



# CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT



30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



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# **Happy 30th Anniversary**

**By Rev. Patrick Lok**

*Praise and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we find life and have it to the fullest as He blesses us with His great joy and peace. Indeed our Lord is worthy to be praised and we are reminded of this as we celebrate thirty years of His presence in the midst of the CCCV community.*

2014 is our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is a celebration of God's goodness and faithfulness for the past thirty years. I celebrate with the founders and the founding pastor Rev. Joshua Mak as well as all the members, leaders and pastors who have put their trust in God and seen Him provide faithfully all these years. It is also a time for us all to gather together, in thanksgiving as well as in prayer, as we pledge our faith in God and look to Him for guidance and direction in the years to come. As much as it is about what God has done for us in the past, we must remember that our God is not only the God of the past and present, He is also the God of the future. Thus may I lead CCCV to whole-heartedly seek God in the midst of all our celebrations so that we will set our hearts to walk together, united as one body, along the path God has planned for us, from 2014 until Christ comes again.

From its beginnings as a traditional ethnic Chinese Cantonese speaking church located in the city, CCCV has moved on to owning its own property in Nunawading. After renting facilities at Loyal Orange House and the beautiful Anglican church building at Wynnstay Road, Armadale, prayers were answered when we purchased the buildings at our current location. While we give thanks for the provision of the property, we are also in awe of God's wisdom as he placed us centrally within an extended area where a large population of Asians live. Most wonderfully, there is a growing young population settling in the suburbs from Boxhill to Ringwood along the Eastern corridor. To the original Cantonese speaking congregation is added a vibrant English speaking congregation of more than one hundred worshippers. The most recent addition to CCCV is the Mandarin congregation. Each Sunday, four separate services at different times cater to the different language needs. In addition, numerous ministries targeting different groups run throughout the week.

The 30th anniversary is also a good time to mark the transition of leadership from the founding generation of members to the younger generation comprising of their children and

new blood. Out from the younger generation, we celebrate CCCV's first home-grown intern pastor. As intern pastor, Jonathan Wong continues to prepare himself by developing a strong evangelical theological foundation through his studies at the Melbourne School of Theology. Hands-on learning comes from his involvement in the running of LifeSpring, particularly the youth and focus on the young adults. We look forward to his leadership full time upon his graduation. We are thankful to God that He has kept the different generations together and provided for succession in the church.

In order to follow God's heartbeat for the lost, CCCV's mission committee was formed in 2004 to develop a missions and outreach program for the church. Work on the church's mission policy paper begun and soon after, a church wide mission conference was held on the premises in Armadale. As many as twenty organisations took part with morning services dedicated to missions. Mission speakers preached, as well as conducted afternoon seminars. Unknown to us back then, it was the wonderful start to exciting events in the years to come.

While the younger members were encouraged to take part annually in outreach and mission activities such as Beach Mission and short term missions, it was in 2009 that CCCV's in-house organised mission trip took place. A total of thirty three members from both Cantonese and LifeSpring congregations took part as three teams. Each team had a separate itinerary and mission program. The ministry partners in Thailand were Ps. Daniel Loo, Gateway ministry and John and Denise Dickson. Since then teams have returned to Thailand twice, in 2011 and 2013, as well as to China in 2012. Other members have joined mission organisations to serve in overseas cross-cultural ministry ranging from 6 weeks to a year. Carmen (China), Lauren (Indonesia), Candy (Kyrgyzstan) and Enoch (Turkey) were some of those who went overseas.

On the local front, much effort has been put into reaching out to the local community. Door knocks, Christmas events, as well as day trips to Bendigo took place. In 2013, CCCV was instrumental in initiating the Victoria wide Activate Missions Resource Conference, with many of our church members helping in the organisation and running of the events. We continue to ask God to place in our hearts the great desire to reach out with His Gospel of salvation, so that as salt and light, CCCV will shine bright and lead many into the safe waters of our Saviour's love.

It is our hope that CCCV will continue to actively and intentionally disciple our members, teaching them to faithfully submit themselves, as living sacrifices to the Lord, as their act of

worship and moving them towards complete obedience to the One Almighty God. Thus we remind ourselves with CCCV's mission statement;

信 三一真神  
望 萬民得救  
愛 每個靈魂  
教導眾人作主門徒，一生愛主愛人

CCCV is a community of believers who love God and are passionate about making disciples for Christ in our generation.

The future looks bright for CCCV as our community grows. While growth brings forth more challenges and new needs, these are welcomed challenges. We will remember that in Christ all things are possible as we learn to rely on His strength and guidance.

May I encourage everyone to unite as one body knowing that each one of us is an important and significant part of the body and has an active part to play. Let us all then contribute with whatever giftings and abilities we have, to build up the body of Christ. May we continue to encourage, challenge and journey together with each other until we all grow up in unity into mature Disciples of Christ who is our Head.

I wish every CCCV member a very happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and may our Lord continue to bless you, may Our Lord move in and through you. May He equip you to continue with His work that CCCV will shine brightly in Nunawading and beyond, becoming a beacon that will lead many to come to know the loving and compassionate God who desires to call them into His Kingdom family.

Soli Deo. For His glory only!

# **2013 Report from the Deacons Board**

**By Patrick Poon**

## **Leadership Team**

- Pastoral Search Committee was set up in January to seek a suitable Minister to replace Rev Lim who left in July. There were four applicants and a couple of recommendations since the position was advertised in May. After careful assessment, they did not satisfy the prerequisites of CCCV. The Committee continues to look for a suitable Minister through various avenues.
- Maxi Kwan decided not to renominate as deacon upon expiry of his term. On behalf of the church, the Board would like to express our appreciation for his faithful service.
- Simon Pang, Irwin Hau, Jane Chiu, Alex Goh, Ida Lau, Anissia Keung and Patrick Poon continued their term for another year. Timmy Ngai was elected as a new Deacon.
- The Deacons Board agreed that Rev Lok will get involved more in the pastoral care of the Chinese Congregation. Jonathan Wong and Catherine Lok will take up additional responsibilities in LifeSpring to relieve Rev Lok.
- The Pastoral Team was established in April. Its responsibilities include: setting the vision and direction of the Church, monitoring the spiritual growth of the members and discipleship. The team members are Rev Patrick Lok, Jonathan Wong, Alex Wong, Simon Pang, Timmy Ngai and Patrick Poon. Rev Joshua Mak was invited to be the Advisor.
- The Pastoral Team has reviewed and developed a revised Vision and Mission of CCCV for the next three years: Build, Engage, Serve. Rev. Lok shared with the leaders of LifeSpring, Cantonese and Mandarin congregations about the Church Vision and Directions and obtained valuable feedbacks.

## **Ministries**

### **Chinese Congregation**

- As of February, a special prayer meeting is held in the morning of the third Saturday of every month. Apart from praying for God's provision of a suitable Minister, we also pray for the leaders, church ministries and members. In October and November, members were encouraged to have a day of prayer and fasting once a week for these items.
- A "Parenting" forum was organised on two Sundays in April. Thirty people attended with a very positive response.
- In July, the Sunday School started a special session called "Theology and Daily Life" on the second Sunday of each month.
- In August, two baptism classes were conducted by Pastor Marke Leong for Cantonese and Dr. Bill Wu for Mandarin respectively and two members were baptized in November.

- Rev. Lok conducted a sharing session on “Christians’ Response to Homosexuality” in September. The materials were based on the same topic given by Dr Jason Ong to LifeSpring in July. The main focus was to clarify the position of our Church in relation to homosexuality and how we, as Christians, deal with people with such behaviour based on teachings from the Bible.
- A combined Thanksgiving dinner was held at Church on 14<sup>th</sup> December. The turnout was good and the participants enjoyed the program and sharing.
- A couple of working bee days were organised by the Property Management Team. A big thank you for those who participated.

Mandarin Congregation --- refer to separate report by Alex Wong.

### LifeSpring

- The LifeSpring camp was held on 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> March. The Theme was “How to be a 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian”.
- Dr Jason Ong was invited to give a talk on “A Christian’s response to Homosexuality” in July.
- A special talk on “Science and Faith” was conducted by Alex Wong in August.
- A pre-marital counselling course conducted by Rev Lok commenced in November with 3 couples.
- There were 6 children who participated in the Infant Dedication service held on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Outreach & Mission**

- A combined outreach activity by LifeSpring and the Chinese Congregation of delivering Christmas gifts to our neighbors was well received in general.
- One member went on a mission trip to Kyrgyzstan for 2 months.
- 6 young people joined Student Life Beach Mission in November.
- A Car Boot Sale/Bake Sale to raise funds for Thailand Missions was held in November.
- 19 people went on a short term mission trip to Phrao in December. The trip was organized by Gospel Operation International (GOI). They worked with a team of 10 people from Sydney.
- A small team of 5 went on a “Mission Awareness Trip” organized by the Mission Committee.



# **Growing Old with CCCV**

**By Catherine Lok**

*Indeed I thank God for bringing me into this community when CCCV had just celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and now allowing me to celebrate CCCV's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with families and friends who have journeyed with our family for the last fifteen years.*

Seeing God's hand upon the twenty or so young people whom we met while they were in high school or university brings great joy to my heart. As our family participates in CCCV's ministry in LifeSpring, these young people have grown and many have gone on to be married couples and even parents of a couple of kids. Today LifeSpring is blessed with a maturing community both in terms of their age as well as their knowledge of God and their Christian walk with God. Growth comes with differing needs. As such, besides having teams taking care of the Sunday service, we have developed ministries for different groups in the church. Numbered amongst these are: Junior church for primary school children, Remix for high schoolers, LifeGroups for university students and young adults.

For the past year and a half, a young parents life group was formed to meet the needs of the growing number of young parents in the congregation. Adding 'tools' to their parenting toolbox to develop healthy, God centred families was the goal of our ministry (Deuteronomy 6: 6-8). In a relaxed atmosphere which sometimes can be chaotic with 6 toddlers and a few babies, the young parents come together to fellowship over God's Word, encouraging and learning from each other's personal experiences. Many have enjoyed coming to these meetings for the friendship and common bond in Christ in this particular season in their lives.

By the time this anniversary booklet is printed, LifeSpring would have launched another new ministry based on Titus 2:3-5. *Cherished* - launched on the 10th May 2014, is a ministry created uniquely for women only. As older women are called to model faith and mentor younger women, *Cherished* is a platform for the different generations of women at LifeSpring to interact, fellowship and get to know each other better. Building upon relationships, young women and older women are encouraged to seek assistance and spiritual insight from each other, so that eventually every woman at LifeSpring will be both a disciple and a discipler. Events are planned with the aim of growing our relationship with

God and others, developing our spiritual gifting for use in God's kingdom and living a Godly life.

Please pray with us that CCCV will continue to grow by doing God's work in God's strength so that many will be drawn into the kingdom, seeing our good deeds and praising our Father in heaven.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

## **Thanksgiving**

**By Jono Wong**

*I have been in CCCV my whole life. For as long as I can remember I have been running down the hallways of either the Loyal Orange House church, the church on the corner of Orrong and Wynnstay Rds and now, our church home in Nunawading. Over the years I have seen the experience of going to church on Sunday go from being a routine, to being a chore and finally a joy.*

Although there have been many things which have contributed to my experiences over the 29 years that I have been a part of the CCCV church family, the one that I treasure the most would have to be the lifelong friendships that I have made throughout this journey. To have people who genuinely care about your well-being and you as a person, regardless of what you may have done is something very rare and something to be cherished. Over the many years, I have had a lot of highs but also some lows. I am so thankful that during the highs, I had people that I could celebrate and laugh with. I am also equally thankful, if not more thankful that during the lows, there were people there to comfort me and to pick me back up off my feet. During those times where I considered leaving the church, it was the impact of those within the church community that made me stay. Having a church family is something that is so important to me and something that I am eternally thankful for. That and knowing, as I look around at my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, that there is something far better on the horizon to come for us as we continue to faithfully serve our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are going home, but for now, CCCV truly is a place where I feel at home.

# **What I Love About CCCV**

**By Enoch Chiu**

*“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth”.*

I still remember learning those words back in Junior Church, over 15 years ago when I was a little boy with a cool mushroom haircut and no idea of what it meant to worship God. All these years later, I am so grateful that we were taught John 4:24 as kids, and for all the hard work of countless aunties and leaders who laboured week after week to teach us about God.

I am incredibly blessed to have been a part of CCCV my whole life, growing up in a community with friends and family who have supported and encouraged me these last 21 years. The joyful sacrifice of so many individuals in the church is inspirational, from uncles and aunties who tirelessly wash the dishes in the kitchen every week to our pastors and deacons. Growing up in CCCV has made me treasure this church as my family, with brothers and sisters beside me whom I have laughed, cried and occasionally showered with. Over the years I've seen God continually pour out his blessings upon this church and to realise that we've reached 30 years together is just an incredible thought.

The thing I love most about our church is our passion for mission. The church is here for the glory of God, and the greatest way we can glorify Him is to make His name known to all peoples. My prayer is that we would be a people captivated by the gospel and consumed with a passion for reaching the lost. As we understand what Christ has done for us on the cross, may we be compelled to faithfully witness for Him not just into our schools and workplaces, but in some of the hardest-to-reach places on earth, where people are desperate to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. There are millions, if not billions of people around the world who need to hear that there is a God we must worship in spirit and in truth. One day, there will be a multitude of people so great that even our many accountants would not be able to number them, all of them worshipping God together, and I long for every person in CCCV to be a part of reaching that multitude for the glory of God. Praise God, because He is using our church to bring that day closer!

# **CCCV Family and God at Work**

## **By Nick Kovac**

I'm thankful for my time at CCCV because I think God has used it (and is still using it) to shape me as a person. It's always encouraging for me to see people's genuine love for others, and I pray that God can keep developing that same love in me too.

## **By Connie Kovac**

I think it's great that this group of people, who are part of the Body of Christ, has stayed together through the ups and downs over the past 30 years. I have learnt almost all I know about Jesus through church and the relationships that have been built up over the years. I'm thankful that it's a place where we're continually reminded about the love of God and also a place where we are challenged to step out in faith and live out His will.

## **By Wendy Goh**

It is difficult to believe that I have been at CCCV for over 10 years now. I truly believe that I didn't choose CCCV, but it chose me, because this was what God intended for me. Whilst it has not always been an easy ride or bed of roses at church, this year as CCCV turns 30, I can appreciate what it has done for me. What it has meant for me is that CCCV has been a family to me that has shown me love and grace, sometimes when I don't even deserve it. This truly blows my mind and shows me God is at work. Jesus told His disciples, "love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-34).

I believe CCCV is showing the world we are His disciples, by the love that we give each other. I am so thankful that CCCV is living this out!

### **By Arthur and Joyce Chuang**

We are not regular attendees of CCCV but we were introduced to our Life Group by one of the members through work. We hadn't been in Melbourne long having just moved from Queensland and had very few friends. The Life Group and its members have made us feel very welcomed and allowed us to be part of the family, which consists of mainly couples at a similar life stage as us. This allowed us to share and communicate issues and problems specific to our stage of life while learning to deepen our relationship with God and remind us to place God back into the centre of our often busy lives. We also have made lifelong friends which has made our move to Melbourne that much more fulfilling. God really is all knowing and a great provider!

### **By Henry Ng**

I am thankful for our founders who held on to the truth and doctrine in establishing CCCV. It was something I did not understand as a child but appreciate a lot more now. I am also thankful for everyone involved in developing the English ministries, from there being Sunday school only.

### **By Grace Lok**

I can still remember the very first day I walked through the dauntingly huge doors of the Armadale church. I had been to many churches before but for some reason this church proved to be the most unnerving. Perhaps it was because I knew I would be attending CCCV every Sunday, or because the room was solemn and dark or maybe even because I couldn't understand other languages.

However, never would I have been able to imagine how much I would come to love this church and the people that make it CCCV. Never would I have been able to imagine how much God would use the people in this church to help me grow as a Christian.

CCCV is more than a building that I call my church, it is group of fellow Christians that I know I can count on to encourage and support me whilst we journey together on our Christian walk. Throughout all the camps, fun, youth groups, mission trips and fellowship, CCCV has become my family.

# **God is Faithful**

**By Gavin Lee**

I want to share something I have experienced in the last few months. Our God is the God who provides whatever you need; our God is the God who knows you the most, our God is the God who loves you more than yourself.

I graduated in 2012 in Melbourne, and have been looking for a job for ages. I have been waiting, and praying for a year without any success. Finally in August 2013, I received an invitation for a Skype interview with a company in Hong Kong. I was in great joy, but one consideration is that I cannot report for work until January 2014 because I have already decided to join the short term mission team in December 2013. At that time I was wondering whether I should tell them about my mission trip to Thailand. What if they did not want to have an interview with me anymore? And I told myself, if God really wants to give me a job, it will be mine so I put things in God's hands. I replied that I can make the Skype interview, but I could not go to Hong Kong until January expecting them not to want to interview me anymore.

However, their reply to me was if I came back in September, they can offer me the job. The job was exciting and related to my field of study and I was really in a great struggle. After a year of waiting, finally there was a job offer. Should I take that job or should I continue my short term mission trip? I wanted to trust God and felt that if this job is what God really wants for me, I will definitely get it. So I replied the company that I wanted to continue with my short term mission trip and asked if they would wait for me. This is how they replied me, "...as our plant commissioning will be in late September / early October, we need staff reporting duty on/before early October so we cannot wait for you. Sorry and if we have vacancy in the future, I will let you know. Thanks...". This was what I expected, I know in my mind God will provide me a job, but I still felt sad, really sad. I know He loves me, but is that what I really trust?

Life goes on, after a really successful short term mission trip in Thailand, and a wonderful holiday in Melbourne, I went back to Hong Kong in January. I contacted the company again to ask if I could have another interview with them. I did not expect them to organize another interview for me, but they actually did. I was in great joy, I praised God and gave thanks. At the interview, the first thing the manager said was "I remembered you; you rejected the job offer before because of a short term mission trip." Then he asked me many really basic technical questions which I couldn't answer. After the interview, I felt hopeless, disappointed and sad, I did blame God because I felt like I could not see His plan and did not know if He wanted me to have a job or not. I lost my faith a bit but life still goes on, and I



still needed to look for a job, and there were not many jobs related to what I have studied available on the market. I did not know what to do and I did not know what my future will be. I know God will look after me, I know He loves me, I know my future is in His hands. I know everything in my head but not what I really trust. I was afraid, it felt pointless, I did not know what my future would be.

In the midst of all this, I received a job offer from the company. Unbelievable! How amazing was that, everything is in His hands, right? I am such a man of little faith, "you of little faith, always afraid" (Matthew. 8:26). This is not the end yet. On my first day at work, I met with the production manager in his room, just the two of us. He asked me which church did I go to and he said the only reason that he chose me was because I am a brother in Christ. He remembered I did reject the interview because of Thailand missions. At that point I surely knew, this is the job God wants me to do. God is always faithful, but I am the one with little faith, I did not fully trust God is with me and looking after me all the time. When I was frustrated, down, tired of looking for jobs and wanted to give up, God was moving in a way I couldn't see and do not know and thought that I am was alone. He is always faithful, but I am of little faith. I was so touched when he said he chose me because I am Christian.

After two weeks of work, I began to know this company is not that great and is always experiencing some failure, faulty and emergency situation. This thought always comes to my mind, "quit this job, get a new one". When I received another job interview from a bigger, more popular company, I really wanted to quit this job. However I am not going for that opportunity, not because I do not want to work in a bigger company or have a better career path or that I am happy with the current company but simply because they chose me. I knew that they had chosen me not because of my ability but because I am a Christian. I struggled a bit when I received the other interview email as a better career path with more money is really tempting. But for now, I just want to be a living testimony for God in the place where He has brought me to. I will stay and work in this company.

I hope what I have experienced will help you in your Christian walk, be an encouragement for you to live out your faith. Do not stay in the stage of just knowing everything, but live out what you know. Everything happens because God wants you to learn something from it or God wants you to see your own weakness. We are humans of little faith but our God is always faithful.

# **It Has Been 30 Years**

**By Ching Way Yap**

*It has been thirty years since CCCV was formally established, so is my spiritual age. When I look back over these thirty years, I cannot help asking myself where am I heading to and what have I done for God?*

On the eve of Easter 1984, one of my classmates introduced Christ to me. The Holy Spirit opened my heart and challenged me that if Christ had lived, died and resurrected, what would you choose? Accept or reject Him. I found that there was actually only one choice. As a result, I accepted Christ as my personal saviour. I then started to join the service at CCCV and the Youth Group. I strongly believe that God had His plan for me when He led me to Australia to study. The most important reason would be to know Him. Secondly, the Youth Group provided me with a strong foundation for my faith, which has kept me serving the Lord for thirty years.

As I was organising the thirtieth anniversary camp, I had a chance to look through a lot of the old photographs of our church, from the very beginning until today. That brought back a lot of memories and I also found that our second generation was springing up fast and they were also having their next generation. Praise the Lord!

What is ahead for CCCV? I do not have a clear vision. However, this reminds me of the book of Deuteronomy where Moses reiterated how the Israelites were brought out of Egypt, a place of slavery, for God had promised them the land of milk and honey. God did that because He had chosen the Israelites to be His witnesses among all the nations. Therefore, Moses proclaimed to the new generation of Israelites all the commandments and laws concerning them on the eve of entering the promised land, so that they would live a life the Lord had commanded them. Should we be reminded about the purpose of our lives on Earth?

As we know, people are forgetful. In the book of Judges, where it says that the people (Israelites) served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived

him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for them. After the passing of that whole generation, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. As the Israelites continued to serve the idols and not their God, they lost the honour of being the chosen people who were to bear witness of God. Their country was taken over by another country and they were taken as captives to Babylon. When the time of exile was up, God raised people like Ezra and Nehemiah who led some of the Israelites back to their homeland and rebuilt Jerusalem. However, not all the Israelites went back. The life of exile was not as bad as people thought especially for the new generations as Babylon was a grand and rich city. Many of them were quite comfortable living in Babylon and had no intention of going back to ruins.

My spiritual life shows some resemblance to the history of Israel. After accepting Christ, it was like being taken out of Egypt to be free from the slavery of sin. However, further training in faith is required. The desert is usually linked to hardship and deprivation; however, God's work and grace are obvious. I thank God that the Youth Group of CCCV had helped me to lay a sound foundation for my Christian faith. There were a group of spiritually more mature young Christians who were willing to sacrifice their time to conduct follow-ups and discipleship training while they were also very busy with their studies. A lot of the brothers and sisters during my time are now serving as pillars of their churches in different places.

When I finished my studies in Australia, I went back home. It seemed that I had gone into Canaan. One thing the Israelites did not do when they entered Canaan was that they did not eradicate all the local people and their idols. They followed the local people and worshipped their idols. Hong Kong is a good place, but is also full of temptation. It is not easy to follow the Lord whole-heartedly. It also makes things harder as my parents are not Christians. It is by God's grace that I was able to hold on to my ground. After having my own family, the crisis deepened as my children, my wife and I were living with my parents. It was so hard to take them to church on Sundays, let alone to talking about using God's Word to teach them. Therefore, I decided to migrate to Australia with the hope of giving my wife and my children the right environment for their spiritual growth.

Although migrating to Melbourne is not comparable to the Babylonian Exile, life in the lucky country makes people complacent just like the new generations of Israelites living in Babylon. Thank God that In His keeping, Anna returned to Christ from her Catholic background, and Benjamin and Anita are growing up healthily. God has also given us

Timothy while we are in Melbourne. We are able to go to church to worship God consistently and to have cell group. The children are learning about God at church.

Through Moses God spoke to the new generation of Israelites about what He had done for them and how they should live their lives on the eve of entering the promised land. In the process of organising this year's church camp and through the recap of the history of CCCV, God has reminded me about His deeds and grace, and spoken to me that I should do more for Him. This is my response to God, but this is not only about myself. I hope our new generation, through learning about our history, can have a better sense of belonging to CCCV and more understanding about the older generation. As parents, if we can step out of our comfort zone, especially the language barrier, and try to participate more in the activities of LifeSpring, I believe, with God's grace, there will be more integration of the different congregations. It has been thirty years, and we are having a series of activities to remember God's keeping and grace. Apart from counting God's blessings, let's build our community together as one, regardless of our background, language and age, and bear witness of God.

If our Lord Jesus is to give us thirty more years before His second coming, how are we going to respond to His grace and calling? "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord".

# **JaM Articles**

## **By Ai Cheng**

Although shy to begin with, my daughter Natasha has come to enjoy and look forward to JaM every Sunday. She often sings the Jam songs at home and proudly brings home her worksheets and crafts. As a parent it is a delight and a joy to see her enjoying learning about Bible stories and singing praise songs, as well as playing with her friends. We really appreciate the dedication and care of all the teachers and helpers and value the Jam ministry.

## **By Jessie Tong**

'It's been a wonderful journey seeing the kids learn more about God in JaM. The program is great fun with singing and instruments, lots of craft work and wonderful storytelling! We are so grateful to the teachers and helpers who make JAM so fun for the kids. Special thanks to Aunty Julia who has made a big impression on our kids - Nathan & SiSi love to visit Aunty Julia at her workplace during the week and sometimes role play at home pretending to be Aunty Julia teaching!'

## **By Candy Ng**

An investigative reporter visited JaM (Jesus and Me) on 16 March 2014 to find out – “What do kids most like about JaM?”...

When the question was posed to little miss Tashi, she responded “singing!” with a wide smile. Six-year old Kelly liked playing with play-dough; her hands covered with bright orange-pinkish dough as she was being interviewed.

For some children, it was too difficult to decide, and Ryan frankly stated that he did not know what his favourite thing about JaM was. Between the singing, playing, stories, crafts and tea-time snacks – who can blame him? Nathan must have had the same feeling because he couldn't choose what his favourite thing about JaM was either.

For Nathan's sister, Sienna, she responded sweetly that what she most liked about JaM was “strawberry jam”. Staying with the food theme, Alena chirped that her favourite thing about JaM was “ice cream!”.

Now JaM is for children between the ages of 3 and 6, but doesn't that just make you wish that we could all attend JaM too?

# **Staying Close**

**By Jane Chiu**

One Sunday in the summer of 1988, at a tram stop near the city, my husband was holding our 6 month old son while I was carrying a back pack full of nappies and baby bottles, waiting for a tram to take us to Queen Victoria Market. By the time we arrived at CCCV in the Loyal Orange House, the service had already started for quite some time - we did not realise that the trams operated only once per hour. That was our first encounter with CCCV.

Twenty six years on, our second son and youngest daughter joined their bigger brother spending their Sundays in CCCV from the day they were born. It was such a privilege that we were able to learn, grow and serve in this church together as a family. There were times we considered moving to another church because of its distance after we settled in the eastern suburbs; however, it had become too difficult for us to detach ourselves from the brothers and sisters we've met in CCCV. Now that the Lord has blessed us with this property in Nunawading and this will be the location we accomplish what our Lord has in plan for us.

We have seen pastors come and go, welcomed new friends and said good-bye to others, experienced the good and the bad days, laughter and sadness. Above all, we have learned that the God we believe and trust in will never leave us, and that He never changes. Again and again, history has proven how much we, as sinners, need Jesus Christ to be our redeemer and saviour.

I believe, as long as we stay close to Him, our Lord is faithful and He will take us through another 30 years with more abundant blessings. He has done it in the past and He will do it in the future. Just stay close!



# **The Pursuit Of Excellence**

**By Tim Leung**

## **Introduction**

A story tells that a little boy named Kong Rong was given a bigger pear to eat. He could have eaten the pear but he would rather let his elder brother eat it. People naturally want to get the best things for themselves. Vincent T. Lombardi says, "The quality of people's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavour." An unknown author also says, "Excellence is best described as doing the right things right---- selecting the most important things to be done and then accomplishing them 100 percent correctly." It is clear then that people would like to lead a quality life, enjoying all the best things, and not to have a poor or insecure life. However, if a person just pursues one or two areas of excellence but neglects or refuses to pursue the other things supposed to be excellent, this person is then not doing all the right things right. So it is not good enough to pursue just one or two, or even three, areas of excellence. What are those areas of excellence then? Out of many areas there are at least five which are more important, in the range of career, comfort, health, relationship and faith. People should try hard to pursue all of them with equal effort and emphases. This essay is written to assess people's intentions and efforts to pursue these areas of excellence and to sort out their strengths and weaknesses as they pursue these.

## **I. Being Successful in Career**

This is the first area of excellence that most people are very keen to pursue, and many of them perform extremely well in their pursuit. The success of their performance is usually measured by how much money each of them earns and accumulates, and if this person has also acquired academic awards it would even be more successful for him or her. Consider the following two reports. The first one tells of an entrepreneur called Wang Hua who is China's 79th richest person, and he flew to Melbourne on his personal jet to buy a property. He has a net worth of A\$400 million. He spent at least A\$20 million to buy a sprawling Toorak estate, which is huge and has many modern amenities. (Note that the richest Chinese person has a personal wealth of Renminbi \$86,000,000,000. Note also that in February 2014 it was also reported in the newspapers that 1.1 million such rich Chinese people will invest their money in Melbourne and elsewhere to buy properties and businesses.) In China nowadays even an ordinary person can become successful in his or her

career. Tao Huabi became very rich by producing a chilli sauce. Her enterprise employs 2,000 workers. The annual sales of this product is R\$2,500,000,000.

The above two reports are indeed amazing to read; yet there are also bad consequences. The rich dramatist Arthur Miller in the 1940s pointed out that the “guilt of success” feeling in a successful person will appear as money continuously flows into his or her pocket, making him or her lack or lose enthusiasm or interest to work and to do other things. Later on this person will even stop pursuing other areas of excellence, for his or her attention has been drawn to the creation of more money. Luckily Mr Miller soon got rid of his “guilty” feeling and re-started his writing career (Sing Tao Daily, 19 November 2013). “There is nothing wrong with people possessing riches. The wrong comes when riches possess people,” Billy Graham points out. Think also of what Jesus says to those rich people pursuing mainly one or two areas of excellence: “A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). Jesus also teaches: Do not let money control a person and make him or her forfeit his or her own life (Luke 9:25).

## **II. Leading a Comfortable Life**

People do eagerly want to pursue this second area of excellence which is to lead a comfortable life. Many of them can get what they want, and they think that leading a life in luxury will surely make them feel more comfortable. They would probably like to live in a big house, drive an expensive car, eat delicate food, and wear fine clothes. However, a person leading a modest or simple life can also lead a comfortable life as long as that person is satisfied with what he or she has and is not demanding. It is because money and goods do not necessarily entail a comfortable life.

A comfortable life is very much sought after by many people but it is not guaranteed that they can always get it. The good days cannot always be with them, for people may sometimes get entangled in harsh circumstances. People will then have to forfeit their preferred life-style. Perhaps there could be something wrong in the process of pursuing a desired comfortable life. They should then listen to what Moses said to the Israelites:

“When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live  
in them.... do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God....

Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand  
have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the Lord your God,

for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant....”(Deuteronomy 8:12-14, 17-18 NRSV)

It is a very valuable lesson for all people, Israelites and other people, to learn. The Israelites forsook God; other people could just overestimate their abilities. It is God who is in control of things and he deserves people's honour and trust for him.

### **III. Possessing Good Health**

Many people know the importance of having good health, and they would make an effort to get it. “He who enjoys good health is rich though he knows it not,” an Italian proverb says. Health therefore is as precious as money or gold. Many people then keep fit by eating and resting well, and by exercising through walking, running, swimming or cycling. A columnist reported on 8 January 2012 that a certain man was exercising in a Hong Kong TV show about ageing. This man looked pretty young, like a 50-year-old fellow. In fact he was already 70, as revealed by the programme host. This “young fellow” admitted that he exercised regularly, not just doing a morning walk but also lifting dumbbells too. Yet there are also lazy people who do not exercise, and they may even develop some bad habits such as smoking and heavy drinking. Besides good physical health, sound mental health is also important. That “young fellow” mentioned above looked optimistic and relaxed too.

Another problem which many people may have is that they tend to be choosy in their daily living. They prefer one thing to another without caring about the consequence. For example, they may either eat too much meat and dairy food, or consume only a small quantity or portion of vegetables and fruit. It should be noted that a balanced diet should include milk, cereals (particularly oats), meat and/or fish, vegetables (such as spinach, broccoli, tomatoes, and carrots) and fruit (all kinds) including nuts and dates. An adequate or suitable consumption of food will definitely give a person good health. Moreover a person with a healthy body and a pure heart or spirit will be indwelt by God's spirit, and certainly such a person can please God (See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Generally this area of excellence has not been pursued in the best manner by many people.

### **IV. Developing a Good Relationship**

This is an area of excellence which many people perform quite disappointingly in their pursuit. Humans are gregarious or social living beings, so they live together and do things together. “The easiest kind of relationship for me is with ten thousand people. The hardest

is with one,” says Joan Baez. This means that it is hard to deal with an individual such as his or her spouse, or parent, or sibling, or boss (even himself or herself). But most people still wish to establish a good relationship with any of them, and want to do it to their best. In reality many people simply cannot achieve this goal, and consequently they suffer as quarrels and disputes very often flare up at home and in the work-place. Sad to say, loved ones become the hated ones, or even enemies. The following two newspaper reports tell what pain people have to bear when their relationship with other people are mucked up.

Lang Hancock was a mining magnate. After his death his daughter Gina Rinehart became Australia’s richest person. She was first married to Greg Milton but the marriage ended eight years later (1973-81). Their children are John and Bianca. Now John Hancock (or rather Milton) accuses his mother Gina Rinehart of acting deceitfully or dishonestly and that she wants to control the family fortune. So John wants to remove his mother as trustee of the multi-billion dollar mining fortune. Fighting back Mrs Rinehart says that her warring children are not suitable to run the trust. However, her first husband Greg Milton points out that she (Gina) either hates him or she favours her second set of children fathered by Frank Rinehart. The court case was to be heard on 1 October 2013 (The Age, 14 September 2013). The next report is similar to the above one. Bob Jane (trade mark: Bob Jane---T-Mart) the tyre tycoon is fighting with his son Rodney who is accused of stealing the family riches. To make things simple, perhaps Bob’s stroke has made him unable to handle his wealth properly. He has had three marriage breakdowns (The Age Good Weekend, 24 August 2013). People must not blame the above two families and their family members. Many people nowadays are more or less like them. Tolerance, forgiveness, openness and love are essential for good relationship to be developed but unfortunately these are sometimes lacking.

## **V. Having Faith in All Matters**

This is the area of excellence which many people do not notice, or do not wish to pursue. It is true that there are many things which people may not know or understand. Anson Cameron writes that many people do not know how things such as TV, quantum physics, a microchip, a jet engine, and others, work, and yet he says he boards a 767 plane in faith (The Age, 7 July 2013). Mr Cameron does not believe in God, for he says, “I don’t have a god,” and he hates people using “God wishes” to deal with things or matters (The Age, 16 March 2014). Yet he chooses to use faith in things he cannot grasp. Mikael Krogerus and Roman Tschappeler also write: “We are increasingly surrounded by ‘black boxes’, complex constructs, that we do not understand even if they are explained to us ....but none the less we integrate their inputs and outputs into our decision-making.... and we simply have to believe” (The Decision Book, p.118). These two authors also suggest the use of faith when

dealing with business ventures, and where decisions have to be made promptly with minimum information (p.34). It is not clear whether these two authors use faith from a Christian perspective or not.

Besides secular matters mentioned above there are also spiritual matters, which are even harder to understand. Consider these spiritual matters in the Christian belief God's creation of things and human beings, destruction of the world by flood, drying up of the Red Sea, and covenants made between God and His people, as recorded in the Old Testament of the Bible. In the New Testament of the same book, spiritual matters such as the virgin birth of Christ, His death to redeem sinners, His resurrection from death, believers to inherit eternal life, are also hard to understand. People will need faith to understand all these matters. Augustine of Hippo points out, "Do not seek to understand in order you may believe, but believe so that you may understand." So people need to have faith in things as well as in God. If people know God and believe in him, then they will probably not lack faith. Yet these people must first need to humble themselves and to overcome their limitations.

## **Final Thoughts**

It can be seen that some areas of excellence are comparatively easy to pursue while the others are not. Because money and goods are not hard to get, the needs of the flesh can easily be satisfied. However the needs of a person's mind or heart will mostly seem not easy to satisfy. It is because a person has to deal with people, and complicated social issues, and that is the difficult part. Many problems will arise and these are usually hard to solve too. Could it be due to spoilt human nature? Regarding the spiritual matters which many people do not know much about, the needs of the soul or spirit in a person would seem even harder to satisfy. Even so, if a person has faith, faith in secular matters and faith in spiritual matters, surely this person will see good outcomes and will also be able to experience God's wonders and beauty as he or she lives. Then God's fulfilment of His promises and the accomplishment of Jesus' redemption work, to name just two, could move this person, making him marvel at these all the time.

# **22 years at LifeSpring**

**By Emmie Keung**

*Before I begin this piece of reflection, allow me to first say a huge thanks to our utmost and highest King who out of His mercy and love for us, redeemed and adopted us into His family and reconciled us to Himself. For me to call myself a church baby is in my opinion, a blessing from God that I was fortunate enough to be born into a Christian family household and to be part of this church family literally throughout my whole life.*

## **1. What has been your most memorable moment for 2014?**

Gosh, it's still quite early into the year and I am anticipating even more memorable moments in 2014. So far, my most memorable moment has been spending the New Year with other brothers and sisters in Christ from CCCV in Thailand with our mission partnership, Gateway. To thank God for 2014 with fellow family members in Christ from Thailand is incredibly surreal and quite indescribable.

## **2. What is your all-time favourite memory at church?**

Wow, this is a tricky tricky question to answer so perhaps I'll use it as an opportunity to share some of my favourite childhood moments at CCCV. A (not so) long time ago, back in the days where CCCV was located in Armadale when Grace, Annie, April and I were children, we spent many Sunday afternoons following Junior Church playing in the backyard. Specifically, we used to invest much time and effort crushing rocks into powder to create our special version of 'paint' and also to our own amusement. Other times, the backyard served as a playing area for all the kids (who are now university students), to play Tag, Donkey, 40 40, Sardines...etc

## **3. What is the most memorable lesson God has taught you at church?**

John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." The realisation of God's love for us and the extent He went to so that we could be saved has changed my perspective of what's important in life.

## **4. What is the most humbling moment that you've experienced?**

These questions certainly don't get any easier now do they? 😊 There are quite a few God-glorifying moments throughout these years at CCCV. This is an ongoing one and I apologise if I sound like a mum. Being one of the Remix youth leaders for the past few years, I've been humbled within this ministry by learning and experiencing the fact that God is always at work in the hearts of this next generation. Seeing them grow and knowing that it is purely because the Spirit is at work, humbles me in the fact that He's given me the opportunity to witness His power and His heart for the world.



**5. What is your favourite missions experience at LifeSpring?**

My favourite missions experience was in 2006 when my youth group/Powerhouse decided to support Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Shoebox. At the time, our leader, Irwin encouraged us to come up with a community project we could do as a group. What stood out to me was the overwhelming support we received from Pat, Aunty Catherine and Irwin when we pitched our idea. The following weeks culminated in weekly announcements, co-ordinating members to find materials to put into boxes, receiving donations and shoeboxes from numerous members of CCCV, with a total amount of 119 shoeboxes. Seeing the wall of the Armadale church lined up with shoeboxes, leftover supplies and an offering box is an image I can clearly recollect. From one of my diary entries, one thing I learnt was how faithful and powerful God is, that He can use little people like us to magnify His light!

**6. What's your reflection upon the changes in LifeSpring past, present and future?**

To sum it up, I'm really thankful to God for His faithfulness to our church. As a child, I didn't imagine that I could be part of God's plan in CCCV. As an adult now, to see His Spirit at work in the hearts of the members in our church is an incredible testimony to His love for us and how real God is. Meeting new members of the church, seeing younger members mature in faith and others stepping into ministry is really encouraging to see. During my university years, I learnt from my own walk with God, what a blessing it is to be given a family in Christ and how important it is for us, to be in a community to spur each other on in our own walk with God. I'm excited to see God continue to use people of LifeSpring to be His light unto the world, to continually be captivated by the gospel and be radical Christians so fervent about seeing the unreached reached!

**7. A word of encouragement from you to the young'uns**

Take every opportunity to find out more about God. Know that you are being prayed for too! ☺ Remember that you are never too young to be used by God. There are many times that God's convicted me through the words or actions of someone younger than me.

# **Journey of a New CCCV Christian**

**By Harry Ta**

Before becoming a Christian and going to CCCV, I was faced with ongoing adversity. Life without God was hard. I still remember many occasions when I've wondered "God, where are you?". In 2011, I met Nick Lok through an engineering competition at university. We became friends and sometime later I asked him about Christianity. I was curious and wanted to *know* God, but I didn't have that heartfelt connection *with* God. 2011 quickly ended and before I knew it 2012 was around the corner. Little did I know that 2012 was the year my life would be transformed and changed forever...

With worsening hardship and struggles with university studies, I lost the will to keep going in 2012. But God had other plans. While I was in hospital in September 2012, God tore down the barriers I had built around me and showed me hope. As if my heart was previously shattered into a million pieces, God put it back together and made me whole again. *When I am weak, He is strong*. In November 2012, I was introduced to CCCV by Nick and attended the outreach service. I still remember the warm welcome I received during my first visit to CCCV. Everyone was so kind and it felt very much like a close family. The outreach service challenged me to surrender my life to Christ. A few days later I did just that and it was then I developed that heartfelt connection with God. My journey as a Christian began.

Reflecting back on where I was before God and now reunited with God, I realise life has taken a complete turn for the better and it couldn't have been possible without first and foremost God and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at CCCV. I will always be grateful for the time fellow Christians have given up to support me through the storms and difficult times I've been through. I am truly amazed by how wholeheartedly we look out for one another with the genuine interest of helping each other grow as individuals but more importantly as Christians. I am blessed to know every person I have met through CCCV. It is through these relationships that I have been really inspired and encouraged to seek God with all my heart. The time we have spent together talking about Bible verses and discovering what the Word means in our lives has been nothing short of amazing.

There have been many times when I have been challenged to delve deeper into the Word. Each and every time God has provided the resources for me to go deeper whether it is through the Word, Sunday service, talking to someone at church or Lifegroup. God will always provide the way. There have been times when I haven't been ready and God has called me to do something. Through faith and trust in the Lord, I followed His calling and God has taught me so much ranging from forgiveness, love and compassion. Sometimes we are not ready for His calling but God is telling us to have faith and trust in Him for He has something to reveal to us whether it be about life in general, application of scripture or true character. Trust in the Lord; follow Him wherever He calls you to go even if you're not

ready. He will provide the way. (Proverbs 3:5-6 “<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight”)

Becoming a Christian at CCCV has changed my life forever. My life has changed in ways that I could not have imagined and I am excited about what God has planned for the future. As I grow to become more Christ-like this year I pray that God will use me as his hands and feet to bring hope to the world we live in.

Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA**  
**Minutes for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013 @ 1.30pm at 67-91 Springvale Rd, Nunawading**

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**Preliminaries**

Chairperson	Patrick Poon
Interpreter	Alex Wong (English) and Ophelia Chen (Mandarin)
Minutes	Jane Chiu
Head Count	Joseph Cheng and Ewing Tong
Vote Count	Susan Chong, Stephen Choo and Henry Hui
Opening prayer	Rev. Lok

- 108 members including 3 proxy votes present at AGM out of 146 registered members.
- According to the constitution, a simple majority of registered members (including proxies) shall constitute a quorum.
- It will require 73 votes (two third of 108) to pass any motion.

**1. Passing of the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Patrick Poon gave a summary on the minutes.

Motion moved: Enoch Chiu

Motion seconded: Simon Pang

The minute was passed with 84 votes.

**2. Report of Chinese Ministry 2012**

2.1 Rev. Lim gave an overview of ministries in achieving the four goals set for the Chinese congregation:

2.1.1 A temple of prayer

- Weekly prayer items on bulletin
- Prayer meeting on Saturday morning 2 -3 attendees
- Prayer meeting on Sunday morning 8-10 attendees
- A special monthly prayer meeting was started early this year on Saturday morning to pray for provision of a new pastor. Rev. Lim encouraged church members to attend.

2.1.2 A place for spiritual growth

- Cantonese Bible class on Sunday (refer to 2012 Annual Report p. 4)
- Mandarin Bible class on Sunday (refer to 2012 Annual Report p.2)
- CBSC Wednesday Bible Class (refer to 2012 Annual Report p.5)

2.1.3 A family of love

- Fellowship, small groups in different regions, Mandarin/Chinese small group are running as usual.
- A number of members had passed away and fell sick last year. Rev. Lim encouraged all members to join a small group.

2.1.4 A base for missionary work

- The church was able to host a PhD student from China last year by providing accommodation at the residential building.
- Continue to support Yunnan church
- A three year plan for missionary work in Yunnan
- Brother Timmy Ngai participated in organizing a Mission Resource Conference held at Melbourne School of Theology in April.
- Sister Helen Chan still serving short term with "HIS Foundation" in China
- Outreach activities were organized during Mid Autumn Festival, Christmas and Chinese New Year.

- Thailand missionary work will be followed up end of this year.

## 2.2 Overview of Mandarin/English service which started in August 2010:

- 2.2.1 Average attendees: 25 -30  
New believers: 4  
Offerings: average \$500
- 2.2.2 Parents and children to worship and serve together including Bible reading, pianist, translation, ushering and sounds.
- 2.2.3 Sunday school including Christianity explained class, adult class (8 – 10 attendees), youth (5) and children (3).
- 2.2.4 Fellowship held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday evening at church.

2.3 Rev. Lim thanked those who served in the above ministries.

2.4 No question was raised

## 3. Report of 2012 by LifeSpring

Irwin Hau reported the current ministries for LifeSpring, main points as below:

### 3.1 Congregation Overview

Two services:

9:30 am (9:15am) - Reflective service with an average of 15 attendees

11: am - Celebratory service with an average of 60 attendees

Theme for 2013 - IGNITE: igniting the hearts and ministry of members

### 3.2 Structure & Ministry

- Lifespring Council was set up for the following purposes: Vision, Direction, Unity and Support.
- Ministry diagram was explained. Main areas of ministry: overall running of LifeSpring and Caring of members.

### 3.3 Highlights of 2013

- Variety of speaker besides Rev. Lok was arranged including Jonathan Wong and Ps. Marke Leong.
- Jonathan Wong moved up to an intern role.
- Corporate Prayer held on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- Timber Hall Improvements has reached to phase 2 including pram access to cater for changing of life stages of members and better utilizing of the hall.
- Live Light in 25 Words was initiated to build a good habit of reading the Bible each day.
- Christmas Outreach in 2012 – organized by the mission outreach team to exercise faith and share with friends, families and neighbors.
- Missions Awareness & Support including summer projects of Student Life, Beach mission of Scripture Union and overseas missions.
- Fasting and a reflective service was held in Easter
- Camp “Reshape” held in March 2013 with guest speaker Paul Shi and Jonathan Wong with 60-70 participants.
- New Life Groups (Parents Group) was set up to provide support network for those with young children.
- Bake Sale Fundraisers to support the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.
- State Youth Game (SYG) a yearly event to build community through sports held on Queen’s Birthday long weekend.

### 3.4 Prayer Points:

- Pastor Pat and leaders

- Various personal ministries (Council, Life Groups, etc.)
- Raise a new generation of leaders
- Upper generation future
- See the upcoming needs of our congregation
- To continue to be real faithful Christ like followers in all we do

3.5 No question was raised

#### 4. Passing of the 2012 Financial Report

Alex Goh gave an overview of the financial report for the year ended 31 Dec 2012 (Refer to the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2012), main points as below:

Explanations on the accounts:

- Total income: \$379,277 (versus \$418,181 in last year)
- Total expenses: \$410,907 (versus \$407,877 in last year)
- Operating deficit/surplus: - \$31,630 (versus \$11,304 in last year)
- Difference between accounting versus cash flow deficits/surplus
- New accounting for annual leave liability
- Increased expenses on property maintenance due to a number of one-off major maintenance issues of the church property (e.g. roof repair, leaking pipes etc.)

Total cash balance in bank was \$108,415 as at 31/12/2012 which consisted of

General Fund	\$57,139
Church Building Fund	\$14,614
Missionary Fund	\$36,661

Borrowings (for the year ended 31 December 2012)

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
5 year loan due May 2012	-	9,000
10 year loan due May 2017	20,000	20,000
15 year loan due May 2022	40,000	40,000
Building Better Business Facility	<u>490,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>
	<u>550,000</u>	<u>669,000</u>

Update:

In 2013, the church has refinanced the bank loan for another 5 years.

New Loan has offset arrangement

The church had repaid \$65K on Bank Bill Facility with the balance of \$485,000 at the end of May 2013.

Motion moved by Anissia Cheung.

Motion seconded by Enoch Chiu.

The 2012 Financial Report was passed with 88 votes.

No question was raised

#### 5. Election of deacons

One nominee in 2013

Timmy Ngai was elected with the 105 votes of 108

Maxi Kwan will step down from deacons' board.

The church thanked his service in the past two years.

#### 6. Report from Mission Committee

Mission Fund Income / Expenses 2012) explained by Pat P (refer to attachment) with some major adjustments in the 2013 budget:



- Support for Gateway Project decreased due to some of the students sponsored will grow out of the age range.
- Support for Daniel Loo (GOI) – strategic partner had been increased to support his new ministries.
- Support for Brian and Julie Ko had ceased as they started their Theology studies and temporarily resigned from their missionary work in Student Life.
- Amount for sponsoring of PhD student from China had been adjusted as the expenses in 2012 was way below budgeted.
- Funds had been budgeted for the end of year Thailand mission trip expecting three teams to be formed.

## **7. AOB**

### **Q : Way Yap**

Suggested to nominate elder of the church as the church constitution has such a system which CCCV had not utilized so far.

Benefits:

1. To be part of the pastoral team to nurture the spiritual needs of members
2. Elders can keep the continuity of pastoral duties when the pastor is absent for different reasons.

### **A: Patrick Poon**

The board had considered this before. An elder has to be nominated by the pastor. In the past, either no pastor has nominated or no one was interested of the position. Since the position is a life-long appointment, the board has to consider it very carefully and seriously. Since this suggestion has been raised, it will be put into the board agenda for discussion.

### **Q: Henry Hui**

1. Why raised this question at this point of time or it has been considered for a long time. Will it be unfair to the new pastor if an elder was appointed before his employment?
2. What are the shortcomings? What authority or power does an elder have? Who makes the final decision?

### **A: Patrick Poon**

This is why the board has been considering this very carefully. The authority of an elder was clearly written in CCCV 's Constitutions which will be revised this year. The board will take this matter very seriously. The process of appointing an elder will take a certain period of time and will not be done in a rush.

**K H Wong** (who was appointed as an elder in his own church in HK) was invited by Connie Wong to give a briefing about the role of an elder. K H Wong agreed it should be considered carefully given its nature of the position and take time for members to digest the idea. There should be a team of elders instead of just one and ideally 3 in the team.

### **Q: Sue Wu**

What is the progress of employing of a new pastor and the qualification required?

### **A: Patrick Poon**

The church has received two applications after publishing advertisement. The board is praying and waiting for more application.

The qualification required has been clearly spelt in the advertisement.

## **8. The meeting was concluded at 3:20pm**

# CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA INC.

## COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of Chinese Christian Church of Victoria Inc. for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

### Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Rev Patrick Lok	Jane Chiu
Patrick Poon	Ida Lau
Simon Pang	Anissia Cheung
Irwin Hau	Timmy Ngai
Alex Goh	

### Principal Activities

- To bring Christians together to worship, praise and glorify our triune true God; and to celebrate the holy sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism.
- To promote the spiritual growth of Christians through the study of, and instruction in, the Word of God.
- To promote the fellowship of Christians as members of the body of Christ.
- To seek to apply the principles and teachings of the Word of God in the life of The Church.
- To proclaim the gospel of salvation through Christ Jesus to the world in accordance with His great commission.
- To engage in religious and charitable activities consistent with the above objectives.

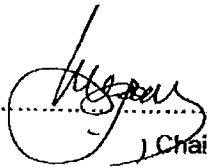
### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

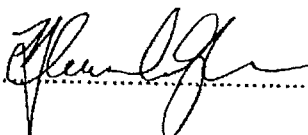
### Operating Result

The surplus after providing for income tax amounted to \$161,569 (2012 deficit: \$31,630)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee.



Chairman : Patrick Poon



Treasurer : Alex Goh

Dated this 10th day of April 2014

**Chinese Christian Church of Victoria Inc.**  
**Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Income</b>			
General Fund		318,308	302,110
Missionary Fund		41,155	29,737
Church Building Fund		70,008	43,840
Other income		3,934	3,590
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>433,405</u>	<u>379,277</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employment expenses	5	72,129	180,169
Building and property		22,018	51,777
Office and general administration		10,406	7,580
Depreciation		42,084	48,351
Fellowship and department expenses		2,602	2,860
Utilities		8,066	8,459
Motor Vehicle		7,662	9,287
Bank charges		3,095	166
Special Function		743	946
Loan Costs		18,958	36,335
Other expenses		84,074	64,978
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>271,836</u>	<u>410,907</u>
<b>Net current year surplus/(deficit)</b>		<u>161,569</u>	<u>(31,630)</u>
Other Comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>		<u><u>161,569</u></u>	<u><u>(31,630)</u></u>

*This financial statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**Chinese Christian Church of Victoria Inc.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at 31 December 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	119,624	108,415
Other receivables	3	15,963	14,161
Total Current Assets		<u>135,587</u>	<u>122,576</u>
Property, plant and equipment			
Land		1,875,000	1,875,000
Furniture and Fittings		2,919	8,053
Buildings		49,852	78,393
Motor Vehicles		-	8,124
Equipment		6,937	13,174
Total Property, plant and equipment		<u>1,934,708</u>	<u>1,982,744</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>2,070,295</u>	<u>2,105,320</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Payroll Liabilities		1,874	2,916
GST Clearing Control		(277)	(500)
Provision - Annual Leave		14,880	12,411
Provision - Assistant Pastor		-	59,740
Other Liabilities		1,816	-
		<u>18,293</u>	<u>74,567</u>
Non Current Liabilities			
Long term loans	4	409,680	550,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>427,973</u>	<u>624,567</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>1,642,322</u>	<u>1,480,753</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Members' equity		1,264,609	1,264,609
Retained earnings		216,144	247,774
Current year earnings		161,569	(31,630)
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>1,642,322</u>	<u>1,480,753</u>

*This financial statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA Inc.

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Chinese Christian Church of Victoria Inc. (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2013, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by the members of the committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The committee of Chinese Christian Church of Victoria Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria* and is appropriate to meet the need of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Independence*

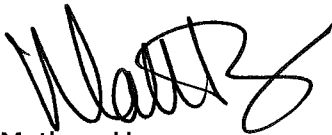
In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Chinese Christian Church of Victoria Inc. as at 31 December 2013 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### *Basis of Accounting*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Chinese Christian Church of Victoria Inc. to meet the requirements of *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mathew Hung', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mathew Hung  
rdl.accountants

10 April 2014  
Blackburn, Victoria

**CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA INC.**


**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**


The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 12:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of Chinese Christian Church Of Victoria Inc. as at 31 December 2013 and its performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Chinese Christian Church Of Victoria Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Chairman.....  
Patrick Poon

Treasurer.....  
Alex Goh

Dated this 10th day of April 2014