

2022-2023

Annual Report

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Joshua 24:15 But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

English Version  
英文版

**Running  
the Race.**



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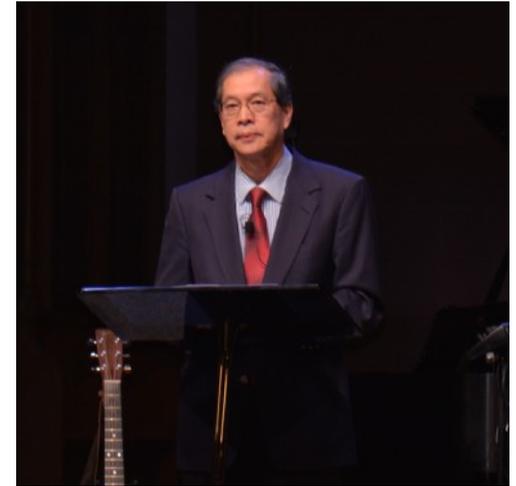
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# Report from the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders

Pastor Daniel Chan

BCEC members are slowly adjusting to attending in-person Sunday services. However, there is still a significant number of members joining services online. Last year, I reported that an average of 390 people attended in-person services in the month of December 2021. That number increased to 620 in the month of September 2022. It further increased to 716 in the month of September 2023. The following is a table showing the average Sunday attendance for different congregations from October 2022 to September 2023.



Congregation	In-Person Attendance	Real-Time Online Viewing	Note
Chinatown Mandarin	64	24	Online on Zoom
Chinatown Cantonese	171	185*	*No 2023 online figure
Chinatown English	177	Not counted	
Newton Mandarin	67	8	Online on Zoom
Newton Cantonese	120	52	
Newton English	80	Not counted	
Average for 2022-23	679		** 62% of pre-pandemic

There are many hundreds of “hits” to our YouTube channels, but a large portion of them did not stay for the whole service. It is hard to know how many of them are BCEC members. During last year, a total of 33 people were baptized at BCEC, and 2 people were baptized on sickbed. We also admitted 12 transfer members in the past year.

The Newton Campus renovations made good progress last year. On January 29, 2023, the Newton Mandarin worship service moved to the newly renovated chapel in the basement. The chapel is equipped with a baptismal tub. This allowed BCEC to hold immersion baptismal services in April and September. The Newton Mandarin congregation also celebrated its 10th anniversary on September 17, 2023.

The Newton Campus celebrated its 20th anniversary on September 24, 2023. A temporary occupation permit for the renovated sanctuary was received just a few days before the celebration. This allowed us to use the sanctuary for a joint service for all three congregations. About 460 people, including Pastor Tom Lee and many former members, attended this joyous celebration. Renewing the kitchen is the last component of the renovation project. It is expected to be finished in a few months.

The Board of Elders has formed a Chinatown Expansion Task Team to study the feasibility of expanding the physical facility of the 120 Shawmut Ave. building. The team has made some suggestions. The Board of Elders and Board of Deacons will work together to discern God’s guidance for the next step.

We thank God for His provisions through the generous donations of our members. However, the General Fund, Missions Fund and Charity Fund



Newton Campus 20th-anniversary worship service

all registered a deficit because of additional expenses not included in last year's budgets. For the General Fund, it was expenses for completing the Newton Campus renovation. For the Missions Fund and Charity Fund, it was a decision to spend down the surpluses accumulated in previous years to support missionaries and community services. Our members donated a total of \$86,301 to the Expansion Fund last year. Please refer to the financial report for more details.

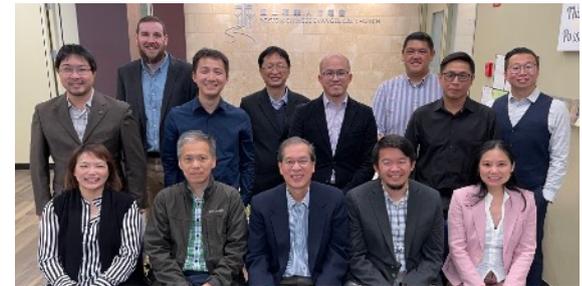
There were several developments in the pastoral staff last year. Pastor Kenneth Kwong took a sabbatical from December 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. Brother Louis Leung completed the second year of his pastoral residency on May 31, 2023. After serving at BCEC for 10 years, Pastor Calvin Chu stepped down from his position of English Youth Pastor on September 1, 2023. Pastor Enoch Liao also started his sabbatical on the same day. BCEC personnel policy allows ordained pastors to take a 6-month sabbatical with full pay or a 12-month sabbatical with half pay, after at least 6 years of continuous full-time employment. Pastor Enoch chose the 12-month option.

In order to cover the ministries of Pastor Enoch and Pastor Calvin, we have recruited Minister Vernon Cheung to be part-time Interim Chinatown English Minister and Minister Louis Leung to be full-time Interim Project Destiny and Youth Outreach Minister. Both of them started their services on September 1, 2023.

On September 17, 2023, Minister Benny Chiu began his service as Chinese Senior and Outreach Director. Minister James Su took a leave of absence beginning on June 28, 2023. He will be returning to duties on November 15, 2023. Minister Venus Yim and Minister Chris Horte, both started their service



Pastor Calvin's send-off



Pastoral Staff:

Back Row: Pastor Steve Liu, Chris Horte, Louis Leung, Pastor Andy Su, Vernon Cheung, Ryan So, Pastor Barry Lam, Benny Chiu  
Front Row: Venus Yim, Pastor Kenneth Kwong, Pastor Daniel Chan, Pastor Ken Liu, Lorraine Chung

in 2022, were approved by BOE and BOD to be commissioned. Their commissioning will be at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 29, 2023.

I informed the Elders and Deacons at the end of 2022 about my plan to retire after the Annual Membership meeting in October 2024. The plan was formally announced to our members in March this year. It was my privilege to have served at BCEC since 1991. The Elders and Deacons are now working on updating the job description and mapping out the search process for the next Senior Pastor. A Restructure and Change Committee was also formed to study our current organizational structure and operations of BCEC. The committee is tasked with providing BOE and BOD with suggestions to improve our operations and decision-making process. Please pray for these important tasks.

The church theme for the coming year is “Running the Race.” We pray to the Lord to help us in continuing the legacy of the founders and forerunners of BCEC, which is to become a blessing to people inside and outside of our church, from generation to generation, all for the glory of God.



Left: New Year's Day Prayer Meeting; Middle: Chinatown August Moon Festival Outreach; Right: Chinatown Cantonese Christmas Eve service

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# Report from the Board of Deacons

Rob Huie

Greetings from the Board of Deacons!

We have been quite busy this year and have overseen and done much of the work necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of BCEC. Here are some of the highlights from the Board of Deacons this past ministry year:

- We have reviewed and rearranged our financials in order to maximize income and minimize risk.
- We have conducted fundraising for disasters in Turkey and Syria for earthquake relief through the World Vision organization.
- We oversaw an energy audit of our BCEC facilities, ensuring we are meeting future codes and are focusing on steps, which could save us almost a third of our energy bills.
- We have overseen the renovation of the Newton Campus and celebrated the new facilities at the Newton Campus 20th-anniversary celebration in October. The

renovation of the kitchen is in process and should be completed by the end of the year.

- We constructed and approved the General Fund, Missions Fund, Charity Fund, and Expansion Fund budgets for FY 2023-2024.

There were also quite a few challenges we needed to respond to this year. Having approved a sabbatical for Pastor Enoch for the coming year, Pastor Steve will be filling in for English Ministries in Chinatown. Also, as Pastor Calvin stepped down at the end of August this year, we needed to make sure we were staffed sufficiently to ensure our ministry work for the Chinatown Campus would continue smoothly. In order to fill the vacancies, the board has hired an Interim English Minister, Vernon Cheung and an Interim Project Destiny and Youth Outreach Minister, Louis Leung.

Coming up soon will be the commissioning of Venus Yim, as the Director of Women's and Caring

Ministries in Chinatown and Chris Horte, as the Director of Student Ministries for Newton Campus.

Our next year will even be more challenging! We have initiated the Change and Restructuring Committee, which will review current structures and operations, gather input from various stakeholders, and propose changes. The goal is for BCEC leadership to operate as efficiently as possible and to be agile enough to navigate the needs of our changing world.

As our Senior Pastor Daniel has announced his retirement in October 2024, we have approved a Job Description Committee comprised of elders, deacons, and staff. Determining the role of our Senior Pastor and finding the right fit for BCEC will be of utmost priority to our work next year.

In addition, the Chinatown Expansion Task Force is working diligently along with both the Board of Deacons and Board of Elders to plan and design for future ministry needs for the Chinatown Campus. As one of our priorities, the BOD is committing to equip, train, and bring up younger members into BCEC leadership. We look forward to working with the new generations to envision necessary ways to grow the Kingdom of God with the resources He has entrusted us with. Finally, we would like to open up more communication and unity between our leadership and our church members through meetings, town halls, gatherings, and a stronger web presence. Surely, it will be a busy year!

We would like to thank our members so much for their generous giving and faithful prayer to BCEC. Please continue praying for us as a board and individually, as we strive to work together in unity both with each other and BCEC leadership to manage the operations of our church.

In His Love and Blessing,  
Rob Huie  
Chairman, Board of Deacons



Top Left: Base Camp (Chinatown youth); Top Right: Newton 20th-anniversary worship service;  
Bottom Left: Chinatown Mandarin table tennis ministry; Bottom Right: Chinatown Vacation Bible School

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# Chinese-Speaking Ministries Overview

Pastor Kenneth Kwong

In the past year, the Chinese congregations followed the same theme as last year, “Flourishing in Change.” As we enter the post-pandemic era, our ministries face many challenges brought by the changes from the pandemic. At the same time, we are also proactively trying to change, so that we can effectively minister to the congregation. In this ever-changing era, we are grateful to God for His guidance.



Table tennis outreach ministry

First, the Chinatown Mandarin congregation is meeting at 120 Shawmut Ave. for worship. Their in-person attendance is slowly increasing, and they continued to have a stable number of people attending the live streaming via Zoom. The volunteers are used to the room and equipment, so the quality of their worship is at a consistent level. Their table tennis outreach ministry has been going on for a while. While it attracts new friends to visit the church, it also builds up the relationships

between the believers, so this ministry has a lot of potential for growth. There are still fellowships meeting online. We pray that God will gradually bring the people back to meeting in person, so that they can experience God’s grace.

The work of merging the Chinatown Cantonese 2nd and 3rd congregations is pretty much finished. Someone has asked if the merge was successful. I personally will not evaluate if the current situation is successful or not. The merger is a tool, but the goal is to create a multigenerational congregation that will allow both the shepherding of the older generation and the development of the younger generation. The merger created an urgent need for more lay volunteers, which was shared to the lay leaders. The worship committee has conducted a survey and began recruiting more volunteers, so please pray for God’s provision.



Top Left: 10th-anniversary celebration of Newton Mandarin congregation; Top Right: Enoch Fellowship (Newton Cantonese elderly); Bottom Left: Operation Christmas Child activity in Elim Fellowship (Cantonese family); Bottom Right: Joshua 2 Fellowship (Cantonese college)

The survey results also discovered that over 70% of the people attending the Chinatown Cantonese in-person worship service are over 50 years old. Shepherding this “golden age group” undeniably cannot be ignored, but God is also bringing a new generation of immigrant youth who are multi-lingual and multi-cultural. It prompts us to consider how to collaborate among different groups, while being open to God’s leading to ideas of new ministries.

As for the Newton Cantonese congregation, their ministries development focuses on keeping pace with the times. Their main outreach efforts are through Alpha Course and Evangelism Explosion, which have steadily brought new believers to the Kingdom of God. At the same time, the median age of their congregation is younger than that of the Chinatown Cantonese congregation. The core members are also well educated and gifted. Therefore, there are a lot of potential for this congregation. May God use them to become a blessing to the church and the community.

Because the changes brought about by the merger of Chinatown Cantonese congregations were different from some people’s expectations, they have moved to Newton Cantonese congregation and begun serving there, which relieved some of the previously needs for volunteers at Newton Campus. I am thankful for their move and wish them the best. The Newton Cantonese Evangelism Explosion team is also helping with training the Chinatown Cantonese congregation. These are two examples to illustrate that the brothers’ and sisters’ love for the church is not restricted by congregation. Different congregations can help each other, so that all the Cantonese ministries can respond to all kinds of challenges brought about by the changing times. This is all God’s divine grace. I pray that God will continue to lead and develop the Cantonese ministries, just as how He has faithfully led the Chinese churches in North America in the past.



Top: Newton Mandarin worship service  
Middle: Newton Cantonese worship service  
Bottom: Joshua 1 Fellowship (Cantonese young adult)

The Newton Mandarin congregation just celebrated their 10th anniversary. I give thanks to God for growing this congregation from a Bible study group to its considerate size today. As this congregation continues to grow, their worship has become more diverse, which has led to more young people joining. I am always surprised every time I visit them. While this congregation faced many challenges during their search for a minister in the past, God has also raised up many lay people to serve and lead, allowing them to experience the sweetness of walking with God. May God continue to bless them and give them strength to overcome the challenges.



Left: Young adults in Newton Mandarin congregation; Middle: Chinatown August Moon Festival Outreach; Right: Appreciation for the volunteers from the Chinatown Cantonese congregation



Top Left: Elim Fellowship (Cantonese family); Top Right: Peter Fellowship (Cantonese men);  
Bottom Left: Chinese baptism (Fall 2023); Bottom Right: Newton Mandarin congregation gathered to celebrate after a baptism.

# English-Speaking Ministries Overview

Pastor Ken Liu and Pastor Steve Liu

God has been exceedingly gracious over this past year. Change continues to be a constant theme in a post-pandemic world. We've seen many of our ministries come back in person like small groups, retreats, and outreach events. We are seeing more short-term missions opportunities both locally and globally. These are all positive developments we can be thankful for. It's always reassuring that with God's help, we can flourish in the midst of change.

One example is God's continued use of Project Destiny to reach out to local youth and raise up servant leaders over the past 30 years. After years of pandemic adaptations, PD finally resumed its full scale middle school summer camp. Then in August, we invited past counselors and campers from far and near to gather, remember, and celebrate 30 years of God's work through PD in Chinatown.



Left: English baptism (Fall 2023); Right: Base Camp (Chinatown youth)



Top Left: Project Destiny Autumn-to-Spring Family Night; Top Right: Teens leading worship at August Moon Festival Outreach;  
Bottom Left: Winter Teen Conference; Bottom Right: Chinatown English Young Adult Retreat

There are also changes that can be difficult. Saying goodbye to Pastor Calvin wasn't easy. His leadership, voice, and contributions will be dearly missed. His departure, combined with Pastor Enoch's year-long sabbatical, poses special challenges. Thankfully, we have a staff team who is up for the challenge and is willing to try and wear different hats. Pastor Steve will serve as the interim Student Ministries Director for the Chinatown Campus, while also leading the Facilities Team. Providentially, we were able to add Louis Leung and Vernon Cheung into the mix as interim ministers to help during this transition. Pastor Ken will lead the English staff and direct most of the sermon topics for the year. Although all these changes will take a bit to get used to, they are wonderful developmental opportunities for the staff to grow in our different roles.



Left: Send-off for Pastor Calvin and his family; Middle: New Year's Day Prayer Meeting; Right: Newton Youth Group

We will continue to collaborate on the teaching series between the two campuses. We kicked off the fall focusing on the "Image of God." In November, we will turn our attention to the "Mission of God" during our Missions Emphasis weekends. Over the course of the year, we will also explore our churchwide theme, "Running the Race."

The Chinese-speaking ministries have implemented the Alpha course in recent years. This year, the English-speaking ministries will also start. Newton English will begin at the beginning of October. Chinatown is in the exploratory phase and aims to start in 2024. Please pray for these ministries as we actively engage our friends, families, and coworkers with the gospel.

As previously announced, our Senior Pastor, Daniel Chan, will retire in the fall of 2024. Between Pastor Steve Chin and Pastor Daniel, that is a combined 70+ years of ministry at BCEC. Clearly, we are headed into a new era at BCEC. Although more significant changes are ahead, I am reminded that God has a plan for us and that his timing is always perfect. May God continue to grow us and prepare us for whatever comes next.



Top: Chinatown Vacation Bible School; Bottom Left: One of the Newton English worship teams; Bottom Right: Teacher Josh's and Teacher Mo's Chinatown English Youth Sunday School class

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## Newton Campus Update

Pastor Barry Lam and Pastor Ken Liu

At the time of this writing, we are getting ready to reopen our sanctuary to celebrate Newton Campus' 20th anniversary! It's been a long journey, but we are finally able to reopen one of our largest meeting spaces for worship and ministry. In addition to the chapel that opened early last year, we have completed the second



20th-anniversary worship service

phase of our renovation journey! Our third and last phase will involve renovating our kitchen, which we hope will be completed in the near future.

There are so many people who deserve our thanks and appreciation for all their hard work on-site and behind the scenes. We greatly appreciate our architects, Glenn Knowles and Associates, and our general contractor, A. P. Whittaker and Sons, for their professionalism and beautiful work. Special thanks to Anthony Lai for managing the project, as well as the renovation team, which consists of Andy Te, Timothy So, Peter Kwok, Pastor Barry, and myself. The Cantonese AV team, which includes Chi Wai Chung, Sammy Zheng, Louisa Poon, and Sylvia Cheng, spent countless hours getting the sanctuary ready for action. Please continue your prayers for these teams, as they put the finishing touches on the sanctuary and as we complete the kitchen renovation project.

Although our renovations seem to have taken center stage, they shouldn't overshadow the ministries that are taking place within our walls and outside the walls of our church building. Over this past year, it was encouraging to see all our congregations grow both in number and maturity. It was wonderful to see our newest staff member, Chris Horte, get acclimated to his role as the Director of Student Ministries. Not only has he been impactful to our students, but he has also been a blessing to our families, staff, and our church at large.

It is also encouraging to see the Newton Campus involved with outreach and evangelism. Each congregation has started Alpha courses to reach out to our friends, families, and coworkers. It was also a tremendous blessing to witness many brothers and sisters across all of BCEC receive the sacrament of baptism in our new baptismal pool in the chapel over this past year. May the Lord continue to



Left: Worship during the 20th-anniversary service; Middle: Senior send-off from the Newton Youth Group; Right: Baptism in the new baptismal pool in the Newton chapel

give us a passion for helping people encounter Jesus and discipling them into maturity.

At the end of last year's report, I wrote, "As the renovations finish by the end of the year, we are in a great position to build upon the foundation that has been laid to be a greater blessing to our community and future generations." Although we were a year late, the sentiment still rings true. All of this investment into our building is an investment into our community and the generations to come. Let us open our hearts and open our doors, so that more and more people in our community can meet Jesus.



Top: Pastor Ken Liu, Chris Horte, Pastor Enoch Liao, and Pastor Tom Lee at the 20th-anniversary celebration luncheon;  
Bottom: Newton Campus' 20th-anniversary worship service

Special thank you to the following volunteers who helped with this year's Annual Report: Joshua Chin, Alex Lai, Charlotte Lai, Wing Ngan, Jess So, and Patrick Yeung.