# BOSTON CHINESE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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**English Version** 

# **Table of Contents**

#### **INTRODUCTION 4**

Words from Chairs of BOE/BOD Words from Pastor Steven Chin Words from Pastor Kenneth Kwong Ministerial Staff Photo Support Staff and Pastor Emeritus Photo Baptism Photo

#### WORSHIP SIX CONGREGATIONS 10

Chinatown Cantonese 2nd Service Chinatown Cantonese 3rd Service Chinatown English Mandarin Ministry Newton Chinese Newton English

#### EDIFICATION & FELLOWSHIP ENGLISH MINISTRY BY LIFE STAGE 16

ChinatownChildren's Ministry (Nursery, Kids Worship, Sunday School) Chinatown English Family Ministry CrossRoad Adult Fellowship English Youth Sunday School Junior Worship New Community Adult Fellowship Newton Children's Sunday School Newton English Nursery Teens Fellowship (Senior High) Teens With a Reason - TWR (Junior High) Together In One Bucket - TIOB (Junior and Senior High) Trellis & Twigs - College Ministry

#### CHINESE MINISTRY BY LIFE STAGE 25

Caleb Fellowship (Seniors) Cantonese Adult Sunday School Cantonese Family Retreat Chinatown Caring Department Chinese Adult Sunday School Chinese Women's Fellowship Daniel Fellowship for Adults Elim Fellowship (Family) Enoch Fellowship (Seniors) Joshua 1 Fellowship Joshua Couple Fellowship Joshua Youth Fellowship (Junior and Senior High) Mandarin Developing Ministry Peter Fellowship (Men) Ruth Fellowship (Women) Song of Songs Fellowship (Couples)

#### OUTREACH 35

Christmas Party Library Community English Class Local Evangelism Mission Newton Block Party Missions Committee Project Destiny (PD) Project Destiny from Autumn to Spring (PDAS) Service Industry Worker Ministry Social Responsiblity Committee Vacation Bible School



# **Vision of BCEC**

Because God has blessed us, we strive to be a blessing to the Chinatown community, the Chinese-Asian community, and our neighbors, by sharing the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are compelled by a passion for God and a compassion for people, all for the glory of God.

# One Church, Two Campuses

We are the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church community located in two places:

Chinatown Campus 249 Harrison Avenue Boston, MA 02111 Newton Campus 218 Walnut Street Newtonville, MA 02460



## INTRODUCTION

Words from Chairs of BOE/BOD Words from Pastor Steven Chin Words from Pastor Kenneth Kwong Ministerial Staff Photo Support Staff and Pastor Emeritus Photo Baptism Photo

#### WORDS FROM CHAIRS OF BOE AND BOD

There is no doubt about it! BCEC is a large church but unlike many other churches, we are different because we are six congregations with 3 different languages and cultures (Cantonese, Mandarin, and English) on two campuses with a budget approaching 2 million dollars. Like many organizations of this size, this translates to complexities in managing ministries and operations of the church. These are the challenges facing our church.

However, we are committed to unity in Christ as we try to grow together. We will not all agree on how we do everything. But we can love and respect one another even as we make decisions that will not please everyone in trying to advance God's kingdom.

Over the past year, God has challenged the Elders, Pastoral Staff, and Deacons about what it means to lead such a complex church. We are still on this learning journey, but God has started us on this path with the very first Leadership Summit in January 2012. It was an amazing experience where over 30 leaders from the church gathered to gain a better understanding of each other, to pray for BCEC, and to gain a new perspective of BCEC as a church.

There is still much to learn but with God's faithfulness and grace, He is moving us in His time to equip the leaders of the church in reaching out to our neighbors, around our church communities, our immediate circles, and the world. Please pray for our leadership, that they will be led by the Holy Spirit and exhibit the fruit of the Spirit as they lead our church.



Board of Elders (BOE)

Back Row: Elder Kai Yee Hui, Elder Bak Fun Wong, Elder Jack Lee, Elder Chuk Lam Yuen Front Row: Pastor Enoch Liao, Pastor Thomas Lee, Pastor Steven Chin, Pastor Daniel Chan, Pastor Kenneth Kwong



Board of Deacons (BOD) Back Row: Wai Chin Ng, Peter Sun, Billy Ng Middle Row: Anthony Lai, Andy Lui, Jasper Wong Front Row: Jason Cheung, Mandy Yeung, Bobo Tang, Sandra Chan, Gary Chu



#### WORDS FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

We give thanks for another blessed year from the Lord. In 2011, there was a lot of celebration and reflection on what God had done in the past during our 50th anniversary year. However, in 2012 we began to focus more on the future and what God wants us to do in the next 50 years if the Lord does not return yet.

For example, the first Leadership Summit was held in January 2012. It brought diverse church leaders together to pray and to think together about the church and its needs. The leaders learned more about each other and more about the church. I believe it will pave the way for greater understanding and better decision-making for the future.

In some sense, this was not a good year to start the next 50 years. Though it was certainly not intended, many of our pastors were scheduled for a sabbatical leave at about the same time. For about 19 months, from June 2011 through December 2012, at least one pastor and sometimes two pastors were taking their deserved leave. Though we want our pastors to be refreshed and renewed, it has stretched our leadership and human resources with such key leadership missing. However, the Lord is bringing us through this challenging period as different people have stepped forward.

Also it is not a good time to begin the next 50 years because of the changing spiritual climate in which we live. Though it has never been an easy spiritual climate, we can see the morals and values of our country are continuing to decline, especially in our part of the country. According to one study, the New England states are the least religious part of the country. Belief in the Bible is becoming less and less of an accepted value and more of a stigma.

But as the world gets darker, Christians must shine more brightly. We must become deeper and stronger as disciples of Christ, instead of allowing the world to squeeze us into its mold. The church has adopted a church-wide theme of "Spiritual Disciplines." As we are motivated to draw closer to God through prayer, Bible study, meditation, and other practices, I hope we can meet the challenge of our changing world.

Despite the sabbaticals and continuing decline in the spiritual climate of our country, God has blessed our church with growth. Though nationally churches have declined in attendance by 1.05% from 2010 to 2011, our church has been able to grow in number. Our average attendance in all our six services has increased from 1132 to 1156, or a 2.1% increase. Baptisms declined slightly from 63 to 62, though we

experienced a record number of 39 baptisms on Easter 2012. We give God the glory for His blessings.

As we grow in number, we continue to look for a long-term solution to our space needs in Chinatown. As we experienced some title issues on Parcel A and committed to pray for 21 days, God opened up another possibility to expand in Chinatown. The South Cove Manor nursing home became available. As I write this article, we do not yet know the



final outcome. But, no matter the result, I hope we as church will learn to pray and to depend on our almighty God to provide for us. We also give thanks for the completion of the first pledge that resulted in record total giving in the past three years despite a difficult economy. The Lord worked through many of you to give sacrificially and generously to His work.

In addition to more space, our growth requires more staff. The English Student Ministry Assistant position will be replaced with an English Student Ministry Director to lead our Youth and College students. We will be making a commitment to have a permanent director for Project Destiny and Project Destiny Autumn to Spring that reach out to middle school students during the summer and the school year. Project Destiny will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year and has produced much spiritual fruit over the years. Finally, we will be making a staff commitment to the Mandarin ministry in Newton. There is a growing need for a full-time Mandarin minister in Newton.

Concerning the English Congregations specifically, we are glad the pastors have returned from their sabbaticals. Yet despite their absences, the English congregations' attendance has grown from 415 to 432, or a 4% increase. There were 21 baptisms from the English congregations.

We are thankful for all who have served, prayed, and given to the ministry of BCEC, both here and around the world. There are many areas we still need to grow in and many more people to reach with the Gospel. But we are grateful for God's blessing. We continue to trust the Lord as we begin the next 50 years of our church's history.



#### WORDS FROM ACTING ASSOCIATE PASTOR

As an effort to demonstrate unity in focus and direction, BCEC will have one theme throughout the church beginning this September. From January through August, the Chinese congregations' theme had been "Expanding as a Church Family". We studied this topic in four areas:

January to March: Building Interpersonal Relationships

April to May: Being Good Stewards

May to June: Using our Gifts and Talents

July to August: Sharing the Gospel and Being Socially Responsible.

Expansion for a church is more than building physically. A church is a community of believers chosen by God and belonging to God. When we use our God-given gifts and healthy interpersonal relationships to witness to others and invite them to be part of this community, we are also expanding. The sermons over the past months aimed to guide our people to respond to the calling to expand as a church family.

Attendance for our Chinese worship services went up slightly (see numbers below) and we are thankful. There is great outreach potential in the Mandarin ministries. The Chinatown Mandarin service welcomes three or four newcomers on average every week. The Newton Mandarin fellowship also confirmed this potential with successful outreach activities over the past year. (Please see other articles on these ministries.) May God provide more resources and manpower to support their growth.

Worship Service	This past year 8/1/2011-7/31/2012	The year before (8/1/2010 to 7/31/2011)
Chinatown Mandarin	145	144
Chinatown Cantonese 2nd	272	274
Chinatown Cantonese 3rd	166	155
Newton Cantonese	141	144
Total	724	717

We started a Stephen Ministry this year in response to the growing number of people who need pastoral caring. The first group of Stephen Ministers had been

trained and began serving. Due to the great demand, this group of 10 had yet to be able to relieve the pastoral staff significantly, even though we had taken the right action. Please keep in prayer that over the next few years, more people would become coworkers in the ministry as a result of seeing the value of such work and that more would be served.







#### Chinese Ministry Staff

Assistant to the Pastor - Andy Su Pastoral Assistant - Michael Lock Assistant Pastor - Kenneth Kwong Associate Pastor - Daniel Chan Assistant to the Pastor - Dora Lam Assistant to the Pastor - Barry Lam

(top left to right)



#### English Ministry Staff

Assistant Pastor - Enoch Liao Assistant Pastor - Thomas Lee Adult Ministry Director - Philip Chew Children's Ministry Director (Chinatown Campus) - Lorraine Ho Senior Pastor - Steven Chin Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator (Newton Campus)- Randall Myers

(top left to right)



#### **SUPPORT STAFF**



<u>Newton Support Staff</u> Office Administrator - Frances Lau, Chinese Secretary - See Yee Morante, English Secretary - Lillian Te, Operations Manager - Dennis Chin

(left to right)



<u>Chinatown Support Staff</u> Operations Manager - Dennis Chin, Chinese Secretary - Connie Ho Office Administrator - Frances Lau, Student Ministries Assistant- Emily Liu

(left to right)



Pastor Emeritus - Jacob Fung





December 4, 2011 Baptism



April 8, 2012 Baptism



September 16, 2012 Baptism



### WORSHIP Six Congregations

Chinatown Cantonese 2<sup>nd</sup> Service Chinatown Cantonese 3<sup>rd</sup> Service Chinatown English Mandarin Ministry Newton Chinese Newton English

#### **CHINATOWN CANTONESE 3<sup>RD</sup> SERVICE**

By Pastor Kenneth Kwong

We give thanks to God for the continuous growth of the Third (Cantonese) Service in Chinatown Campus. We have newcomers of all ages and from various socioeconomic levels. Some are Boston residents, while others are postdoctoral students who will stay here for one year or two. We appreciate God's mercy that He made us recognize Him as our Savior and that He loves His people unconditionally, regardless of their genders, social status and ages.

We are delighted to find that many young couples value families, taking great care in raising their children. They pay attention to education, emphasizing biblical teaching and Christian values. Among them, many persistently follow the commission of "being fruitful and multiplying." May God be gracious to these families and bless their homes as places that glorify God and benefit others so that His church can flourish.

The attendance of Sunday service averaged about 170, with a maximum of 195 in the first half of the year. We hope the number will break 200 as a record in the coming year. To achieve this goal, we need to improve the quality of our service, which includes not only that of the worship team, but also that of the audience. We sometimes simply focus on the performance of the worship leaders, failing to realize that the ultimate quality of the worship service depends on the congregation as a whole. If the audience doesn't engage in the service, the worship will fail. Therefore, we urge our brothers and sisters to rest well on Saturday nights so that they can come to service with their hearts prepared to hear from God. A worship service full of life will automatically be filled with God's presence, will draw people to join us, and God will be pleased to bring more people into our midst.

Therefore, let us pray that God will revive His servants, such as the worship leaders, scripture readers, preachers, audiovisual helpers, babysitters, and ushers. May our brothers and sisters offer themselves wholeheartedly to improve the quality of our Sunday service. Also, we pray for the revival of the congregation's spiritual health so that the worship will glorify God.

Members of the Third Service worship committee: Jeffrey Lin, Jeff Liu, Christine Wong, Brenda Situ, and Pastor Kenneth Kwong.







#### CHINATOWN CANTONESE 2<sup>ND</sup> SERVICE

By Pastor Kenneth Kwong

As a pillar of BCEC, the Chinatown Cantonese 2nd Service has the longest history and has cultivated many leaders, deacons, and elders. In addition, this congregation has been serving BCEC faithfully, especially with financial support. They are a blessing to BCEC.



The congregation also sets

an example for other congregations with respect to their attendance at Sunday



come to worship regularly. Some of them need round-the-clock care and have to move to nursing homes, thus losing their freedom to come to church without help. Many in the congregation have elderly parents and face enormous pressure and difficulties to take care of them. As for outreach, this congregation needs to coordinate with BCEC's outreach program, follow up with new service. Most of them arrive at church fifteen minutes early and join the preworship. They prepare themselves in peace so that when worship begins, they can call on God with pure hearts.

The challenges to the Cantonese 2nd Service are the needs to serve the elderly and to have a breakthrough in outreach. Some of the elderly are not mobile and therefore cannot



Christians, and attract non-Christians to join. We hope that God will supply the leaders with wisdom to address these needs so that the Cantonese 2nd service can continue growing.

#### CHINATOWN ENGLISH CONGREGATION

By Pastor Enoch Liao



#### Reflecting on God's Faithfulness

When people ask me about this year for our Chinatown English Congregation, my first response is to not answer. After all, I took a sabbatical for 6 of those months! But then I consider that though I was not actively pastoring, I did worship in our congregation for almost all of those Sundays. This experience gave me the

opportunity to experience our congregation more as an active participant rather than an upfront leader. And I must say, I love our church and what God is doing at BCEC.

My sabbatical required other leaders to take additional responsibilities. Besides the pastoral staff,



key lay leaders stepped forward to lead and serve. I thank God for the fruitful ministry and dedicated service of so many volunteer leaders.



#### Highlights from 2011-2012

Let me share 5 highlights from this past ministry year:

- 1. Sabbatical. This was my first sabbatical at BCEC since I joined staff in 2001, so of course this was a highlight for me. I've already written about my sabbatical experience in the BCEC Connections newsletter so I won't say more here.
- 2. Christ as the Head Shepherd. The sabbatical was not just a highlight for me, but also a highlight for our congregation. Our congregation learned to allow her leaders to rest. Our congregation also enjoyed the leadership and preaching of other capable leaders. Sabbaticals remind us that all of us under-shepherds are expendable so long as the Holy Spirit leads us to follow our Great Shepherd.
- 3. Missions Conference with our Missionaries. Our very own BCEC missionary, Tom Lin, spoke at our English Missions Conference this year. Tom challenged us with his own story of the cost of following Christ. And God encouraged us to see how our BCEC missionaries impact the world.
- 4. Our immigrant church reflecting on God's view of Immigrants. BCEC is a Chinese heritage church (CHC), which means we are grateful for our history as founded by Chinese immigrants. But in the past 50 years, BCEC has also grown to be an American church: we thank God for allowing us to live in this wonderful country of freedom and opportunity. So I felt like we were coming home theologically when our Social Responsibility Conference focused our attention on A Christian Response to Immigrants. May our church of many immigrants respond to new immigrants in Christlikeness.

#### Looking Forward to 2012-2013

As we begin a new ministry year, I look forward to working towards some initiatives I believe God is placing on my heart for our congregation.

- God's Provision for the Work. Should the Lord provide us opportunity to hire additional staff or not, I trust the Lord to provide for the work. We have not had a dedicated minister to lead several important ministries for almost 5 years. Whether the Lord leads us to hire additional staff or not, I look forward to how God will provide. He always has in the past.
- 2. Developing Leaders. I hope to spend more time developing our lay leaders. They have lots of heart and talent. I hope to add to that an infusion of vision and training that will allow them to serve even more effectively.
- 3. New Initiatives: Empowering Women and Mobilizing for Missions. Should I be released from day to day leadership over our student ministries, I hope to spend time praying and working with our members to explore two new ministry initiatives. First, I would like to gather some like-minded women who will explore how we can minister to women in our congregation. Second, I would like to gather like-minded brothers and sisters who have a burden for missions work.
- 4. Championing Churchwide Initiatives. I also look forward to our congregation championing several churchwide initiatives such as missions, social responsibility, Chinatown expansion, and our churchwide theme "Spiritual Disciplines."



#### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray that our congregation grows in the knowledge and grace of Jesus.
- Pray that God continue to raise up workers who are devoted to Christ, skillful in ministry, and humble in service.
- Pray for God's leading for our congregation to share the gospel as an English speaking congregation in a Chinese heritage church



#### Conclusion

Thanks be to God for allowing me to serve our church family here at BCEC. May God continue to magnify His name this coming year!

#### **NEW COMMUNITY – THE NEWTON ENGLISH CONGREGATION**

**MANDARIN MINISTRY** 

By Minister Andy Su



in front of God and group members.

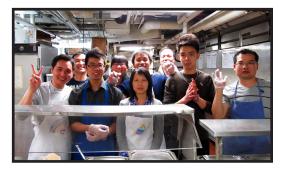
The path to the cross is tough. Every member faces great challenges and trials, which are inevitable along the way. As the relationships between



We pray that God will guide our coworkers to lead the training of

the growing discipleship groups in the coming year. We also pray the discipleship groups will extend to different fellowships and age groups. May discipleship become the DNA of our church, laying a strong foundation for our spiritual lives, so that each generation to come will be rooted in Christ.

Over the past year, God has been strengthening two groups of young people from our congregation - workers from the service trade and the intellectuals. We initiated weekly discipleship groups to train those who were willing to follow Christ as disciples. As we cared and prayed for each other, we opened our hearts and submitted our weaknesses to God, confessing our sins



different parts of the body become deeper, however, we know the Holy Spirit will renew, discipline and comfort our hearts and souls.



2011-2012 was the Year of Worship team Transition and the Year of Outreach. Our primary worship leaders of the last 10 years moved on, but God raised up wonderful new teams, many including our own youth who were equipped & trained by Rachel Lee. God challenged many, and especially our young people, to take greater leadership in our congregation, including a college group over the summer. This year also included significant outreach events to our community, with our Vacation Bible School (first time in 4 years), and the first ever "Block Party", in addition to our annual children's Christmas party. The outreach efforts resulted in increased participation with both the Newton Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking congregations.

Adult ministry continues to be a challenge as the number of small groups have slipped, but on the brighter note, there is emerging a greater desire for men and women's discipleship and accountability groups. Our preaching series have continued to be coordinated with Chinatown English, and this year will mark the first time in a number of years that we hold a joint retreat, with a focus on Spiritual Disciplines. God provided us with a new Youth and Children's coordinator, Randall Myers, but also with new challenges in the rapidly growing numbers of youth and children from the Cantonese and emerging Mandarin ministries. We pray God will call many from our congregation to deepen our personal discipleship through spiritual disciplines and serving our youth and children, and also the adults and in outreach.





#### NEWTON CANTONESE CONGREGATION

By Barry Lam

It has been four years since I am a minister of the Newton Cantonese congregation. I thank the Lord that I was able to begin my career in Christian service in such a wonderful environment. Rev. Perry Chow told me just before he moved back to Hong Kong how much the members of this congregation love God and respect their pastors and ministers. He was 100 percent correct.



With a steady worship attendance of about 135 in 2012, we still have a great need for people who are committed to serve, not only at Sunday worship, but in children's Sunday School, adult Sunday School, fellowships and outreach. Ever since the start of this congregation in 2003, there have

been many brothers and sisters serving faithfully in their capacities, some with high visibility and others quietly behind the "scenes", including the indispensable prayer warriors. For this I give thanks to God and to my colaborers in Christ. May God give

more strength to those who are willing to serve while shouldering many responsibilities at work and at home. As a minister I understand and appreciate them. My hope is that, in the future, we can streamline the directions of our ministries and help our members be more focused and effective in applying their gifts and talents in the church.



To facilitate a deeper spiritual experience with Sunday worship and Holy Communion for our Newton Mandarin Fellowship brothers and sisters, we began last year to provide Mandarin interpretation on the first Sundays of the month. First done through earphones, it has been given from the pulpit since August. The practice has been received with patience and understanding. In the area of outreach, we had increased joint activities with the Newton English congregation and the Mandarin group. When we remember our shared purpose of spreading the gospel, we can see the beauty of serving in unity. A pastor once said that a church that preaches the gospel in unity will have fewer internal conflicts. May we be used by God as a lamp on a stand rather

than under a bowl, and let light shine before men. Going forward, the Newton Cantonese congregation will continue with Alpha Courses as a means of evangelism, Lord willing.

We are not without any challenges and transitions and do need your continued prayers. We are in need of more leaders in a number of key departments due to losing some leaders who



moved away or will be in the process in the near future. Vivian Cheung, who was one of our ministers, moved back to Hong Kong earlier this year as called by God. Thus the Newton Cantonese congregation lost a female shepherd. One sister said to me half in jest, "Minister Barry, I wish you were a woman. I can open up with you then." I said, "I can put on a wig, so I can chat with you!" She politely declined my offer.

Please pray also for our discipleship training, an area that has not been developed in an organized manner. This has directly or indirectly affected attendance in adult Sunday school and our ability to grow new believers into leaders. May God grant us the discernment and wisdom in making disciples as part of the Great Commission.

### EDIFICATION AND FELLOWSHIP English Ministry by Life Stage

### **Chinatown Ministries**

Chinatown Children's Ministry (Nursery, Kids Worship, Sunday School) Chinatown English Family Ministry CrossRoad Adult Fellowship English Youth Sunday School Teens Fellowship (Senior High) Teens With a Reason - TWR (Junior High)

### **Newton Ministries**

Trellis & Twigs - College Ministry Junior Worship New Community Adult Fellowship Newton Children's Sunday School Newton English Nursery Together In One Bucket - TIOB (Junior and Senior High)

#### CHINATOWN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BCEC Chinatown's Children's Ministry includes the nursery, Kids Worship, and Sunday School for children from birth to fifth grade. Our goal is to share the love of Jesus through teaching of the Bible, songs, crafts, and games.



Each week, our teachers and helpers strive to develop relationships with the children and their families. The students are not only from BCEC families but also from the community. Some of the community families come to know BCEC through outreach programs such as the Children's Christmas Party, Vacation Bible School, and from ACCESS.

Many learn of BCEC through word of mouth, as they are invited by neighbors and friends to our children's program.

#### Nursery in Chinatown

We operate a total of 4 nurseries in 2 different locations because of space limitations of our main building. The 3rd service` nursery at JQES had a significant baby boom in 2011 with average attendance of over 16 children! With some intense recruiting from the English service, we increased the number of staff from 2 to 5 per week. The Mandarin nursery also experienced growth from new families and visitors. We care for children ranging in the age of 4 months to 2 years. It



is a fun blessing to see how quickly the children learn and develop. Our goal is to help these children learn to separate from their parents, engage with other children and adults outside of their family and associate church as a safe place to have a good time. We hope these will lay a good foundation as they graduate to start formal Sunday School. We also hope that as we care for the children, their parents will be encouraged and blessed with the opportunity to worship or attend Sunday School without the distractions of their children.



#### Kids Worship

The Kids Worship preschool and elementary teams nurture the faith of children ages two years nine months to grade five by leading them to worship the Lord and preparing them to transition into adult English worship after 5th grade. Basic elements of worship are taught through songs, Bible message, prayer, crafts, and Scripture reading. We are thankful for the new recruits this past year from 2nd and 3rd services who added new enthusiasm and energy to the ministry.

#### Sunday School

Our teachers work hard to help the children learn, grow to love the Word of God and try to apply His teachings in their daily lives. Our elementary children had the privilege of sharing the love of Jesus by singing for the elderly at the South Cove Nursing Home on Mother's Day and Christmas, while our preschool children sang at the second worship service.

Article written by Mei Ching Ng (preschool Sunday School department head), Wendy Yee (3rd service JQES nursery coordinator), and Lorraine Ho (Children's Ministry Director)







#### **TEENS WITH A REASON (JUNIOR HIGH)**

TWR (grades 6-8) met regularly on Friday nights for worship, sermon, games and small group discussions. This past year, we had a series of talks on the entire book of James, one on serving, and most recently, one on why we believe. Even though we are still without a youth director, God has been gracious and provided speakers from the church staff and other lay teachers.

Other events that have happened this year were small group nights, large group events with Project Destiny Autumn-to-Spring (PDAS), a Christmas party, an overnight camping trip at the Myles Standish State Forest, and our second Middle School only Winter Teen Conference.

It has been a blessing to see many students grow in their relationship with Christ and with each other. We are also excited to have seen a number of students from PDAS and Project Destiny (PD) come to TWR. We hope to see them more often and that God will continue working in the hearts of all the students.

Parents and students can check the TWR blog for updates at http://bcec-twr. blogspot.com. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

Counselors: Mike Auyeung, Vernon Cheung, Lindsey Chu, Veronica Lau, Emily Liu, Steve Liu





#### **TEEN FELLOWSHIP (SENIOR HIGH)**

BCEC Teen Fellowship [Teens] has had an eventful year and God continues to pour out love and grace in astounding ways. Karen Wong, senior, described how God used the ministry to support her through trials by deepening her prayer life: "I stopped praying for a while because I was busy with my own stuff and made excuses for not praying. But after praying during team meetings, talks, and small groups I felt much better sharing and praying about some of the conflicts I had in my life." Brandon Lam, junior, describes Teens as a place for him to serve and deepen fellowship. He said, "Teen Fellowship has given me an opportunity to serve the people and friends who have inspired me to be better by creating an environment where you know you're cared for."

Just as it has blessed those who are involved in it, Teens itself has been blessed by those who choose to serve in it. This year, counselor ranks have grown. We appreciate Lynn Chan, Melody Lun, Amanda Tsoi, Stephen Ta, Wayne Lee, Dominic Chan, and Alex Hong for their service as youth counselors. Over the course of the upcoming year, please continue to pray for Teen Fellowship. Please pray that God continues to work in the lives of the teens, creating more testimonies like those of Karen and Brandon. In addition, please pray that God grows not only the number of teens who know Him, but also that their faith may be strengthened by action.









#### **ENGLISH YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**



By God's grace, Youth Sunday School had a blessed and spiritually uplifting year. Our vision is "to teach and equip BCEC youth with Biblical truths and increase their faith in Christ." Though we had larger classes and less staff, God continued to convict our youth to rely

on Him more and to worship Him in every aspect of their life. Some of our youth sacrificed their weekends to serve the elementary school students who attended our church's annual Children's Christmas Party. The youth also dedicated their summers to serve as short-term missionaries or to serve the children in our church's annual Vacation Bible School.

Overall, our enthusiastic, talented youth valued the fruitful class discussions, fun hands-on activities, and meaningful conversations they had with their respective Youth Sunday School teacher throughout the year. The following are some

comments from several of our youth who felt blessed through attending Youth Sunday School regularly: "I liked the lesson on "Walking humbly with Christ" because it teaches you to be a better follower of Christ," remarked Sewina Yu. When asked to reflect on what he liked



about Youth Sunday School, Jeremy Su said, "I enjoyed the hands-on activities." Brandon Ho agreed with Jeremy, but he also added, "I liked how my Sunday School teacher applied the Biblical stories to our daily lives."



Moreover, the entire Youth Sunday School staff feels blessed and humbled to serve and shepherd our awesome youth every week. The following are comments from the staff, reflecting on the intrinsic rewards of teaching Youth Sunday School: Jocelyn Chu heeded God's calling to teach again because she desires "to see God's Word pierce the souls of students — I see their eyes light up. I know that the truth is at work in their hearts." Moses Lam, a veteran Youth Sunday School teacher, remarked, "I trust the Lord would use His Word to mold the hearts and minds of our youth." Similarly, Nancy Chin, another dedicated Youth Sunday School teacher, says, "I enjoying teaching students how to discover the practical side of God's Word." Joshua Chin looks forward to serving our youth every week because he is "encouraged to see God stirring their hearts and minds to apply His truths in their daily spiritual walks, as well as to serve others with love and compassion."

Our goal for next year is to emphasize prayer, fellowship, service, and worship in our classes. Please continue to pray for Youth Sunday School, as Joshua Chin begins his second year serving as the department head. The following is our ministry's core staff: Joshua Chin, Moses Lam, Nancy Chin, Gerard Fong (fall quarter only), and Jocelyn Chu (spring quarter only). Let us continue to model Christ's love to our church's youth.



#### **TRELLIS & TWIGS (COLLEGE MINISTRY)**

Looking back at the past year, though we didn't change much, we learned more about ourselves and saw our potential. We continued our campus-based small groups TWIGS, where great friendships originated. This summer we separated our members into groups of boys and groups of girls to discuss about how to interact with the opposite gender. We hope this can be their first step towards maturity.

At Trellis, we studied Spirituality for the Rest of Us by Larry Osborne and Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges. The first one helped us realize that not all Christians are the same and that we should deal with people wisely. The second taught us that when we focus on some sins and ignore other sins, we are endangering ourselves by creating bias towards sins such as lacking gratitude and self-discipline.

Please pray that:

- We would have be adaptive and prepared for next year's changes
- We would make the best use of the God-blessed opportunities to preach on our campuses through proper words and behavior
- We would seek to grow in our faith and may God lay us on the foundation of Jesus Christ

#### CROSSROAD

CrossRoad completed its second year meeting in various locations in the greater Boston Metropolitan area. There was a group meeting in Medford on Tuesdays, a group in Quincy and another in Chinatown on Wednesdays, and a group in Cambridge on Fridays. For people who could not regularly attend these groups there were other small groups that met for short series of meetings during the year. We are very grateful for the hospitality of the members who graciously opened their homes week after week to their small group.

The groups met for Bible study and prayer every week, but once a month, instead of a Bible study, they would have a meal or an activity together, enjoying each other's company. Every couple of months all the small groups would gather for an evening together, usually for a meal celebrating a special occasion like Thanksgiving or Chinese New Year.

For the coming year we pray that God would continue to deepen our relationships with each other and that he would raise up leaders to form new small groups.





#### **CHINATOWN ENGLISH FAMILY MINISTRY**

#### **NEWTON ENGLISH NURSERY**

The Chinatown English Family Fellowship welcomes married couples and families to our monthly Saturday gatherings. This past year, we met at the Newton campus for worship, study, discussions, dinner and fun. We used a video series based on Gary Thomas' book, "Sacred Marriage" to learn and share about marriage as a tool that God uses to stretch and mold us as individuals and as couples. We have also hosted outings such as apple picking and participated in social concern projects such as Samaritan's purse.

Our goal is to help each other live out God's will in our busy lives. We aim to learn through study and through each other. We support each other through growing relationships. We challenge each other to continually move forward in our walk with God despite all the distractions of daily family life.

During the study portion of our meetings, childcare is provided for infants and elementary aged children. Middle school and high school participate in a self-guided curriculum.

#### **NEWTON ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

This was the third year of the English Adult Fellowship at Newton, and the vision for the fellowship continued to center on providing a venue for people to meet outside of their small groups and Sunday worship for deeper dialogue about spiritual matters. We met twice a month and averaged around 10-12 people each time. This year, one of the topics that we discussed frequently was how we could be more outwardly focused as a church. Many attendees expressed a desire to reach our community, and the discussions laid the ground work for the neighborhood block party that happened in May. Lisa Lee shared, "I've been so blessed with not just the fellowship but more on the various topics…Most of the time the topic makes me think and sometimes it lingers and comes back from time to time." Another sister shared, "The programs are challenging. The two programs I liked most are the one on what is the glory of God and the last one on whether we are prepared to meet God." Please pray for the Lord's direction in the new year as there will be leadership transitions and potentially an expansion of the ministry.



The Newton English Nursery cares for BCEC's youngest members. The children enjoy playing with us and each other, reading books, and listening to Bible songs. This year, our theme has been "GROWTH." As the BCEC congregation grows, so does the nursery! We also enjoy watching the children grow and learn to talk, and we see their developing personalities. One highlight has been watching them become comfortable with coming to the nursery. When they first start coming, many cry as they leave their parents. But over time, they arrive with smiles and enjoy playing with their friends.

Praise the Lord for our faithful helpers: Bob Lee , Lily Yu, Victoria





Wong, and Alison Yen. We continue to pray for more helpers. If you are a baptized believer with a heart for children, we invite you to inquire!

#### **TOGETHER IN ONE BUCKET (TIOB)**

#### **NEWTON JUNIOR WORSHIP**



Together in One Bucket (TIOB) has grown and been blessed by the Lord in the past year. On Sunday mornings, we have been studying the book of Luke, looking at various themes including the coming of God's Kingdom through Jesus Christ's ministry, as well as the

life of commitment and serving the marginalized to which disciples are called. Our annual TIOB retreat had the highest turnout ever as we focused on the theme of "Spiritual Reality." Our speaker, Chip Kirk, highlighted the importance of abiding in

Christ in light of spiritual warfare and our need to reach out to others, while also noting the threat that sin poses to the believer. Members of TIOB served in two ministry projects during the summer. The first was Newton's Sky VBS, in which their presence was vital as Sr. and Jr. Crew leaders. The second opportunity was to return to Mexico to serve and encourage Immanuel Iglesia, a church with which we have been blessed to build an ongoing relationship.



In response to a challenge given by Vince Lau, our Bucketeers initiated plans for the first youth lock-in event on Newton's campus. Highlighting the leap-year, Vince encouraged the Bucketeers to make the most of every hour by serving God.



The Bucketeers chose to do so by organizing "24-Hours of Fellowship" to provide TIOB youth with a context for growing in Christian relationships.

Finally, TIOB and its counselors were joined by me and my wife in December of 2011. We continue to grow and seek how the Lord will use us in discipling the students of Newton Campus. We look forward to how the Lord will shape

us in community through serving TIOB, New Community, and the larger BCEC family.



Jr. Worship provides a venue for kids to experience corporate worship, serve God, and serve one another. This past year, we continued with the Kids' Own Worship curriculum and emphasized the importance of living and following Christ. In recent years, Jr. Worship's attendance has seen an influx of preschool-aged students resulting in the need to shift our teaching strategies to be more

inclusive of this age group. During the Christmas season, our students, as well as a previous Jr. Worship member, participated in Gifts of Hope, collectively giving more than \$500 to World Vision.

We are indebted to those who served faithfully this past year. The staff of 2011-2012 included:

Administrators: Helena Fong, Holly Yee and Sharon Yip Pre-elementary Teachers: Wendy Lin, Joanne Cheng, Virginia Chan Pre-elementary TAs: Winnie DeJesus, Tricia Liu, Sylvia Leung, Holly Yee, Virginia Chan, Joanie Liao

Elementary Teachers: Joyce Fai, Phil Lin, Joe Wong, Randall Myers



The kids-to-teacher ratio can be daunting. Please ask God to genuinely burden more with the desire to serve in Jr. Worship. Pray for the staff to be effective as they teach the kids biblical truth and encourage them to love and trust the Lord. We also solicit your prayers for Randall to have the wisdom and insight to guide this ministry.



#### NEWTON CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children Sunday School's mission is to produce disciples through teaching and modeling the personal spiritual disciplines (Bible reading, Bible study, Bible memorization, prayer and meditation, and evangelism). A sign of a maturing student is when he/she starts and continues to reproduce these spiritual disciplines, be involved, serve in the corporate life of the church, and then train others to serve. Children Sunday School in Newton had about 80 children this year, served by 17 teachers: Judy Chang, David Chang, Lucia Choy, Teresa Yu, Kitty Lok, Louisa Poon, Czarina Tse, Renee Wong, Agnes Man, Tierry Tzau, Amy Mak, Macrin Tai, Mandy Yu, Tony Ip, Gary Lee, Peter Kwok, and Eurica Lee.







Children practicing the song for 51st anniversary joint worship

We also thank the teachers who served in the summer: Agnes Man, Alex Lai, Yim Wong, Bernie Wong, Ronnie Lee, Alison Tse, Martin Chi; and the summer TAs: Alice Lau, Melody Lai, Ellyses Tai, Judy Lee, Peter Kwok, Macrin Tai, Mandy Yu, Yan Gong, Joanne Cheng, Eva Kwok, Susanna Tzau, Gary Lee, Sheena Lee, Czarina Tse, Anthony Tse, Grace Lee, Percy Wong, Eileen Ip, Chris Lok, and Kitty Lok.

Kitty Lok: "In CSS, we learn to be the person who plants the seed, but not necessarily the person who harvests the crops; we learn to rely on God to make them grow."

Amy Mak: "By teaching in Children Sunday School, I get to read and think more about the Bible. In planning the class activities, I often find that I myself learn more about the teachings in the Bible. This has helped me a lot in my own relationship with God."

We pray for additional brothers and sister to join Children Sunday School as committee members and teachers. We also pray for good relationships between teachers, children, and parents in the coming year.

### EDIFICATION AND FELLOWSHIP Chinese Ministry by Life Stage

### **Chinatown Ministries**

**Caleb Fellowship (Seniors) Cantonese Adult Sunday School Cantonese Family Retreat Chinatown Caring Department Chinese Women's Fellowship** Elim Fellowship (Family) Joshua 1 Fellowship Joshua Couple Fellowship **Joshua Youth Fellowship** (Junior and Senior High) Ruth Fellowship (Women) Song of Songs Fellowship (Couples)

### **Newton Ministries**

Chinese Adult Sunday School Daniel Fellowship for Adults Enoch Fellowship (Seniors) Mandarin Developing Ministry Peter Fellowship (Men)

#### CHINATOWN CANTONESE SUNDAY SCHOOL



"I've learned to fear God's Word," "I've developed a habit of seeking God's Word," "I want to testify to the power of God's Word in changing people's lives," and "I was humbled when I learned about the elderly's dedication to learning God's Word. They attended Sunday Schools even in the coldest days in winter, regardless of 40-minute walks."



These lines are not advertising slogans aimed at sell anything; rather, they are testimonies of blessings from brothers and sisters who participate in the Sunday School ministry as students, teachers, and staff. Have you recognized a common theme in their testimonies? Yes, it is God's Word. The purpose of

the Sunday School ministry is to teach people to observe God's Word so that they will become disciples of Jesus.

To fulfill this great commission, we will make two major changes in 2013: First, we will emphasize more on the Word's application in real life. New courses on Christian life will be introduced to complement our vast repertoire of biblical knowledge classes. The second change is that we will start inviting teachers to design new courses they feel called to teach. By doing so, we hope to



introduce a curriculum that is broader and deeper. As we implement these changes, please pray for us to continue to be a blessing to our students, teachers, and staff.

#### **CHINESE CARING TEAM MINISTRY**

The caring team is designed to build deeper spiritual friendships between brothers and sisters, in order to love one another. The current ministry includes:

- (1) Local small groups: we separate members into eight small groups based on where they live. There is one leader per group. They have monthly prayer meetings, contact, visits, and take care of the local members who are in need.
- (2) Prayer network: connection of prayer warriors through e-mail and telephone, to give thanks and pray for the brothers and sisters that are in need daily.
- (3) Health support group: group members include cancer patients, recovered patients, their families and volunteers. The goal is to support and encourage each other by sharing God's grace through a variety of activities and programs.
- (4) Welcome group: contact new friends and help them adapt to a new life in our church.
- (5) Stephen ministry: trained Stephen ministers will help those who have special needs.





#### NEWTON MANDARIN DEVELOPING MINISTRY

#### NEWTON CHINESE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



By the grace of our Lord, BCEC started the Newton Mandarin Developing Ministry in the second half of 2010. With the strong support of our Chinese Pastor, Rev. Chan,



a small Mandarin Bible study group was formed in October 2010 with a humble start of two families of

8 members. In these two years, God blessed the group to become a 70-member fellowship with more than thirty families joyfully gathering on Fridays.

The theme of the fellowship in 2012 was to strengthen the spiritual foundation of the members so that we can be a blessed group of God and be a blessing to others, especially the Mandarin-speaking Chinese in the Newton neighborhood. Last April, many BCEC church members joyfully witnessed five of our new members baptized at Newton campus. One of the newly baptized brothers, Timeson Duan,



says, "The fellowship helps strengthen my relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ". Another sister, Helen Lee, comments, "Through the fellowship, the brothers and sisters care for each other and help each other to growth in faith."



Our prayer requests for Year 2013: we pray that God will continue to lead us to be a Great Commission focused fellowship - to make disciples for His kingdom. In addition, with the support from different congregations of BCEC and the fervent ministering of the fellowship members, we hope to grow the ministry participants by more than fifty

percent so that more newcomers will be blessed. Please pray for the spiritual growth of the group so that we can be used by God in years to come! "Dear God, We praise you for what you have done in our group. It is all your work. We thank you for the love, the support, and the prayers of brothers and sisters in all congregations of BCEC. It is such a blessing to be part of the BCEC family. Glory be to The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit", prays one of the founders of this ministry, Ben Zhao.



The mission of the Chinese Adult Sunday School of BCEC at Newton Campus is to train brothers and sisters spiritually, to increase their knowledge of the Bible, and to help them be good witnesses in their workplaces and families.

We offer three classes: Seekers' Class, Basic Class, and Advanced Class. The Seekers' Class is designed for non-believers and offered when needed. The average attendance of the Basic Class ranges from five to ten people, while that of the Advanced Class ranges from 15 to 20 people. The number of students has been declining. There were many classes this past year. Basic: Re-ordering the Value System; New Testament Survey; Old Testament Survey. Advanced: A Tale of Two Kingdoms; Book of Ezekiel; Angels and Demons.

According to Bernie Guen,

"By attending Sunday school and studying the Bible, I understand the Bible better with the help of Sunday school teachers."

#### Mr. Fong said,

*"It takes a whole lifetime to study the Bible." He also said that by attending Sunday school, he has fellowship with other brothers and sisters."* 

#### Prayer items:

- 1. Pray for the Sunday School: pray that brothers and sisters will keep studying God's Word and growing in faith, and that they can see more of the connection between Holy Scriptures and their daily life.
- 2. Pray for the Sunday School teachers: may God provides us with more Sunday school teachers.
- 3. Pray for the Sunday School committee: may God bless the committee with wisdom to make good use of the computer database to record courses and student information.



#### JOSHUA YOUTH FELLOWSHIP





We welcome Cantonese-speaking teenagers to join our fellowship. Time: Every Saturday 1:30 pm. Place: Basement of Boston Chinese Evangelical Church at 249 Harrison Ave.

Activities: Singspiration, games, outings, seminars, Bible study, and discipleship training.

Fellowship motto: Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

Theme of the 2012 Spring retreat: Lost. Come Home.

Our fellowship currently has over twenty members, mostly from Guangzhou and Hong Kong. There are also some second-generation teenagers who were born here, but understand Cantonese.

The theme of this year's spring retreat was "Lost. Come Home". We invited Rev. Zechariah Kwong of Queens Herald Church in New York to be our speaker. He led us to realize that we were lost simply because we could not see God at work. The fact that we already lived in the grace of God didn't mean that we did not need to put forth any effort. By His grace, we would not be tempted beyond what we could bear. When we are willing to make efforts to overcome difficulties, our potential would be manifested, resulting in growth and the experience of God's presence at all times.

At present, the Bible study concentrates on the attributes of God. Together, counselors and members seek to learn more about our God. The focus of the ministry remains on discipleship training, which takes place outside regular fellowship meetings. Each week, counselors take time to meet with members and train them. To help care for the whole person, counselors also assist members with their homework. We thank God that the efforts of our counselors are not in vain, as witnessed by the growth of members and their steady attendance of church functions. Two of our counselors will be leaving next year. We pray to God for others to join this ministry.

Counselors and assistances: Heidi Tang, Kent Chow, Kam Ho Lau, Wing Tse, Danny Tse, and Pastor Kenneth Kwong

Spring Retreat counselors: Jie Wen Lei, Stephanie Lo, Jess Hung, and Nei Hua Li

One highlight was visiting the elderly church members in their homes twice this past year. The elderly were really excited and happy that we visited, and all the different small groups felt like they learned something from the elderly as well. J1's goal for the upcoming year is to revive the heart of fellowship in J1 members.

\*C.C.: *"J1 made me feel like l got adopted by a big family."* \*G.F.: *"J1 continues to nurture an environment for us to grow spiritually."* 

\*F.N.: "I got to experience God with the support of other brothers and sisters."

Prayer requests:

1. Pray for the hearts of brothers and sisters to love what God loves.



- 2. Pray that the Joshua 1 fellowship will continue to grow holistically.
- 3. Pray for brothers and sister to continue to learn to be accountable with one another.

Acknowledgements of people who served in the ministry:

Brenda Situ Henglian Huang Elder Yuen Chuk Lam Kai Yee Lau Gina Fang Fun Yee Lau Danny Tse Yuyu Chen Suki Mok Edward Orange Lau

Steve Sze Christine Wong Denvid Lau Joanne Ma



#### **RUTH FELLOWSHIP**



Average attandence: ~40 Meeting time: Friday night 7:30-9:30pm Meeting venue: BCEC

The theme of the Ruth followship in 2012 was "Rooted in truth to expand God's family." The goal is to build up the faith of Christ's followers through studying God's Word. Through a dedicated group of bible study leaders, we have been studying the

book of 2 Corinthians in the past year. We practiced living out the faith in our lives through studying God's will. God also blessed us with a group of dedicated small group leaders who led the small groups to build up a kingdom-centered life through reading Rev. So's book "Roads to Transforming Our Values." We also had training classes on evangelism to equip us to share the gospel with our family members and friends. We constantly experienced God's grace as we did His will. The number of newcomers increased because everyone in the fellowship worked hard to invite their friends to join the fellowship. The committee decided to start an evangelistic small group to help newcomers understand the gospel. We pray that they will receive the blessing of eternal life.

By God's grace, everyone attends the fellowship every Friday faithfully. One of the sisters who has been attending the Ruth fellowship for many years once said, "We see this as a time to get close to God and to have fellowship with other sisters. At the same time, we get to practice the truth that



we learned. Through this fellowship, God molds us to have a humble, obedient, and loving heart, just like Jesus. We become united in God. We build up and watch over one another to live a life that is pleasing to God. We praise the Lord for this place where we receive spiritual training. We pray that the spiritual blessings we receive at Ruth will permeate every second of our lives so that we will be holy and pleasing to



God."

The fellowship's aim is to understand God's will for the church through obedience to God's Word. In 2013, we hope that everyone in the fellowship can be diligent in studying God's word, understanding the truth, and helping one another through Christ. Prayer items:

- 1. May God help us establish a regular devotion habit, and a heart to love and build up one another. May God help us grow in Him.
- 2. Pray that God will compel the advisor, committee members, bible study and small group leaders to follow Christ closely. May they serve the Lord with unity and have good communication among them.



3. Pray for the non-Christian newcomers in the fellowship. We praise the Lord for what He has done in the past. May God continue to give us wisdom and love to lead them toward the gate of salvation.

#### JOSHUA COUPLE FELLOWSHIP

Committee members: Sunny Leung, Gary Lee, Siu Kin Chan

The highlight of last year was a series of bible studies. We want to thank our study leaders for serving the fellowship: David Chang, Allan Situ, Peter Wong, Anita Yip

JCF is open to Cantonese-speaking married couples from ages 30-60 (based on our fellowship charter).

Our Purposes:

- Support members in practicing Christian values through genuine sharing, reminders, and encouragement;
- Further biblical understanding and spiritual growth;
- Contribute to overall BCEC vitality by providing "a home within home" to church families with similar profiles.

Our Prayer Items:

- Wisdom and energy for committee members and helpers in planning the program for the coming year;
- God's guidance in shaping JCF as a spiritual home for church members.



#### **ELIM FELLOWSHIP**

#### SONG OF SONGS MARRIED COUPLE FELLOWSHIP



"I have been encouraged by our small group members' desire to grow in Christ. Elim has provided a safe (childcare service) and nurturing environment (leadership mentoring from pastoral staff) for us to grow together. Praise the Lord."

"The video-based book study

session is easy to understand, practical and instrumental. The Committee's arrangement for each group to help with the children's program and clean up at

each gathering is appropriate, and actually a way to live up to being 'more blessed to give than to receive'."

Our goal is for Elim families to share one another's spiritual burdens through fellowship. This year, our 6 small groups met monthly at Newton campus to study Rick Warren's "Life Management." We





Pastoral Staff: Barry Lam Committee: Phyllis Wong, Ellyses Kuan, Rebecca Chow, Karl Woo

also encouraged our small groups to have additional home gatherings and to participate in community services as a way of sharing the love of God.

Praise the Lord for He has blessed Elim with many babies in the last few years! With the growing number of children, please pray that we will have the wisdom and resources to plan and provide quality children program materials for kids of different ages. The Song of Songs Married Couple Fellowship is entering its 23rd year. Through monthly gatherings and other activities, the fellowship provides opportunities for mutual buildup, fellowship, and sharing of God's grace for middle-aged Christian couples. The fellowship's aim is to "promote Christian marriage relationships and Christian family life." We welcome all couples and married individuals to participate.





We have a different topic each month. Aside from the annual BCEC church theme, celebration of Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving sharing, and Christmas celebration, we also have Bible study and discussions on health and other topics that are suggested and then voted on by fellowship members.

Our monthly gathering is held on the second Saturday of each month at 5:30PM in the afternoon. During this time, we take turns serving – responsibilities include outreach, piano playing, presiding, dessert time preparation, and being on duty. Sometimes, members will serve as host or guest speaker. In the past year, the average attendance for the monthly gathering has been 46 people.

Fellowship Pastoral Staff: Pastor Daniel Chan Fellowship Chairs: Shuyu Gao and Fubao Huang-Gao Vice Chair and Accountant: Huang and Jialan Huang-Lin Secretary and Treasuer: Zhiliang Lin and Meijuan Chen-Lin Activities Chair: Jiaqing Hong and Meiying Yue-Hong





#### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



love, then to learn to love ourselves and our neighbors. We learned to humble ourselves and be alert in our daily actions, to live our lives as a



Praise the Lord for another blessed year for our fellowship! As our theme this year was "Expanding God's family," our meetings focused on the topic of love - first to understand God's



demonstration of the character of Christ, and to share the gospel to others. Through different guest speakers and activities, we got to know the goal and direction of "Expanding God's family" over the past year.

Our fellowship is made up of mostly elderly members, but despite our age, we are all warriors in prayers. We hope everyone will pray for our continued growth in body, mind, and spirit.

Pastoral Advisor: Dora Lam Chair: Siu Kan Vice Chair: Winnie Gee Devotion: Helen Leong, Angie Wong General Committee Member: Wing Oi Ma, Tammy Chin Treasurer: Siu Ying Moy, Si Ping Luo Secretary: Margaret Lau Social Activity: Elinor Wong, Si Ping Luo

#### PETER FELLOWSHIP



Stepping into our third year of Peter Fellowship, from a handful of brothers we have reached twenty regularly attend members. Our theme this year is "Raise the Bars". We agreed to fulfill our mission in a three-prong approach: First we are willing to build a close relationship with God and in knowing God. Second, we are willing to nourish a close relationship with our spouses and family. Third, we are willing to take challenging roles serving

God. This year, we have more brothers, who come from all walks of life, joining our fellowship. In addition to our regular Saturday six o'clock morning prayer,

we encourage our brothers to join church-wide prayer meeting. We are encouraged to have three brothers, who committed to our vision, join us to plan and execute our programs. We started Dr. Philemon Choi's first simulcast on-line mentoring seminar and our song offering in Cantonese second service. We are learning the Words and building good Christian families. Please pray for



Peter Fellowship's role in building up servant-leaders.







#### **CALEB FELLOWSHIP**

Caleb Fellowship is for the elderly members of our church. We meet at 1:30pm every first Monday of the month from May to November, where around 40 members attend the gatherings. The theme of this year was "expanding the house of God." Topics ranged from learning about the church of God, loving the next generation, to edifying each other. The goal was to strengthen our faith by relying on our Lord who leads his spiritual family, to secure our

hope in the eternal life, and to encourage and help each other. As we loved each



other and grew together spiritually, we learned to be mature, Christian role models and to expand God's heavenly kingdom by spreading the Gospel to our neighbors. Every week, after a message

on the week's topic, we would divide up into three small groups to sing

together, learn the way of God, and exercise. Our



for this joy in the house of God.

Pastoral supervisor: Dora Lam Music direction: Susana Lee Fellowship leader & devotion: Susie Ma Deputy fellowship leader & devotion: Su Mei Chin General manager: Mei Ping Au, Xie Qiong Gui Treasurer: Pui Lan Wong Accountant: Kam Yuk Sin Secretary: Siu Kan



gatherings typically end with refreshment time, when brothers and sisters share about their daily happenings, through which we experience the love of God. Each one of us sincerely praises God



#### **ENOCH FELLOWSHIP**

Enoch Fellowship's purpose is to "connect 55+ Christian elderly to fellowship and share in the Lord's grace, practice personal spiritual growth, and to build up love and caring." The current pastoral staff for the fellowship is Minister Barry Lam. The meeting time for the fellowship is the third Sunday of each month at 1PM in the Newton campus Fellowship Hall. Aside from the annual outing trip, activities in the past year included lectures regarding elderly health and benefits, Bible studies, thanksgiving sharing, and holiday celebrations. Every 3 months, there was also a birthday celebration for fellowship brothers and sisters that was filled with delicious dishes and much joy.

A great event for the fellowship this year was the 60-year diamond wedding anniversary celebration for brother Kenneth Chang and sister Juliet Chang. This year's outing event was organized together with Daniel Fellowship; including friends and families, almost 40 people were in attendance. It was a beautiful day filled with prayer, singspiration, testimony sharing, games, and a delicious lunch meal.



Although the brothers and sisters of Enoch fellowship are all advance in years, with rich life experiences and deep spiritual lives, they are still humble and watchful. As it is written in the fellowship mission: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight" (Proverbs 3: 5-6). Furthermore, all the fellowship brothers and sisters regard the lyrics of the fellowship song as their commission to glorify God.

We hope that everyone can pray for the health of the brothers and sisters in Enoch fellowship. Many of them are advanced in years, and their bodies can be prone to weaknesses. We also hope that everyone can pray for their spiritual growth – which may be like their age – to only increase and never decrease. Enoch Fellowship Serving List



Pastoral Staff: Barry Lam Chair: Nelson Wong Assistant Chair: Yiu Yuen Lim Secretary: Lucia Choy

Treasurer: Do, Nu Caring: Soo Hoo, Siu Devotions: Lois Hou Administration: Joe Choy



#### **DANIEL FELLOWSHIP**



Daniel Fellowship's theme for 2011-2012 is "Love One Another; Diligent in Spiritual Training." During the first half of this year we watched Reverend Rick Warren's video titled '40 Days of Love.' Through small group discussions, we learned and encouraged brothers and sisters to practice brotherly love. To help us build a consistent devotional life through which we can develop a

Jesus, we began discipleship training in June using the book Masterlife: The Disciple's Cross. We studied this book to learn about spiritual disciplines - to take up the cross and follow Jesus every day. In small groups, brothers and sisters

shared their spiritual life experience, expressed

their strengths and weaknesses, learned from each other, and encouraged and prayed for each other. We also developed a much deeper relationship with each other; some even became spiritual partners.

Praise God for this discipleship training:





many

church members who did not previously participate in any fellowship joined the Daniel Fellowship. We pray that God will strengthen brothers and sisters' desires for spiritual growth, and that He will shape us as His useful instruments.

Daniel Fellowship would like to thank the brothers and sisters who have faithfully

served in Daniel Fellowship. We pray that God will continue to bless them so that we can grow together in Christ:

Advisory Pastor: Barry Lam/Vivian Cheung Counselor: Michael Lock Vice Chair: Alice Tewksbury Secretary: Louisa Poon Treasurer/Admin: Frankie Chang Small Group Leaders: Chi Wai Chung Janice Chung Joey Chan Frankie Chan Camay Tan Sylvia Cheng Frankie Chan

Frankie Chan: "Back when I was in Hong Kong, I was too busy to attend any church fellowship. Also, no one ever



now. From being an observer in the beginning to serving faithfully these days, I can see God works slowly but assuredly in my life. He did not ease off his teaching to fit my personality. On the contrary, He uses the care from brothers and sister to reveal His true love to me. Praise the Lord for his abundant grace."



invited me to their fellowship; they are like isolated small circles. But Daniel Fellowship gave me the love of brothers and sisters, that family feeling that I always longed for. This urge to grow together in Christ helped me not to miss any fellowship meetings this year. How could I miss coming home to meet my family in Christ?"

Camay Tan: "I have been with Daniel Fellowship for more than three years



#### **CANTONESE FAMILY RETREAT**



This year the Cantonese Family Retreat invited Pastor Perry Chow as the retreat speaker. As in the past years, we held the retreat on the last weekend of June at Gordon

College. There were over 242 participants including 13 babies, 34 children and 14 teens. Among the participants, some were from other churches,



including 21 members of the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell (CBCGL). In fact, CBCGL had their church retreat on the same weekend and at the same location as us. Their retreat was in Mandarin

and English. The 21 CBCGL members who came to our Cantonese Family Retreat were from their Cantonese congregation. It was estimated that CBCGL had about



of group sharing. Children and teens had VBS and activities during the main messages. This year we had 10 VBS teachers and babysitters. The retreat next year will be open to all Cantonese congregations and we expect the number of participants to increase.

400 participants. Thanks to God, everything went smoothly aside from a couple of instances. These were lessons for us to learn in sharing resources with others.

Our schedule this year was fully packed. Besides the four messages by Pastor Perry Chow, Mrs. Peggy Chow gave two workshops. We had gym and pool time on Saturday afternoon, and two sessions





### **OUTREACH**

Christmas Party Outreach Community English Class Library Local Evangelism Mission Missions Committee Newton Block Party Project Destiny (PD) Project Destiny from Autumn to Spring (PDAS) Service Industry Worker Ministry Social Responsiblity Committee Vacation Bible School

#### LOCAL EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

It has been a blessed year for LED and the ministry continues to evolve under God's grace. Although we have not taken on any major or drastically different type of evangelistic activities during the year, God has let us know that we should focus on improving ourselves and look internally first before we do anything externally. Our focus and goal this past year was to revamp, recharge, and recommit ourselves as servants



of God. Reconnecting our relationship with Him is the most important thing before



doing His work or serving Him and His beloved people. To accomplish this, we had our first LED retreat after some years. The LED retreat's intention was to provide a close and intimate gathering for all the servers to share, to bond, and to support each other spiritually, mentally, and physically. One retreat does not change our lives right away,

but it is a good start. We are looking forward to having another retreat again in the upcoming year and hope that more brothers and sisters would take the time to join us.

This year we have had changes in the materials and committee members of the Joi Pui ("plant and grow") division. God showed us that 8 lessons are not sufficient for new believers to sustain their belief in Christ. It takes more than just concepts: they need a guide or someone



who can walk through their spiritual journey with them. Therefore, we use another book to replace the 8 lessons. This book will provide greater depth on our belief and contains more application and practical means to help the new believers to develop. In addition, the Joi Pui teacher would also experience God through this as we can never stop growing or being reminded about why we believe





these ministries and may God provide us His wisdom and love to see the needs of the community so we can reach out with the heart and eyes of God. We are still identifying our theme for the upcoming year, but surely, we will continue to strengthen our bond with God and among committee members and brothers and sisters at our church. One Christ, one church, and one body.

and how God has been there for us the whole way.

Our ongoing ministries are restaurant evangelism, visitation, Joi Pui, ESL luncheon, quarterly workshops, and annual outreach events, such as Main Street events and Local Short Term Mission evangelical night. We will continue to seek God's guidance in





## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - NEWTON**

#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - CHINATOWN**

After several years without a summer Vacation Bible School in Newton, God moved us to offer one this year. Each day, God sent 50 kids our way to participate in Sky VBS and hear that with God, "all things are possible." In the morning, "crews" of kids, led by our youth, traveled throughout the church to different stations – from Bible Adventure



to Sky Theater to Imagination Station to Discovery Co Fun. Afternoo adventures like rocket launching and tie-dye shirt making.

Each day

began and ended with a rousing worship of God, filling our festively decorated fellowship hall with people energetically moving their mouths, hands, bodies, and feet to the music and song. We are

especially thankful to Adam Yen, John DeJesus, Julie Wong and many others across all the Newton congregations who took the entire week off from work and play to answer God's call.





Discovery Corner to Food Café to Outdoor Fun. Afternoons were filled with creative



VBS continues to be an exciting urban outreach opportunity. This past August 13, 67 children ages 5 to 12 from Chinatown community and beyond descended upon the church for a high flying and fun filled week of SKY. 76% of the children we served do not attend church regularly and belong to families that are waiting to be touched



year featured special Science Hour where kids learned about butterflies, birds, planes, rockets, and weather through many hands on activities.





by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. During our 5 day full day program, we utilized every inch of space in the main church building for lessons, interactive Bible drama, crafts, games, snacks, and lunch. All the activities are integrated and linked to reinforce the theme that no matter what happens or who we are, we can put our

trust in God. This

> We thank God that seeds were



planted. 15 children raised their hands and prayed the prayer to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior for the first time in their young lives. Also, we are thankful for to all our full and part time volunteers from Chinatown, English, 2nd, 3rd, Newton Cantonese and English services, and Service Industry fellowship. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in a meaningful and fun-filled way.



### **CHRISTMAS PARTY - CHNATOWN**

90 children celebrated Christmas in our 2 hour program of drama, games, and crafts. This year, the Christmas pageant was performed by our elementary Kids Worship children. While the children were having fun learning about the true meaning of Christmas, many of their parents stayed for the Cantonese outreach program, run by Local Evangelism Department. Pastor Daniel Chan was the adult outreach speaker.











#### **CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY – NEWTON**

The Christmas party was a joyous celebration of Christ's birthday at Newton. God brought over 60 kids from among our own congregations, friends, relatives, and even the ACNS nursery school. God blessed us with KoKo the Clown, who captured the kids' attention with many spirited acts, while also sharing the message of God's love. The







kids had great fun while playing carnival

games and receiving prizes like guitar-shaped balloons. We snacked on yummy food and enjoyed warm cross-congregation fellowship. God used this party to have all the Newton congregations, from adults to youth, work together in music worship, registration, food, and games. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

# **PROJECT DESTINY - CHINATOWN**

This was Project Destiny Summer Camp's 19th year of service to the Chinatown community. We had 46 middle-school campers led by 19 staff. Campers had classes such as drumming, watercolor illustrating, cooking, basketball, HTML, chemistry, and more. Besides learning through these hands-on labs, campers also went on many field trips, like the Roger Williams Park Zoo and canoeing on the Charles River. Besides having



fun and learning, these youths, many of them first-time church attendees, were introduced to the Gospel and our church family. 29 of these campers decided to join Summer Teen Conference, and many continue to attend PDAS, TWR, and Teens.



PD 2012 Team							
Senior Counselors	Annie Tran, Bella Lo, Collin Lee, Eleanor Yu, Jevon Yu, Katarina Ng, Kirklin Lee, Lynn Chan, Matt Wong						
Junior	Aaron Yip, Diana Yang, Jonathan						
Counselors	Wong						
Interns	Bonnie Ho, Kevin Huang, Sam Su						
Part-Time	Danielle Yuen, Evangeline Wong,						
Teachers	Jason Fei, Veronica Lau						
Planning	Kam Ho Lau, Kirklin Lee, Lulu Hu,						
Team	Lynn Chan, Steve Liu						

We are grateful to God for the continued opportunity to make a difference in the iives of local families and youth by providing valuable program while sharing the gospel to them. We are also grateful for the counselors, teachers, interns, and planners who sacrificed time and energy.



# **PROJECT DESTINY FROM AUTUMN TO SPRING (PDAS)**

On any given day at PDAS, you would see students arriving after a long school day beginning at 3PM. They sign in, gather their snack, and find an area to sit down. There, they may talk to a counselor, each other, or start homework. Counselors may tutor, chat with students about how their day was, or play games with them. Around 4:30, a bell rings and all students assemble into the basement MFR, where they sing worship songs, study a devotional, and have snack. At the end of the day, students sometimes split up into counselor-taught labs and/or games. By 6PM, all students have signed out.

In our second year as a drop-in ministry PDAS once again served over 100 local teenagers, with 80 regular attendees and around 25 students attending daily. 18 counselors served throughout the year to help lead students to know God more and to assist them in homework. This year, in addition to homework tutoring, we focused on building more consistent relationships between counselors and students. To that end, throughout the year, counselors huddled with students, walked them home, led them on a college visit, attended a funeral, prepped them for SAT's, and taught them how to cook. Praise God for the counselors' intentionality of shepherding these youth. Highlights for the year were: Knitting Club, Junior Achievement class, SAT Prep, Do It Yourself Cooking class, Guitar class, 2 family outreach events, a Christmas performance at Metropolitan Baptist Church, and participation in a neighborhood resource fair at Quincy Upper School.

Praise God for the continued opportunities to reach out to the youth in our neighborhood! We are also grateful for our continued partnership with the Black Ministerial Alliance as an affiliate of Victory Generation Out of School Time Program.





Alex Yip, Andy Chang, Annie Tran, Bella Lo, Bonnie Ho, Collin Lee, Charles Lai, Evangeline Wong, Jenny Chiu, Julia Zhu, Kirklin Lee, Lulu Hu, Phil Wang, Sam Cheng, Stanley Tran, Steve Liu, Tim Ho, Tim Te, Veronica Lau.



# COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS/US CITIZENSHIP CLASS

The purpose of the Community English Class is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of immigrants within the community through the four mediums below:

- 1. Teach them basic, everyday English so that they can more easily adjust to the new life and culture in the US.
- 2. Help prepare those who are ready to become US citizens for their interview.
- 3. Build friendships with them and provide them with support.
- 4. Live out Christian values and when opportunities arise, share the Gospel with them.

I give thanks to God for the faithful teachers, substitute teachers, and

tutors who served here. Our eleven English classes and three US Citizenship classes are held in three different buildings. The number of students served is limited by



the number of classrooms and area of space available. I hope that in God's time and according to His abundant provisions, we can have a bigger building and better facilities to effectively expand and serve more people.

In response to the great need of students, the basic English Alphabet class was re-opened this summer. Approximately 80 students attended. They all gave us very positive feedback for the class.

Many of our current teachers have offered up their time and have been serving for many years. I hope that more new teachers can join us. Please pray and consider whether the gifts which God has given you can be used in this very exciting area of ministry. May God continue to use this ministry to advance His Kingdom and glorify His Name.





To Prepare for Workers Serving the Next Phase of Service Industry Worship

All the gatherings of the Service Industry Worship (Bible study class, worship, fellowship, leader training) are held on Monday; their interaction with the church-wide congregation and

participation in ordinary events is minimal. As a result, the existing rich resources at BCEC such as training, discipleship class, nursery, Children Sunday School and various opportunities to serve the church cannot be utilized.

The progress of their spiritual life has come to a bottleneck stage. Although they are ready to move forward, resources from the ministry cannot match up. This is unfair to them and sounds astonishing, given that BCEC is rich in training resources. It is necessary to change to another format and work out new measures, so the members' spiritual life can move by leaps and bounds.

During these two years, members' employment statuses have significantly changed. Most of them can go to church on Sunday. Four out of the eight

members regularly attend Sunday Worship (2 at Cantonese 11:00am session, 1 at Cantonese 11:15am session, 1 at another church). They will also gather at the Monday Worship Service as well. It means these 4 members go to worship service twice every week. The other 4 members have indicated that they can go to church on Sunday.



We have a dream.

All the Monday activities in the Service Industry Worship will be cancelled by April 1, 2012 and all the members are encouraged to attend Sunday Worship. They should try to join various training and serve some posts in various ministries, should let Spirit shape them and lead them to be mature leaders in Christ.

When God's time comes, there will be another crowd of seekers who cannot attend Sunday worship. However, well-equipped co-workers who have similar life experience with those seekers are ready. The next phase of Service Industry Monday Worship will set sail, hoisting a larger flag!



# **CHINATOWN CHURCH LIBRARY**

#### **NEWTON CHURCH LIBRARY**

Thank God and praise the Lord for our library ministry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the library staff and committee members who have been faithfully serving in the library. With their dedicated service, we were able to keep the library open for everyone to use.

The church library is a place for learning, sharing, and building up our spiritual



life. We encourage everyone to visit the library on the first floor of the 237 building and make use of our library resources. It is very encouraging to hear brothers and sisters sharing that they were touched and blessed by the contents of a book or a DVD. We pray that God will continue to use the library resources to minister to different people.

We are very happy to have a new coworker, Steven Choi, join our library

service. If anyone is interested in helping the library, please contact one of the pastoral staff or committee members.

20011/12 Committee members for the Chinatown library: Yu Fee Chin, Jennie Kao, Chiu Yung Leung, Alec Li, and Fenice Tu.

Other library co-workers: Johnny Chan, Mei Mei Cheng, Steven Choi, Lucia Lee, Pearl Lui, and Lesi Yu.

Library opening hours: Sunday 10:30-11:00 AM, 12:15-2:00 PM.

Circulation Statistics and New Items Added:





The Newton library ministry has quickly reached its 6th year of service at the Newton campus. We are continuously receiving blessings from our Father and are able to provide resources to help brothers and sisters hold on to God's teaching and wisdom.

During the past year, there were not many changes in our operation. We continue to use

a book wagon to bring out materials into Fellowship Hall in order to maintain the greatest possible visibility and utilization. This mobile station has garnered

much attention and we roughly estimate to have reached a transaction count of close to 700 in the past year. The most popular circulation items are the audio CDs of Bible scriptures and teachings.

In the coming year, we pray for discipline and a desire to seek God's wisdom through His Word. We also pray for a better system of tracking

our user records. Our current manual record-keeping does not allow for us to track many of our missing/damaged items. We continue to praise God for His provisions and His grace.

	English	Juv.	English	Juv.	English	Chinese	Chinese	Chinese	Chinese	Chinese	Total
	Books	Books	DVD/ Videos	DVD/ Videos	CD	Books	Videos	Cassettes	DVD/ VCD	CD MP3	
Circulation	34	31	12	31		274	34		273	102	809
New Items Added	7		8	6		68			31	7	127

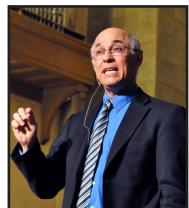


# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) at BCEC is made of up brothers and sisters from both the Chinese and English congregations, as well as Chinatown and Newton campuses. The committee's mission is to mobilize BCEC members to live out their faith by actively sharing the love, justice and mercy of God. We provide opportunities to serve, support and



be educated about God's love for those who are in need - not only spiritual, but also physical needs.



The SRC organizes bimonthly service opportunities at the Boston Rescue Mission where BCEC members serve Sunday dinner and connect in conversations with the homeless in the city. The charity fund, administered by the SRC, supports organizations locally (e.g, ACCESS)

as well as national efforts such as World Vision. This year saw us transitioning our child sponsorship from Viloma, Bolivia to focus on Minakulu, Uganda; a

community, like many in Africa, devastated by AIDS.

This year's annual conference in April highlighted the plight of the immigrant. We were reminded that we were once "aliens and strangers" and welcomed into God's family. Workshops led by

BCEC members covered topics from Immigration Law to Human Trafficking.

Members of the SRC: Pastor Thomas Lee, Pastor Kenneth Kwong, Amos Tai, Joshua Ho, Samuel Tsoi, Amanda Tsoi, Candy Liang, Pauline Huie, Sharon Yip, Kim Szeto, May Kuan and Jocelyn Chu.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE** 



Chairman: Rev. Enoch Liao General Secretary: Michael Ho Pastoral Staff: Rev. Daniel Chan Members: Moses Lam, Lorraine Ho, Martin Chiu

This year we are experiencing a continuing downward trend of Missions Fund Income; thus, we are finding ways to trim down the expenses. We are only

accepting one additional missionary and two new seminarians.

In terms of Short-term Missions, in February, there were a number of BCEC members who went to visit our missionary Sharon Tan serving in the Philippines, giving her much encouragement and support. In the summer, we sent two

short-term mission teams, one to Sweden and the other to Mexico.

The Missions Committee continues to exert due diligence in managing the Missions Fund. Please pray for God's provision for this coming fiscal year.





# **NEWTON BLOCK PARTY**

On May 5th, the Chinese and English congregations at Newton campus came together to host a block party for our neighbors. The purpose was to thank our neighbors for sharing their streets with us every Sunday and to provide an opportunity for us to meet them. This was the first time that the church intentionally reached



immediate of the helpers

out to our

expressed that they really enjoyed serving with people from the other congregations

and that they enjoyed the opportunity to meet



and express love to our neighbors.

my short time at

BCEC." Anthony Liang (Cantonese congregation) shared, "So glad to see that our neighbors were checking us out on that day. God was working



with us and the day was a good start for us to present



ourselves to our neighbors." Please pray for the campus leaders to decide on how best to follow up with our visitors and to explore more ways to serve our community.



neighbors with a special event and worked across all three congregations on such a large scale. Most



Chip Tewksbury (English congregation) shared, "For me, what was revealed was an enthusiastic team effort with brothers and sisters working side-by-side as one in a way I hadn't noticed in

# **PHOTO COLLAGE**









































































# **Special Thanks**

Angela Yuen 阮方景雲 Connie Ho 何艷娟 Daniel Fong 方輝堂 Debra Zhang 張道新 Glory Song 宋揚 Joshua Ho 何永基 Joyce Chan 陳若宇 Frances Lau 劉廖美賢 May Li 李馮鑑美 Mofei Xu 徐墨菲 See Yee Morantee 楊思懿 Steven Mak 麥永雄 Susana Lee 李鄭天璇 Veronica Lau 劉穎妍 Vicky Sin 冼關穎潔