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Psalms 32:8 | I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Journey Ahead.

English Version
英文版



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Report from the Senior Pastor and Board of Elders
4	Report from the Board of Deacons
5	English-Speaking Ministries Overview
7	Chinese-Speaking Ministries Overview
8	Staff List
9	Congregational Reports
	Chinatown Cantonese 2nd Congregation
	Chinatown Cantonese 3rd Congregation
	Chinatown English Congregation
	Chinatown Mandarin Congregation
	Newton Cantonese Congregation
	New Community Congregation
	Newton Mandarin Congregation
22	Photo Highlights

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR AND BOARD OF ELDERS

PASTOR DANIEL CHAN



The pandemic has brought many challenges to our society and the church. For BCEC, all our meetings were conducted online for most of last year. Besides Sunday services, fellowship gatherings, and planning meetings, many special events had to be done virtually. They included our annual membership meeting, the senior pastor installation, Pastor Calvin's ordination, Pastor Fung's memorial service, and the 249 building farewell ceremony. We were able to relaunch in-person Sunday services on July 25 after CDC and the state government relaxed their COVID-related mandates. However, due to space restrictions, we needed to limit the number of attendees. In the first month that we relaunched, the average total number of in-person attendees of all services was around 340. We hope that after the completion of the Newton sanctuary and the Josiah Quincy Elementary School auditorium renovations, more people can come back for in-person services.

During the months of online services, there was an average of 1,030 hits to view

our Sunday services from the BCEC website. There were several more hundred hits via YouTube and Zoom. But these hits cannot represent the actual number of attendance by our members, so unfortunately, attendance statistics during the pandemic are therefore unavailable. I wish to give special thanks to our technical team members. They have been spending a lot of time making online services and events possible. After relaunching, they continue to help us with live streaming services for those who cannot come for in-person events.

From June through August this year, the pandemic did not stop our regular summer events. We successfully conducted Project Destiny online, a hybrid (in-person and online) VBS, a hybrid youth ministry summer conference, and a one-week local short term outreach mission. Most of our fellowships are planning to relaunch in-person meetings in the fall.

Our elderly members are immensely impacted by the pandemic. Many of them are restricted at home. For many months,

those who stayed in a nursing home could not receive visitors. About five of our senior members who were in nursing homes or had long-term health problems have passed away because of the virus. However, there is one encouraging development—many older members have now learned to use technology to participate in virtual meetings.

God has given us a faithful and reliable pastoral and administrative staff. During the pandemic, they have overcome many hurdles and used different technologies to serve our members. But there were also many transitions in the staff last year. Sister See Yee Morante stepped down as Newton Secretary in August 2020. Minister Dora Lam retired in June this year. Minister Patrick Lin stepped down at the end of June. Brother Kirklin Lee finished his internship in August, and has moved on to a minister position at a church in Quincy. Minister Saul Lee stepped down in September. In addition, Pastor Emeritus Jacob Fung returned to the Lord in January. We all miss him very much. On a happier note, Pastor Calvin Chu was

ordained in November 2020. Brother Louis Leung graduated from seminary in May of this year, and has accepted a residency with us. Minister Steve Liu took a two-month sabbatical in June to reflect on our ministry to the community. We also have a successful candidate for the Newton Mandarin minister position, who is now waiting for the processing of a work visa.

God's grace is sufficient for us in the area of church finance through this pandemic. The general fund income fell considerably below our budget. But because our expenses were also decreased, there had not been an actual deficit. Both the missions fund and charity fund incomes have exceeded the budget. The Missions Committee and Social Responsibility Committee are now making plans to use the surplus to support more relevant ministries.

Since its completion in 1979, the 249 building has been a blessing to many of us. We have many fond corporate memories of the facility. Therefore, as July 1, 2021 approached, when we had to move out of

the building (please refer to previous reports about the selling of the building), many members felt a sense of loss. In the midst of managing the move and disposing of its contents, the deacons and staff organized a farewell ceremony in June. This allowed us to express our feelings, give thanks, and say goodbye to a symbol of history, as well as to look forward to a new chapter of the life stage of BCEC.

As for looking forward, we realize that the pandemic has caused considerable setbacks to society and the church. For the church, the next step will be a process of rebuilding our faith and spiritual discipline. We need to particularly pay attention to sharing the gospel, so that many people will come to Christ for salvation, faith, hope, and love. We need to grow in quality and quantity for the glory of God. Regarding physical expansion, we shall work to finish the renovation project of the Newton Campus, so that the Newton facility can support our ministries more efficiently. We shall also work out an

expansion plan for the Chinatown Campus, so that mobilization can move forward soon.

After Pastor Steve's retirement, the number of members in the Board of Elders dropped to 10. However, the joining of Pastor Calvin moved it back to 11. In the BOE, seven elders are our full-time pastors and four elders are elected and ordained from our membership. The tasks of the BOE are difficult to quantify. They range from admitting and terminating BCEC members, maintaining church discipline, prioritizing ministries, prioritizing resources, and maintaining doctrinal purity, to discerning BCEC vision and direction. All these tasks require deep discussions and deliberations. The BOE has to respond to short-term issues and plan for long term issues. Therefore, in the past many years, it regularly met two times a month. The meetings sometimes ran five hours long.

I tried to limit BOE meetings to three hours. Sometimes I succeeded, sometimes I failed. But there is one item in the agenda that the elders will not give up on, which

is to spend at least 35 minutes praying for the church and our members. Since the elders and deacons are responsible to lead the church in different areas, inter-board communication and collaboration are important. So the chairperson of the deacon board regularly sits in at BOE meetings and updates the elders on deacon concerns and decisions. Likewise, many elders sit in at BOD meetings, and I regularly update the deacons on BOE and pastoral staff issues.

Chinatown expansion will be an important topic for the BOE in the coming year. The pandemic has prompted the elders to re-evaluate our initial thoughts regarding the facility expansion. Please pray for the elders, so that they can discern God's will for the direction of the church.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

KEVIN FONG



Our Lord is good and gracious. In His timing and by the Spirit, He provides all that we need to love Him and be the children in whom He delights, and to love our neighbors and make disciples that will live with Him in heaven forever.

As our Lord has done for the past 60 years, He faithfully met all our financial needs through you. Although many of you were affected by the pandemic, you continued to give generously, and our General Fund is on track for a surplus for the fiscal year.

Although we were unable to hold a 60th-anniversary celebration banquet, we were able to celebrate His provision of 249 Harrison Ave. for ministry in Chinatown. Walking through 249 allowed many to reflect on all God has enabled us to do over the last 40+ years.

Our Lord again provided enough deacons to administer the support, maintenance, finance, and staff functions of BCEC. I thank our deacons for their faithful service and their dedication to continually improve our stewardship of resources. Through our

deacon ministry, we continued to learn to love Him and rely on Him even more. We invite you to pray with us always. Please pray that our God will make way to bring in the minister to shepherding our Newton Mandarin congregation. In addition, please pray that God will provide the resources needed to improve our Newton Campus for ministry by quickly renovating the sanctuary, kitchen, and former preschool space.

Thank you for your prayers for the deacons.
Grace and peace in Christ to you.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING MINISTRIES OVERVIEW

PASTOR ENOCH LIAO

This has been a year filled with much darkness, and yet as the Bible says in Matthew 4:16 (ESV), *“the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”* Even in the midst of darkness, there is a hope and a light, and as the body of Christ, we desire for God to use BCEC to share that light.

Pastoring the English congregations with Pastor Ken Liu has been a joy and privilege. The English services continue to collaborate in our preaching across both campuses. Lorraine Ho, our Children’s Ministries Director, also helped support both campuses during the pandemic by providing resources for children’s programming.

Partnering with the Chinese congregations, our English congregations has been blessed to love and serve our neighbors and our church community. As we reflect back on this year, God has been gracious through our English congregations. We celebrated God’s faithfulness in giving us a Senior Pastor who



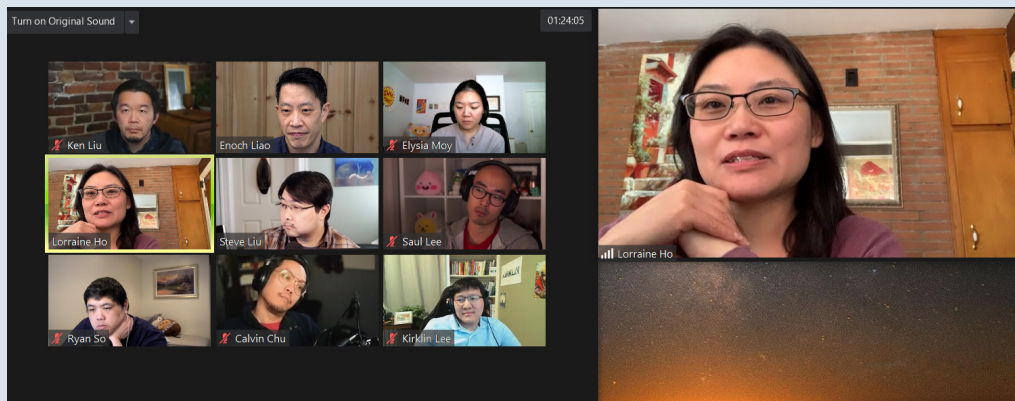
Live streaming the English Good Friday service ▲

can lovingly lead all our congregations. We also appreciate the many volunteers and staff who have served. As Minister Saul Lee has sensed God's leading to a new career, we are happy to have him and his wife, Susan, continue in our church. We are also grateful for our English ministry interns for this past year, including Kirklin Lee, Elysia Moy, and Louis Leung.

Some other staff milestones were the ordination of Pastor Calvin Chu and a

sabbatical for Minister Steve Liu. This coming ministry year, the congregation will vote on the ordination of Steve, as well as to witness the commissioning of Minister Ryan So.

Our volunteers worked diligently to keep all our worship services online in their various forms. In addition, we continue to enjoy our partnership with the Chinese staff, the Board of Elders, and the Board of Deacons.



▲ English-speaking ministries staff meeting on Zoom



Ordination of Pastor Calvin Chu ▲

CHINESE-SPEAKING MINISTRIES OVERVIEW

PASTOR KENNETH KWONG



I believe that submissions to this year's Annual Report will mention the pandemic, online worship, and the church re-opening. To report on how the pandemic has affected without duplication, I will emphasize the personal experiences of believers.

Like other challenges in life, the pandemic has made a wide and deep impact.

"Wide" refers to a widening of our lives and thoughts. Because of the pandemic, we have started online ministries. Our attempts to use an online format to carry out our outreach and discipleship programs have resulted in an expansion of our ministries. Our lives have also undergone similar changes. Initially, we were not used to wearing masks, but now masking has become a habit, and we have also been paying more attention to cleaning and hygiene. Another consequence of the pandemic has been the popularity of remote work, which has even become the preferred mode of working by some people. Because we have been spending more time at home, we have developed more hobbies such as seeking new recipes for home cooking,

keeping pets, reading spiritual books, and watching online sermons. There are Christians who attend online worship at three churches in different cities on a Sunday!


"Deep" refers, because of special circumstances, to a deepening of our understanding and our appreciation of matters. After a suspension of ministries on site, we much more appreciate events and ministries that allow us to meet in person. Similarly, we have become more willing to sacrifice convenience during the pandemic to ensure our physical health. We have also developed a deeper understanding of the fragility and importance of life. When we feel helpless after becoming ill, we are becoming more appreciative of the help and concern of our families and friends. When we find ourselves in difficult situations, we are more eager to receive deliverance and help from God. I have a friend who was facing adversity this year, and his faith was severely tested. Now, whenever he has free time, he will find a peaceful corner and just sit there for a long time where he seeks fellowship with

God. Nowadays, what do we consider to be most important? As we spend more time at home, how we use our extra time reflects our hidden desires. If you are spending those moments to seek God, you have begun to experience how precious God is.

Finally, I hope that you can deepen your relationship with God during the pandemic and learn how to follow the example of the Lord. Learn from the nature of Jesus, who in humility values others above Himself and lives for others. Whenever there is a disaster, I am always moved by those who sacrifice themselves to save others, such as the firefighters who rushed inside the World Trade Center on 9/11 and healthcare workers who remained at their posts inside hospitals to battle SARS or COVID-19. During this past year, many brothers and sisters served in online worship and meal distribution. They were practicing the discipline of living an authentic Christian life and taking risks for the sake of others. I hope that such experiences will deepen our understanding of the affection of Christ Jesus. Glory to God!

STAFF LIST

(as of 9/30/2021)



Senior Pastor: Daniel Chan

English Ministry Staff:

Enoch Liao	Assistant Pastor
Ken Liu	Assistant Pastor
Calvin Chu	Assistant Pastor
Lorraine Ho	Children's Ministries Director
Steve Liu	Director of Project Destiny Ministries
Ryan So	Director of Young Adult and College Ministries
Steven Chin	Pastor Emeritus

Chinese Ministry Staff:

Daniel Chan	Senior Pastor
Kenneth Kwong	Assistant Pastor
Andy Su	Assistant Pastor
Barry Lam	Assistant Pastor
Ben Wong	Assistant to the Pastor
Louis Leung	Pastoral Resident

Operations Support Staff:

Helena Fong	Office Manager
Dennis Chin	Operations Manager
Kwok Wah Wong	Maintenance Technician
Connie Ho	Secretary (Chinatown Campus)
Lillian Te	Secretary (Newton Campus)

We would also like to appreciate the following people who served on staff this past year:

Dora Lam, Assistant to the Pastor; Kirklin Lee, English Intern; Saul Lee, Student Ministries Director; Patrick Lin, Interim Assistant to the Pastor; Elysia Moy, English Intern.

CHINATOWN CANTONESE 2ND CONGREGATION

ELDER CHUK LAM YUEN

We thank God that in the past year when people's lives were still being impacted by the pandemic, our church was still able to continue our ministries. We had 30 people getting baptized. Under the pandemic environment, we could not use the baptistery in our 249 Harrison Ave. sanctuary. We had to baptize people outside in the parking lot behind our 249 church building using the sprinkling method. We thank God that in spite of all these restrictions from the pandemic, they could still testify before others that they accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. At the start of the pandemic, our senior pastor established a new online platform after the Chinatown Cantonese 2nd worship service, so that brothers and sisters can share and pray together.

Since the opening of the 249 church building in 1979, the Cantonese Service (now the Cantonese 2nd service) had been worshipping there for forty plus years. Even for many of our Chinatown Cantonese 2nd congregational members, they may have moved their home a few times already

and yet our spiritual home location has not changed during all this time. Since the Boston city government wanted to use our land together with the adjacent land to build a new high school, a couple of years ago we agreed to sell our 249 land to the City. After the sale, the City let us continue to use the 249 church building until the end of

June this year. When June rolled by and the deacons were starting to pack and get ready to move out, many brothers and sisters, especially those who had been attending the Chinatown Cantonese 2nd worship service, still had a strong sense of attachment to 249 and did not want to part ways with it. To them, 249 is not only a place where they had



been worshipping and having fellowship with one other for a long time, but it was also where they were baptized, got married, or had their children dedicated there. These were all memorable events in their lives. As we were going to move out of 249, knowing that the 249 church building would be torn down in the future, many of us had a sense of sadness. As a result, the church had made arrangements to allocate some time for brothers and sisters to visit 249 one last time and have the opportunity to take some photos for nostalgia.

This year is the 60th anniversary of our church. However, due to the pandemic we could not make it a big celebration. On June 13, we did a live stream Cantonese worship service from the 249 sanctuary celebrating our 60th anniversary, and at the same time, it would be the last Sunday worship service we were going to hold in the 249 sanctuary. So once again we re-grouped our already dissolved Chinatown Cantonese 2nd Service choir. The choir, with some 13 people, accompanied by both the organ and piano and under the direction of Adrian Man, led the congregation singing praises to God, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done....."

We had discussed about combining the 2nd and 3rd worship services into one Cantonese worship service for some time. By combining the two worship services, we see that we can make better use of our resources. The congregation members in the 2nd worship service are mostly elderly people, whereas there are more young adults in the 3rd worship service. By combining the two congregations, it will make one big group consisting of members that will look more like a big family, with old and young members covering a wide age spectrum. The elderly folks can share their



Choir members from the Chinatown Cantonese 2nd Congregation ▲

life experiences and lessons learned in their spiritual journey with the younger folk, and they also be role models for them. On the other hand, the younger folks can contribute their creative ideas and new ways of doing things, and use their energy and knowledge about technology and audio/visual know-hows to help design and set up equipment for the worship service. Thus, the young and elderly can work side by side helping one another, building up one another. Combining the 2nd and 3rd worship services also has its challenges. There are differences between the two worship services in hymn selection and in style in leading worship. Even with these differences, if we look at it from a positive angle, it is also an opportunity for all of us to learn to accept one another and appreciate one another. When the church re-launched in-person worship, we started to have our 2nd and 3rd worship services combined together. At that time, the Josiah Quincy Elementary School auditorium was not available for us to use. As a result, we started our worship service using the multi-

function room (formerly the dining room) in 120 Shawmut Ave. We still try to retain the online worship service with live streaming. For the first few weeks, we had an in-person attendance of about 50-60 people. We thank God that things have been running relatively smoothly, and we can worship together in person.

Minister Dora Lam retired this past May. We thank her for her faithful service to our church for more than 20 years in caring and blessing many people. Many have also been edified through her. Minister Dora's retirement has created a void in our Chinatown Cantonese 2nd congregation's caring and visitation ministries. Thank God that last year we had Minister Ben Wong joining our pastoral team, and he is able to fill some of this void. We hope more brothers and sisters can join some of these ministries. The need in these ministries is especially huge because we have many elderly people in our Chinatown Cantonese 2nd congregation. In fact, even in other ministries we also have similar needs, and we would call on all brothers and sisters

to rise up, use the spiritual gifts that God has given you to serve one another, edify one another, and together we can unite to build up the body of Christ.

CHINATOWN CANTONESE 3RD CONGREGATION

PASTOR KENNETH KWONG



July 25 was the date when our church resumed in-person services for Sunday worship and also when our Chinatown Cantonese 2nd congregation and Chinatown Cantonese 3rd congregation merged together. We should know that this merge is not yet complete. First of all, when all the seats are replaced inside the Quincy Elementary School auditorium, we will have increased capacity, so please keep this in your prayers. In addition, merging the two congregations does not simply mean merging the rundown of the two worship programs. It also means the merging of two congregations to become one family, appreciating, bearing with, and accepting each other. Some of us may be having difficulty singing along with those leading on stage, but praise God that we are still singing with passion. We should be happy about this, just like the pilgrims who were singing “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’ “ (Psalms 122:1). Let’s become a spiritual family with diverse worship formats and put into practice the church theme from

a few years ago: “Celebrating our Unity in Diversity.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who participated in our Zoom meeting before the Chinatown Cantonese 3rd service before we resumed in-person worship. As fellow travelers, your attendance provided me with support as I led our weekly services. At the same time, as we helped and assisted one another, we were able to continue our fellowship online, and our pace became lighter. May God continue to use our love so that we can become helpful to others.

CHINATOWN ENGLISH CONGREGATION

PASTOR ENOCH LIAO

This year continued with life in a pandemic. Sunday worship services continued to be live streamed from Chinatown Campus. Adult, student, and children's ministries continued online. And while we were accustomed to a life of virtual interactions, social distancing, and face coverings, all our ministries attempted to adapt.

We initiated several online ministries designed for pandemic life. We hosted several webinars on prayer for schools and for those facing unemployment & underemployment. We also hosted a lament session to invite people to give our griefs and hurts to the Lord.

As for outreach, we continued to partner with Boston Public Schools to distribute free meals to the community every week. This effort was led by Steve Liu with the help of volunteers from the entire church. Our Web of Women ministry hosted a face mask collection for local schools.

As sectors of society reopened, our ministries gradually returned to some form of in-person programming. When we

relaunched Sunday worship at 120 Shawmut Ave., God enabled us to launch two worship services — one at our traditional time of 9:15 a.m., and another at 1:30 p.m.

And this was our first year that we hosted three VBS programs! Led by our Children's Ministries Director, Lorraine Ho, we held children's outreach in person, in people's backyards, and online. Pastor Calvin Chu led youth in a hybrid version of Basecamp (youth ministry summer conference). Minister Ryan So led our first in-person overnight event with our Young Adult Retreat in New Hampshire. As we write this, we are waiting on the Lord to guide us, as we continue to

seek to share the gospel through our English-speaking ministries in Chinatown for this coming ministry year.



CHINATOWN MANDARIN CONGREGATION

PASTOR ANDY SU



2021 has been an amazing year! The pandemic still has no end in sight, yet by the grace of our Lord, His strength and gentleness have been made perfect in our weakness. Together, we are undergoing a journey of birth pains, so that through Christ's life in us we can be cultivated into His Kingly image of a royal priesthood.

At the start of the year, we collectively embarked on a one-year Bible reading plan and surprisingly, almost everyone is following through with the plan, and newcomers have joined as well. In our weekly Bible reading sharing, we have seen how Christ's life has gradually taken form among new believers, and more experienced Christians are also beholding Christ. Through weekly Bible pre-study, Christ is building up lasting character among our Bible study leaders. God's Word has been like a torch of fire that first tests the co-workers who then pass it on to other brothers and sisters.

In the weekly mothers' parenting group, the kids also join their moms on Zoom, curious to understand what mom is learning

and to remind mom of the gentleness of Christ. In the men's and women's singles groups, each brother or sister is earnestly seeking God's will as ordained in marriage with the hope of one day establishing a Christ-centered family. In weekly one-on-one mentorship sessions with individual couples, young couples are learning how Christ can actually reign in their marriage. Many middle-aged couples are continuously being transformed and renewed by the faithful grace of our Lord over the years and have now become a group of caring shepherds to others.

Finally, our elderly believers are serving as strong prayer warriors, and through their steadfast prayer and supplication, we have seen how the Lord delights in listening, forgiving, and healing us. Our Lord Jesus is leading brothers and sisters step by step to becoming a royal priesthood with a Kingly image, ready to welcome His return.

NEWTON CANTONESE CONGREGATION

PASTOR BARRY LAM



“Long time no see!” This is the sentence most heard, since BCEC has relaunched in-person worship services. Many brothers and sisters have not seen each other for more than a year. In the past year, they only met on Zoom. It was quite heartwarming to see everyone’s face. At the same time, I still miss those brothers and sisters who have not yet returned to church. Pray for the peace of the Lord to be with everyone.

I would like to use this annual report to thank the brothers and sisters for their dedication to serve the Lord wholeheartedly this past year (in no particular order):

Brothers and sisters of the worship team serving in front and behind the scenes (from in-person to pre-recording, to live streaming, and now to in person and live streaming), we have experienced a multifaceted breakthrough and implemented necessary changes. This included online chorus production, scripture reading production, video production, and the music worship team leading songs facing the camera with or without an audience. Please know that

you have done your best, labor, and time, and we hope to present the best in front of the monitor/screen, so that other people can devote more time to worship. In addition, we hope to evangelize the gospel through using digital media. This service can be full of challenges and stress. I pray that the Lord will give you strength and let you see the fruits of your labor.

Fellowship committee members, small group leaders and pre-Bible study teachers, thank you for your dedication. Serving at fellowship is never easy. Yet you stay strong in your mission, do your best to allow brothers and sisters to share their lives, build up each other, and grow together in the love and Word of the Lord during the pandemic. Thank you!

Adult and Children’s Sunday School committee members and teachers, when teaching online, you have to teach, as well as to manage Zoom. Your skill of multitasking is one step further up. Committee members recognize how challenging it is to plan and

facilitate online Sunday School classes. It is a painstaking job! Kudos to all of you!

EEE team and Alpha class teachers, it is through your love of the Lord, as well as the souls and committed acts that allow us to hear the pulse of God’s love and to see how the promise of the Great Commission is revealed to us. Although 2021 was spent almost in a closed situation, there were still 50 people who attended the Alpha class, and through EEE visitation, they received the gospel. Many of them believed in Christ and were baptized. Let us give all the glory to the Lord!

We Talk 800 workers, I can’t believe God sent me warriors like you, to be crazy for God with me. 70 consecutive Wednesdays! We Talk 800 was a blessing for both the local and overseas believers and nonbelievers during the pandemic. We should not be too concerned about how far this ministry can go. Instead, it is a joy to know that people like you, who are on the same spiritual journey, are experiencing God. Thank you speakers

for your sharing and teaching. All of this pre-gospel work fosters positive energy.

Retreat workers, an outdoor individual retreat was a new concept that took nothing and transformed it into something meaningful. The process was full of unknowns because you saw this was inspired by God. You were willingly to respond accordingly. The outcome was the spiritual revival of brothers and sister who experienced miraculous provisions from God. Praise God!

To every prayer warrior, thank you for faithfully attending the weekly Tuesday night prayer meetings, as well as participating in small group and private prayers for the church, brothers and sisters, missionaries, and the worldwide gospel station. While there may not be a physical building for the church sometimes, as well as a lack of people and money, we acknowledge that persevering in ministry is difficult but still feasible. Without prayer, nothing is possible. Your prayer is the engine for the church.

Lastly, thank you for each pastoral staff member, elder, and deacon for their 110%

dedication to guide our church during these challenging and uncertain times. Even though it was tough last year, God's grace is abundantly pouring out among us. Let's work together in the days to come, bite the odds, and walk hand in hand to fight for the best for God.

NEW COMMUNITY CONGREGATION (NEWTON ENGLISH)

PASTOR KEN LIU

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

Genesis 12:1-2 (NIV)

I have always been amazed by Abram's response to God's call. God didn't give specifics of where He was leading him nor an exact plan of how His promises would unfold. There was no map or strategic plan of where, when, or how. Yet something compelled Abram to keep moving forward no matter the different twists and turns along the way.

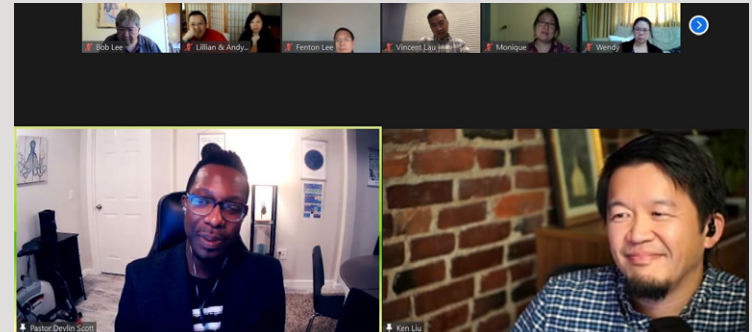
This prolonged pandemic has continued to remind all of us of what has always been true. Our life journey has never been under our control. What is equally true is that God is faithful no matter how challenging life can be. Although this past year has been difficult with all the uncertainties with the pandemic, we managed to pray, disciple, and care for one another online. I am especially grateful for our Sunday "updates and prayer," as well as the Wednesday night prayer meetings where we interceded for each other and for

our community, city, and world. Our times of prayer together were a lifeline, as we lamented and trusted the Lord together. All our community groups continued to learn and support one another through Zoom.

Last fall, Junior Worship rebooted and was able to offer classes online. Wendy, Wei, and Carri were able to offer Zoom gatherings for Pre-K students with about 5-6 children joining us each week. We are also able to offer pre-recorded lessons for Elementary students. Praise God for the Junior Worship team for their heart for children and ability to engage them online.

We held our first online retreat with Pastor Devlin Scott, where he encouraged and challenged us to create common ground, create connections, and create conversations. We had a few opportunities to put

this into action through our Red Cross Blood Drives where we met many of our neighbors in our community. We also walked around our neighborhood praying for our neighbors and passing out postcards that offered words of encouragement and prayer. Many of us put on our gardening gloves and took part in Newton Serves, where we connected with the Peirce School community. Several of us also took part in the Newton Community Vigil for Victims of Atlanta Shooting. Despite the challenges, it was good to have in-person opportunities to love and serve our city.



Online retreat with Pastor Devlin Scott as our speaker ▲

We also had our first “Partners’ Meeting” where we came together at the beginning of the year to hear testimonies from our brothers and sisters as well as to imagine together what the year could potentially look like, including the plans and hopes for renovations and reopening.

But again, our lives are not in our control. The effectiveness of the vaccine opened up society far faster than we imagined. We praise God for this incredible gift of common grace! These developments opened the door for reopening much earlier than I expected. On the one hand, we had been waiting and longing for this day! But on the other hand, it introduced a great deal of complications. Our hope was for the renovations to be done while the building was closed. Despite our best attempts, the renovation process was met with multiple delays, supply chain issues, and rising costs. We greatly appreciate your patience and prayers, as we continue on this journey.

Nonetheless, we pushed forward despite all the uncertainties and limited space. We managed to relaunch our worship services both in-person and online after 16 months. I am incredibly grateful for all the hard work from our staff, leaders, and volunteers to make this happen. Despite the different venue for worship and the tight squeeze, it’s been an incredible blessing to see each other and worship together in person and online.

Another unexpected twist was on the staffing front. Three years ago when we added Minister Patrick and Minister Saul, I had to pinch myself because I couldn’t believe how blessed we were to have such a great team. Alas, God has different plans for the both of them as both brothers are transitioning. Patrick and Christine are now in San Francisco for ministry in the Bay, serving with Pastor Jack Lum. Saul has transitioned careers, but thankfully he and Susan are staying with the BCEC family, for which I am grateful. They have both played critical roles in their respective ministries, especially



▲ Vigil for victims of Atlanta shooting; Newton Serves

during this pandemic. Minister Patrick provided much needed pastoral care during this interim period. Saul managed to pivot the youth ministry completely online by finding creative and innovative ways to share the gospel with the students. Saul also led worship almost every week during the pandemic and played a crucial role in setting up our live stream. Let us thank the Lord for their faithfulness to Christ, their service to the church, and for the ways they have impacted our lives for Christ. Let us also pray for them, as God leads their next steps.

Despite all these changes and plot twists that we didn't anticipate, God has continued to be good and faithful during these trying times. We still don't know what lies ahead, especially with the Delta variant surging. However, we know enough about the faithfulness of God to move forward, believing that He meets us in our doubts and heartbreak and gives us love, faith, and hope.



NEWTON MANDARIN CONGREGATION

LIANG DING

The pandemic has made me realize again that there is nothing new under the sun. Advances in science and technology will not keep all disasters away from us, and time and time again we face the death, pain, suffering, fear, helplessness, and social upheaval from these disasters. Brothers and sisters of the the Newton Mandarin congregation have to face a variety of assaults of the pandemic, as well as the departure of Minister Patrick Lin. Even though we are not physically riding on a small boat during a storm, we still feel precarious.

Nevertheless, these problems and crises have caused us to evaluate more deeply our relationship with God and strengthened our belief that we can rely on Him forever. "Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him" (Psalm 128:1 – NIV). The sheep whom He has gathered together remains on green pastures. In the storm, we treasure and support each other, worshipping together and serving in unity. After

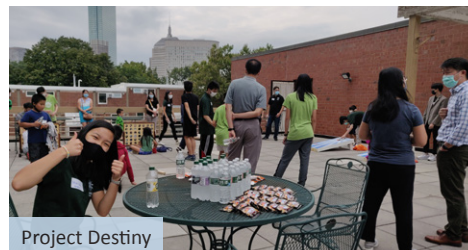


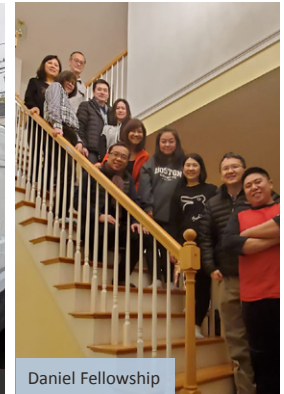
having started in-person worship, all of us are actively participating in ministries. We will overcome our troubles, and we can see that a new dawn has arrived.

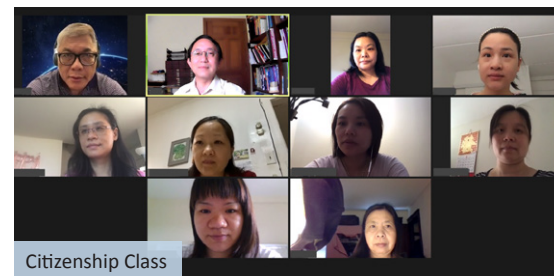
We can select what we want to hear or see, while our hearts can select what to pay attention to and meditate on. If we fix our eyes on God and His Kingdom and study His Word, even though we are sailing in darkness in the stormy seas, we will be guided by His lighthouse as we press on toward the goal of a meaningful life.

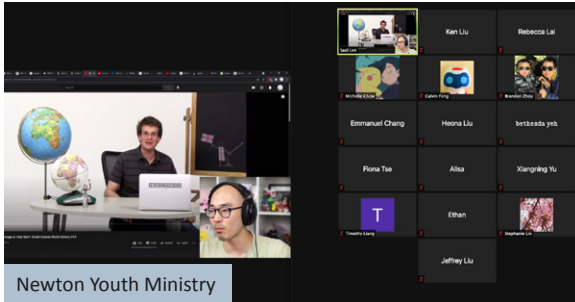


PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS











Blood Drive with American Red Cross



Stephen Ministry



Community English Classes



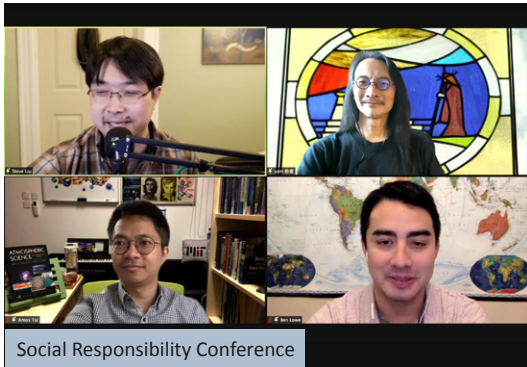
Project Destiny



Caleb Fellowship



Project Destiny



Social Responsibility Conference



Newton Youth Ministry

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