



From Our Senior Pastor:

Students are Long Term Fruit



by PASTOR STEVEN CHIN

September brings another school year with many students coming to Boston. The students come from all over the United States, as well as from all over the world. Many have come to our church. They bring a lot of energy to our church. However, one of the drawback of students are they are transient. They are in our church for a few years, and then many go back to where they came from, or go to new jobs and new cities. You may wonder if student ministry is worth the investment. Most leave Boston, and we never hear from them again. But God prompted one former BCEC student to write back recently. Roland Choo attended MIT over 30 years ago and was baptized at BCEC. Although Roland did not stay very long at BCEC, God has used him to bless his family and his church in Canada. With his permission, I am sharing his encouraging email with you below:

Roland Choo

Aug 9

to steven.chin

Hi Reverend Steve,

How are you? I am not sure if you remember me (Roland Choo), but come this September 14, 2016, I would have been baptized by you at BCEC for 30 years! There were two others who were baptized together with me: Walton Yuen is now a pastor at a Texas church and Ko Hayashi ... I never regained contact with Ko since leaving MIT in September 1990. (*Editor's Note: Walton is now serving in a church in North Carolina while Ko is in Hayward, CA.*)

I thought I pen you a note on how I am doing. I think I called you once 10 years ago in 2006 just to chat, and you told me how happy you were in your new role (Senior Pastor) at BCEC.

I'm married to that same girl who witnessed my baptism, Ruth. We have 3 kids: Elissa (27), Charmaine (24), and Denton (22). All have graduated from university (nope, they did not go to MIT) and are now working. All three serve in our church, Richmond Hill Christian Community Church (RHCCC — rhccc.ca), in various capacities. RHCCC is primarily a Chinese/Asian church with services in Cantonese,

Mandarin, and English in a suburb outside Toronto, Canada. We have 3,800+ congregants weekly. I am a deacon (one of 28 deacons; we have no elders), as well as a Youth Sunday School Superintendent for 200+ (middle and high school) youth each Sunday.

I thought of bringing my kids to visit Cambridge and BCEC many times, but we seemed to divert our attention elsewhere. Regarding travels, I had brought my family of five on short-term missions (STM) trips to China & Malaysia. Ruth and I had also been on STM to First Nations Canada (Cree Indians), Kenya and India. My kids have been on other STMs themselves both locally and abroad. And we are making another trip (2nd phase) to Malaysia in December 2017.

I remember the fond days of BCEC Sunday School and BCEC itself. I sometimes wished I'd spent more efforts on Sunday School; now that I am leading the charge for Youth Sunday School at my church. Those BCEC Sunday School classes on the second floor seemed so distant. Sad to say ... I had not visited Boston, since I drove that Rent-A-Truck from Memorial Drive that early autumn morning. And I did not say goodbye to BCEC ... my manners were deplorable then; now that I wizened.

The **primary reason** I wrote is to encourage you and to let you know that your efforts in my days are not in vain. Even though I accepted Christ in December 1978, it was at BCEC that my Christian formative years took root. My early Christian walk (1979-1986) was at an ethnic 'commuting' church that had no Sunday School for young adults. BCEC Sunday School was my first formal Christian education. Later when I left MIT and returned to Toronto to the same ethnic 'commuting' church, I was invited to teach His Word to high school youth. So guess where I modeled my teaching style! The point is 'people come-and-go through the doors of the church,' and one would not know what became of them after they left ... case-in-point: people like me! It was not until years later that some wrote back to their roots (BCEC being where I was baptized) that we testified that the seeds you previously planted (1 Corinthians 3:6) eventually grew.

The other reason I wrote is I hope you won't be retiring anytime soon ... since I like to make a Boston trip in the next 5 years. My kids love to travel with us ... but now that they are working, it is a bigger

challenge for them. Still, one can always plan ...

With fond memories of BCEC, Roland Choo (BCEC Baptismal Class of 1986; I still have that BCEC Baptism Bible)



P.S. The photo below was our exploratory short-term missions team to Malaysia in December 2016. I was the team leader, and we conducted Youth Camp and Vacation Bible School for 11 days.



From L-R: Denton Choo, Charmaine Choo, Roland Choo (me), Ruth Choo, Elissa Choo, Cecile Lach & Norene Lach. Photo shows us on our afternoon off. We visited a fishing village, a sort of Malaysia's Venice.

Editor's Note: Roland T.C. Choo attended BCEC and joined MIT Chinese Christian Fellowship from March 1986 to September 1990. He completed his doctorate in Material Engineering at MIT. Originally from Johor Bahru, Malaysia, he now resides in Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada with wife and three adult children.

Table of Contents

Students are Long Term Fruit	1
Sowing Seeds and Reaping a Harvest	2
Growing Together: What God Taught Us As We Were Sent	3
Reflection on East Asia Short-Term Missions Trip	4
Showing Grace and Providing Hope	6
Journey of Turdeen Minus Tree Days	8
Glorifying God with Our Obedience and Inadequacies	9
Letter from Daniel Eng	10
Upcoming Events	11

Dominic Republic Missions: Sowing Seeds and Reaping a Harvest



by JACOB CHU,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

My family and I were part of the BCEC short-term missions team to the Dominican Republic (DR). Our team of 16 people, made up of 3 families and 3 women, spent a week in the area of Manabao, a rural community in the mountains of central DR. This was my second time going to the DR, and I was excited to return to see what God was going to do.

The plan for the week was to spend time visiting homes, going on prayer walks, and holding evangelistic events in four different communities near Manabao. A group of us had also prepared two Vacation Bible School (VBS) lessons on Jesus healing the sick — the ten lepers, Jairus' daughter, and the woman who had been bleeding for a long time.

The most memorable part for me was when we visited Mata De Café, an area about 20 minutes drive away from our home base. The team split into three groups with one interpreter each and a few of the local children who would show us which homes to visit. After visiting and praying in some houses, we came upon a home where a few men were working on the interior of a house. My dad introduced us as missionaries from Boston and asked if we could share about



who Jesus is. The owner of the house then turned his back to us and continued to work. However, God was working inside one of the other men. His name was Bernadino. He told us that when we came he felt a sense of peace. After we prayed for him, he asked us to go to his house and visit his family along the way. Thankfully, God allowed Bernadino to leave work early and get our group to meet his family. He welcomed us into his home and pulled out chairs for us to sit in. His house was very small and not all of us could fit inside. We also met Bernadino's 13-year-old son, Daniel, and his wife, a woman who is deaf. The family asked for prayer for their health and well being, and after some conversations about Jesus, we asked Bernadino if he wanted to accept Christ. Without any hesitation, Bernadino replied with joy and thankfulness in his heart. "Si," he said. Right before we started praying, one of our team members asked, "Does Bernadino's son want to accept Christ the same day as his

father?" Daniel replied with the same smile and told the group, "Yes." As we surrounded both father and son laying hands on them, I was asked to pray and bring Daniel to Christ. After I prayed with Daniel and he accepted Jesus, I realized something. Despite all the tough times that he has gone through, he still accepted Jesus. I realized that with my own life I get mad when the internet is too slow, or if I'm hungry. But what I know now is that I need to love Jesus even if my life doesn't turn out the way I want it to.

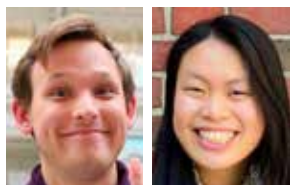
Bernadino and Daniel were among the 31 people we saw come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior over the week. It was not just the work of one week, but a result of going to Manabao over the last few years. I would love to go back next year, but in the meantime, I have committed to pray for Daniel this year, along with a few other of the Dominicans that I have become friends with.



1) Preparing for home visits Mata De Cafe 2-3) Riding in the back of a truck is a common local mode of transportation 4) Serving children at VBS

Nordic Missions:

Growing Together: What God Taught Us As We Were Sent



by ANDREW
SCHULTS AND
DEBRA CHANG,
CHINATOWN
ENGLISH



God uses all kinds of methods to build up followers of Christ into mature Christians. However, the Nordic missions team experienced one of God's most humbling methods of refining believers: serving and following Christ *together*. Plenty of challenges and areas of growth appeared in each team member's individual experience, but we would like to share with you a few that exemplify God's yearning to have his followers in the universal Church serve each other. We hope that by the end of this reflection, we can look in wonder at how God grows us together in love (Ephesians 4:15-16).

Let's start at the beginning with our shattered expectations! Most of this year's team was returning, so we had a good idea of what the trip would look like — a summer camp very similar to our Teen Conferences with counselors, students, huddles, and discussions; just add lots of delicious Swedish candy. As we got closer to leaving, we learned more details on how the camp would function, and it turned into a very different scenario than we had expected. First of all, the "small groups" would become much larger, reaching 10+ members per group. This immediately sparked fear for some of our team members who felt better equipped for more intimate fellowship and discipleship. Secondly, language barriers appeared as one of our group was asked to lead a Mandarin-speaking small group with little Mandarin experience. Another member was asked to lead a Cantonese-speaking group in junior camp (middle school-aged members).

Amidst these obstacles, we prayed for God to work, and He answered each of us mightily! The

small group discussions became an opportunity for many of the counselors to rely on God, asking him to provide the boldness and wisdom to lead, so that the youth could learn and grow in Christ even in what seemed like less intimate settings. For some of the missions team who felt that intimidation, we found the wisdom of God providing new ways to engage the youth so that they could understand the deeper application of the teachings. In one of the small group times after a sermon titled *What is Heaven like?*, a missions team member had their group draw pictures of what they think heaven is like. From those pictures, the counselors were able to lead into deeper application questions more easily. Just after the sermon ended, the idea came to both of the counselors leading that group separately. To counselors who were used to leading small groups by the age-old method of asking questions, this creativity seemed like a gift the Holy Spirit. God was developing in us our own spiritual gifts and increasing our trust in him while He was growing the youth!

Even the language barriers were no match for the plans of our Father. The missions team member leading the Mandarin-speaking group saw translation to English become less and less frequent as the camp went by. Eventually all small group sharing drifted into Mandarin for the ease of the native-speaking group members. As someone who really cares for their group, the team member felt discouraged, but God invited the individual to rely on Him. During the Testimony Night at the end of camp, three members from this Mandarin group boldly opened up about their experiences with everyone, despite their language barriers and relative newness to the community. God had worked

amazingly amongst the group to bring them into closer fellowship with the English speakers, even though the situation seemed like it was getting worse! Through this, the team member was called into greater dependence on God's ability to use whatever they had to offer and to rely on Him above relying on their own group-leading strengths.

Lastly, on the note of growing together, we as a team deeply bonded over sharing in the struggles we faced. Our nightly debriefing sessions served to re-center us in our common mission to the local Nordic people and to exchange prayer and support in our daily trials. God also helped us grow together through these debriefs by allowing us to share vulnerably how we see Him working in each of our lives. With this kind of openness we were able to see not just our own walk, but a multiplied picture of God's immense plan. Of all the relationships built on this trip, the ones between missions team members were some of the most encouraging and precious of them all, perhaps simply because of the unity present in doing God's work together.

There are many other stories of God's providence and answered prayers from the Nordic missions trip (please feel free to ask any of us for more details), but we hope that these few examples give you a greater picture of God's hand at work in the universal church. We're very thankful to be able to share with you all these experiences and we look forward to continuing our growth in Christ with you all back home at BCEC!

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,
BCEC's 2016 Nordic Missions Team



1) Nordic Missions Team members 2) NCCC 2016 English Camp 3) Drawings by the youth on what they think heaven looks like

East Asia Missions:

Reflection on East Asia Short-Term Missions Trip

by EAST ASIA SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TEAM

Peter Wong (Team Leader)

Praise God for calling 14 brothers and sisters from 6 congregations of BCEC to form the 2016 East Asia Missions team to experience His salvation, power, and to share His love to some 65 teens and children in the earthquake affected area. We served in a hot and humid city with the local church members. With the prayers and support from our BCEC members, we witnessed that our God is a trustworthy God who also listens to prayers. He sent 45 elementary kids for the English classes, exceeding the maximum capacity of the classrooms and led 21 teens to the youth camp. He protected the team members from serious illnesses and the interference of the local security forces. He also led us through beyond what we could have planned for and granted us team unity. Within two weeks in the country, we worshipped God with 7 different churches' congregations. We have learned a lot from this trip and pray that His works will continue in the area He led us to. To God be the glory!

Kevin Fong (Teens' Teacher)

God provided me with a wonderful experience in getting to know many of the 21 youth He brought to camp. Even though I barely speak or read their language, through WeChat and some translation apps, three weeks later, I am still texting with half of them. Some talk to me about their issues (for example, mom, illnesses, new school/friends, boredom), and I pray for them. Most don't have siblings. Their friends, if they have them, don't live close by. Some ask me questions about Jesus and the Bible (which is one of my goals). Based on what God has shown me so far, I think these youth desire big brothers and sisters who will play with them, listen to them, and love them unconditional-

ly. Their parents and teachers don't seem to provide this. I pray God will provide local mentors to them, but hopefully, our team can step in as best as we can.

Over the three weekends, God also provided us the opportunity to attend nine worship services. Through the six that I attended, God showed me that the East Asian believers worship Him with intensity and feeling, as they sing, pray, share, and read scripture. When a pastor praises God, states promises of God, or offers up prayer requests, they respond loudly with "Amen!" (this means, "So be it").

God showed me their faith is simple but real; by that, I mean they truly believe in God's sovereignty and in His providence for even the seemingly inconsequential things in their lives. God makes EVERY good thing happen, no matter how small. Thus, they have much to share about how God is providing and working in their lives.

One day, Peter Wong and I had the opportunity to pray over a woman who was sick, but didn't want to go to a doctor or hospital. About an hour after we prayed, she reported she was healed. My first thoughts were "Is that for real? Let's see whether this is still the case tomorrow. What does she mean when she says she is healed?" They simply believe He did it; my natural inclination is to seek more evidence and definitive proof. Who has real faith?

Louis Leung (Teens' Teacher)

This is my first time going on the East Asia Short-term missions trip. The major events we did were tutoring elementary school students and serving at the middle and high school summer camp. At first, we were not sure about the enrollments of the class and camp. God's grace was sufficient for us. We had more than 40 kids join the tutoring class, and more than 20 teenagers attended the camp eventually.

I was mainly serving in the summer camp. The boys in the camp were quite mischievous and rebellious. They played and slept very late every day and didn't wake up on time every morning. They



didn't pay attention in class either. I thought I wouldn't have a chance to talk about faith with them. But I was wrong! Although they didn't focus in class, they were interested in God and Christianity. Thank God that I had several opportunities to share my faith with them. I also had the opportunity to pray with one of the boys, whose family was suffering a lot.

Praise the Lord that this missions trip had a fruitful ending. I felt that the Lord provided great protection and guidance throughout the trip. Teaching English was one of our main goals. Sometimes it was quite disheartening when I saw that the students were unwilling to learn. However, if there is only one thing I could share with them, I'd rather they learned nothing in English, but everything about Jesus. That's one thing I have learned during the trip.

Wanda Lam (Elementary Kids' Teacher)

My East Asia trip was an experience of God's presence and His love through brothers and sisters that we might only meet once, from the educated to the illiterate, from the churches that were hiding inside the mountain where we had to walk uphill for 20 minutes for service to a storefront church where we only walked for five minutes on the street level.

During our two weeks of teaching, we experienced fun, frustration, fulfillment, and tiredness. It was a life-changing event. We experienced humbleness from the local staff who said they couldn't do big stuff like teaching. They could only do small



stuff like cooking, as her version of small stuff was cooking for 30 people in an enclosed kitchen, which was over 80 degrees room temperature plus the heat from cooking with no ventilation.

Our official time for elementary section was 8:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily with a one-hour break after lunch. Our day did not stop at 5:45 p.m. After dinner we had different activities planned each night. The hours were long. However, this missions trip was worthwhile when the students had the chance to listen to the gospel.

Ethan Fong (Elementary Kids' Teacher)

Although this year was very different from my amazing experience last year, it reinforced many things I learned last year and taught me several valuable lessons that helped me to grow. This year, I served kids entering second and third grade, which was a bigger change than I expected after teaching fifth and sixth graders last year. Although extremely cute, the kids were incredibly frustrating and infuriating — their lack of discipline coupled with their inability to learn and retain material was a constant annoyance throughout our two weeks together. Despite this, I learned more about myself and my weaknesses, and most importantly, I learned how important it is to love unconditionally and unceasingly. When I looked back at the end of the two weeks, I realized it had passed in a blur. I was reminded of how grateful I was to have been able to spend time with the kids, despite them being annoying. I've learned that people need to treasure every moment we share with each other, and how important it is to spread a little love and happiness whenever we can.

Angel Zhao (Elementary Kids' Teacher)

It always amazes and excites me to serve on a short-term missions trip. Even though this is my third time serving in East Asia, I still had plenty of enjoyable and eye-opening experiences. I am grateful for the previous experience, as it enabled Stephanie and I to teach about 20 students, the most number of students I've ever taught, pretty smoothly. The first few days were hectic as more students kept coming, but I am so glad the students wanted to talk to us and were generally eager

to learn. I saw God working in the hearts of the students that didn't show as much interest in our camp in the beginning, because by the end of the second week, they were willing to learn and listen to the sharing of the gospel. Praise God that many students accepted Christ! With this said, please pray for the strengthening of their faith. I regret not getting to know each student on a more personal level, as the language barrier often hindered us from communicating smoothly. Nevertheless, I am thankful that other teachers were able to share the gospel, and I hope the students felt the love we had for them.

I am also so grateful that God provided us with more staff and space, and even though we could have used more of each, God allowed us to manage the 45 elementary school students. Every year my patience is somewhat tested by the students, but I realized that it's not always their fault, because the students have different familial problems and upbringings that make them attention-seeking or sometimes outright rude. From this, God let me see how blessed we are to have loving families. For the past three years, we have stressed the importance of family as the theme of our camp, so I hope in the future the students' families will develop better relationships within their families and one day join the family of Christ.

Joanna Wong (Elementary Kids' Teacher)

I personally love kids, and I have always thought that I could love them unconditionally. It was my third year serving in East Asia, and the settings were very different compared to the past two years. It was full of unexpected feelings, but I am still glad that I went on this missions trip to witness God's

work. This year, I chose to teach in lower elementary school classes. However, I had no experience working with children in that country within that age, and therefore, I struggled with disciplining fifteen kids who generally did not pay attention in class. By the end of our first week, I nearly wanted to give up on teaching. However, God did not give up on His work and did not give up on me. He wanted me to learn how to love. I realized my love is very limited, and God's love is greater. 1 John 4:19 (ESV) says, "We love because God first loved us." I have learned to share God's love to people who I think do not deserve it.

Agnes Man (Parenting Seminar Speaker)

This was my first time joining an overseas missions trip with our church. Serving with 13 brothers and sisters in Christ was a wonderful experience. Compared to living in East Asia, living in America is filled with riches and blessings. However, the kids living in East Asia smile more frequently, even though those living far away from the city have simple, unsophisticated toys and games to play with. My main task during this short-term missions trip was to speak to the parents, identifying children with special needs and offering parenting education. I also provided psychological consultation to the local believers and teenagers and assisted in tutoring elementary school kids in my spare time. When I encountered kids with special needs, I discovered that sometimes their conditions came from problems in normal development, but sometimes they were developmental problems as a result of an earthquake. I felt heartbroken that because of the limited resources in the region, parents and teachers treated these kids as mischievous or stupid.



Philippines Missions:

Showing Grace and Providing Hope



by JOHN DE JESUS,
NEWTON ENGLISH

This was my first short-term missions trip. This trip reminds me of Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

when Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” So, as part of a team of 8, we were sent to Cebu, Philippines to serve with Grace Community Empowerment (GCE), which is founded and managed by Pastor Manny and Sharon Tan Pastre. They provide grace and hope to the poorest of the poor in the Philippines. I was first drawn to this opportunity about three years ago when I first saw the video about her mission. Being a Filipino, I have so much compassion for those whose basic livelihood is scavenging for food, and God was stirring my heart. In Isaiah 6:8 (ESV), “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” This year, I finally answered the call to use my talents, passions, and professional skills for this service opportunity with GCE. Our short-term missions team’s goals were to provide hope and love by providing vital IT infrastructure, training scholars, and supporting the various ministries that GCE provides. In addition, we were going to serve in the Mass Wedding ministry, where 60 couples were married because they could not afford a wedding in order to legitimize their children and receive the necessary benefits such as children’s education.

Once we arrived, you can see the stark contrast between the rich and poor. There were many new high rises being built in a backdrop full of extreme poverty. The traffic was intense with minimal stop signs and a basic premise that whoever has the greatest guts will cross the intersection. Many areas were filthy and emitted a certain odor that reminded me of trash and pollution combined with human waste. Instantly, I felt that this trip would be an eye-opening experience.

The first week, the advance team of six called the “Geek squad” began to update the five new laptops we brought, donated desktop computers and laptops,

and trained the staff on Quickbook, which was led by Helena. Although we each had different skill sets, we worked together as a team to dismantle old computers, update old laptops and desktops, and install a wireless router and printers at two different locations. During this time, we were able to bond with many of her staff and hear their testimonies. GCE ministry takes the weak, the less fortunate, and the outcast and makes them strong by providing education, discipleship, and biblical teaching during their training. The goal is for these individuals to return home and become a church plant for their community. One of the most memorable moments during this first week was when GCE staff members, Joem, Vhon, and Reggie, did a jam session/recording on their favorite worship song, “No longer slaves.” This song, particularly the verses, “I am no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God” is a testament to many of their lives prior to Christ. Reggie is one of the graduates and is currently the head of the Dumaugete plant. He used to be a former drug lord assassin. Joem, the ministry head of all three locations, has a background of having an alcoholic father, dealing with physical abuse, and serving in the military. Vhon is a bilateral BKA (below the knee amputation) who lost her legs in a motorcycle accident, and was unfortunately kidnapped and sexually and physically abused. She had recently graduated with her pharmacology degree, but currently is invested in this ministry. I am so encouraged by her perseverance and faith, and we instantly became friends. The opportunity to serve alongside these individuals have encouraged my faith walk with God.

Our second week was packed with many activities. First, our final two team members arrived. This week was overwhelming mentally and emotionally for many of us. We had visited the Umapad dumpsite where the basic livelihood of these people is scavenging for food and supplies. The living arrangements were deplorable, and the odor entering the site was hideous. We made salvation bracelets crafts with the kids and sang and danced to 3 VBS songs. After this event, I left sad and frustrated. During our break, I went for run on a treadmill and just pondered about our lives. I thought about how insulated we are and how our lives here in the United States are so blessed. I sat outside and talked to God for a while, trying to reconcile what I saw and my life at home. I began to realize that these people have so many needs. I am sure that many Third World countries are in the



same situation. In addition, we were able to fund and celebrate a malnutrition reunion for the children and parents whom GCE has rescued. We visited the Chinese cemeteries where 400+ Tomo families reside in abandoned mausoleums. The GCE staff run a preschool there, and we were able to again do crafts and sing VBS songs. During midweek, we built a house frame for one of the displaced families at the Tomoy dumpsite. The whole team contributed, and it was fun in the sun. This was definitely hard work, but I felt a sense of accomplishment, knowing that a family would reside in this shelter. I am told that there are many families at the Tomoy site because this dump site is where the hotels dump their food waste, and they can scavenge and sell recyclables to earn a living.

During this time, we have been cutting hair for both staff and upcoming grooms. We even received help from others who weren’t that skilled in cutting hair. Of course, Rob and I had to do the finishing touches. Regardless, it takes a whole team to move things along as our time was limited, and lighting were poor. Moreover, we were able to baptize over 40 couples in three separate events with the first being in sewage-infested waters downstream from a stilt community. The stilt communities are developed because within five meters from the shoreline, they are not considered property. Thus, squatters are able to build homes to meet their basic physiological needs.



The pinnacle of this trip was the Mass Wedding and Banquet held on August 20. GCE provided 60 poor couples the opportunity to seal their marriage vows. The purpose was to provide a marriage for the poorest who can't afford a wedding in order to qualify for government benefits such as childhood education. The women from our group worked with another missionary team in fitting dresses, hairstyling, and make-up so that they would be perfectly adorned for the wedding ceremony. While the ladies prepared the brides, the men were able to dress the men and provide free photography. We were able to laminate the photos immediately and give them to the couples. The others like myself prepared the wedding venue. During the ceremony, Andy Te preached a great sermon on Ephesians 5. I followed with a sermon on John 2 and my testimony. I pray that these messages touch the hearts of those who will hear His Word. The final song was "Marry Me" by Bruno Mars, which was so much fun to watch the couples dance. What a beautiful resemblance and picture of when our Lord returns as a bridesgroom for his bride (the church) during the final days!

A friend had remarked that this experience must have been heavy and emotional for me. I agree. Furthermore, I realized that God has prepared the last 35 years of my life, since I left the Philippines as a child for this missions trip. For a while, after seeing the horrible living situations, I could not reconcile how God is sovereign and is full of mercy and goodness. This slowly changed. I may not understand everything, but I do know He uses these situations to



bring me and others closer to Him. The sites reminded me "that the last will be first and the first will be last." Not only did this trip challenge my faith, but I do believe it has deepened my faith in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Initially, during the trip when I cut hair or walked in different dump sites, I would be cognizant and cautious about the filth, bugs, grime, and smell. But, by the end of this trip, it did not concern me at all. What concerned me is what I will do with the blessings that I have and how I can provide hope and love to these people here in the Philippines. It has been a heartfelt and eye-opening experience that tugged at the strings of my soul throughout the two weeks. This missions trip, the GCE staff, and of course, God, has shown me how to love those whom I would normally walk by or neglect on an everyday basis. Now, these people are in my thoughts and prayers daily. I look forward in participating in God's Kingdom work again and hopefully, with my wife and kids also. Moving forward, I think that BCEC can continue to send short-term missions teams to support



the various ministries that Grace Community Empowerment provides. I ask that you continue to pray for GCE, as they continue to provide the vital needs to the forgotten people in the Philippines. Most importantly, pray for the Filipinos who struggle to meet the basic needs of life. Finally, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:19 (ESV), "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them." I praise God for the opportunity to serve Him.



Chinatown August Moon Booth (8/14)

United Kingdom Missions: Journey of Turdeen Minus Tree Days



by WINNIE WANG,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

Before I knew it, the UK team was headed towards London Heathrow Airport. I didn't have any expectations of the trip, but I knew that it would be a youth camp similar to Teen Conferences and Summer Camp from the Nordic Missions Trip. I also knew that this would be a chance for me to see God working across the ocean again. Once we arrived, we were greeted with cars driving on the left side of the road, English spoken in a different accent, soft drinks with sugar instead of high fructose corn syrup, and very friendly people from COCM (Chinese Overseas Christian Mission).

After spending a night getting to know the top leaders of COCM and chatting about the differences between our youth and churches, we got

straight into action! In the morning, we drove two hours to Litchfield where the actual camp (PHAT Camp) would be held. Throughout the day, small group leaders started to arrive (all 82 of them). When I heard of how many leaders there were, I couldn't imagine what the camp would look like when all the youth arrived. With so many new faces and being a quiet introvert, I quickly closed off myself and tried to look for Calvin, Charles, Vernon, and Pastor Enoch in the crowd of people. But then, one of the leaders asked if I wanted to help out with registration and checking in the leaders. I knew that it was God working because I love admin work, and that created an open door for me to meet almost everyone! As I was handing out nametags, I mentioned to one of the female leaders that my room is in the same lodge as hers. The next morning, she came knocking on my door because her wall plug wasn't functioning properly, and she asked to borrow mine. I never knew that God would use that one little interaction to help me start fostering a new relationship.

After two days of workshops and training, PHAT camp began. The rooms started to be filled

with campers and leaders from all over UK and Ireland. Small group discussions, huddles, and workshops all came quickly at us. It was both challenging and encouraging at times. Shrugs and nods in small group soon turned into phrases and sentences. Refusal for huddles turned into small conversations. Through it all, I saw how quickly God can answer prayers and how much He can do in such little time.

During PHAT camp, I also had the opportunity to share my testimony. While writing and preparing, I reflected on how much God has done in my life and how much He has changed me. From being a quiet Project Destiny camper to being part of a short-term missions team, God has blessed me in so many ways.

As PHAT Camp came to an end, I knew that God's work didn't stop there. He will continue to meet the campers and local leaders where they're at because He can work in so many unimaginable ways. He can use what I think is small and worthless to create big changes in His people. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve on this team and to experience God's mighty work and love.



55th Anniversary Banquet at Chinatown Pearl Restaurant (6/12)

Summer Local Missions:

Glorifying God with Our Obedience and Inadequacies



by JOHN WONG,
CHINATOWN 3RD SERVICE

We praise God that the seven-day (July 25-31) summer local missions, organized by Boston Local Mission, has been completed. This year, training was provided at Boston Chinese Evangelical Church's 120 Shawmut Ave. building. The speakers included Pastor James Hung and Kitty Tam of the Vancouver Chinese Christian Short Term Mission Training Center and Phyllis Mak and Audrey Chan of the New York Chinese Christian Short Term Mission Training Center. Twenty-five participants came from Chinese churches in Boston, Hartford (Connecticut), New York, and Vancouver.

This year's emphasis was on application. As a result, after receiving training each morning, the participants were sent out in teams in the afternoons to practice street evangelism, subway evangelism, and visitation at an elderly home. They also had the opportunity on several occasions to teach the elderly how to practice knee-strengthening exercises. Afterwards, the participants returned to 120 Shawmut Ave. for sharing. In the evenings, they went out again for restaurant ministry and home visitations. Because of the hot weather, it was tough serving outdoors, but the hard work of sowing the seeds of the gospel were sometimes accompanied by times of jubilant harvests when people decided to follow Jesus. Glory to God!

As in past years, this year there was an evangelistic meeting co-sponsored by Boston Chinese Evangelical Church's Local Evangelism Department, which was attended by 128 people. In addition, the "All Christians as Soldiers" event was revived on Sunday after a hiatus of several years in Boston. Over 50 people participated, including several pastors and some who had never participated in local mission, spreading the gospel together



to all corners of Chinatown and enjoying partnering with God in the process.

This year I was in charge of planning behind the scenes, but I still have a few observations to share. I witnessed on multiple occasions how the participants supported and encouraged one another, and they also took the initiative to approach members of Boston Local Mission, asking how they could offer assistance. Their spirit of sacrifice was on full display. Many years ago, it was also how Christians enjoyed helping others without expecting anything in return that attracted me and motivated me to attend Christian gatherings, so that I might find out why they would be filled with joy even after participating in them. I later discovered that it was because of their love for God and love for others that led them to contribute selflessly, and God would bless them accordingly. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18 - NIV)

My duties included recruiting participants to share during Sunday School. One of them was worried that he did not have anything to talk about. Later, however, he was very excited to inform me that, although he did not say much to

someone who sat next to him during the evangelistic meeting, that person accepted Christ that evening. As a result, he planned to use this great news in his testimony. In fact, Christians often are afraid to tell others about the gospel because they think they are inarticulate, without realizing that it is the work of the Holy Spirit that transforms the human heart. God often uses our lack of eloquence to bring salvation, so that He may be glorified. Hallelujah! "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Corinthians 12:9 - NIV)

Therefore, do not delay any longer. God is waiting for us to be obedient, selflessly offering Him our time and energy, and He will do great things through our inadequacies! Besides the annual summer local missions and winter local missions, Boston Local Mission also organizes monthly opportunities for street evangelism. All Christians who can speak Mandarin, Cantonese, or English are welcome to participate. Please go Boston Local Mission's Facebook page, or ask anyone who has participated in local missions in the past for more details.



LETTER FROM DANIEL ENG



Hello church family,

It's been ten years since I moved away from Boston. I miss the community and the kingdom-minded vision of BCEC. Recently, I spent time with Pastor Steve, and he encouraged me to send an update on how God has been working in my life.

So what's been going on with your former English Secretary? After relocating to California to attend Talbot School of Theology in 2006, I've had the privilege of serving in pastoral ministry in many capacities. I've been on the pastoral staff at Evergreen SGV, pioneering Connecting Ministries, teaching adult Sunday School, and leading outreach projects under the mentorship of Pastor Cory Ishida. In 2010, God called my wife, Sanjung and me to pastor in Texas where I led a large youth group at Austin Chinese Church. We loved our time in Austin, and we miss that church very much, too.

During my time in pastoral ministry, many folks have affirmed my gifts in teaching and discipleship, and some have urged me to seek out more formal teaching opportunities. So, after a fruitful time in Austin, we moved with our growing family back to California where I have been teaching biblical studies to undergraduate students at Biola University and taking many speaking engagements. I am also currently an interim Assistant Pastor at Evergreen SGV, as we prepare for the next step.

We have exciting news to share with you! My family and I will be moving again, this time to the United Kingdom, where I will be starting my Ph.D. in Divinity at the University of Cambridge. The Engs will be living at Tyndale House, a biblical research community in Cambridge committed to serving the global church. We are looking forward to see how God will open doors for a teaching ministry in the future. While we are open to a Bible college or seminary professor position in the USA, we are also open to following God into the missions field to train pastors in developing countries.

I want to thank the Missions Committee and the generosity of BCEC's members for investing in my formative theological education at Talbot through the seminary scholarship. The scholarship is truly an investment into advancing God's kingdom by training up servants like me.

Please pray for the Eng family, as we will be relocating in September of this year. We will be navigating a new culture, a great deal of paperwork, and shepherding our daughters through a major move. Aside from the financial costs, pray for God to provide wisdom for me as a biblical researcher and instructor, which I am insecure about. Also, please pray for a supportive church community for us as we seek to make a home in England for several years. We are thrilled and nervous about this next step.

All in all, God has been very faithful, even in the midst of all my fears and insecurities. I'm grateful to continue following him.

Please keep in touch! You can always reach me at Daniel.K.Eng@bc.edu.



— Daniel Eng (with Sanjung, Joanna, Josie, and Jessica Eng)



Joint Cantonese Retreat (6/25-6/26)



Chinatown Vacation Bible School (8/15-8/19)



Newton Vacation Bible School (7/11-7/15)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 13 PDAS (PROJECT DESTINY
AUTUMN TO SPRING) BEGINS
- 16 BCEC AWANA BEGINS
CHINESE
- 18 BAPTISM
- 18 CANTONESE SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAY
CHINATOWN
- 23-25 ENGLISH FALL CONFERENCE
CHINATOWN

OCTOBER

- 22 THE MARRIAGE THING
CHINATOWN ENGLISH
- TBA PDAS FAMILY NIGHT
- 30 ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER

- 6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
ONE HOUR BACK
- 11-13 MISSIONS CONFERENCE
- 24 THANKSGIVING DAY
OFFICE CLOSED
- 26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
NO CEC CLASSES
- 27 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
- 27 CHILD DEDICATION
CHINESE

DECEMBER

- 4 BAPTISM
- 4 CHINESE SUNDAY SCHOOL
WINTER SESSION BEGINS
- 10 COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS
FALL SEMESTER ENDS
- TBA NEWTON CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 23-JAN 2 PDAS BREAK
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
- 25 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY
- 25 CHINATOWN CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 26 CHRISTMAS
OFFICE CLOSED



Project Destiny (7/5 – 8/7)



Summer Teen Conference (8/26 – 8/29)

BCEC Connections is a quarterly publication of Boston Chinese Evangelical Church. We would love to hear from you!

If you would like to help with this publication (writing, translation, or editing), please contact Helena Fong at helena.fong@bcec.net.

Do you have a story you think would be a blessing to other BCEC members? Do you have a great photo of a recent church or ministry event you'd like to share? Please send your submissions, questions, or comments to helena.fong@bcec.net. We reserve the right to edit the submissions as we deem appropriate without notice.

Visit us on the web at www.bcec.net

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Newton Campus Picnic (8/28)