

2

Beautiful Footprints ... Rev. John Sun

Interviewed by Editorial Team ,Translated by Sam T. Yung

4

Let God's Light Shine On

Rev. George Wong

6

Faithful Stewards... Elders of ECBC

Interviewed by Nora Xu , Translated by Pastor Iris Leung

12

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Rev. Arthur Howard

13

My Path to Pastor

Rev. Philip Yee

14

A Blessing to Serve

Rev. Christopher Chu

15

Worship Ministry

Rev. Philip Yee

16

Men's Fellowship

17

Women's Ministry

18

Children's Ministry

Pastor Janice Chan

20

The Life Group Ministry

22

Journey Fellowship

23

Young Adults Ministry

Rev. Christopher Chu

25

Youth Lighthouse

Rev. Philip Yee

26

We Are All Missionaries

Rev. Sunday Wu

29

ECBC-My Spiritual Home

James Soo

30

The Joy of Serving in Children's Ministry

Chris Zhan

31

A Fresh Perspective

Hannah Yang

32

Chronicle of Major Events

36

Knowing Our Home

Editorial Team



Beautiful Footprints – Rev. John Sun

Interviewed by Editorial Team

Translated by Sam T. Yung

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news” (Romans 10:15 NIV)!

Because of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we interviewed Pastor John Sun via Zoom. He shared his experience of the grace of God during his ministry at ECBC enthusiastically. We sensed his energy and passionate desire to preach God’s word. As ECBC celebrates its golden anniversary, let us count God’s amazing blessings on Pastor Sun.

Uplifting Christ: Meu-Hong Became John

Pastor Sun was born in 1931. At around 10 years old, he was dedicated to idols and named Meu-Hong, meaning ‘smooth sailing’. By 20, he was smoking, gambling, cheating, and living a life outside God’s righteousness. But by God’s mercy, on Christmas Eve 1950, Pastor Sun accepted the Lord and was baptized at the Kaohsiung Holiness Church in Taiwan. There, he changed his name to John. Having dedicated his life to the Lord, he became a new creation and a disciple of Jesus.

Spreading the Gospel: from Merchant to Preacher

After becoming a believer, Pastor Sun remained very much engaged in business with the United States Navy fleet. It was a lucrative money-making venture that he had a flare for, and that came easily to him. While he did

not understand the underlying reason, he did not feel at peace. He went to church to pray and to seek answers. When he picked up a Bible for the first time to read from the Gospel of John, a verse struck his heart: “I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” (John 4:35).

This verse moved him and lingered in his mind. Two weeks later, the church invited Pastor Peter King from the U.S. to lead a three-day revival meeting. In one of the evening sermons, the pastor spoke long and thoughtfully on John 4:35, interpreting it thoroughly. By the time the young John finished listening, all doubts and hesitation were gone. God’s calling was clear: the harvest fields were ripe, and he was being called to reap. Pastor Sun responded to God’s calling with firm conviction: “Oh Lord, here I am, use me!”

He never turned back. He closed his profitable business and dedicated himself totally to God, registering in the newly established Taiwan Baptist Theological College in 1952. There, he stepped into a new life: becoming an evangelist for God. Following his graduation in 1956, Pastor Sun joined Pastor Paul Shen as a co-worker. Together, they travelled across Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the U.S. to preach the gospel and minister to churches. After immigrating to the U.S.A., the young pastor spent more time evangelizing. He has since preached at



numerous Chinese churches across North America.

Building God's Church: from Seattle to Vancouver

By 1972, Pastor Sun had become an administrator at the Evangelical Chinese Church (ECC) in Seattle. There, he prayed for a clear vision for a harvest field prepared by God for him so that he might lead many lost souls to the Lord. Soon after, while visiting the then-consulate office of Taiwan to see Consul General Yu-Sheng Lee, also an elder at ECC, he met two brothers from Vancouver. They recognized him as the invited guest speaker at the first worship service of their church, the Vancouver Chinese Mandarin Church. During their conversation, Pastor Sun learned that their church had dissolved. Church members had scattered, and non-believers had stopped attending Sunday worship services. Once Pastor Sun heard this, God's calling became clear to him: this was where he was needed! Mrs. Sun supported his decision fully. From then on, this family worked faithfully to grow ECBC.

Every weekend for three years, rain or shine, Pastor Sun drove between Seattle and Vancouver, to nurture our congregation and to call people to the Lord. By God's grace, he has worked faithfully with elders, deacons, and co-workers over the last 50 years to establish ECBC as our spiritual home and the house of God.

Benediction and Encouragement

Pastor Sun has followed Christ for most of his life. When encountering difficulties, he has recalled God's promise: "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me" (Psalms 138:8)! When Pastor Sun was busy pastoring and church building, God reminded him, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain" (Psalms 127:1). When Pastor Sun was serving God with overconfidence or complacency, God challenged him: "I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Thanks be to God!

The Bible, representing the inspired Word of God, has been a source of guidance and strength for Pastor Sun and the basis for his lifework of evangelism. He would like to take this opportunity to encourage all brothers and sisters in ECBC's mother church and branch churches, "The night is nearly over, and the day is almost here - we should commit ourselves fully to the Lord, spread the Gospel, and love God and people until Christ's return!"

Through this interview with Pastor and Mrs. Sun, we recognize their commitment to following the Lord's calling faithfully, to dedicating their lives to bring the good news to others, and to expanding God's kingdom. What beautiful footprints they leave as inspiration for us!

Let God's Light Shine On

Rev. George Wong

Congratulations, ECBC! As we celebrate our Golden Anniversary, we are thankful for all that God has done in and through this church over the past 50 years. What a milestone! We rejoice in the Lord for all the fruitful ministries and sweet memories we have!

From its humble beginning, as Pastor John Sun responded to God's call to plant a church in Metro Vancouver, ECBC has grown vibrantly as a community of faith. God has drawn thousands of brothers and sisters to experience Christ Jesus as their personal Saviour. Whether you serve locally or have moved on and now serve elsewhere, we praise God for all who play a part in His kingdom ministry. You, as the salt and light of the world, are the reason God's church can shine brightly.

The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020/21 changed the world economically, socially, and spiritually. We had to rethink our approach to worship, ministry, and evangelism. We thank God for our worship and tech teams, who embrace technology to bring live-streamed services into our homes. We praise God for faithful leaders who ensure that Sunday School, Bible Study, Life Groups, Choir, Prayer, Discipleship, Alpha, and other ministries thrive even though virtually. While we could not gather

physically, we praise God that we were able to connect digitally. Nothing can silence the Church of God!

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart... For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." Yes, as the world gets darker, the light of Jesus must shine brighter.

The pandemic left many feeling discouraged, anxious, and emotionally disoriented. Some struggled financially. Some faced relational turmoil. We were hit hard because we felt a loss of control over our lives. We saw people healthy one day, then passing after battling Covid-19.

Paul encourages us with this truth: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed...Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory



that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:7-9, 16-18).

As we focus on the eternal, we can have living hope in and through Christ. The Holy Spirit continues to work miracles. He empowers us to find opportunity in the midst of crisis. Our theme in recent years has been “To See Lives Transformed through Knowing and Experiencing God”. Pre-pandemic we added “Living Out True Love”. Members have demonstrated this through new initiatives: sewing masks and hats for frontline workers, running grocery deliveries for needy families through a community outreach project, and providing cooked meals with the Five Loaves Two Fish ministry.

A challenge we now face is discerning how to grow as a church community in a post-pandemic era. Can we return to pre-pandemic practices? How might a “new normal” look? Will people appreciate the importance of gathering in-person after engaging only digitally for an extended period? To maintain a

sense of belonging and avoid complacency, engagement and active ministry participation are critical. The Holy Spirit has gifted every believer with spiritual gifts, and He desires that we exercise them to equip and build up the Body of Christ.

We need to reach outside our comfort zone to sense how God is mobilizing His kingdom and how He wishes us to participate - we can no longer be bound by tradition. William Mancini, co-author of Future Church, asks poignant questions: “What if COVID-19 is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for leaders to think more strategically about doing church? What if this is the perfect time to think about the church’s disciple-making mission at a higher level for a longer-term future?” Let us be challenged by D.L. Moody, who said, “If God is your partner, make your plans BIG!” Mancini encourages us, “Don’t waste this pandemic! You have more permission to dream and redesign than you have ever had. Do not try to go back to what you had before. Instead, invest time, effort, and energy into redesigning what your future can look like... Let’s embrace this time of disruption as a gift from God—an opportunity to forge a better future than the one we were heading to before.”

God will open new doors. He will enlighten us with new ways to impact lives, but we need to be sensitive toward and respond to His calling promptly. Let us heed Isaiah’s exhortation, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:18-19). Let us remain united and pray for refreshing breakthrough! May God bless us with paradigm-shifting, life-transforming vision as we look forward to what He has in store for ECBC in the next 50 years. The best is yet to come! Let His light shine on brightly!



Faithful Stewards

Elders of ECBC interviewed by Nora Xu translated by Pastor Iris Leung



I n
t h e
5 0



Elder Edwin K. Shu

Finding his spiritual home:

Edwin K. Shu graduated from Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University in 1964. That same year, he was baptized at Episcopal Heavenly Grace Church. He immigrated to Canada in 1970 and attended a couple of local churches before finding ECBC. He was invited to ECBC for the 1974 Easter service, and feeling God's presence, he soon made it his spiritual home. Our congregation then numbered less than 200 and met at 611 East 50th Avenue in Vancouver.

Elder Shu has taken responsibility for counting our congregational offering since 1980, alongside Daniel and Diana Wong, and under the guidance of the late elders Wayne Ren and Johnny Lieuson. He was installed as an elder in 2000.

God's leading:

Elder Shu is a retired geotechnical engineer. He recalls, "Proficiency in written and spoken English were required in this profession. These were not my strengths, so I had no idea why God led me into this line of work. It was not until we bought the land for our new church building in Burnaby that I realized God had prepared me for that moment - Jehovah Jireh, the Lord provides. My experience working with challenging soil conditions allowed me to provide guidance with the design of our new building."

Passing the baton:

As does every healthy family, our church family has faced its share of challenges. Turnover in the pastoral team, additions to our elders and deacons board, and a multi-generational congregation require a delicate hand to balance diverse ideas and interests. While remaining true to our core doctrine and upholding meaningful traditions, we must continue to pass the baton to new generations of leadership to extend our legacy. It will remain important to reflect on and honour our roots as we look to the future, also to be open to change to ensure we remain relevant to both our founding generation and to new generations of believers and seekers. We must seek God's guidance to maintain our focus on "seeing lives transformed through knowing and experiencing Him," and to set aside personal agendas.

Let us remain true to the foundation of our faith: "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV) and "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).



Elder Cary Chien

God's hand at work:

Cary Chien was born in Chongqing, but considers Zhejiang, China his home province. He immigrated to Taiwan as a young child. There, both his primary and high schools were affiliated with the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), which led him to join the NTNU Department of Physics. He attended CEF Taipei Bible Church during his college years and was baptized in 1963. Rev. John Sun was then the pastor there.

Cary moved to Canada to obtain his doctorate in physics at UBC. When he learned that Rev. Sun had established a church in Vancouver, he felt he was “coming home.” He again felt God's hand at work in a “chance” meeting at the shopping mall with former classmate, Edwin Shu. Dr. Chien naturally invited his old friend and Rev. Sun to his home. The three served together at ECBC for almost 50 years. In 2000, both Edwin Shu and Cary Chien were installed as elders.

Educational excellence infused with love:

Elder Chien suggested with a smile, “God destined me to be a teacher.” He devoted himself to education for over 30 years, and many of his students excelled, winning medals in math and science in North American competitions. He cites “love” as the secret behind his teaching philosophy. He not only passed on knowledge and study habits but also ignited a passion for learning. He took a genuine interest in his students, eating lunch with them daily and discussing matters of life and faith. Jesus' love flowed into the hearts of many through his life! Elder Chien, Mrs. Chien, and their son, Jerry Chien, are all Greater Vancouver high school teachers.

Elder Chien received the Canadian Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in 1995, one of many awards received during his career. He has also promoted the Chinese language internationally and was the founding president of the Chinese Language Association of BC. He and his wife, Jane, established a Chinese school at ECBC to teach Chinese - this also provided an excellent platform from which to share the Gospel with families.

Years of service:

Elder Chien has witnessed each step of ECBC's development from its beginnings with family gatherings to establishing a mother church, and then to planting three branch churches. He gives thanks for God's miraculous deeds: “While some things seem impossible in people's eyes, nothing is impossible for God!”



Elder Daniel Siu

Coming to faith:

Siu Yue Hong named himself Daniel (aka Danny) after his favourite Bible character. He drew inspiration from Daniel's reliance on God and God's abundant blessing on him of wisdom, power, and grace.

In 1946, Danny was born into a merchant's family in Guangzhou. With unrest in China, his family fled to Hong Kong. When his father fell ill and died, his mother sought work in an orphanage, taking him with her. He had a unique upbringing. Daniel describes himself as a naughty child. While plotting a prank at summer camp at the age of 13, he felt guided by the Holy Spirit to repent. Though his biological father had passed, he knew our Heavenly

Father loved him, and he accepted Christ as his Saviour. He recalls, "From that very moment, our Heavenly Father looked after me, guided me, and led me to walk the path of righteousness throughout my life."

Wandering in Canada:

In 1967, Danny began his studies at the University of Winnipeg. Working various jobs to pay his way through school opened doors that led him into the investment industry. His career in financial markets spanned more than 30 years. He was the first Chinese member of the board of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, and he once led a team to China to bring Chinese Class B Shares to the North American security markets.

Danny and his wife, Eileen, have been married for 48 years and enjoy an extended family with ancestry in eight different countries - a veritable "United Nations."

Serving in different roles:

Elder Siu has attended ECBC since 1975. He served as an interpreter for many years and jests that he learned Mandarin through interpreting it. Having himself come to faith as a teenager, Elder Siu has always been a great supporter of youth ministry. He has shared his skills waiting tables and as maître d' for numerous youth camp fundraising dinners.

Danny Siu was installed as an elder in 2000 and served four consecutive terms as Chair of the Board of Elders and Deacons. He is adamant that "a lot of problems cannot be solved by humans. We need to calm our hearts and pray, leaving everything in God's hands, for He is in control!"

Elder Siu has served in numerous roles and mission fields from Hong Kong to Japan, Taiwan, Northern Thailand, Cambodia, and Vancouver. Culinary skills learned in his youth at the orphanage proved invaluable when teaching Chinese cooking classes for Japanese men as a path to building relationships, and were put to great use when called upon to feed 130 hungry mouths at a Taipei orphanage. Elder Siu believes that "hardship is really a blessing in disguise and can bear sweet fruit."

He serves others as a means of serving God, holding dear the verse, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthews 25:40).

In God's hands:

Elder Siu experienced a serious car accident in 2000. He became intensely aware that his life is in God's hands. His favourite scripture is from Psalm 23. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."



Elder Frank Hou

Commitment to Christ as a teenager:

Frank Hou's ancestors are from Henan, China. While attending an evangelistic meeting at age 15 and sensing the urging of the Holy Spirit, Frank made a lifetime commitment to follow Christ.

Frank immigrated with his family to Canada in 1964 as a teenager. He attended high school in Prince Rupert and New Westminster. He recalls, "In the 1960s, Canadian high school teachers began each morning leading students in Bible reading and prayers before lessons. How times have changed!"

Faithful interpreter:

In ECBC's early days, there was an urgent need for workers. While attending medical school at UBC, Frank accepted Pastor Sun's invitation to serve as an interpreter and has done so since 1973. Sermon interpretation requires both linguistic skills and familiarity with scripture. To interpret a pastor's message and

convey its full meaning, an interpreter must understand his accent and preaching habits. Outside speakers pose the greatest challenge, especially with Rev. Stephen Tong, whose sermons were known for their depth, rigor, and embrace background knowledge from literature, history, philosophy, science, and etc. Working with Rev. Tong in a series of evangelistic meetings was the pinnacle of Frank's interpreting experience. Elder Hou humbly remembers he was "trembling and sweating" when faced with this challenge but was able to complete the task with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Living out his faith in professional life:

Elder Hou is both a family physician and a clinical associate professor at UBC medical school. In addition to providing medical treatments to his patients, he would pray with them with their permission. He has delivered thousands of babies across three generations of families and has joyfully seen many children growing up in his career.

Elder Hou has shared his love for Christ throughout his career. As a founding member of Jian Hua Foundation's Vancouver chapter, he has organized fundraising dinners and has travelled on medical mission trips to China, bringing medical supplies and education to rural areas in Tibet, Tianjin, and Hebei. Despite facing difficult environments and experiencing high altitude sickness, he has joyfully devoted his time and expertise to serving the Lord.

Colossians 1:11-12 is one of Elder Hou's favourite verses. "Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father." Elder Hou emphasizes that we should never forget to be joyful in serving the Lord. Regardless of what we do, we must remember to have great endurance and patience and always be joyful!

Elder Hou is not only a faithful instrument of the Lord, he also follows the example set by young Joshua in the Bible, whom he admires. Having been called to ministry for the Lord at a young age, he was used by God, and may he follow God faithfully all his life. Praise the Lord!



Elder Bridget Lang

Female pastors are rare, female elders even rarer. Dr. Bridget Lang accepted Christ as her Saviour at the age of 17. She immigrated to Canada in 1980 and joined our spiritual family in 1986.

Heart of a healer:

Elder Lang is a retired family doctor. As a physician, she recognized she could not share the Gospel with patients directly but felt in her heart God's calling to do so. Therefore, she committed the dilemma to God, trusting that He would provide guidance and wisdom.

Dr. Lang recalls meeting with a patient suffering from insomnia. After listening to her symptoms and life circumstance, Dr. Lang shared her "secret of joy" – her faith in Christ. Three months later, the patient returned to share enthusiastically how her life had changed since joining a church and settling in a Bible study group. Praise the Lord - a joyful heart is excellent medicine!

Faithful service:

Elder Lang lived out her faith in her profession and continues to serve faithfully in the church. She was installed as an elder in 2012 following many years as a deaconess. She has helped to build our spiritual home through her involvement in ministries that include: the Board of Directors, English Ministry Leadership Team, Women's Ministry, Missions, Zion and then Joshua Fellowship, and the Church Constitution Committee.

Being a female elder has been challenging. She recalls, "Before accepting the position, I was reminded I would face opposition as a female elder, but I am very clear that

I am not offending any biblical principles. Not only that, I firmly believe that every church member should be able to serve according to their gifts and not according to gender or stereotype.” Elder Lang accepted the challenge in part to demonstrate that gender is not an obstacle to serving Christ.

As an encouragement to the next generation, Elder Lang cites 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” We are like ordinary and shabby jars of clay, but because we have the life of Christ in us, we will be honoured when we become the vessels through which Jesus shines forth.



Elder Jian Ping Jiang

Becoming a Christian:

Jian Ping Jiang was born in Jiangsu in 1958. He went to McMaster University in Canada amongst the first wave of students sent from China for advanced studies. He earned his PhD in Structural Engineering and worked on several projects at UBC and in collaboration with the Canadian Department of National Defence. He now is a Canadian expert in bridge engineering. Soon after arriving at McMaster, Elder Jiang joined the Campus International Student Fellowship. He recalls the excitement surrounding Billy Graham’s evangelistic rally in Hamilton in 1987. Elder Jiang and his wife joined ECBC’s Daniel Fellowship in 1996. He accepted Christ as his Saviour in 1998 and was baptized the following year.

Dedicated to service:

In the 1990s, we experienced a wave of immigrants from

China, primarily students and skilled workers. Three to four hundred new immigrants came through Daniel Fellowship. While serving as fellowship chairman, Elder Jiang established a two-year chair rotation that remains in effect and promoted discipleship training to equip believers for evangelism. He served as a deacon from 2006, was installed as an elder in 2017, and chaired the Board of Elders and Deacons from 2014 to 2018. The Board of Elders and Deacons has since become The Board of Directors and Spiritual Council. Elder Jiang now serves as chair of the Board of Directors.

Elder Jiang is a faithful steward in God’s house, serving quietly behind the scenes. He brings forward to ECBC’s leadership team governance and management practices from his professional experience, while balancing these with an approach rooted in love, equality, and trust – as demonstrated by Christ himself. He believes that “each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).

His favourite Bible character is Joshua because he was faithful and led God’s people with wisdom, attributes Elder Jiang strives to follow.

Embracing change:

The COVID-19 pandemic swept around the world in 2020, leaving church communities facing severe challenges. With the world in chaos and a greater need to preach the Gospel, we agreed that the pandemic offered not only challenges but opportunities! We must look beyond physical boundaries and make use of the internet to share the Good News.

Thanks be to God! In March 2020, faced with provincial regulations preventing in-person gatherings, ECBC transitioned to meeting “virtually.” With the help of our tech team, we became familiar with live-streaming and Zoom almost overnight for our worship services, evangelistic meetings, Sunday school, fellowships, prayer meetings, Bible study, senior care, choir practice, AWANA, etc. Nothing is impossible with God! His Word marches on.



Nine years have passed quickly. As Janice and I look back, we thank the Lord for ECBC, for how this church community has welcomed us.

We are thankful for your friendship and for allowing us to come alongside you on your journey with Christ.

We will not know the full impact ECBC has had on people's lives over the years until we meet the Lord face to face, but Janice and I can testify to the impact ECBC has had upon our own lives. From the moment

we came to the church until now, we have felt accepted and loved. Pastor George and Ease have gone out of

their way to make sure we know that we are part of the ECBC family. The saints who call ECBC home have a tremendous capacity to welcome and love new people. Perhaps this comes from the fact that many in the church were at one time new themselves: new to Canada, far from family. People at ECBC understand what it means to need a friend.

Over the years, it has been a joy for us to witness the transformation God has brought to people's lives as they join this community and follow Jesus Christ.

During the pandemic last year, we saw the ECBC community come together to extend love and care,

calling each other, bringing food to one another, rendering help in all kinds of creative ways. Your loving testimony has blessed us and has given us the encouragement to

press on together and seek His face with greater zeal and determination. None of us has been here before; none of us has been through a pandemic. But, as a community, together with Abba Father's help, we grew through that time, and hopefully, we have emerged even stronger.



Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Rev. Arthur Howard

One lesson we have learned is that while we can all go to various sites on the internet to get what we want to listen to, to fish for an opinion,

to listen to a sermon, when push comes to shove and we need tangible help, the internet cannot help - only the local church can. Real community can only happen in the local church, where God has placed us. These are the people who will stick with you through thick and thin. We thank the Lord for the local church, this ECBC community.

In the inspired words of the apostle Paul, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

I accepted Christ when I was 13. When my parents found out I had become a Christian, they forbade me from attending church. For a year, I was required to work on our family farm on Sundays, but during that year, my aunt encouraged me to read my Bible and pray. I prayed and asked God to make a way for me to return to church. I so desired to be able to grow in community and to experience Christian fellowship.

One day, my parents noticed that a new building was under construction across the street. We did not know then, but God was up to something. Eventually, my best friend's mom became friends with my mom and invited me to play with my friend Aaron one Friday night. Mom dropped me off at his home and, to my surprise, he brought me to ECBC - just across the street from my house! When I arrived, I met wonderful people like Patricia, Ying, Shelley, Gordon, Enoch, Tom, Joseph, Jacob, Kevin, and Cheryl. Through attending Young Life (now called Youth Lighthouse), I had the chance to be mentored by pastors, uncles and aunties, older brothers and sisters, who chose to invest their time in me. I grew, matured, and was baptized 10 years later. Through ECBC, I was given the opportunity to be a student leader, Sunday school teacher, youth counsellor, worship leader, intern, and eventually a pastor.



Along my journey, there were challenges. When I told my parents I wanted to become a pastor, they suggested I was throwing my life away - that I would have no money, no wife, and no place to live. After much prayer, I took a step of faith and never looked back. God provided me with

a job at a bank where I was able to save for school and learned to live out my faith in the world. It was during that time that I also met my wonderful wife, Joyce, who supported me through seminary; and we now have two amazing daughters, Clarisse and Avalyn. I have

now served as youth pastor at ECBC for over a decade and was ordained as a minister in September 2020. I am thankful to Pastor George Wong, Pastor Paul Wang, Pastor

Janice Chan, Pastor Mark Rajan, and Pastor Albert Baerg for being ministry role models; and to ECBC's founding Pastor Sun for his obedience to God's calling to plant a church in Vancouver. I feel privileged to serve alongside so many brothers and sisters in Christ and to be supported by ECBC's pastoral team. I have been given an incredible opportunity to invest in the lives of hundreds of youths in the same way that others invested in me. When I started this journey, I was a young boy following Jesus, and today, I am a man, husband, father, and pastor who has witnessed God's faithfulness at every step of his life.



My Path to Pastor

Rev. Philip Yee

I started working at ECBC in October 2013 having just graduated from Regent College earlier that year. Over the last nine years, I have witnessed God's incredible faithfulness both personally and in ministry.

On a personal level, God has provided a wonderful environment and coworkers to serve with here at ECBC. It is such a gift to be able work alongside the other staff, sharing in both the joys and frustrations of ministry—the ups, downs, and everything in between. Although we do not always see eye to eye, the staff works as one unit to the glory of God. As a recent seminary graduate, I found it a wonderful blessing to be mentored and supported by more experienced pastors who are only a few doors away.

Moreover, quite possibly the biggest personal blessing I have received during my time at ECBC has been meeting my wife, Karen, who grew up in this church. She has been my supporter through difficult times, my encourager when I am down, and my manager when I get off track.

In terms of ministry, God has been faithful through every turn. It has been a joy to disciple numerous young adults facing all types of struggles. I have seen many young Christians grow and in turn begin to disciple others. I have seen relationships healed and restored, and lives changed by the transformative power of Christ. I have seen new believers mature into church leaders and many who grew up in the church find their own faith and



passion as God calls them.

I have also grown through the ministry of teaching and preaching. From leading small group Bible studies to workshops on discernment, from teaching systematic theology to preaching on Sunday mornings, I am constantly surprised how God continues to teach me. It is really an incredible blessing to be given the time to reflect and study God's

Word and then be able to share those findings with others.



During my time at ECBC, I have worked on many projects with members of the congregation, and it is always such a gift. I am in awe of their commitment and dedication, putting in long hours of service to God. Whether it is organizing Christmas

dinners and plays, planning Easter art shows and children's festivals, or simply serving the community through volunteering and donating money, God continues to call His people and use them in mighty ways.

Last, but definitely not least, I have seen God's faithfulness through the ministry of prayer. Although I am still very much a novice, I believe that the foundation of any endeavor for God must be rooted in prayer. And throughout these last nine years, God has been faithful to answer time and time again—not always in the way I expect, but the way He knows is best. It is my sincere hope that ECBC continues to be, first and foremost, a community of prayer.

A Blessing to Serve

Rev. Christopher Chu

Worship Ministry

Rev. Philip Yee

On March 5, 1972, ECBC founder, Pastor Sun, led the first Sunday service of ECBC. Since then, we have grown to encompass a variety of ministries to serve the needs of our multi-generational congregation.



What a privilege it has been to serve in the worship ministry at ECBC! We have established choirs, ensembles, and many worship teams over the years and have touched many through music as we have performed musicals and special numbers. We have worked together to help lead the congregation in worship, to develop worship leaders, and to grow in our understanding of what it means to truly worship God in spirit and in truth. Each week, we pray together, choose songs, practise, and wake up early to prepare for worship

services. The tech team works hard behind the scenes to support us with lights and sound, PowerPoint, and video production. It is such a blessing to come together and use our gifts and talents to praise God. There are too many people to thank by name – so we extend our thanks to all who have been involved in our worship ministry, in whatever capacity, for your faithful service to the Lord.



Men's Fellowship



Jesus disciplined twelve men, eleven of whom went on to disciple others so that the Good News spread around the world. As men, we sometimes forget the important role God invites us to play in His church and in His kingdom. We naturally focus on work, achievements, success, and providing for our families - but hide our own struggles, our worries, our temptations. God invites us to come to Him and find our strength in Him. He calls us not only to live for Him but to be godly examples for others. The Men's Fellowship is a place where we strive to encourage one another to grow in Christ and allow ourselves to be transformed by His Holy Spirit.

"When Phillip Ong asked me to join ECBC's Men's Caring Group, I was hesitant. He had just formed the fellowship with Pastor Mark Rajan to foster a brotherhood between male members while strengthening our relationship with God. It sounded great, but I had just retired. I was focused on crossing things off my long

bucket list—traveling the world, golfing, hobbies, and spending more time with family. Nevertheless, after very little convincing, I joined the group and have been a regular attendee ever since."

Before the 2020/21 COVID-19 pandemic, God was kind to us and provided a perfect place for our group to meet (it conveniently also served tasty treats). We not only formed friendships with one another, but with the help of Pastor Mark and now Pastor Arthur, we formed deeper connections with God through our Bible studies. Our meetings moved online during the pandemic, and while in-person gatherings were not possible, our relationships with one another and with God deepened. I will no longer take for granted the opportunity to share our love for God over a cup of coffee.

On this 50th anniversary, we congratulate and thank ECBC for its faithful ministry in and beyond our community. —Edward Liew

Women's Ministry



Our mission is to REACH:

- **out to our neighbours - to love and bless them**
- **into ourselves - to live out our gifts**
- **up to God - to know Him more**

We welcome all women to join us for refreshment, to share life and topics of general interest, enjoy tasty treats, and experience the love of Christ. Through the years, we have sown seeds of the gospel, formed relationships, and shared our joys and sorrows. We have celebrated God's bounty and wrestled with disappointments; but at all times we have witnessed the hand of God at work.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we switched to weekly Zoom meetings. Even as despair and anxiety abound, we find that His grace abounds all-the-more as He turns hearts and minds to Himself. Praise the Lord!

"I am thankful for the women's ministry – Christ-centered relationship building activities, talks on health, life skills, praise and worship, Bible studies, and the annual women's weekend retreat have been a blessing to us. I appreciate the fellowship of Jesus-loving ladies representing a mix of singles, wives, moms and grandmothers from diverse backgrounds, with different gifts and talents to exercise and share generously."

"We are less than perfect disciples of Jesus who need a conducive and non-judgmental place to meet and relate, a lot of love, care and prayers, and most of all, His grace to grow in faith, and become the women of faith God intends us to be." - Lee Shia Ong

"In the 2020/21 season of virtual meetings, we walked through the Alpha program and a 'Sharing of Worship Songs' series. The latter gave us the opportunity to praise God and allow music to touch our spirit when words are sometimes insufficient. We also reviewed Jesus' parables, providing insights into spiritual truths and application lessons for our daily lives. A 'Taste and See' program helped us exercise the discipline of listening to scripture, quietly and deeply and with our hearts, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak and minister. Careful reading, attentive listening, and quiet meditation of scripture gave me the chance to encounter God in His word, and to respond to His voice." - Caroline Syson



Children's Ministry

Janice Chan



Children are precious in the eyes of Jesus and our church family. It is the calling of the Children's Ministry to work with parents (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) as they nurture their children so that they grow in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and people. This is in accordance with the personal growth of Jesus based on Luke 2:52.

To fulfill this calling, our children's programs include weekly Sunday School, Summer Vacation Bible School, Children's Prayer Retreats, and the Awana Ministry. Between 1979 and 1997, the Children's Ministry also oversaw the Explorers' program.

We are thankful for our prayer warriors, leaders, and helpers who have used their spiritual gifts, enabling our children's holistic growth through:

- **S**haring the Good News of Christ so children can make the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. (Colossians 1:13-14)
- **T**eaching the Word of God so children can meditate on God's truths in their daily lives. (Colossians 1:28)
- **E**ncouraging friendship so children can be a shining light for God in their relationship with one another. (Colossians 3:12-14)
- **P**raising God so children can cultivate a heart of gratitude to God, who is worthy of worship (Colossians 3:16)
- **S**erving God so children can be obedient and apply what they have learned in God's word and be a blessing to others. (Colossians 3:17)



The AWANA Program

The name AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) is derived from 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV) "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

The Awana program helps children discover God's love and their identity in Christ. Awana equips children with the word of God, cultivates teamwork, and provides opportunities to meet and pray for missionaries. Our Awana children are amazing singers and often bless our congregation with their beautiful singing.



Explorers (1979 - 1997)

Explorers was an amazing program for children ages 7 to 14 and ran during the second service in our old church. Aside from nurturing faith in children with the Word of God, the program also equipped leaders and children with life skills such as community living, camping skills, acting skills, running sound equipment, and helping with overseas mission projects.

The theme verses for the Explorers were: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).



The Life Group Ministry



Bible Study is an important part of our small group ministry, but Life Groups are so much more. They encourage us to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ as we:

- L**earn apply Biblical truth for daily living
- I**nvoke welcome others to join us
- F**ellowship nurture Christ-centred caring relationships
- E**vangelize reach out to others with the hope of Christ

Life Groups are a place where we can practise our church core values of Caring & Fellowship, Worship & Prayer, Discipleship and Evangelism. The Christian life

should be a life of growth in Christian maturity, becoming more and more like Christ. God has made us in such a way that this growth best happens in Christian community. We need one another: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17). Scripture should not only inform us, but also transform us as we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through His Word and His people. God often chooses to bring about His transformation through our brothers and sisters in Christ. We do not always agree with one another. God’s Body is made up of very different people, but God is so much bigger than any single Christian. And this means that we need to learn from each other if we truly want to grow into His likeness.

Our hope is that as we mature in Christ, our Life Groups will grow and multiply. As people recognize the importance of intimate Christian community, new leaders will be equipped to lead new groups so that the whole Body of Christ grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work (Ephesians 4:16).



"The Life Group ministry started more than 30 years ago with three couples under the care of Pastor Paul Wang. As we grew, leaders were appointed and attended pre-study sessions in Pastor Wang's home in preparation to lead their respective groups. In this setting, we learnt God's truths and what it meant to apply them, to fellowship with other believers, reach out, nurture and care for one another. Life Groups continue to thrive under Pastor Arthur Howard's guidance and include home, after-church and special focus groups. Members come from diverse backgrounds and include those new in their faith, more mature believers, and seekers." - Phillip Ong

God designs us as relational people who find comfort and strength in one another in times of trouble and joy, to give and to receive. It has been a blessing to be part of a Life Group and to share life with a community of believers.



Journey Fellowship



The ECBC Journey Fellowship supports young families. God calls us on a journey, a lifelong journey, with Him. Marriage and children are part of this wonderful journey for many of us. How do we balance the demands of our workplace with those of our family? What does it mean to raise up your child in the ways of God? How do we encourage our spouse and our children to know and experience God? Journey Fellowship is a safe place to ask questions and to help young families not only survive but also thrive in their journey with God.

"We thank God for Journey Fellowship, where we can share our successes and struggles in parenting and in life and learn from one another. During the pandemic, we were blessed to be in fellowship with other parents - just to be able to listen to each other's thoughts, worries, and fears helped us realize that we are not crazy, and we are not alone in our thoughts."

"The most valuable thing of all is that we can support and pray for each other. Many times we have seen God working through our prayers. Praise the Lord!" - Joanna Young

Young Adults Ministry

Rev. Christopher Chu



The Young Adults Ministry (YAM) at ECBC works primarily with university students and young working adults. With around ninety members, we run nine different small groups throughout the week—catering to different walks of life and busy schedules. These small groups are mostly led by peers and cover all variety of topics, from Bible studies to workshop series.

One of our primary goals is to help our students explore and experience faith for themselves, not simply attending church because of their family, but knowing Christ in a

personal way. To this end, we focus on personal reflection and application while also teaching Bible study tools and skills, equipping our young adults for the rest of their Christian life. We also encourage and support discipleship relationships within the broader body of Christ, matching up younger and older members for mutual edification.

To facilitate community within the group and as a place to invite friends, we host many different large events as well. From Thanksgiving dinners to Christmas parties, life-sized board game nights to worship rallies, YAM

seeks to be a place where members can connect with the larger family. We also run our yearly, three-day REV retreat, where students are encouraged to dive deeper into their faith.

“As someone who did not grow up in church, YAM has been a consistent pillar in my life that supports my faith through the twists and turns of university and young adulthood. YAM has been a place where God has shown me how to follow Him, lead His flock, and pass the torch to the next generation. In this community, I have built friendships that have helped me truly understand who I am as a child of God.” - Robbie Ogloff

“The stories I could tell: laughter, tears, fear, love, games, prayer, study, and hearts poured out. I expected joining YAM would fix everything. I’d be one of those young adults who have it all together. It didn’t – I still struggled, felt bored, alone and worthless. But we held on to God, and He held onto us. One day I looked around the group and said, “Guys, no offense, but if this were regular

society, we would never be here together – we’re all so different. Us being vulnerable and building each other up can only be God.” - Kathleen Lieuson

“YAM has been such a great place for me spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and even physically. It provided a place to call home at a time I was deprived of friendship and community. The people I met there proved to be kind, generous, and compassionate, and I thank God for their support during tough times. YAM has also given me opportunities to explore and develop different passions, such as photography and music, and for that I am grateful too.” - Joshua Abad



Youth Lighthouse:

a community of faith where high school students can grow in their relationship with God and experience fellowship.

Rev. Philip Yee

The mission of Youth Lighthouse (aka YL and formerly known as Young Life) is to raise up godly young people. We gather for Bible studies, prayer, worship, games, and grad nights, sleep overs, conferences, hikes - and of course, youth camp. For many, YL has been described as a sanctuary - a safe place where they can connect with

God and with brothers and sisters in Christ. Emerging leaders have an opportunity to serve God, learn about leadership, use their creativity, and make the fellowship their own. YL has offered a place where welcoming community is found and lifelong friendships formed.

Over the years, parents, counsellors, and student leaders have invested their time and energy into the lives of the youth. Bonnie Leung shares: "It's such a blessing to be a YL counsellor, for I love being able to share and connect with the younger teens. As they share their experiences with God, it inspires me in my own walk." The fruits of this ministry have been the countless teens who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, whose lives have been transformed by the Holy Spirit, and who have returned to raise up the next generation. I leave you with a few of their stories:

"YL and Youth Camp were an important part of my life during high school. Having grown up in church, I knew of God, but developed a personal relationship with Him at YL. There, students and counsellors demonstrated what genuine faith looks like, which ignited my own desire for an authentic relationship. My counsellors became



Youth Lighthouse (Megan Yang, Kimberley Fung, Henry Yang, Gabriel Lim, Bosco Lam, Mark Ng Shun, Grace Chang, David Xiong, Wesley Liu, Kevin Lee, Joyce Chang, Ariel Hung, Philip Yee)

mentors. While busy with their own lives, they were always available to help us through our struggles." – Recky Lai

"During high school, most seek a sense of belonging. At YL, I found a community where I felt supported and amazing people who made a lasting impact on my life. There I learned how to improvise with piano chords (I always played classical music

before that), design a handbook, and develop leadership qualities." – Annie Chang

"YL was where I was first encouraged to take a leadership role. It provided a safe space where I could make mistakes, and there would be grace. Although I was then very shy, Auntie Doreen challenged me to emcee. I had terrible stage fright, but she was there to help me. With her support, I began to lead group Bible studies and take on responsibilities at Youth Camp." – Joyce Chang

"YL played a fundamental role in building my identity. My young faith grew as together we explored the significance of the gospel in our lives - that once we were dead in our sins, but Jesus paid the ultimate price for us on the cross. This prepared us to go into our schools and communities as Christ's representatives." – Gabriel Lim

"I first encountered God in a personal way at YL. There, my peers and I formed longstanding friendships, shared laughter and love, and supported one another through tough times. Youth Camp became the highlight of my year, and Friday evenings the highlight of my week. While not perfect, I remember the beauty of God's vision of community, friendship, and family." – Maddy Graciela

We Are All Missionaries

Rev. Sunday Wu



Since the creation of the world, God has never stopped advancing His mission, and from the creation of the first human, Adam, God has invited His people to participate. Reviewing the origin and history of mission provides a clearer idea of how we can participate in His mission in our generation.

For a long time in church history, the idea of mission seemed limited to sending missionaries abroad for cross-cultural evangelism. However, every missiologist (those specializing in the theology of mission and mission history) will tell us “[t]he word mission derives from the Latin word mitto, ‘to send,’ and missio, ‘sending.’” (Craig Ott, *Encountering Theology of Mission*, p.xiv). The word simply means “sending.” By learning the meaning of the word, we discover that our Lord Jesus Christ sends all who call themselves Christians to the mission field in Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8.

In addition to knowing the origin of mission, we should also study its history. Most scholars accept that mission in the Old Testament was centripetal. That is, people needed to go to Israel — a centralized location or community to learn about God. In the New Testament, the mission movement shifted to a centrifugal movement — the source where people could learn and receive the gospel message was decentralized. Many far-flung mission centres were established.

A few years ago, Dr. James Hudson Taylor IV shared the idea of a new mission movement at ECBC — from anywhere to everywhere. Since our Lord Jesus Christ sends every Christian to the mission field, and our communities are culturally diverse, everyone can participate in cross-cultural mission by walking across the street to knock on a neighbour’s door.

Further, the internet gives each of us broad opportunities to share the gospel. Our prayer is that every member of ECBC will respond to our Lord’s calling to be His global missionary.

Missionaries We Support

- George Barathan, Operation Mobilization Canada: his team focuses on “bringing hope and encouragement for ‘war widows’ in the north of Sri Lanka.”



Pastor George Barathan and his wife Mrs. Janet Barathan

- Andrew & Stephanie Williamson, Power to Change: Andrew leads and coaches campus ministries in Calgary.



“Power to Change ” Missionaries Andrew & Stephanie Williamson’s family

- Huem Ohm Young, Africa Leadership: his team builds up churches (especially children’s churches), schools, seminary and Bible college, with a focus on South Africa.

- Jessica Chu, OMF Japan: provides professional counselling for Japanese couples and families.



Jessica Chu missionary and her Japanese friend.

Missions Organizations We Support

- Far East Broadcasting Associates of Canada (FEBC): broadcasts gospel messages to tens of thousands of people in 150 languages.
- Chinese Christian Mission Canada (CCM): equips Chinese-speaking Christians for personal evangelism and publishes gospel material.
- Lighthouse Harbour Ministries: has served the Lord among seafarers since 1981.
- MSI Canada Christian Missions Society: mobilizes Christian professionals to serve the holistic needs of the people of inland China.
- Ascent Mission Canada (AMC): helps build churches overseas, sends short-term missionaries from Canada and helps mission organizations to raise funds.
- Overseas Chinese Bible Fellowship: provides ministry for and outreach to the Chinese speaking community, publishes Christian 'Search' magazines, and runs character-building children's programs.
- Missions Central (the organization behind Missions Fest Vancouver): provides churches with resources, seminars, and conferences about missions.
- Great Commission Media Ministry (GCM): uses

mass media to raise interest in the gospel, share local Christians' personal testimonies, and offer home visitation.

- International China Concern (ICC): as one of the few charitable organizations recognized by the Chinese government, cares for abandoned special-needs children, support and equip families with special-needs children, and empower independent living.
- Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism Canada (CCCOWE): researches mission trends, connects churches and gospel organizations, and provides resource-sharing platforms.
- Alpha Ministries Canada: provides free outreach video courses that empower churches and individuals for personal evangelism.
- Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada (BGEAC): one of the world's largest and most influential evangelical organizations.

Local Organizations We Support

- AWANA International Canada: empowers local churches with biblical, relevant, easy-to-use discipleship programs for children.
- Joy Fellowship: a church for physically challenged people.
- Our Daily Bread Ministries Canada: publishes booklets and magazines with gospel messages.
- Union Gospel Mission: strives to transform communities by overcoming poverty, homelessness, and addiction – one life at a time.
- ECBC's Home Grown SFU Fellowship: reaches out to Mandarin-speaking students studying at Simon Fraser University.
- ECBC Senior Club: Since its establishment in the year 2000, the Senior Club has been where seniors live out their love for one another in Jesus Christ. That is what makes many mature friends become followers of Jesus Christ. Seniors' physical, mental, and spiritual needs were cared for and built up through the weekly meetings.

ECBC – My Spiritual Home

James Soo

My wife and I have attended ECBC for the last 20 years. We feel blessed to be part of this church community, to be able to worship together with fellow believers. When we immigrated from Singapore 35 years ago and did not have any family members in Canada, finding a place that we can call ‘home’ was important to us. Finding a spiritual home at ECBC has been one of the great blessings we have experienced. The Psalmist wrote of what it is like to find our spiritual home (Psalm 84 NIV).

How lovely is your dwelling place,

Lord Almighty!

2 My soul yearns, even faints,

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh cry out

for the living God.

3 Even the sparrow has found a home,

and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may have her young—

a place near your altar,

Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

they are ever praising you.

What is life like for us at ECBC? We have many happy memories here. We have been enriched by the activities we have participated in and have enjoyed the diversity of gifts and company of the many volunteers who have stepped up to serve and participate. The photographs in this publication capture a glimpse of life here.

I believe each person has been placed at ECBC by God for a purpose. Some came to know the Lord at our church. Many have grown in their faith. Some were new to Canada or needed to find a place of rest – and they

found a community of believers who encouraged and strengthened them in their time of need. As I learned and grew in my faith, I found purpose and meaning in helping others to grow in the faith. For this reason, I have chosen to lead Life Groups and to share testimonies of my faith on different occasions. It is this passing on of our faith that is one of the benefits of worshipping together as a community at ECBC.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka,

they make it a place of springs;

the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

7 They go from strength to strength,

till each appears before God in Zion.

Beyond community life, ECBC is also a place where I have experienced God. I have felt the miraculous and divine hand of God in my personal life and business. I share this as an encouragement to all that you too will meet God in the community we consider our spiritual home. I thank the pastoral staff and ministry leaders who have served as God’s ‘doorkeepers’. They have welcomed those whom the Lord brings, and care for and protect the members of our spiritual household. I encourage those whom the Lord calls to also step up and serve in ministries as servant leaders and ‘doorkeepers’.

Better is one day in your courts

than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Happy 50th Anniversary, ECBC!

The Joy of Serving in Children's Ministry

Chris Zhan



August 2018: VBS SonCastle worship team

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14 NIV).

This is a familiar verse and certainly a message that Pastor Janice Chan and the Sunday School team embody as they serve the community of children at ECBC. Truthfully, every program that is run by the children's ministry has a significant impact on the children. As testimony to this, one of my earliest memories is of Pastor Phil and Janice running a summer series session—an hour of Sunday School for kids of all ages. I was only a toddler, and therefore hardly understood the presentation. However, this meant that the idea of a loving God was not foreign by the time I grew old enough to understand who Jesus is and what He has done for me. It was because of my inspiring experiences in Sunday School that I chose to become a volunteer with ECBC's children's ministry and give back to the community that taught me so much.

My Sunday mornings were spent happily with Sunday

School teachers. Stories about Moses and Jesus' parables were packed with important lessons I could apply immediately. One of the most memorable lessons I recall was from my Grade 5 class. I remember constructing a piggy bank out of paper mache. It was an object lesson in which the piggy bank represented our gift to God, and anything we put in represented our 'talents'. Essentially, we were to give our talents to God as service to Him. It was both a fun activity that engaged all my effort and attention, and a powerful lesson that sticks with me to this day.



A Fresh Perspective

Hannah Yang

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a very different year, and it prompted a shift in my spiritual life.

Before the lockdown, my relationship with God was not awesome. While I read my Bible daily, skimming through a Psalm could not be considered meditating on the word of God day and night (Joshua 1:8, NIV). My prayer life was shallow. Prayers like “God, use me” scared me. If God asked me to uproot my life, would I really be ready to pull a 180 on things I had worked hard to accomplish? I had so many excuses for prioritizing other things above God’s calling, and there were aspects of my life I did not want God to touch. I had “Jonah moments” when I wanted to flee to the Tarshish in my life rather than follow in obedience.



Packaging surgical caps to donate to hospitals in the Lower Mainland.

Through the pandemic, God removed every source of distraction - with the exception of technology! With school and sports programs suspended and in-person meetings off limits, I could no longer claim to be too busy to read the Bible or use the “social awkwardness” card to escape evangelism. God revealed new ways to engage with those who are not yet believers and to encourage brothers and sisters through video chats and social media. In my personal walk, I started to take time spent

with God seriously and to digest the Bible. Practical tools included highlighting and reading passages aloud, jotting down questions, memorizing verses, and thinking about what I read throughout the day. The Holy Spirit convicted me of my sin and provided guidance in making sense of God’s word. Confined to home, I could no longer hide. The pandemic was like the big fish that swallowed Jonah. As Jonah did, I started to pray for boldness and courage, and to be led by the Spirit and produce fruit - for my friends, family, fellowship, church, and the world. The more time spent in prayer, the more renewed and less burdened I felt. As I witnessed the Lord answer by changing someone I was praying for or providing an opportunity to share His love, I felt joy.

I guess the time I spent in lockdown was like the three days Jonah prayed in the fish’s belly. As we reopen to a new normal, as we are vomited onto the shores of Nineveh, are we going to follow God’s call, whatever it might be...to bring the gospel to our school or workplace, to care for the lonely? Will we seek God earnestly, carry our cross and pay the cost of following Christ - be it our time, money, desires, or schedules? I believe this pandemic had a purpose. God taught me about priorities and the temporary nature of worldly things. When life again throws distractions our way, my prayer is that we recall lessons learned, treasure seeing each other and meeting at church, and not forget how God has worked in our lives. Let us walk with God every day - devoting ourselves to prayer and meditation on His word. Let us pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness – fight the good fight of the faith – and take hold of the eternal life to which we were called (1 Timothy 6:11-12).



Writing Bible verse cards to send to people.

Chronicle of Major Events

First Decade (March 1972 - 1982)

1972

- March 5: Rev. John Sun led ECBC's first Sunday Service

1973

- April: established a Board of Deacons and church choirs

1974

- Established College Fellowship and Young Life Fellowship for students in grades 7-12
- Held first family summer conference

1975

- Established Joseph Fellowship for young adults
- Rev. John Sun's family relocated from Seattle to Vancouver
- Pastor. Paul Wang joined ECBC
- Purchased church building at 611 E. 50th Ave., Vancouver, and neighbouring white house

1976

- Held first Vacation Bible School

1977

- Established Explorers for Sunday School students ages 8-14 to provide physical and creative activities

1979

- Established a Mandarin School; established Zion Fellowship

1980

- Christmas evangelistic musical: "Night of Miracles"
- Held first youth winter conference

1982

- 10th anniversary celebration; ordination ceremony for Rev. Paul Wang

held regular evangelistic meetings and supported many missionaries and mission organizations

Second Decade (March 1982 - 1992)

1984

- Expanded evangelism and caring ministries as the congregation grew during years of major immigration; purchased the neighbouring green house
- Chinese and English congregations each held two-night Christmas praise concerts

1986

- George Wong joined ECBC team

1987

- March: installed Johnny Lieuson, David Dychinco, Wayne Ren as elders

1988

- Held a "Walk thru the New Testament" lecture
- Zion and College Fellowships joined for leadership training at winter conference

1989

- Pastor Agnes Chang joined ECBC's pastoral team

1990

- Established a building committee to work on new church building project
- Christmas outreach musical: "In the First Light" - English Choir

1991

- Sept.: acquired site on SE Marine Dr, Burnaby for the new church building

**annual Vacation Bible School, Children Prayer Retreat,
Youth Camp, and Young Adult Retreat**

1992

- 20th anniversary celebration; ordination ceremony for Rev. George Wong
- Janice Chan began work at ECBC
- Short term missions to: N. Thailand refugee camps, Holy Word Children's Home, Kazakhstan, Montreal QC, Nigeria, Malibu BC, Young Life CA

- Christmas outreach drama production: "One More Chance"

1993

- Evangelistic meeting led by Rev. George Shen: "Who Holds Your Future?"
- 21st anniversary: ground-breaking ceremony at new building site
- 80 volunteers distributed 1000 copies of "Jesus" video
- Mission awareness week with Rev. Luis Bush, focus: "The 10/40 Window"
- Christmas outreach musical: "Love's Pure Light" - English Choir

1994

- Short term missions to: Commonwealth Games, Victoria BC, Guatemala, Japan
- First congregational "open house" at new church building under construction

1995

- Feb. 5: 1st Sunday worship in new church building
Special Guests: Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, David Lam & Heavenly Melody
- Short term missions to: Russia, Mexico, Turkey/Azerbaijan, N American West Coast
- Chinese congregation: installation ceremony for Rev. Stephen Ho and Rev. Joseph Hsu
- Christmas outreach drama: "I'll Be Home for Christmas"

1996

- Hosted inter-church youth rally: "Face to Face, Are You Ready?"
- Installed Joseph Yui as elder

1997

- George Beverly Shea and Kurt Kaiser concert and banquet
- Established Children's Choir
- Planted branch churches in Surrey and Coquitlam
- Summer conference at Cedar Springs, Sumas with Rev. Wendell Grout
- Christmas musical drama outreach: "The Unexpected Guest" - combined choirs
- Equipping Bible Institute was established

1998

- Christmas musical drama outreach: “The Gift”
- Pastor Kip Morris joined ECBC’s pastoral team

1999

- Power to Change training session: Door to Door Visitation
- Easter musical: “The Hope”
- First Sunday worship service at ECBC Richmond branch
- Started Awana children’s ministry

2000

- Installed Edwin Shu, Cary Chien, Danny Siu as elders
- Easter musical: “Esther”
- An expository study: “Genesis 1-11...In the Beginning” by Dr. Vern Steiner
- Short term mission to India
- Christmas outreach musical drama: “I’ll Be Home for Christmas”
- Pastor Simon Lukman and Pastor Mark Rajan joined ECBC’s pastoral team

2001

- Marriage preparation seminar series launched

**annual Vacation Bible School, summer youth camps
and young adult retreats**

Fourth Decade (March 2002 - 2012)

2002

- Mission awareness night
- 2nd Senior Pastor installation : Rev. Paul Wang
- Children’s musical outreach: “Toys and Treasures”
- Youth weekend
- Children’s Sunday School “Praise and Pray” event

2003

- Co-workers and youth leadership retreats
- June: Church-wide prayer meeting

- Family summer conference
- Rev. Victor Koh and Pastor Angela Lee joined ECBC’s pastoral team

2004

- 32nd anniversary celebration: message delivered by Dr. David Hocking
- Good Friday: Church-wide prayer meeting
- Children’s choir outreach: “Fish Tale”

2005

- Creative gallery display
- Sept.: children’s ministry dedication Sunday
- Christmas outreach musical drama: “The Promise”

2006

- Children’s Prayer Retreat (CPR)
- July 30: Friendship Day picnic
- Winter conference

2007

- Children’s Prayer Retreat (CPR) for grades 4-6
- Focus on the Family seminar: “Parenting Matters”
- Rev. Daniel Ee joined ECBC’s pastoral team

2008

- Christmas play
- Pastor Jacob Park joined ECBC’s pastoral team

2009

- College Fellowship retreat
- Inter- fellowship volleyball tournament
- Family summer conference
- Pastor Philip Yee joined ECBC’s pastoral team
- ECBC carnival
- Rev. Albert Baerg and Pastor Josephine Wong joined ECBC’s pastoral team

2010

- Mother’s Day: children’s dedication service

2011

- Pray-Se night (concert of prayer)
- Summer retreat
- Christmas banquet

2012

- Combined 40th anniversary service
- Installed Bridget Lang and Frank Hou as elders

**annual Vacation Bible School, summer youth camps
and young adult retreats**

Fifth Decade (March 2012 - 2022)

2013

- 41st anniversary celebration in the gym
- Pastor Christopher Chu joined ECBC's pastoral team
- Mission trip to Cambodia

2014

- Equipping Bible Institute (EBI): Apologetics
- Young adults joined the Greater Vancouver Revival Meeting
- Mission trip: Poverty Revolution, Cambodia
- 3rd Senior Pastor installation: Rev. Stephen Ho
- Rev. Arthur Howard joined ECBC's pastoral team

2015

- Mission fest: "Across the Street / Around the World"
- 43rd anniversary celebration: message delivered by Rev. James Taylor
- Oct. children's fair

2016

- 4th Senior Pastor installation: Rev. George Wong
- Mission fest: "Missions: Doing or Being"
- Children's dedication class and dedication service
- Oct. children's fair

2017

- Hosted inter-church youth rally

- 45th church anniversary celebration
- Installed Jian Ping Jiang as elder
- Pastor Bo Li joined the Chinese pastoral team
- Short term mission trip to Cambodia

2018

- Mission fest: "What is the Gospel?"
- Work and Worship seminar
- Equipping Bible Institute (EBI) lessons

2019

- Young adult / youth Great Vancouver revival meeting with Dr. Stephen Lee
- Marriage night
- Supported International China Concern's "Walk the Wall"
- Hosted OMF's "Heart for Asia" conference
- Autumn Festival celebration; Christmas banquet

2020

- Pastor Clark Song, Pastor Iris Leung joined the Chinese pastoral team
- Ordination ceremony for Rev. Christopher Chu, Rev. Philip Yee
- Evangelistic rally for young adults
- Apologetics Canada special speaker: Andy Steiger
- Mission fest: "Altar Vision"
- Mar. 22: due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions all worship services, life groups, and fellowships transitioned to virtual / online gatherings

2021

- Mission fest: "Grow, Create, Serve"
- Ordination ceremony for Rev. Sunday Wu, Rev. Bo Li
- Apologetics Canada special speaker: Andy Steiger
- Easter drive-thru art show: "The Way of the Cross"
- Online youth conference: "Recharge"
- 121st Baptismal service on Dec.
- Combined Christmas Day service

**annual Children's Prayer Retreat, Vacation Bible
School, summer youth camps and young adult retreats**

Knowing Our Home?

1. How many people attended the first ECBC Sunday service on March 5, 1972?
2. How many people were baptized in ECBC's first baptismal service on July 30, 1972?
3. As of the end of 2021, how many baptismal services has ECBC held?
4. In these past 50 years, how many people have been baptized at ECBC?
5. As of right now, how many full-time staff members are at ECBC?
6. In total, how many VBS's has ECBC hosted?
7. As of right now, how many fellowships does ECBC have?
8. Which ECBC fellowship is the oldest?
9. Which year did the AWANA program begin at ECBC?
10. Which year did the ECBC congregation start worshipping at the current building?
11. Which year did ECBC purchase its first shuttle bus?
12. In total, as of right now, how many shuttle buses does ECBC have?
13. In total, how many parking spaces are in ECBC's parking lot?
14. How many streetlights are in the ECBC parking lot?
15. What is the room number for ECBC's library?
16. As of right now, how many books are in ECBC's library?
17. How many pews are in ECBC's sanctuary?
18. In the entirety of ECBC, how many pianos are there?
19. How many square feet is ECBC's building composed of?
20. In the entirety of ECBC's staircases, how many steps are there in total?
21. What is the colour of the cross on ECBC's roof?
22. How many rooms are there in ECBC's basement?
23. How many basketball nets are in the ECBC gym?
24. Around the church, which walls contain a Bible verse (in both Chinese and English)? Which Bible verses are they?
25. Both in the interior and exterior of the church, how many faucets are there?
26. Which Bible stories are replicated on the stained glass in the chapel?
27. How many doors in ECBC can lead to the outside of the church?
28. How many washrooms are there in ECBC?

Knowing Our Home ~ Answer Key

1. 54
2. 5
3. 121
4. 1721
5. 13
6. 41
7. 14
8. Caleb Fellowship
9. 1999
10. 1995
11. 1974
12. 3
13. 310
14. 24
15. #303
16. Around 5,900 books
17. 124 pews
18. 11 pianos
19. 53694
20. 334
21. White
22. 18
23. 6
24. Basement — YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
25. East Side — YOU ARE MY WITNESSES
- 26.
27. 7
28. 10

East Side :
Matthew 28:19
 Therefore go and make disciples
 of all nations, baptizing them in
 the name of the Father and of
 the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

East Side :
Thessalonians 4:16
 For the Lord himself will come
 down from heaven, with a loud
 command, with the voice of the
 archangel and with the trumpet
 call of God.

West Side :
John 1:1
 In the beginning was the Word.

West Side :
Exodus 20:11
 For in six days the Lord made
 the heavens and the earth, the
 sea, and all that is in them.