours leading up to Teen's Camp were hectic. By the grace of God we managed to prevail even with the date change, although some youth had to be switched for others on our team.

Having experienced Teen's Camp the past year I knew a bit of what to expect, however I tried to throw away all my previous expectations and just go with the flow, so to speak. I knew I was the only grade 12 on the team so it would more likely than not be my final year going on the trip.

Last year we had 10 youth who came to the camp and this year it was 24, tied for the most ever. It definitely was made evident at times as all of us seemed to be constantly chasing after select youth to restore order in the camp. It certainly became testing as the week wore on, and many, if not all of us, began to feel discouraged since we could not get control of the youth at many times. I know I began to have many doubts in my head. Questions came up like "Did we send the best suited people to be on this team?" "Why can't another church that is closer to Oujé come and run Teen's Camp every year?" "Why hasn't this youth matured since last year?"

It was not until the debrief session where we shared of our experiences during the week, as well as that evening, that I learned the histories of some of the campers and of the community of Oujé a bit more. I quickly understood that us simply being with them and running the camp made an impact on the kids. I began to realize the difference between what we believers do in the name of Christ and what Christ did for us, all wretched sinners.

Oujé was a great experience this year as it always is, in shaping both the campers as well as our team. It reminded me that we are incredibly blessed to have the brothers and sisters in Christ here, as over there they do not have the same family of believers. It just emphasizes how desperately Christ is needed in that place.

2 Corinthians 9:8: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work".

Thank you all so much for the support and prayer.



## David Qiu

From a 9 hour trip to a 12 hour trip to Oujé, instead of being a total of an 18hour trip it became 21hour trip! All because we popped a tire along the way but praise the lord for his sovereignty! We couldn't have made it without that garage opening overtime just for us! Thank our lord, father god for an amazing journey to Oujé-Bougoumou!

During that week in Oujé, I learned a lot! Not only was I a councilor but also somewhat like a youth! That week actually made me learn how to really love people! It's pretty hard considering some of the Cree youth who likes to cause trouble, but that doesn't really matter because that's who they are. Some don't have parents to really love them and some is that Teen's Camp is the only place they can express themselves. We only see the tip of the iceberg of what really goes on in their life, but in reality there is many more under the surface. Anyway, I learned to really love them because they really love me ever since they met me on Monday. I don't know if it's my testimony that shook them or is it just I'm really tolerant on behalf of what they do in the camp. I remember doing one thing on Monday that I shouldn't really have done. I decided to prank a fellow councilor by getting a Cree youth to Axe (Spraying de-odorant) all over my friend's room. That was actually hilarious! Anyway, it stopped on Wednesday after the skit we watched. It really changed most of the trouble makers to treat this came a bit more seriously. You begin to know more about the Cree youths lives after that powerful video/skit we watched. It's pretty surprising once you know their testimony and what's wrong with them. You just don't expect it. Some are drug addicts, suicidal, removed from their parents and many more things. It's a dark place up there as we both know, that's why we're up there to help them and bring them closer to Christ!

You begin to see change on Thursday, even on Monday they did this, many just thirst for God's words and wrote down every verse Pastor Josh read/wrote. Especially the quiet ones, at the beginning their just anti-social and giving you 3 words answers but towards the end they just talk so much! Little do you know on Friday, some would get an essay or a really long "fuzzy letter" from them. I think it's because Teen's Camp is such a great place to fit in. With all the councilors who all really love them, especially the leaders like Enoch, Auntie Freida and Pastor Josh! I think Wednesday is what really hit them on behalf of the video and skit combining with the past testimonies that kind of added up.

My experience personally; doing teens camp was actually pretty awesome! Especially the car rides and doing worship on Sunday! The skit on Sunday was really real since we treated it really seriously, it grabbed attention when Eugenia threw the gun down and it shattered into multiple pieces. The skit was basically about how the sins corrupt us and we go out of our way while God is calling us. Starting from Adam and Eve towards eating the apple then humanity sinning, God gave his only son to sacrifice him (himself) to save us all from our sins. (He was our lamb) Then resurrected 3 day later as he promised, God love us so much he would sacrifice his son, Jesus Christ to die a painful death on the cross. If it were me, I would never sacrifice my son but God would, to save the many lives of our people, given a chance of eternal life and that's by his Grace. The Skit and the "Train" video was basically it, it's pretty powerful. Anyway, in the skit there was God who was Jack, That girl which was Eugenia, Lust which was Allen, Greed which was Peter, The drunken guy which was me, then Rachel and Gloria. Anyway, Oujé the town was amazing! Apparently the town from aerial view looks like an Eagle. During teens camp, we canoed a lot... well actually sank and tipped them! I went fishing with this Cree youth called Nathaniel, he's a pretty sweet guy once you know him. Then there's Peter James who looks intimidating but he's actually a really sweet guy also! In the end, as we all left, it's just sad for me how Teen's Camp went by so fast.

In total of a 22-hour drive; we popped a tire along the way! Getting tipped and being soaked while in the river! We cried, cheered and smiled along the way! We had frustration but our amazing moments will always overcome that! There were about 24 kids who came! Anyway, Oujé Teen's Camp was an amazing experience thanks to Pastor Josh, Pastor Enoch and Auntie Freida for making it happen!





## Eugenia Ling

It's been exactly two weeks since we've left that old and rustic camp building, but something inside all of us changed that week. We'll never be able to fully explain the memories or stories made up north because everything is always more clear in person but one thing I can tell you: God is amazing.

From the moment I signed up for this mission's trip to the moment we got home, God has been clearly working. When I was told there were scheduling problems, I whispered, "God, may your will be done." I was easily able to switch my conflicting exam and I praise Him for that. Something inside of me told me that God will do amazing throughout the week and we just have to trust Him. Yet, having faith in Him was needed when our car tire got a flat after a break on the way there. It was a detour of about 3 hours but the fact that there was a small garage open when it was a Quebec holiday, is considered a miracle to me. Of the six years, never has the team had scheduling problems or a flat tire and because of that, I was once reminded of how God had great plans for the week ahead of us.

Since it was my second year going up, everything leading up to this trip was constantly reminding myself, "Do not let Satan win again." Last year, I had let Satan win, I let my emotions take over more than I should have but that's another story. The fact is that, Satan is always trying to take over and during that week, it was greatly evident. He was trying to create wedges between each of us, and trying to make us believe that God was NOT working through the teens. Thankfully, we kept reminding each other of the spiritual warfare Satan is trying to create and that we can't let him win. We kept each other accountable for our actions and decisions.

As I or another talked to the youth one on one, it made me realize that brokenness was normal. Divorce or separation occurred in most families. Smoking was an everyday routine. Depression was taking over most of them. There was a camper who was about twelve years old, who was placed in a foster family and smoking was a regular routine for him. He had never been exposed to Christ in his life but Teen's Camp was his first encounter. I prayed for him all week long because I knew that God would work through him. And He did, by Wednesday, the camper had accepted Christ. By Friday, you could see in his eyes that he did not want to leave. I still believe that all he really wanted was to know that someone out there loved him and he found someone who did, all of us, but most importantly God. Our job is to show him why we love him. "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

We always expect to teach more than learn, but it always ends up being the opposite. Something different was my father coming on this trip. I was skeptical at first, simply because he's my dad but by the end of the trip, including him getting lost and other crazy stories, it made me realized how I should show more love to him. The fact that he is my earthly father shows how we all make mistakes but he tries his best. Not only that but in a situation like mine, to have a father like my dad is the biggest blessing anyone could have.

Almost all the youth accepted Christ that week, and there were 24 youth. A small seed was planted inside all of the new campers, and the plant was watered inside all of the previous campers. I wish I could tell all of you reading this, all the experiences we had, but you would only really know if you were there with us in the old and rusty building. Of all the places, that building is considered a third home to me. My first home is family and second is the church, but the church is also my family.



## Michael Gong

Hello CCCO, my name is Michael and I am going into grade 12. This was my first time going to Oujé-Bougoumou, and this trip was one of the most influential weeks of my life. When the campers first started to come, I thought that they were normal youth like when I was younger. I was proven wrong very quickly. As I got to know some of the campers, I realized that nearly all of them were broken in some way.

There was one individual who lost his father when he was 3, and his mother became an alcoholic and lost custody of him. He lived in a group home for a couple of months before his mother got custody of him again, but he was forced to move out again when his mother could not pay the rent on the apartment, and yet he was one of the happiest kids I have ever met. It blew me away. Pastor Enoch also told me about how some aboriginal women unintentionally end up with mixed babies after a night of drinking went wrong. These babies grow up incredibly lonely, as they lack a father, and don't fit into the aboriginal culture because they are partly another ethnicity.

These stories woke me up to the reality these youth face day in and day out. It was a sickening realization, especially when contrasted with the clean, well-put-together exterior of the community, but it also showed how important this mission trip was and the impact I was making on the lives of these youth. There was one teen in particular where I could see a number of changes over the course of the week. I had met him previously when he had come to Ottawa the previous year, and I based my expectations of him on that meeting. Big mistake. His previously shy demeanour was nowhere to be found; on an outing to fish, he constantly swore, sometimes at me, was pushy and difficult to work with, and ended up spraying bug spray in my room multiple times; all on the first day. However, as the days passed, he softened, became much easier to interact with, and stopped spraying bug spray everywhere. On Thursday afternoon, after the skit and video, he really started to open up, asking questions like why I went on the mission trip and why I believe. On the final day, it was amazing to see him helping out in the kitchen, lightening Manson's load. This mission trip has really opened my eyes to the brokenness that exists in the world, but also how, through us, God can heal that brokenness. So I want to thank you all for your continued support of Oujé; your donations, prayer, and fasting are what make this trip and the impact it creates possible. Your commitment is making a huge difference in the lives of these Cree youth, as well as the youth of CCCO.





## *Yichen Wu's Sharing*

A couple weeks ago, our YF went up north to Oujé-Bougoumou, an Aboriginal reserve, to host a “Teen’s Camp” for the youth there. This was my first year going, and I really did not know what was going to happen. Reading and hearing the sharings of the people who went before did not really give me the full idea of what they experienced there. Signing up for the trip, I did not know what I was getting myself into, I did not know what to expect.

Our Oujé team was made up of our YF, and a couple of adult leaders. We were to share the Gospel to the Cree youth and we were to show our love through Christ, so we had to stick to the kids always.

The kids and youth started being dropped off at around the afternoon on Monday. It was a mixture of some disappointment and just being satisfied, because some weren’t as sociable, while others were more friendly.

And again, because this was my first year going, I did not know what to expect. I didn’t know any of the campers there, even the returning campers. At first I started judging them from what I normally perceived. I did not understand the way they were. But as the week progressed, and I got to know them better, I realized that I could not judge them, because of the very hard background that they grew up in, and I realized how important that we have to show our love, and as the week progressed, I learned to love the Cree youth more and more.

On Wednesday night, we showed our skit and a video. We already knew the skit, and I hoped it would really move them, as we knew how emotional it was. And as Pastor Josh was sharing, and it grew silent. He then asked if the Cree youth wanted to accept Christ. It was really encouraging to see a lot of them accept Christ, but it was exceptionally encouraging to see one of the youth, who was probably one of the biggest trouble makers there accept Christ too. That night, I felt that my faith really grew, and I learned to trust God more and more.

Thursday, for crafts, we made “Warm and Fuzzies” for each other, which essentially were notes telling how you felt about one and another. This really helped us bond with them. Some of them shared with us their struggles, and the hardships they went through. From just hanging around them, and chatting to them, you would’ve never guessed the things they went through.

Friday was the last day at the camp, we had a few more good hours, then the campers started leaving one by one. Everyone was sad to see each other go. Through hugs and laughs all the youth left.

Oujé wasn’t a smooth ride through the week. We were sleep deprived, some youth were really big troublemakers, we got frustrated with each other, but it was completely worth it. It was really amazing to witness God’s love, and what he can do in people. Not only am I glad that God made a change in their lives, but also mine, as I also grew in my faith. I hope that the youth who were at this camp will continue to grow in their faith, even when we aren’t there. I hope that Oujé continues to happen and I really look forward to going back in the future.

A few weeks ago, our youth group went on a mission trip to an aboriginal reserve called Oujé-Bougoumou in Northern Quebec. We ran a Teen's Camp, with our goal being to share the Gospel and bond with the youth there. Going into the trip I had many expectations, as I heard a lot from previous sharings. Everyone who had been there before were all very excited and in anticipation. However, my personal experience greatly exceeded all of my previous expectations and seeing how God works in the most amazing ways really changed my life.

On Monday afternoon, the youth arrived. Many of them were extremely aggressive, and I was very intimidated by them. My ministry that first night didn't go very well, as I was trying to avoid many of them, hoping not to get hurt. I believe it was God's plan for me to minister to one of these kids. I was put in the same room as one of the largest and most intimidating kid at the camp.

The youth would be very hard to manage and I would receive a lot of physical abuse when I'm with him, but I found when I intentionally love him and demonstrate God's love for him, he changes. It is truly amazing how powerful God's love is. Many youth in Oujé do not experience love and affection from anyone, and once exposed to the awesome love of God, they are extremely affected by this and immediately change. What I learned is that the inside is very different from outward appearance. God changes our hearts, and the change is very clearly seen in the youth at Oujé. Although they are still pretty aggressive, the changes in their character are very obvious. The youth I roomed with was actually extremely kind and gentle on the inside, and hearing from the people who met him at Oujé in previous years, said the change in him was dramatic.

During this trip, I also discovered the power of prayer. There was much prayer leading up to the trip from our youth group and the congregation. The Lord answered them and gave 24 eager youth with open hearts and a genuine desire to hear and accept God's grace and love. There was one kid who we prayed for a lot, to open his heart to the message. At first, he was a trouble maker and didn't really take the services very seriously. However, as the week progressed, he paid more attention, and openly accepted the message.

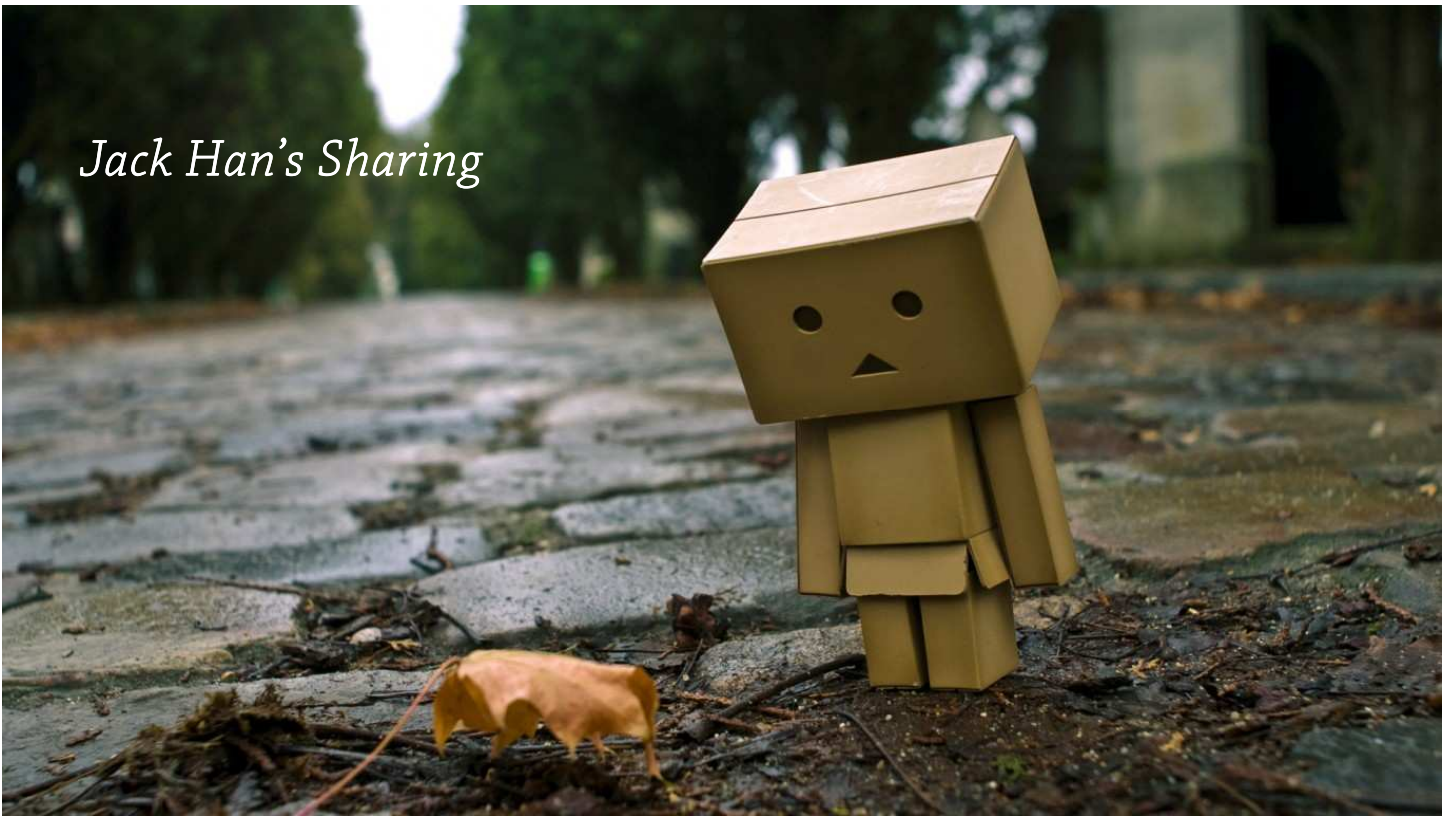
Wednesday night was the most amazing night, as we showed a video and performed a skit showing God's love for us. The youth were greatly affected by this and were silent after. Pastor Josh preached about God's grace and asked if anyone wanted to accept Christ. Many youth responded and many more were very thoughtful. This was very memorable as it was a first hand witness of how God works. It was the product of much prayer leading up to this point, and I was truly humbled by what the Lord had done.

Apart from spreading the gospel and bonding with the youth at Oujé, this trip also strengthened my relationship with my fellow YF youth. We were able to grow and experience God's awesome power together. Whenever we had any struggles, we would share it with one another and carry each other on by lots of encouragement. This was also where we were able to have fun together and enjoy each other's company alongside the youth at Oujé.

It was such an amazing experience seeing God work in the lives of so many. It is a blessing to be able to share the gospel to the youth at Oujé-Bougoumou. God has taught me so much about His love for us and how He answers prayers, forever changing my life. I pray that God will continue to work in the lives of the youth, and have they be the light in their community.



## *Jack Han's Sharing*



Although this year was my second year being a member of this Oujé Mission Team, and I am familiar to the routine, the trip was more unpredictable and amazing than I could have imagined. To say that the trip and the process leading up to it were not without complications would be a gross understatement. However, each of these complications has been resolved in ways that were nothing short of miraculous, and for that I can only praise the Lord.

Before the trip even began, there was a problem in that the date of the trip was changed on very short notice. As a result, several members of the original mission team were not able to stay, and correcting the date became a great hassle. The short-handed team soon had three new additions that fit in beautifully, despite them being added so late.

Shortly into the road trip, during a pit stop, the tire of one of our vans burst, which posed a great problem: the spare tire was not durable enough to last for another 8 hours. It was St Jean-Baptiste weekend, and the nearby garages were all closed, save one. It just so happened that the owners of the garage had decided to be in on that day, which was without a doubt the work of the Lord. We were able to get back on the road with minimal delay.

This year, unlike previous years, we arrived in Oujé one day earlier so that we could run a Sunday service at the local youth centre. So many people were able to show up, even though the location was settled last minute. It was inspiring seeing the locals' worship for God, be it in the group prayer or their enthusiasm during the service. Afterwards, the team did our tour of the community. Revisiting the areas took me back to last year and reminded me what we were there for and what our priorities were, and that was to demonstrate God's love.

On Monday afternoon, it was time for the Cree campers to arrive. As opposed to last year, we saw youth after youth arrive at the camp. By the time the last youth came through the door, we had no less than 20 campers in Teen's Camp. We were a bit shocked by the numbers, or at least I know I was, but we were also amazed at all the youth that God had provided for us. Considering my only other year in Oujé was last year, with around 10 youths, I was overwhelmed when night came rolling around: they kids were simply impossible to control. With them spurring each other on, it took a good hour to get them all into their rooms, and possibly another hour for them to finally fall asleep. This pattern pretty much was to be repeated nightly for the rest of the camp. However, as the days went on we got more used to it and the kids got easier to manage. We were actually able to get some sleep, praise the Lord!

The changes that were observed in the youth throughout the week were beyond amazing. At the beginning of the camp, it was a lot to ask for to just have conversations with most of the youth, but that soon changed. On the Wednesday night we delivered our most raw and emotional session, and Pastor Josh conducted an altar call to which many of the youth responded. Afterwards we were able to have one-on-one, heart-to-heart talks with the youth to share the story of love that is the Gospel, and how it has impacted our lives. It was quite a difference to see even the rowdiest kids listen quietly and attentively, and have genuine responses. These youth had a need and a desire to know this man named Jesus, as well as a certain hunger with which I have the feeling that we cannot easily connect.

By the end of the week, we had all bonded with the Cree youth. Per Oujé tradition, we wrote notes, called “warm fuzzies”, to them and also to each other. Within these notes we wrote messages to encourage the campers to keep up with their faiths and continue to trust in God. The notes allowed the time for us to individually talk to each of the campers and were a wonderful way to end the camp.

Through the week of Teen’s Camp, we were able to make new friendships with the youth in Oujé. We could never truly understand the lives they live – that is too much to ask for. However, we can certainly display a love that reflects the love of God to them in a world that could otherwise seem quite cold and unforgiving. It was encouraging to be able to witness not only the changes that the returning campers went through in the past year, but also the changes that each camper had undergone in just four days. The Holy Spirit was truly within the camp as we played games, sang praise, chatted of our lives, and growing in the fellowship of Christ. I, and other members of the team I am sure, went into the trip with the mentality that we were there to help transform the youth in Oujé; God was able to do just that, and we in turn were transformed by the experience in bigger ways than we could have imagined.





First of all I would like to give a huge thank you to the entire CCCO family for fasting, supporting and praying for us. Without you guys none of this would be possible. And of course thank you to our almighty God through which nothing would be possible.

So my name is Rachel Yip and this is my second year attending Oujé-Bougoumou. Firstly, I'd like to say that originally I could not go to Oujé. I had a wisdom teeth appointment which was tricky to rearrange, but for some reason I had peace. I knew this was God's plan, but I also knew that somehow I would still be able to go to Oujé. Before lashing out with anger at God or saying things that I would regret I prayed. I have learned over my life that I should pray first and act second (Isaiah 8:20 has a pretty neat verse about this!). In the end I did get to go to Oujé which was such a miracle in my opinion.

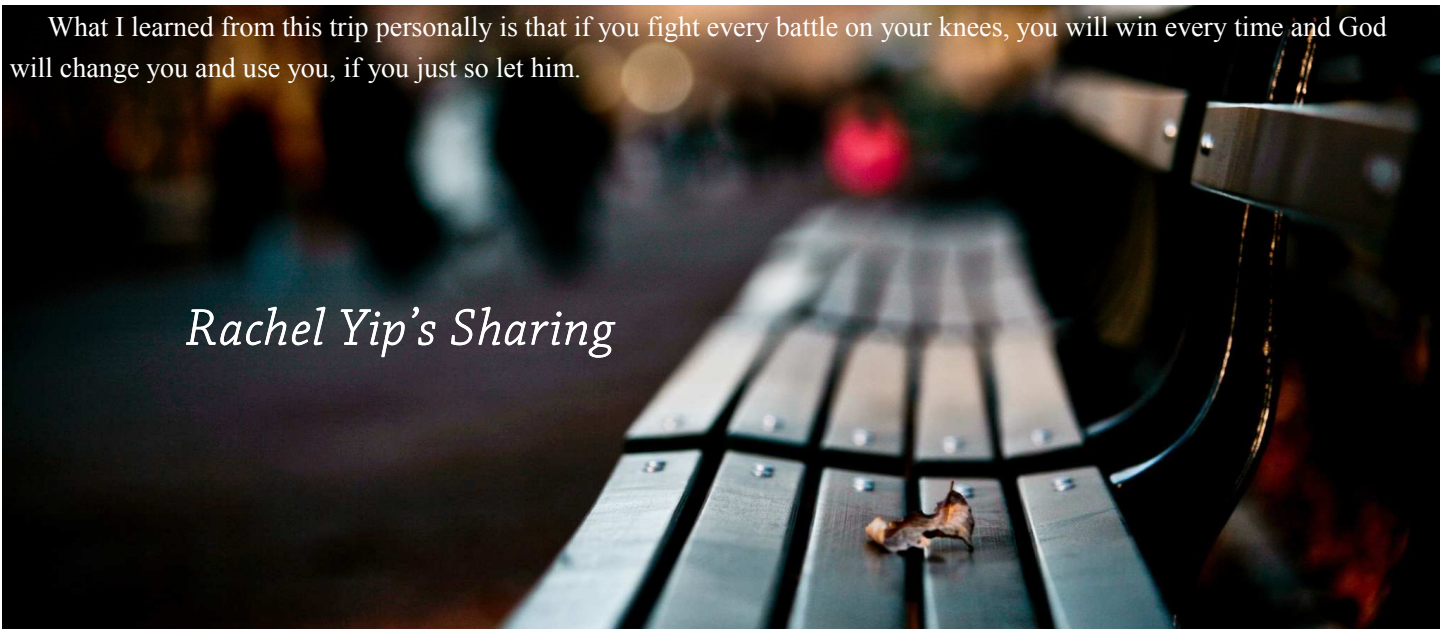
Last year, during the entire camp I didn't understand or realize the importance of spending time with God and praying to Him in the morning or at night. I understood I needed to pray, but I didn't understand why. This year at Oujé I made the effort to spend some time just with God and to pray to Him. I realized my main focus of prayer was to pray for the kids for God to open their hearts, to change them and to use me as a tool. That is when I realized why it was just so, so important. Prayer is just so vital in all aspects, it is the best armour against the trials of life, it is an amazing form of praise and it's just wonderful knowing you can talk to your almighty God. As it the verse in Philippians 4:6 says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."

Anyways, this year there was a lot of kids. So much so that I'm pretty sure it was a 2-3 girl camper ratio to each girl counsellor, which is crazy for Teens Camp! Between the fits of laughter, Manson's superb cooking and trying to round the girls up, it made for an amazing and tiring week. I personally got to talk to three girls the night of the alter call and I was praising God about how amazing it was. All three girls wanted to leave their old lives and turn to God. I later prayed with them about letting God transform their lives.

During the week nothing outwardly amazing happened, but I find if you look at life as a string of miracles you realize that everything is a miracle. For example, on our way to Oujé we got a flat tire. Not only that but every tire shop was closed because it was a holiday. Praise God that one tiny tire shop was open past their normal hours! It was also a miracle in my opinion that so many children came to the camp (over twenty). My personal favourite moment in the week was the campfire where all the counsellors sang songs, ate and bonded with the youth.

God is good in so many ways. This camp is such a great opportunity to introduce children to Christ, to transform their lives and to show them real love. I pray that we as a church continue to pray for these children to grow and encounter Christ more. I also hope we continue praying for Pastor Enoch and Auntie Frieda for God to give them strength to continue doing what they are doing despite the hard circumstances.

What I learned from this trip personally is that if you fight every battle on your knees, you will win every time and God will change you and use you, if you just so let him.



*Rachel Yip's Sharing*



# Mandarin Students Fellowship

Mandarin Core Group

Over the past three years, the Mandarin Congregation has conducted the Alpha Course. Praise the Lord, many joined the course. Several were saved and many new believers came to better understand the faith of Christianity. At some point we had a group of students, but soon this group became smaller and finally disappeared. We did pray for a group of students over the past many years and saw students come and go. A few stayed with us for a year or two, but finally left. Given such circumstances, the Mandarin Core Group prayed and evaluated outreach ministry over the past many years. At the time of setting ministry outlook for this year, we collectively felt that we need to form a focus ministry group for students and to start a Mandarin student fellowship in the fall of 2013.

It has been eventful so far this year; soon after we set the ministry objective for the year, we were shocked by the resignation of Mandarin Pastor in late February, and the pastor departed in about a month. The entire Mandarin ministry plan for the year faced great challenge. We did not have a single committed student. Nor a faculty staff at a university. In flesh perspective, it appeared to be the worst time ever for a Mandarin student ministry at CCCO. Given many distractions and challenges from existing ministry areas, a logical solution would be to cancel student ministry plan or at least to postpone it to later date when a new Mandarin pastor would be in place.

Earlier in April, we had a fellowship opportunity with Pastor Francis Wong and his wife Esther. Later, we had fellowship opportunity with Rev. Lai Szeto, the director of the CCIC China Ministry and Rev. Luke Zhang, China Ministry Director of the Sower International. They all shared the vision of great commission and it is the current mission from heaven above for churches in Canada and US to reach out to students from China. They gave much encouragement and blessing to upcoming CCCO Mandarin student ministry. We also shared our plan with sister churches in Ottawa. They too encouraged us and shared their experience with us. We consulted our missionaries Jazz and Hope Li, who give much encouragement and support. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and the perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:1-2)”. Paul commanded Timothy: “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season ..... with great patience ..... (2Tim 4:2)”.

The mission is clearly set and the vision became clear too, but our flesh is weak. We knew the goal, but not the way to reach it. It appeared that no one in the congregation had much experience of reaching out to current university students. “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God (Psalm20:7)”. This circumstance makes us fix our eyes on our Lord and fully trust Him rather than counting on our human wisdom or experience. Our prayer has been that let Lord lead us step by step and teach us what to do at each step. A clear theme for the year, “Seek”, and the topics of several initial meetings was not set until August. We are still seeking to find suitable topics for later meetings of the year. Praise the Lord! we launched the Mandarin Student Fellowship as planned on September 6th and six students attended plus many helpers. Currently, around 10 students attend the fellowship meetings, but the number has not yet stabilized. Prayer support from the entire CCCO family is sought. Glory to the Lord, our God, Amen!





## Allen Fu

My family and I began coming to church when I was four and I grew up in church from that young age. Looking back, I lived a happy childhood with a caring family and little worries. However, I never took seriously to heart the teachings I learned in Sunday school or church. I was only interested in becoming a Christian for the benefits such as eternal life; it would not be until much later that I would realize that there is far greater meaning in following Christ. Throughout my early years, my relationship with God consisted of praying to him only when I wanted something. I can still remember vividly praying for a better English mark so my Dad would buy me a Game Boy. It was although God was a genie whose only purpose was to grant me wishes. As I grew older I developed a mentality that I didn't need God. I still went to church every week and I accepted him but I felt as though I could live without him. I accepted the gospel but because I was so young I didn't see the full meaning of it. So throughout middle school I began distancing myself from God although I considered myself a believer. It was only when I started facing the real problems in life that I slowly began to recognize the need for Christ. Beginning in grade seven I started having severe pain in my right foot and I was diagnosed with a coalition in the bone of my foot. This made it difficult for me to stand or walk for extended periods of time without pain, and to this day I still suffer from this. This was the first time I realized that there are difficulties in life that we ourselves cannot fix and how relying on your own ability to overcome obstacles and accomplish goals doesn't always work out like I thought it did. I had surgery done two years ago to try and fix the bone in my foot only to find out afterwards it failed and had no effect. It was after this that I started having depression and developed an anxiety disorder. I consider this the lowest point of my life so far. It was then that I started attending YF actively which I had ignored for my first two years of high school and I started to make an effort to build a relationship with God. I slowly learned that my struggle with anxiety was due to my self-centeredness; and by seeking out God's will instead of what I wanted my depression and anxiety would begin to improve. This is because once you truly accept Christ, your life is not your own anymore and there is no reason to worry so much about worldly things. I now consider it a blessing that God had put such obstacles in my life so that I could become a stronger person and to have a heart to yearn for a relationship with him and seek out his will. I see baptism as a life-long commitment to believing and serving God. I still have a long way to go, but I will continue to put my faith in him.

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## Yan Chen

Ever since I've accepted God into my Life, I've become more mature, more understanding and more sympathetic towards others. God has changed the way I see life. Instead of living a self-centered life, I want to live for Him. Therefore an important step in my believer life would be getting baptized. I've realized that God's plans are better than my own.



## David Qiu

*“And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.” 2 Peter 1:4*

Well, I’m David; just a typical human being no different like you guys. I wasn’t really the type of kid to grow up with. If you know me now, I guess you can say I was way different than before. People say I’m a nice, thoughtful, loyal and creative guy with a great imagination... but if I look at myself before, I’d disagree (on behalf of me being nice, thoughtful and loyal). People say I am but in the inside, I knew I wasn’t. It took me a long time to realize who I use to be due to fact I lived in my own lie; pretending to be a random person; I just wanted to fit in. I recently accepted Christ after “No Other Name” and “Getaway”. That’s when I fully realize who God really is; I would use to think Christianity was just a religion I’d practice. I then realize it’s not; to me religion is man (you) going to Christ, but in Christianity, its Christ; God coming to you, and it’s up to you to accept it! I guess I was always with Christ, but never took him seriously; Kids For Christ, AWANA, VBS, Junior Church, all those Sunday Schools. Just listening to interesting stories how God was such an impact in our lives and the family line before Christ was born was what built my foundation. It’s funny how you don’t realize how much you’ve grown with Christ until you look back from when you were 5 years old.

God has always been there for me in my life. Guiding me to the right direction but I never took it into mind. I recently realized in Getaway, No other Name and Coffeehouse that God truly loves me. He’s always preparing me and trying to point me to his kingdom; to the right path. God gave me parents who love me, I can say I was lucky because by the time I was born, my mom became a Christian. Because of that, I wasn’t treated like how my brother was. Extreme discipline, usually those stereotypes you hear about Asian parents. I was just lucky; God blessed me with many gifts I find. I almost lost my mom to cancer, but instead God let her live to take care of me, I was only 3 or 4 when she had it. I was very young... what could’ve I be without my mother? I never knew who Christ was back then and I think my mother was just getting to know our lord and savior. Anyway, I wasn’t really close to my mom when I was becoming a teenager. I would insult her and refuse her correction. She would yell at me but then I’d make her cry. (As god would say “Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray. Proverbs 10:17”). You see, not all good people are who you think they are, they just don’t get caught. Anyway, but it was YF with Pastor Josh that changed me. I admired John Lam’s teaching showing me first few chapters in Mathew about parents, and so that was the beginning of me.

I’m okay with my mom now, and I thank Pastor Josh’s teaching and God has been guiding me and helping also. He helped me realize how much my mom loves me. She’s the one who puts food on the table, clothes me and helps me. I would say she’s kind of like Proverbs 31. Anyway, like 80% of her salary goes to me, she works for me and cares for me. Every negative situation that happened in my life, I thank God, because he’s preparing me. Without it, I wouldn’t be learning my lesson and realizing who I was. People say I’m beyond than a better person but what I think now; I’m just like every one of you, here listening to my testimony. No one’s perfect as we all know but we can always try to be like Jesus Christ right? But that’s your decision, I chose to be Jesus in disguise, I was ashamed of saying his name but not anymore because God will never let me go through the worse, but if I do, things can only get better. God molded me, made me open my eyes and helped me realize my friends; my family here at church is who I am. I love my friends here at church, because those are who I can stick up to and learn upon. From when I was born, God watched me grow with my friends here at church since I step into CCCO in 2000. From VBS to Kid for Christ to Awana to Pure energy till today in YF, anyway, thanks for listening! Live Long and Stay Strong!





## Daniel Wang

I was raised in a loving Christian family and I went to church every Sunday was a child. At first, I really enjoyed Sunday school because of a number of reasons: there were a lot of kind friends, the activities were fun and the Bible stories were very interesting. There I learned about God's miracles, love and sacrifice, but the messages never truly struck me as significant.

If I were to pin-point the period where my relationship with God has started, I would say it was the time where I was most distant from God. I was attending AWANA each Friday until sometime around grade 4, which was when I experienced my bumpiest and most difficult times in my life so far. As I entered grade 4, I was at a different school for Middle French Immersion. I was lonely at school because I only knew a couple of friends at the new school. I also struggled a lot academically; I barely knew what was going on in class, since our teacher only spoke French and I was equipped with only basic French vocabulary. I almost failed science and most of my marks were below average; I was happy that I didn't get many Cs.

At the same time, I stopped going to AWANA on Fridays because I felt that I was wasting my Friday nights. I still went to Sunday school, but my interest in learning quickly disappeared. Instead, a couple of friends and I spent free time after Sunday school causing mischief and roaming the church. I can't believe it now, but before, some of my friends and I would lie about going to the washroom and then play in the hallways of the church; we called these withdrawals from class "secret missions."

Then, a year after, in grade 5, my Dad, went to China for work, for 2 years. Although he came back home for some holidays, I felt extremely lonely and I spent many days crying and praying to God: I prayed that God might bring my Dad home. I knew that the chances of my Dad return were near impossible, but I still clung onto the hope that he might come. Looking back at those couple years, the only comfort and reassurance I felt came from either my family or my Christian friends at CCCO who showed me God's love and comfort.

Grade 7 was the year when everything started going uphill. It was a brand new start in Middle school and it was a chance for me to start over. I made many long-lasting friendships that I will cherish for a life time. These friends, along with my Christian friends, were a blessing from God. That year, my Dad also came home permanently, yet another blessing. Grade 7 was also the year that students enter Pure Energy. I went to Pure Energy and I experienced a close and intimate fellowship that I looked forward to attending every single Friday. Sunday school was also taught with the Pure Energy group and this time, I understood the messages of Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross and all the miracles and deeds he did out of love for us.

In grade 8, I received yet another blessing from God: I was accepted to Bell High School for the Gifted Program. In the past, I have never glorified God in academics, but in Grade 8, I received the K (Katimavik) Award, which was an award given to graduating students that have achieved exemplary achievement in many areas of the curriculum, I thank God for giving me another blessing. Being accepted to the Gifted Program was an opportunity to possibly glorify God in the future (career, field of work, etc).

Acts 2:38 says "Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." My next step, baptism, is a commitment to repent for my sins and surrender my life to God.



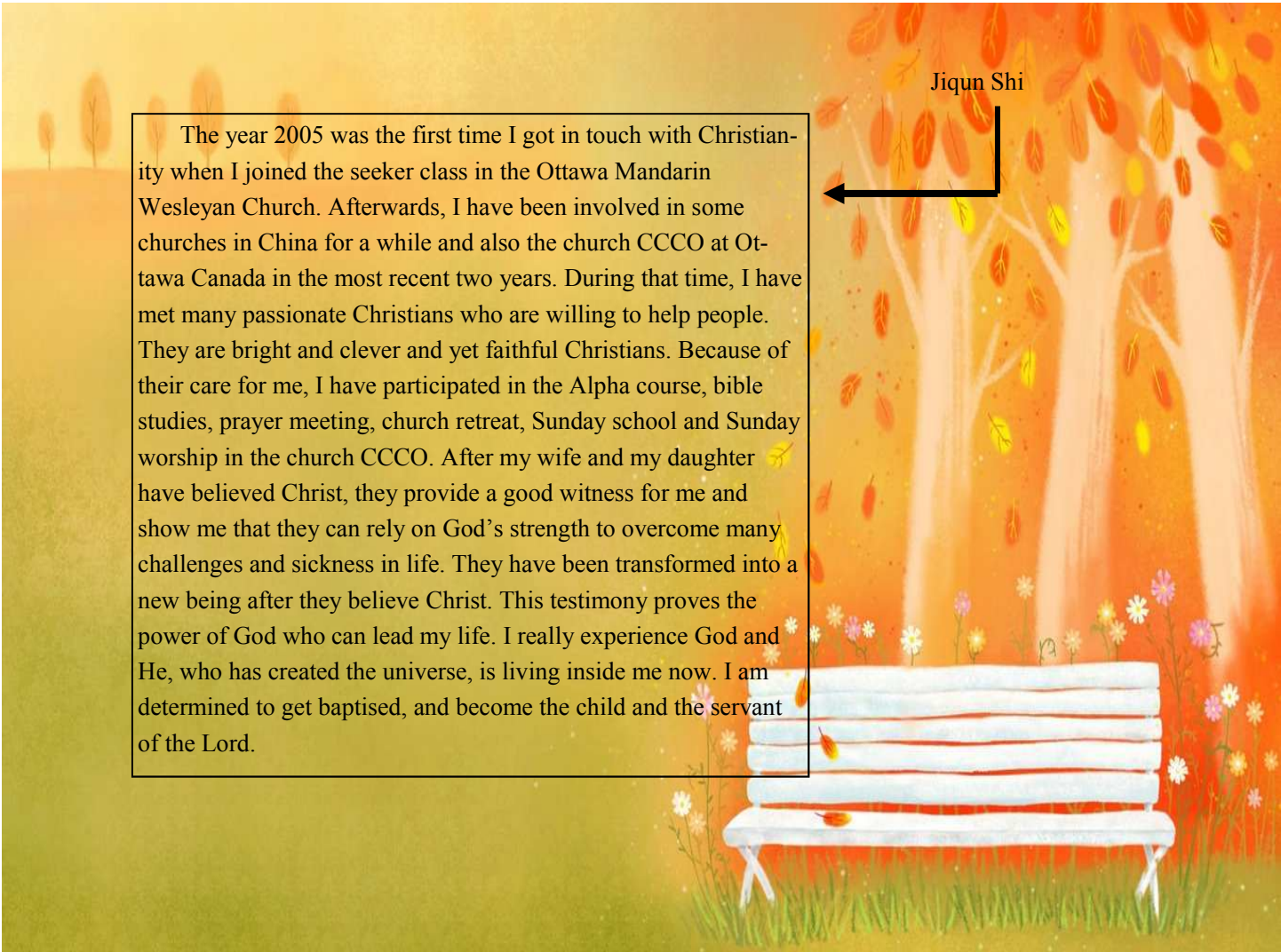
## Jianhui Su's Baptismal Testimony

I had an interesting story in experiencing God, it was more like a miracle. On October 16, 2010, I came to Ottawa Canada from China as a working labour force. Although I have learned some English when I was in high school in China, I have left school for a very long time and have returned most of my English language to my teacher. And thus, when I came to Canada, I was more like a mute and deaf person. As understanding English is very important in Canada, I decided to learn some English. Coincidentally, on May 3, someone told me that Gracious Light Christian Centre in China Town offered courses in English for \$20 and thus I was happy to go. I called up to attend the class on May 10. On that day, I arrived there at about 9 am and saw the ESL teacher Mrs. Salina Yan. She was a bright and happy person. She asked me to sit down and followed the class and talked with her afterwards. After the class, she looked at my record. She told me that this class was just for new immigrants, not for new working labour; however, if I was willing to learn, I could stay at her class. She was willing to teach me English. Praise the Lord!

After sometime, the chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Joseph Jao-yiu Sung, has visited Ottawa to provide an evangelical meeting. Coincidentally, that day was Thursday which was my day off from work. Salina has invited me to attend the meeting in the evening at 7 pm. In that evening, Dr. Sung spoke very well and it was my first time to listen to a testimony. On the way home, Mr. and Mrs. Kan drove me and chatted with me. During the chat, we recognized that we all came from the same village – Shunde in China. Splendid! I have friends from my hometown in Ottawa Canada. These all are in God's plan.

Later on, because I was not an immigrant, I could not stay in the ESL class taught by Salina anymore after the year 2012. However, Mr. Kan has invited me to a church BBQ. On that day, I saw Salina again and her husband Mr. Eddie Yan. Eddie was eloquent and full of knowledge, I was happy that I could talk with him in many topics. When I was in the church BBQ, it was like a big family. Everyone was very caring, praise the Lord! Furthermore, Mr. Kan told me that this church offered a free English class for people new to Canada on every Tuesday evening and was welcome to everyone. And thus, on Sunday, I went with Mr. Kan to the church; he introduced the ESL teachers who were Mr. Joseph Lam and Mr. Charles Ma. They were very friendly to me and they liked to help people. During the Sunday Worship Service, I was introduced to Pastor Francis Wong; he was very kind and caring.





The year 2005 was the first time I got in touch with Christianity when I joined the seeker class in the Ottawa Mandarin Wesleyan Church. Afterwards, I have been involved in some churches in China for a while and also the church CCCO at Ottawa Canada in the most recent two years. During that time, I have met many passionate Christians who are willing to help people. They are bright and clever and yet faithful Christians. Because of their care for me, I have participated in the Alpha course, bible studies, prayer meeting, church retreat, Sunday school and Sunday worship in the church CCCO. After my wife and my daughter have believed Christ, they provide a good witness for me and show me that they can rely on God's strength to overcome many challenges and sickness in life. They have been transformed into a new being after they believe Christ. This testimony proves the power of God who can lead my life. I really experience God and He, who has created the universe, is living inside me now. I am determined to get baptised, and become the child and the servant of the Lord.

Consequently, I have attended the church every week, starting to know God. On October 14, 2012, the pastor's wife Mrs. Esther Wong helped me to commit my life to Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord. In fact, I knew God for not for a very long time, but when I attended the Sunday school with the guidance of Esther, I understand that I am a sinner. In addition, the bible teaches us to be humble and have patience, Esther Wong taught me not only the bible material, but also how to live in real world as a Christian. She always quoted the bible verses when I asked her questions. She is very humble and patient, yet having a very strong character. Every Sunday school in the morning, she is always the first one to be in the class.

Beforehand, I was an arrogant person and liked to take revenge. Consequently, I was often in trouble. And when I could not deal with the situation, I would be depressed. In addition, I could easily lose my temper. However, after attending Sunday school, I learned about humbleness, confessing my sins and yielding to Christ. As described in Galatians 5: 22, "but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control." Esther also taught us that "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105)." "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1)." When we are in difficulties, we can humble ourselves, bow our head and pray to God. We can rely on God, and God will help us. When we pray, God will be at work to overcome the difficulties for us. (Some time before, my daughter in China in school had a body check up and was examined that she had leukemia. After I received the news, I prayed to God and the next day, for the double check up, the doctor examined her and she was fine and healthy. Praise the Lord! ) As a result, now I am transformed into a happy and cheerful person! Praise the Lord.

Not to mention, in the church, there are many loving and compassionate brothers and sisters in Christ. Attending church is just like returning to the family, and thus I am here willing to get baptised. Praise the Lord!



## Yichen Wu

Our family immigrated to Canada in 2004 and I started to come to CCCO in around 2006 when my parents joined. I would participate in Sunday school and learned about God, but I mainly came to church because I just wanted to have fun, such as every Friday night in Awana program. I memorized bible verses for prizes. I would fool around and sometimes I wouldn't come, because I simply didn't feel like it. I thought I was a christian because I went to church. I didn't understand what becoming a christian meant. In Pure Energy, I started to get what it meant to believe in God, but I still didn't accept what was being taught. I was still really doubtful, and I still didn't fully understand.

In YF I started to talk to the other members of YF. I remember that one of them messaged me over the internet and asked me about my spiritual life. That was the first time anybody had asked me that. I didn't really know what to think and I started to question myself.

During Getaway in springtime, it really made a big impact in my life, I really started to understand what it really meant to be a Christian, and Getaway really gave me time to reflect upon my life.

During the summer, I went on a short term mission trip to Ouje-Bougoumou of Quebec, and that was a really big life-changing experience. The trip made a big impact on my life, it made me want to share the gospel for the first time, and I really wanted to change my life to live for God.

Now I understand what it means to be a Christian, and I want live my life for God, and I am trusting him with all my life, and I hope to follow God's will for my life.



## Xiurong Zhang

I grew up in an atheist environment, and thus I was not familiar to Christianity. However, I know that Bible is a very important book which has transformed the Western World. When I read the bible, I quickly get attracted to the person Jesus with His actions and words. His actions and words are so different from what I learned when I was little. He has compassion on sick and suffering people, and He said that they would be blessed. He loves and is able to heal sick people and forgive people's sins. For the people who are rich, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for them to enter the kingdom of God.

God does not look at the outer appearances of people; He looks at the inner heart of human beings. This teaching is so different from the values of the secular world, especially in society of China.

Jesus proclaims, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." What a contrast to the Chinese traditional belief that "if people hurt me, I should take revenge."

By the touch of the Holy Spirit and with the help of Christian friends, I understand the ugliness of human beings. I confess that I am a sinner and need the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ who was resurrected to cleanse me and forgive my sins.

I believe Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior and my own living God. Jesus is the Son of God and he died on the cross for me. Thank you Jesus who forgives my sins and gives me eternal life.





# Eulogy

Charles Ma

Dear friends and family, brothers and sisters of CCCO,

Thank you so much for attending my mother, Sau Lan Wong Ma's memorial service. Mrs. Ma was born on July 18, 1928, in Toi Shan District, Guangdong Province, China. My mother had a tough life in her earlier years. Her father left the family to go to work abroad in order to support the family when she was a child. Sadly he soon died in a foreign land. My mother had to struggle to survive with her mother and her younger brother. She grew up during the second world war. As a result, she only received an elementary school education. When she turned eighteen, she married my father, Sun Cheong Ma. At the age of twenty-one, she gave birth to her eldest son, Charles Ma. In 1953, the Communist Party took over China. The whole family had to move to Hong Kong to avoid persecution. In 1954, she gave birth to her second son, Patrick Ma. With a young family of four, life was very difficult. My parents had to be very frugal in order to make ends meet. They made big sacrifices in order to provide a better future for their two sons. Their sacrifices enabled them to go to Canada to receive an education and to start a new life. In 1976, my father passed away due to illness, and my mother was widowed at the age of forty-eight. Two years later, she immigrated to Canada and lived with her eldest son, Charles, and his wife, Kitty. Together they lived for thirty-five years. In July this year, she was admitted to Ottawa Civic Hospital due to illness. On August 30, she passed away peacefully at the age of 85.

My mother was a strong woman. She could withstand the harsh hands that life had dealt her without complaining. She lost her father at a very young age. She lived through the second world war. In her youth, her two ears were infected and she lost most of her hearing ability. She was widowed at the age of forty-eight. In her old age, she could not see out of one eye, and she had a serious case of rheumatism. It caused her pain and affected her movement. In spite of all these misfortunes, she only had peace and thanksgiving in her heart. When she was in the Civic Hospital, she would say to me every night, "I am fine. Don't worry. Go and get some sleep. Thanks to the Lord." But when her situation had not improved, and the tubes connecting to her body started to increase in numbers, and her internal organs were failing one after another, in her faint and tired voice, she would still use the same words to comfort me and give thanks to the Lord, until she lapsed into a coma.

My mother was a woman who loved her family, her sons, grandchildren and daughters-in-law. She raised me and my brother, and took care of my three daughters when they were growing up. Even when they have grown-up, she would still tend to them and wait on them constantly until they eventually moved to Toronto. All her granddaughters were very fond of her. Every time when one of her granddaughter planned to come back, she would be excited for the whole week, and went about preparing her favorite dishes. In her lifetime, she would just give continuously without any hesitation or reservation, and not expecting anything in return. She did not own any luxurious items, and she did not pursue any personal enjoyment or gratification. Her only hobby was to tend to her vegetable garden and let others share the fruits of her labor. As far as she was concerned, her most valuable possession was her Bible which had accompanied her for 30 years.

I am very thankful to God, for He has given me and my brother such a loving and kind mother. From her, we learn the three qualities of being a Christian – Faith, Hope and Love. Nothing can replace what we have lost today. But we firmly believe that God is gracious and He works for the good of those who love him. Even though we are separated today, it will just be temporary. In the future, when we enter into eternity in heaven, we will be united again. Thank you.

## *Our grandma's many endearing qualities*

Christine Ma

Good morning. Thank you so much for coming today to remember our grandma. The number of people here is a testament to how much she and our entire family are loved. We (Christine, Maria and Denise) are Charles & Kitty's daughters and wanted to share a bit about what it was like growing up with our grandma.

First, I'm going to talk about some of her endearing qualities, then Maria is going to talk about how much our grandma loved others and how much she was loved, and finally Denise is going to talk about her faith.

Our grandma had many endearing qualities and today I'm going to talk about 3 of them:

- 1) her extraordinary gift for gardening;
- 2) her modest and practical nature;
- 3) her love to feed people.

*My grandma (right)*

Our grandma would spend countless hours in her vegetable garden, growing some of the largest melons anyone has ever seen. By late summer, there would be more string, rods and tofu containers propping up her plants than there were leaves. In the great growing years, I remember my grandma using our child sled to drag the melons from her garden into the house. Then she would get my dad to help hoist the monster melons onto our bathroom scale to weigh each one and mark them off with masking tape. Some of these melons were 30 lbs, and I remember one particular year where everyone at church received melon from my grandma's garden for Thanksgiving.



Our grandma was incredibly modest and practical. Each year, the 3 of us would struggle to find a gift our grandma would like. She was much happier with a nice sturdy shoe horn or a laundry basket than she ever was with fancy dried scallops or mushrooms. She'd actually tried to give the dried Chinese goods back to us, thinking we'd enjoy them more.

Finally, our grandma loved to feed people. In Chinese culture, parents and grandparents often show their love by asking you to eat, and my grandma did this all the time. We would have just finished eating a dinner, and she would ask if we were hungry. do you want fruit? We have oranges? We have grapes? And she wouldn't take no for an answer. Despite our refusals, she would sneak up next to us and quietly leave bowls of cut & peeled fruit. We would be watching tv and she would casually take the remote control out of our hand and replace it with a banana. I recall one Christmas where she threw tangerines to us from across the room.

Not everyone here would have had a chance to see these character traits first hand, but her love of gardening, frugal nature and her love to feed others will be the ones I remember the most.






Good morning and welcome. My name is Maria. For those of you who may have not had the pleasure of knowing her well, Grandma was a cute, friendly and cheerful lady. Everyone seemed to love her. Despite Grandma not speaking English, our neighbors, who couldn't speak Chinese, often visited Grandma, bringing her bouquets of flowers or vegetables they had grown from their gardens. I remember on one occasion, when a neighbor arrived with a wheel barrow full of rich soil as a gift. Grandma thanked him over and over and over again, insisting she pay him but he wouldn't hear of it. She had a way about her that endeared her to everyone she met.

Grandma loved us very much. She could never contain her excitement whenever my sisters and I returned home for a visit from Toronto. She would wait up for us, sitting at the front window so she could spot the moment we arrived. And when we left, after we kissed her goodbye, she would rush to that same window to wave and see us off. We might even be packing things at the car for several minutes but she would not budge. She'd stay there waving. Even as we'd drive away, half way down the street, we could turn and still see her little figure in the window waving and waving and waving. I actually took a video one time. She was so cute.

Grandma was deeply loved by all in our family but perhaps no love was as deep as that of her two sons, my dad and Uncle Patrick. When she began to fall ill, my father and uncle set-up shifts to ensure someone was by her side every single day from 7 am to midnight. They stood by her side for every single test, every single walk to her favorite window. They supported their mother with a deep, unwavering commitment. I cannot imagine anyone being watched over more carefully, more gently, or more lovingly.

It is fair to say no one loves you in this world the way a parent or a grandparent does. My Grandma loved us all. So wholeheartedly. So completely. So wonderfully and unconditionally. She was someone who never stopped wishing good things for you. I have never known anyone like her. She is one of a kind.



# *Great is Thy faithfulness*

Denise Ma

Our Grandma was truly one of my favourite people in the world. She was a very affectionate person and never shy in showing us how much she loved us. With me and my sisters, she wouldn't pass by us without gently patting our hand or kissing our face. When sitting around the kitchen table or taking a photo, Grandma would often be holding one of our hands just because. If I was napping on the couch, she not only brought over a blanket, but she tucked me in nice and tight. As she started getting a little shorter, she was the perfect height to give us the best hugs, resting her head on our shoulder and wrapping her arms around our waist. She was one of the cutest and sweetest people we know. Many of her cute attributes and quirks have influenced us, from the hand waves to giving the thumbs up, and even some facial expressions.

She cared for our friends as well, always asking how they were doing, where certain friends were living now, if they were dating anybody, getting married or having babies. She was so happy for our friends as if they were her own grandchildren. When our friends would come over, she had a warm and cheerful greeting upon their arrival, and a blessing for them when they left our home.

Lastly, our Grandma was a woman of strong faith, always reminding us of God's blessing in our lives. She was a woman of prayer, giving thanks continually. She reminded us that God has plans for us and not to worry. She would be the one reassuring us if we were worried or upset about something. She spent hours reading her bible in her bedroom.

Although we are incredibly saddened by her passing and it feels like a huge piece of our family is missing now, it is because of her great faith that we find comfort in knowing that she is in a much better place now. We prayed that the Lord would relieve her from the pain of her illness, whether that meant healing or returning home to Him. We can find comfort and peace knowing that she is free from fevers and pain that she had to suffer through in the last two months. Instead, she has been renewed and is celebrating with our Heavenly Father. I can't wait to see her again soon and rejoice with her. Our family will always remember Grandma for her bountiful garden, her practical nature, how loving and lovable she was, her affections towards us and her faithfulness.

A few hours before my Grandma's passing, our family stood by her bedside for a time of prayer and singing hymns including Great is Thy Faithfulness. The third verse of the hymn reads:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!