

Mississauga Chinese Baptist Church



2023 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastoral Staff Reports

English Ministry Rev. Tham	4
Cantonese Ministry Rev. Cheung	6
Cantonese Ministry Pastor Dennis	7
Mandarin Ministry Pastor Chiu	10
Children’s Ministry Pastor Maria	11
Children’s Ministry Pastor Prossie	12

Deacon Board Report	15
----------------------------------	----

Ministry Reports

Mission	18
Evangelism - Cantonese	19
Evangelism - Mandarin	20
Music and Worship - Cantonese	21
Music and Worship - English	22
Music and Worship - Mandarin	23
Sunday School/Christian Ed. - Cantonese	24
Sunday School/Christian Ed. - English	26
Sunday School/Christian Ed. - Mandarin	27
Fellowship - Cantonese	28
Fellowship and Small Group - English	32
Fellowship - Mandarin	33
Connection - Cantonese	34
Connection - Mandarin	36
Library and Publication	37
Facilities Management	38

PASTORAL STAFF REPORTS

Celebrations, Challenges and Calls

Celebrations of Blessings and Highlights

The 2023 English Congregation worship service theme was, “**From Solitude, to Community, to Missions**”. We sought to “**Grow Deeper**” from Jan. to Apr. by focusing on spiritual disciplines such as solitude, prayer, scripture interpretation, suffering and praise. From May to Aug., we explored “**Growing Together**” via biblical community, family relationships, and kingdom parables. The last four months of the year looked at “**Growing Outward**” in light of our stewardship of resources, personal evangelism, world missions, and sharing the gift of the gospel. We are deeply thankful for:

1. Consistent weekly Sunday morning worship attendance of around 120 adults and young people.
2. Congregational Challenges (devotional times; attendance, memorization, community, outreach, etc.)
3. Baptisms (Jan.= 1 adult; Dec. = 3 adults) and 1 new Member
4. “Immersive Passover” – Good Friday Seder Meal with over 110 in attendance
5. “The Unfinished Story” – World Evangelism sermon and Sunday School series in Nov.
6. “The Greatest Gift” – Christmas sermon series and outreach in Dec. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve God, serve my brothers and sisters at MCBC and help shepherd God’s people to serve Him for as much time as God Wills in 2023.

Challenges and Transitions

This past year has been a dynamic time of change. The departures of two of our pastors and their families (Pastor Enoch Lau in July and Pastor Grant Waters in Sept.) resulted in gaps that were challenging to fill, but we are thankful that congregational leaders graciously stepped up to minister in areas such as youth and teaching ministries. They are dearly missed, but God has called them elsewhere to bless others, even as they have been such blessings to us all at MCBC.

In addition, a trend that has been evident for several years has continued in 2023 ... the decline in our younger demographic groups. This was particularly evident by losses among our young families. However, there were points of hope, and we were encouraged by surprising strength in our Young Adult Small Group. Please continue to pray for our leadership as we earnestly seek God’s wisdom and direction for renewal of the other groups, particularly the young families.

Calls for Renewal of Passion and Deep Discipleship: 2024 Strategy

Our 2024 Theme is “**Journey Together**” and our strategy is to follow the following pathways:

1. **The Coaching Pathway:** All Leaders are Coaches and have at least one Coach
2. **The Cultivation Pathway:** 20% of all Bible Books Covered in Pulpit and Christian Ed. Ministry (15 books). Our 5-year goal is to cover ALL 66 books of the Bible!

3. **The Community Pathway:** All Leaders are part of a Small Group or Fellowship and 60% of Adults and Youth
4. **The Commission Pathway:** Saturate Mississauga in Prayer and Short-Term Mission Groups (Youth and Adult)

We are excited to partner with the Cantonese and Mandarin Congregations at MCBC as the English Congregation pursues our ultimate goal of full and mature discipleship!

Psalm 84:5-7 (NIV)

- 5 *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.*

1. The three-year theme from 2023 to 2025 is: "Spiritual Growth & Extend the Kingdom of God." In conjunction with the Deacon Board's proposed a five-year plan for the next five years: building a healthy growing church, five key functions as follows: Worship, Evangelism, Connection, Christian Education, Fellowship/Small Groups.
2. The two important events, the Good Friday and the Mission Annual Missionary, were jointly held by the Cantonese and Mandarin congregations and attracted the participation of brothers and sisters.
3. On June 24, we arranged to attend the Sabbath service at the Jewish synagogue to learn about their inheritance of Old Testament beliefs. A total of more than a hundred people attended from the three congregations.
4. August 27th was the 45th anniversary of MCBC. After the service, there was a lunch gathering. About 400 people attended. A booklet on the history of MCBC was also published.
5. The "Holy Music 2023" was held in the afternoon after the worship service on September 17. The purpose was to promote the value and characteristics of traditional hymns. A total of 180 people attended and it is worthy of being held every year.
6. On December 17, it was the first time after the epidemic that the three congregations jointly held a physical baptism ceremony. A total of 15 people received baptism and sprinkling ceremony.
7. Over the past two years, the Connection Ministry for immigrants has been developed. The dedication of the brothers and sisters, and the Gym Day Lunch held every first and third Sunday, have made the relationship between members closer, and followed up with new friends. The overall number of MCBC has grown and become younger. Establish a youth group in 2024. Some of the new immigrants who have attended our meetings in recent years are Christians and are our new blood and force. Many of them are unbelievers and are the target of our evangelism.

Ministry of Fellowship

1. “Jing Wu Discipleship Training Group” (under Daniel Fellowship) began its first class on February 5th with 15 attendees, later increasing to 17. Despite occasional absences due to other commitments, Zoom recordings allow absentees to catch up by accessing the content online. We are using the book “Equipping the Saints” (Volume One) published by Christian Renewal Ministries as our course material. Each member is required to preview the lesson content, memorize verses, and pray for the gospel targets (including training them to become disciples of the Lord) before each session. So far, we have taught the members the “Five Color Evangelism Method”, the “One Cut Evangelism Method”, and the “Salvation Testimony Evangelism Method”. Exams—both written and oral—are planned for June this year to conclude the course. We pray that the Lord will empower the members to actively use what they have learned to disciple others for the Lord!
2. “Alpha Course II” (one of the Daniel Fellowship’s subgroup and also a Sunday school course): In the second half of last year, we continued this course, which used videos to present gospel content and reflective questions. The content is lively and engaging, with an average attendance of 2 to 3 people. Among them, some have not yet believed in the Lord, so this course serves as a means to address their doubts.
3. “Faith MMA”: This is an extension of the Alpha Course II, as we have not yet established a new youth group. Its purpose is to provide a platform for young people to continue exploring their faith and to address the questions they have in their hearts. During this time, William converted to Christ, while Chris and Cola continue to seek the faith, hoping to experience more of God. Please pray for them!
4. “Daniel Brothers’ Prayer Meeting”: Every other Thursday evening, I attend the prayer meeting of the Daniel Brothers’ group to share joys, bearing each other’s burdens, and praying for one another.

Ministry of Connection

1. Due to the wave of immigration, we are thankful that more young people came to work and settle in Mississauga in the latter half of last year. Under the care of our brothers and sisters, they attended our church meetings and decided to stay. After discussions and preparations, they will form a new group on 12th January 2024, which, following their votes, is named “Kairos” (meaning “opportunity” in Greek, referencing Ephesians 5:16, the Chinese name not yet determined). This group meets monthly on the second Friday evening from 18:30 to 21:30 in Room 500, and they may also have an additional outing each month. Of the 19 participants, 9 are not yet believers. We pray that those who have not yet believed will come to faith soon, and that those who have believed will have their faith strengthened!

Ministry of Christian Education

In the third quarter of last year, I launched the “Christian Doctrine I” course. I used Gregg Allison’s theological work as the textbook—“50 Core Truths of the Christian Faith”—which discusses important Christian doctrines. This course is divided into three

major parts. The first part (from September to December 2023) covered key doctrines in “the doctrine of revelation” (biblical doctrines) and “doctrine of God”.

Ministry of Christian Education

1. In the third quarter of last year, I launched the “Christian Doctrine I” course. I used Gregg Allison’s theological work as the textbook—“50 Core Truths of the Christian Faith”—which discusses important Christian doctrines. This course is divided into three major parts. The first part (from September to December 2023) covered key doctrines in “the doctrine of revelation” (biblical doctrines) and “doctrine of God”.

Ministry of Evangelism

1. On 2nd December, I preached about the significance of Jesus’ birth in the lunch gathering.

Sermons

1. Continuing to focus on the church theme “Spiritual Growth & Extend the Kingdom of God”, the sermons delivered on how Christians can control their tongues, as well as how to demonstrate “down-to-earth” acts of loving God, loving others, and loving the planet in this world. I also highlighted “For the greater Glory of God” as the overarching principle for decision-making. The topics and scriptures for the second half of last year are as follows:

Date	Topic and Scripture
2nd July, 2023	The Air on the Tip of the Tongue (Part 1) (James 3:1~12)
20th August, 2023	The Air on the Tip of the Tongue (Part 2) (2 Samuel 12:15~23)
17th September, 2023	Planning for the Future (Luke 16:1~14)
29th October, 2023	God’s Kingdom Economy (Luke 16:19~31)
26th November, 2023	The Steward Who Saves What He/She Can (Genesis 1:26~31; Psalm 8)
17th December, 2023	The Difficulty of Making Decisions (Judges 6:36~40; 1 Corinthians 10:23~33)

Evening Prayer Meeting

1. Continued to introduce the church calendar, personal, and regional prayer requests.

The themes for the second half of last year are as follows:

Date	Topic and Scripture
9th August, 2023	Ordinary Time
30th August, 2023	Family
13th September, 2023	Russia
11th October, 2023	Germany
8th November, 2023	The Israeli-Hamas Conflict
20th November, 2023	Cambodia

New Believer's Course

1. On 22nd April last year, I began a new believer's course with a teenager named Jayden. The course consisted of ten lessons and was completed on 3rd November. The material used was iBelieve: New Believer's Growth Handbook.
2. Starting from 4th November last year, I began the same course with William and Lawrence, using the same material.

Rides-giving

1. Since October of last year, I have been providing transportation for a UTM student Jason to and from the university and the meeting place.

1. A "Samuel" youth group was newly established.
2. Jointly organized with three other churches in Mississauga East District, lectured by Rev. Kang Lai-Chang: Revelation "Bible Study Revival Meeting".
3. Responsible for the "Co-worker Training" workshop for the Worship Ministry.
4. Ten (10) brothers and sisters joined MCBC as members.
5. Fourteen (14) brothers and sisters were baptized and converted to the Lord.
6. Responsible for Sunday School "Job Study".
7. Mentoring "Training Program for Sunday School Teachers".
8. In conjunction with the children's ministry, a pilot Mandarin Sunday school program, for ages 2 to 5, has been delivered since Oct.
9. Led a Short-Term Mission trip to Taiwan Hakka from September 8 to September 20.
10. Christmas evangelistic meeting conducted by Rev Bin Yu, on Dec.23, three (3) people accepted Jesus as Lord.

Fellowship:

- a) September 2023 commences of Daniel Kids Fellowship. DKF run concurrent with the adult fellowship, once a month children program on the 2nd Saturday.
- b) Mandarin Children program commences on September 2, 2023. It is being held on the first Saturday of the month concurrent with the adult fellowship schedule.

Special Saturday Event in 2023:

Special children's programs on the following date:

- a) Mandarin Thanksgiving October 14,
- b) Mission Night November 18, Mandarin
- c) Evangelistic Meeting Dec. 23,
- d) Cantonese Christmas Celebration Worship Dec. 23

Special Sunday Event in 2023:

- a) once a month Sunday children's time after the Gym Day Lunch
- b) help alongside brothers and sisters during Baptismal day on December 17 with the baptismal candidates.

2nd Hour Kids ROCK Sunday:

- a) Mandarin Sunbeam commences on Oct 15 started with one child. By Dec. 31 we have 5 kids
- b) 2nd Hour Grade 1-5:
 - i. We started to collect offering on the 2nd KRS
 - ii. Samaritan purse November 19
 - iii. Teacher/Parent Meeting on December 10
 - iv. Christmas Children Choir presentation on December 24
 - v. Christmas party in December. 24
 - vi. We have 12 regular kids, and by December we have 16 kids.
 - vii. We have regular 16 volunteer in the 2nd Hour by end of December 2023, we have
 - viii. 23 regular volunteers

Few weeks after I joined MCBC, I was invited to join the English pastoral team meeting where we come together every Tuesday to reflect and support each other spiritually, physically, and ministry-wise. In September, a children's Ministry committee was formed, consisting of the English Pastor, the Children's pastors, deacon Gordon, Richard Tang, and Sarah Chung. Recently, one member was added from the Mandarin ministry. This committee has an aim to support the children's pastors in their efforts to effectively and faithfully serve MCBC children's ministry holistically. So far, the Committee has been doing a commendable job.

The following programs have continued to run under the English children's ministry: Kids Rock Friday, Kids Rock and Sunbeam Sunday 1st hour, Mid-Way, and the Cantonese outreach gym day kids' program. Every Sunday with the help of teachers and helpers we run a Kids' Rock Sunday class (Gr. 1-5) together with the Sunbeam class (joint program) and later we split for age-appropriate teachings. While the number continues to be low and unpredictable, we continue to run the programs in anticipation that more kids will join our English congregation. The same goes for Kids Rock Friday.

In December, while concluding the year, we did a Christmas shoe box program, a Christmas special Kids Rock Friday event, and a Christmas children's presentation which were all successful and well-received.

About the Cantonese outreach gym day kids' program – In November we started helping with childcare/children's program during the first and the third Sunday gym day outreach each month. I serve on the 1st Sunday and Pastor Maria on the 3rd Sunday of every month. We embraced this as an opportunity to meet new children and build relationships. I continue to serve the Mid Way children following the Bible project curriculum together with Chung, Hara and Tim. We Praise God for the good attendance in Mid Way and are grateful for the new family that joined us. We continue to believe God for more kids in the First hour and Kids Rock Friday nights.

Our biggest challenge is the inadequacy of teachers and helpers in all our programs. We find difficulties getting more helpers and teachers. To compound the problem, the few people that have always served the children's ministry before pastors were hired, seem to be burnt out and have decided to take a break while others are thinking of taking a break too. This has been one of our concerns as the children's ministry committee and we are in the process of rebuilding the team of volunteers and teachers.

However, we want to appreciate all the teachers and helpers who are serving so faithfully during these testing times and especially, those who are burnt out but have continued to serve since there is a need. I also appreciate the volunteers and parents who worked hand in hand with us to see that our programs and events could run successfully. I acknowledge that they have been supportive all the way to the end of

2023, and we are grateful. Some members have indicated interest in volunteering with the Children's ministry in 2024. While we look forward to having them on board with their various gifts, we still need more volunteers.

These challenges notwithstanding, it has been an exciting year, and I hope and trust that the year just begun, will be an even more fruitful and impactful year for our children's ministry and congregation.

DEACON BOARD REPORT

2023 is now in our rear-view mirror. Covid 19 also is in our rear-view mirror. As we look back we must acknowledge the changes that Covid 19 brought to MCBC. First, we must acknowledge those we have lost to Covid. We have also lost others this year due to other reasons. We grieved with their families and their memory will remain in our hearts.

On a more positive note, Covid 19 has also left us with some new technologies. Not only have we continued to live-stream our worship services every Sunday but many meetings continue to take place over Zoom or Google meet. We will continue to use new technology to enhance our ministries. Some of the reports you are reading right now may well have been translated by Google Translate first and then edited. As we move forward, we will monitor developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to see if we can find applications to enhance our ministries.

We have seen changes to the Deacon Board as well. In 2023, we had nine deacons, which is rare. We came very close to achieving the goal of having ten. It also marked the first year of my term as chair. Before I agreed to be chair, I said to the deacons that it is conditional upon every one of them committing to regularly praying for me. When I heard and saw each one of them indicating they were willing, I agreed. Since then, I have heard many others telling me that you are praying for me as well for which I am truly grateful. Let me tell you that God has answered your prayers. I would not have been able to fulfill my responsibilities this year without them. Please continue to pray for me and all the other deacons as well. Four deacons finished their terms and three will start theirs. One deacon has re-elected to another consecutive term. To the four who have left the board, enjoy your well-earned rest. We know you continue to serve in other areas and we urge you to keep on listening to the voice of God, if perhaps one day, you will serve as deacons again.

There were changes to our pastoral staff. We saw the departure of Pastor Enoch and Pastor Grant and we welcomed Pastor Maria and Pastor Prossie. We acknowledge the sovereignty of God in all of our lives and recognize that he doesn't make mistakes even though we may. We all are his servants and he has a plan for each one of us. Let us all work together to do what he has called us to do.

Looking at 2024, we look forward to two cross-congregational events. One is the Summer Day Camp and the other is the Living Hope concert. Planning has already started and much more detail will be shared later on. In addition, we are working on a 5-year plan for our church. While much more work needs to be done before it can be presented, we know what the main goal is. We hope to establish a discipleship or mentoring culture within our church whereby each of the 5 main ministry groups will bear this in mind as they move forward in their planning. There will be a focus on equipping more of our brothers and sisters to serve using their God-given spiritual gifts. The Deacon Board will also do its part to encourage this mindset by emphasizing

our role as spiritual leaders and devoting more of our time to the ministry of the word and prayer.

As we embark on a new year, there is a sense that we are starting a new chapter in the history of MCBC. Read the reports of the other ministries, pray for their plans for this year, and let the leaders know of your support. Together, we will experience what the Lord Jesus meant when he said we will do greater things. May his name be lifted high, may his kingdom come, and may his will be done. God bless MCBC.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Mission theme for 2023: "From Church, to Community, to Mission"

1. Every Saturday 8- 8:30am Online Mission Morning Prayer Meeting (three congregations)
2. Invite missionaries to share at Wednesday night prayer meeting
 - a) Cantonese : Rev. Keith Lee, Rev. CY Yan, Dr. William Tsui, Kit Ming Koo
 - b) Mandarin : Rev. Daisy Pun, Rev. Pius Hau, Paul Kwon
 - c) Curaçao, Panama, Taiwan Hakka and Atayal, Northern Thailand Golden Triangle short-term mission team
3. 30-day prayer meeting for the Muslim world (three congregations) March 22 – April 20
4. Mission Online Sunday School 13 courses, "Taste of Mission" March 5 – May 28
5. 2023 Short-term Mission trip
 - a) Taiwan Atayal February 16 – April 6
 - b) Curacao April 1 – 16
 - c) Panama May 5 – 16
 - d) Toronto REMIX June 27 – July 1
 - e) Taiwan Hakka Visit STM September 8 – 20
 - f) Northern Thailand Golden Triangle November 29 – December 13
6. Mission Workshop [Aspects of Mission] Shared by Rev. Daniel Lau on June 25
7. English congregation - Missionary Month, 4th Sundays in November [The Unfinished Story] Preacher: Randall Mah
8. Mission Music Evening and Middle East Baptist Church Joint Worship November 18 (three congregations)
9. Mission Dept. held the Annual Mission Conference on Sunday, November 19, Alive Worship Ministry to lead praise hymns and Rev. John Chan as speaker.
10. Monthly cooking service for the community – Open Door

Thank God! CED's outreach members have increased, with key members are Jenny Yung, Mandy Chan and Vany Ngo

- Every Saturday, there were 25-30 people participating in table tennis, including more than 10 non-believers (some accepted Christ as their saviors this year), and about 10 people in the exercise group (including non-believers). There was sharing and refreshments during the half-time break.
- The women's group met once a month, with 20-25 participants, and was held on Saturdays.
- The CED held two outreach lunches on Saturdays in July and December respectively.
- The Elders Building met once a month as usual. This year, there were 20 people in attendance at Christmas. More than ten people attended the music service on December 23 night. Thank God!
- Family outreach group, met twice a month, with 15-20 attendees, most of whom are unbelievers (some accepted Christ this year)
- For the past two years, slap activity on Zoom have run every Monday to Friday to facilitate new people to join (Michelle was in charge)
- Thank God! There are now three sisters leading the team who takes turn handing out Leaflets at different supermarkets each month. In addition to the Evangelism Explosion III team members, there were also different fellowships participating.
- This year's EE III trainees completed the oral and written examinations in July but have not yet completed 10 practice sessions.
- Gospel Sunday, October 15th, the speaker was Rev. Jim Tam, the theme: [Thousands of rivers and mountains, the Lord's grace] 5 people accepted the Lord that day, thank God! Be the Glory to God!
- A total of 80 Christmas Gospel news gift bags were distributed in December (including outreach program). The names of unbelievers were recorded for prayers.
- Thank God, there are 11 people accepted Christ as their saviors this year.

1. Local Mission and Personal Evangelism

- a) Fasting Pray: We promote Fasting Pray on this year Good Friday, April 7, in order to remember our Lord, Jesus Christ sacrificed on the Cross for our sins. .
- b) Christmas Sermon: Mandarin Congregation held a Christmas Evangelic Sermon in our church on December 23rd, and invited the pastor Yu Bin to preach. The meeting theme is "Incredible Christmas".
- c) To participate in the Mission Department's online pray event every Saturday morning from 8:00-8:30 for the missionaries supported by MCBC and related countries Ministry intercession.

2. Outreach:

- a) Harmonica Ministry: This is the "The Harmonica Accompanies Me" outreach ministry. With the help of brother Sam Mok , every participant has learned basic harmonica skills in C&F key tones and simple music theory. We played folk songs and hymns, shared the joy and messages of Christ, interacted with each other to bring comfort, peace and encourages through the music. The format of outreach ministry is from online proceeding at begin until have physical practices and multiple performances after the church openings.

3. Engage The World:

- a) To collaboration with the MCBC Mission Department streamlines every Missionary activity into Mandarin Congregation, such as prayer, curriculum etc., to encourage brothers and sisters to learn and join proactively.

1. In-person and concurrently livestreamed Sunday Worship has been carried out throughout the year of 2023.
2. Welcome the A/V operation team and OBS team to join our department.
3. Scheduled ushers, chairpersons, pianists, and Worship teams/leaders to serve in the in-person Sunday Worship services.
4. Department held a Chairperson/Worship leader and team workshops conducted by Mr. Lai in 2nd quarter.
5. Choir team started their in-person presentation in February.
6. Performed the in-person and concurrent stream live of Cantonese and Mandarin joint Good Friday Worship Services.
7. With the help from Cantonese Fellowship Ministry, we have carried out the annual fellowship month held in July. All fellowships contributed greatly to encourage those interested in serving.
8. In September, Rev. Galahad Cheung and Frederick Leung organized a hymns concert in Sanctuary. Purpose is to introduce traditional Chinese Christian songs.
9. Performed the in-person and concurrent stream live of the Christmas Celebration Worship Service.

God is faith. As we transitioned away from the shadow of COVID 19 and getting use to have our worship service in the sanctuary at the beginning of 2023, He continued to bless us with a band of faithful brothers and sisters, together with our leaders, diligently leading our congregations to worship Him with truth and faith during various segments of the worship services.

Music worship is one of the most challenging ministries as we only have less than a handful of brothers and sisters who devote themselves in this ministry and are gifted with music instrument and vocal talents. Again, God is faithful, these brothers and sisters were up on the stage every Sunday, throughout the whole year, charging us to raise our voices and praise His name.

Thanks to the conviction of the Holy spirit and our prayer warriors, we have been challenged, as a church and as an individual, to dig deeper in our corporate prayer: to praise and adore God for who He is; to search deeper within for our iniquities and to repent; to thank Him for His faithfulness and unfailing love; and, continue to ask for His grace and mercy and to seek Him as we journey through the present evil age.

We also want to thank God for the Scripture Readers, AV team, Coffee Team, and Coordinators together with the Welcome team from the Connection Ministry. We did not experience any major disruptions before or during worship services because they have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure things were running smoothly according to plan.

Of course, we also praise God for His blessing during the Good Friday Immersive Lunch and the Christmas brunch with all the great food prepared by Special Event Food Team.

At the end, as an encouragement and reminder to myself and everyone, there are still lot of rooms for improvement, we must continue to do our utmost to prepare and serve during worship services but with the focus: ***“for I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.” (Hosea 6: 6 ESV)***

Thanks to God's care and protection, the Mandarin Worship ministry has the following grace experience in 2023.

1. The Worship Department held workshops, chairman training and hymn leader training, under the guidance of teacher Mr. Lai
2. The choir participated two (2) times in the "Worship Music Gala" organized by the "More Beautiful Hometown Orchestra" in Toronto
3. The choir participated and presented songs in the Greater Toronto Area Revival meeting
4. A Choir Retreat was held to support choir members
5. Choir members participated in the Joint Choir on Good Friday
6. AV team's Sunday worship YouTube live stream has been greatly improved in terms of sound effects and pictures
7. Sunday Worship Services have been improved and restored to pre-epidemic times

Sunday School/Christian Ed. Department - Cantonese Shu Kee Sam

The Cantonese congregation resumed normal activities in 2023, with regular attending congregants from 137 people to 213 by the end of the year.

The Sunday school teachers prepared their lessons carefully, the students were humble and accepted the teachings, and the congregation enthusiastically welcomed new friends so that they stayed. The number of people in the Cantonese congregation gradually increased. All of the above show that God loves the church. The church is gradually growing healthily, and we would like to express endless gratitude.

{ 1 } The average number of students in Sunday School is about 108.

March 2023 to May 2023 courses:

老師	課程
林榮洪博士 Dr Lam	保羅神學進解 - 第二季 (聖經專題)
白陳慧莊執事 Deaconess Jane Pak	超越掙扎 -- 基督徒的12個迷思 (輔導專題)
莫志成執事 Deacon Sam Mok	認識福音書 - { 三 }
文偉新弟兄 Brother Andy Man	尋獲至寶: 腓立比書
OMF 10位宣教牧者	宣教淺嚐(宣教專題)
馬梁惠卿姊妹 Judith Ma, 吳周幼德姊妹 Mabel, 趙金鈴姊妹 Olisa	從《馬可福音》看「受苦的僕人耶穌基督」
岑梁棟燕姊妹 Estella Sam	信仰的探討/慕道班
陳顯宗傳道 Pastor Dennis Chan 及 馮業誠弟兄 Brother Edward Fung	外展專題: 青少年啟發課程 (1)

June 2023 to August 2023 courses:

老師	課程
林榮洪博士 Dr Lam	人生的探索 - 傳道書進解
張傳華牧師 Rev Galahad Cheung	六大宗教的神觀 (神學專題課程)
陳經洪弟兄 Brother Joseph Chan	創世記 (上)
關張雅玲及譚桂蓮姊妹 Lilian Kwan & Joan Tam	基督耶穌的比喻
劉紫陽弟兄 Mingo Lau, 文偉新弟兄 Andy Man, 文植玉芳 姊妹 Maggie Man	跳躍的生命(上)
羅張起鈞姊妹 Yorina Law	信仰的探討 - 我們永恆的家
陳顯宗傳道 Pastor Dennis Chan 及 馮業誠弟兄 Brother Edward Fung	外展專題: 青少年啟發課程 (2)

September 2023 to November 2023 courses:

老師	課程
林榮洪博士 Dr Lam	認識聖靈 - (信仰專題課程)
陳顯宗傳道 Pastor Dennis Chan	基督教教義 (一)
白陳慧莊執事 Deaconess Jane Pak	希伯來書(上)
陳經洪弟兄 Brother Joseph Chan	創世記 (下)
文偉新弟兄 Brother Andy Man	約書亞記 - 非凡的領袖
羅張起鈞姊妹 Sister Yorina Law	初信成長 - 新生命 - 新關係

December 2023 to February 2023 courses:

老師	課程
張傳華牧師 Rev Galahad Cheung	兩約之間宗教文化與歷史(聖經專題)
白陳慧莊執事 Deaconess Jane Pak	希伯來書(下)
文植玉芳姊妹 Maggie Man, 譚桂蓮姊妹 Joan Tam, 馬梁惠卿姊妹 Judith Ma,	雅各書
羅張起鈞姊妹 Yorina Law	信仰的探討 - 我們永恆的家

Thank God

6/24/2023 Two sessions in three languages [synagogue Sabbath worship] with a total number of 111 people.

Thanks to Rev. Cheung for his guidance and Pastor Chan's great help, there were also representatives from the English, Cantonese and Mandarin schools to make the trip possible. Seeing the faithful faith of the Jews has become a reference for us and left a deep impression. May glory be given to Jesus Christ, the Lord who redeemed us.

Prayers

Pray that God will lead the Cantonese Sunday School ministry so that the minister and his team members will gain wisdom and have clearer goals and directions, and help brothers and sisters to pursue with a passionate heart, understand God's words, and work harder to practice the Lord's way, Amen!

In 2023, we held a series of 4-week mini courses entitled "Biblical Foundations" with the goal of re-establishing/solidifying the foundations of their faith through biblical teaching on fundamental topics. The list of classes is below.

The Bible (February), taught by Gordon Wong and Terence Yeung

The Trinity (April), taught by Pastor Fred Tham and Pastor Grant Waters

Sin and Salvation (June), taught by Jim Beerley

The Church (August), taught by David Lai

Come to the Feast: An exploration in connecting with God (October), taught by Victoria Mok

The Unfinished Story (November), taught by Randall Mah (speaker)

We are extremely grateful that God called brothers and sisters above to teach these classes. We are also grateful that 20 - 45 people attended each class and pray that God used these classes to grow each person in their faith.

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. (Jeremiah 15:16)

2023 is also a year full of God's grace. As the epidemic eased and physical worship began, the Mandarin Chinese Sunday School also gradually started physical class. Combined with online courses, the number of students has increased. What is even more grateful is that the six brothers and sisters who completed the Sunday School Teacher Class took the realization course and started serving as Sunday School teacher. In addition, we cooperated with the Mission department and supported 宣教浅尝 courses.

Through service, brothers and sisters truly experienced God's presence and tasted its sweetness. God's grace is sufficient.

The main courses and training this year are as follows:

In the first quarter, from March to May, total attendance was about 30

Courses: Book of Job

Understanding the Acts of the Apostles and the Early Church (Part 1)

Season 2: June-August, total attendance was about 40

Courses: Genesis

We met the Lord

Understanding the Acts of the Apostles and the Early Church (Part 2)

Season 3: September to November, about 60 people attended in total, including those from other churches

Courses: Gospel of John

Inductive Bible Study (4 weeks)

Apologetics (8 weeks)

Season 4 December-February, total attendance was about 50

Courses: Important Keys to Church History

2 Kings

Parables of Jesus Christ

Looking back on the Sunday school ministry in the past year, in addition to expressing gratitude to God, we also continue to pray that God will continue to be with us in 2024, be our support and help in our weakness, and give strength to the new ministers. Strengthening, grace upon grace, heavenly wisdom, inspiring brothers and sisters to be more thirsty for God's words, actively participating in Sunday school and related services, so that our spiritual lives can be constantly renewed and we can walk in God's will!

Highlight for this year ministry is the spring retreat held in April. We have Rev Luk to speak to us, and the topic is “Can I still use by God?”. We have very positive feedback from the members. Till the end of this year, people still talk about the sermon. A fellowship used the sermon materials for bible study. The book (千錘百煉) introduced in the retreat become a Sunday school class.

During the July fellowship month, all fellowships are involved in the Sunday services. It is good to see some new faces to serve in different roles of the Sunday services. It is also interesting to see how fellowship members lead the services differently because of their own personalities.

All fellowship members work hard to serve the fellowship and the church last year. We see brothers and sisters sacrifice their personal time to serve others within or outside their own fellowships. It is a great witness to all of us, and we give Thanks to God. Please read the following details reports from each fellowship.

Enoch Fellowship

May Fung

Looking back on 2023, we are filled with gratitude because Enoch Fellowship and co-workers have spent another year safely under the protection of the Lord. Since the pandemic, our fellowship continue to meet and attend church programs online (or through phone). By doing that the seniors are able to worship and have fellowship together.

We had two seniors (Mrs So Ip Wan Ying and Mrs Fai Wong Lin Fong) passed away in the arms of the Lord in March and June. We miss them with sadness in our hearts.

However, the Lord made up for it in His way. We have two new co-workers join us to serve the elders. Besides, we also celebrate the 45th anniversary of MCBC in August. At the cross-cultural mission evening in November, we are able to worship and praise God with the brothers and sisters from the Middle East Baptist Church. It was very beautiful and touching. For these, we give thanks to the Lord.

May the Lord continue to bless our church, each fellowship and each ministry. May the three congregations love each other and be united. May all glory and praise be given to our Father in heaven. Amen

Bethel Fellowship

Mabel Chow

During the pandemic, the Bethel Fellowship met on line. Starting in June, we are able to meet in person at church. We will switch online again in the colder months of the year, from Nov to Mar.

The special monthly meetings in 2023 include:

1. June - a talk on MCBC history by Jonathan Leung, Frieda Wong, Otto To & Daniel Louie.

Bethel Fellowship (cont'd)

2. Health Talks

- a) May - a talk on Prevention & Treatment of Dementia
- b) Oct - a talk on Mental Health (Embrace Now)

3. Aug - outing at the R.K.McMillan Park

4. As for scripture based talks,

- a) we hosted a talk on Acts, starting from the Great Commission, by C.T. Chan in Mar.
- b) Dr. W.H. Lam spoke to us on Being Strong As We Age, using the example of Caleb.

5. Many new friends joined us for the talks on health issues & our outing.

Our fellowship members are divided into three cell groups which meet every two months for Bible study. Our latest topic is a study in Haggai to gain new perspectives in serving our Lord. The caring department works on connecting members in need or sick. The information is shared by email so that we can pray for one another. We also organized an online Hymn singing group as well as an exercise group with special focus on fall prevention. Friends are welcomed to join us these groups.

For next year, we look forward to expanding our information technology & computer setup so that we can broadcast our meeting on line when we meet in person at church next spring.

Joshua Fellowship

Candy Chung

Love and Fun” is the main theme of our Fellowship in 2023. The goal is to allow brothers and sisters to get to know each other more deeply and build a loving relationship in the Lord through relaxed gathering themes and activities.

In order to tie in with the theme, we held the “BBQ chill all nite” at church parking lot in July, and an Outing at James Garden in October. In addition, we had a 3-day, 2-night “Fun Life Camp” held in Niagara-on-the-Lake in May, where 47 brothers and sisters participated. We formed four groups to visit the surrounding areas during the day. In the evening, everyone gathered together and had fun sharing. We had a chance to worship outdoor on Sunday and felt the greatness of God even more. Thank God for allowing us to have a very warm and wonderful fellowship time during those days.

In March, the “Young at Heart” group was established. We traveled to different places in Toronto, learn more about its history, explore and enjoy the different cultures that the diverse city brings us.

In terms of spiritual growth, three different themes/exercises are introduced and discussed/practiced in cell group meetings. These include the continuation of using Pastor Alan Yu’s Sunday school material “Hearing-God - Developing a Relationship with God”. Introduce “Time with ABBA” to help brothers and sisters to build a closer relationship with God every day. Listen and discuss to Dr. Charles Yu’s “EQ, AQ, SQ”

Joshua Fellowship (cont'd)

YouTube seminars. Hope these may help us to grow deeper and stronger in our spiritual life.

At present, most of the brothers and sisters of our fellowship have reached retirement age, or have already retired. The “Christian Perspective on Retirement” fellowship meeting invited several brothers and sisters who have recently retired or have been retired for many years to share. Their sharing reminded us to rethink the theme of the Spring Revival Meeting “God desires for you to Finish Well” (我還可以被神使用嗎?) We know we should not lose our heart to serve the Lord just because we are getting older and not in good health as before. Pray that we still have a fiery, grateful, and willing heart for God to use, to serve humbly, and to live out the love of Christ.

Jireh Fellowship

Arthur Chan

Jireh is composed of more than ten families and has about thirty members. There is a meeting and a small group every month. The second generation of most families has graduated from college, and fellowship members are approaching retirement age and are actively participating in different ministry positions in the church.

The theme of the 2023 fellowship is "Ignite Life, Fulfill Mission." It is based on the bible verse of Acts 1:8. We have changed it to be more suitable for our situation.

But when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will receive power, and we will be witnesses of Christ Jesus in Mississauga, Toronto, Southern Ontario, and to the ends of the earth.

Let's work together for this mission!

Daniel Fellowship

Kenneth Cheung

In the year 2023, Daniel Fellowship has continued to grow, and with God's grace, we have welcomed several more families moving from Hong Kong. One of them embraced Christ during our Gospel Sunday Worship. Daniel Fellowship maintains in-person programs every 2nd Saturday from 4 to 6 pm. Additionally, we have two prayer groups for Brothers and Sisters. The Brothers' prayer group meets every Thursday night, while the Sisters' prayer group gathers on the last Sunday of the month by using Zoom.

Throughout 2023, our fellowship comprised three small groups: the Discipleship group, Life Sharing group, and Alpha group. For our December fellowship program, more than 60 friends and family joined us to celebrate Christmas.

Daniel Fellowship (cont'd)

Kenneth Cheung

As we look forward to 2024, may God continue to prepare our fellowship to welcome newcomers to our church.



Fellowship and Small Group Department - English Tammy Tang

The pillars of small groups in the English fellowship are connection, growth (transformation), prayer and service. The committee includes brothers and sisters from different backgrounds: Meng Yang, Edith Yoshimura, and Winifred Yeow. We are supported by the pastors and deacons.

In 2023, we had several initiatives to work towards the core goals of small groups. In spring, we had a well-attended small group training led by Rev Fred Tham. During the summer, collaborative efforts with other ministry departments culminated in various events designed to bring groups and congregants together and provide opportunities to serve both the church and the broader community. These included an early summer hike, painting of classrooms, weed removal, and the Open Door Hygiene Drive.

In September, we started a new curriculum titled "7 Encounters with Jesus." This curriculum facilitated the study of God's love for diverse individuals and how He interacts with them. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to employ the inductive Bible study method, enriching our understanding of Scripture and deepening our connection with God.

As of 2023, we have 10 small groups. Despite some members departing over the past year, the infusion of new participants keeps the overall participation stable over the past 2 years. As we look forward, we continue to pray that small groups will be transformative grounds where individuals deepen their relationship with Christ and with one another. Fueled by this love, we will impact those around us, bringing glory to our Sovereign Lord.

In 2023, the Mandarin Fellowship organized a total of 6 fellowship events, in addition to coordinating with the Cantonese Fellowship for the Spring Festival event, where dumplings and other dishes were provided by the brothers and sisters of the Mandarin Fellowship.

1. February 4, 2023, 6:00–9:30pm: Fellowship in Room 500 of the church. After the potluck dinner, Wu Cheng and Sister Zhang Yuying shared their experiences from their mission trip to Northern Thailand.
2. April 8, 2023, 10:00–15:30: Sister’s Fellowship held in Room 600 of the church. A total of 24 sisters participated, with the theme of building families that align with God’s will. The speaker was Mrs. Guo Fan Yanhua.
3. May 22, 2023, 10:30–14:30: A picnic gathering at Centennial Park #8 picnic area. Approximately 150 brothers, sisters, and friends attended.
4. June 17, 2023, 6:00–9:30pm: Fellowship in Room 500 of the church. After the potluck dinner, the theme was “Secrets of Effective Discipline,” with Pastor Jian Zhu Suying as the speaker.
5. September 16, 2023, 6:00–9:30pm: Fellowship in Room 500 of the church. After the potluck dinner, the theme was “Secrets of Effective Communication.” The speaker was Pastor Jian Zhu Suying.
6. October 14, 2023, 6:00–9:30pm: Fellowship in Room 500 of the church, followed by a potluck dinner. The theme was “Thanksgiving Testimony Sharing” (with 9 brothers and sisters sharing).

1. Over the past year, the Cantonese Connection Ministry has focused on the following service targets and responsibilities:
 - i. New Immigrants - The "New Immigrant Caring Team" engages with and cares for friends who have recently moved to Canada.
 - ii. New Guests - The "Greeter's Team" represents the church in welcoming new guests, creating a positive first impression;
 - Providing care and sharing the gospel with non-believers; and
 - Encouraging new guests to join fellowship, making the church their spiritual home.
 - iii. Non-Fellowship Members - Building connections and encouraging their participation in fellowship activities.
 - v. Brothers and Sisters with Special Needs - Providing care and assistance to those facing unexpected challenges.
 - vi. Other Responsibilities - Organizing Gym Day Lunch and activities after the lunch.
 - Coordinating transportation for new friends attending church worship services.
 - Collaborating with other departments for coordinated ministry efforts.
2. According to registration data, there was a total of 82 new comers last year, including 17 individuals who were in transit or attended one-time events. Among those aged below 35, there were over 30 people, and a significant number of them were new immigrants.
3. We have used information technology for communication, maintaining connections through a Facebook group to share church updates and local information and staying in touch with new comers through various WhatsApp chat groups.
4. Gym Day Lunch continues to be a great avenue for bringing together the brothers and sisters of the Cantonese congregation. It provides them with an opportunity to gather, meet new friends, and foster a sense of belonging.
5. Thankful for the dedication of many brothers and sisters who willingly contribute to service, collaborating to ensure each lunch gathering runs smoothly and successfully. Special appreciation to several sisters for diligently preparing homemade food, which not only promotes health but also maintains stable costs, allowing us to keep charging only \$10 for adults, half price for children/full-time students, and free for newcomers.
6. Throughout the year, a total of 19 Gym Day Lunch events were held, with approximately 1,950 attendees and an average attendance of around 90 people per gathering. Several occasions saw attendance surpassing a hundred, notably on May 12th, where over 140 people joined to celebrate Mother's Day with brothers and sisters from the Mandarin congregation. On August 27th, a special event commemorating the 45th anniversary of the church's establishment took place, with over 320 participants, including members from three congregations. The event culminated

in a cake-cutting ceremony and a large group photo, with more than 400 people present in the sanctuary. The entire initiative showcased the dedication, collaboration, and unity of the church members, presenting a harmonious and spectacular picture. It is believed that this is not only pleasing to the Lord but also serves as the best gift for our church celebration. The lunch gathering on September 17th, aligned with a music concert held after, also saw enthusiastic participation, with nearly 120 attendees.

7. After each Gym Day Lunch, in addition to offering ball sports for those interested, we also provide board games to attract young people who may not be interested in playing sports, giving them a chance to stay and get to know each other. Since the appointment of the two children's pastors, we have also asked for assistance in caring for young children, allowing parents to focus on playing sports. Additionally, in the first half of the year, various themed talks and group meetings were organized, including:

- i. On February 5th, a special lecture titled "Seeking Destiny in Tarot Cards" was conducted by Rev. Cheung.
- ii. On March 5th, sister Nancy Cheng, a registered Dietitian, delivered a talk on "Colorful Eating Delights."
- iii. On March 19th, brother Joseph Lam presented a session on "Tax Reporting in Canada."
- iv. On April 12th, brother Alex Ng shared photography skills with the theme "Creativity in the Mirror."
- v. Starting in May, brother David Lai hosted a discussion group, sharing the history and archaeological evidence of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. This occurred after five Gym Day Lunches, with over 10 brothers and sisters participating.

8. Our Video Team has continued releasing short videos throughout the year, sharing the experiences of new immigrants in Canada. These videos have been featured on the church's YouTube channel. In the early part of the year, a new series titled "Common Interests" was introduced, produced and hosted by brother Albert Cheung. The content revolves around various aspects of life, interests, and cuisine, with each episode lasting approximately 3-4 minutes. Besides being uploaded to the church website, the videos have also been available on Brother Albert's personal YouTube channel.

9. In the past year, there has been an increase in the participation of young people in the Cantonese congregation, with a majority being non-believers. To strengthen connections, in the new year, we plan to establish a group for UTM students, college students, and young working adults. Pastor Dennis and three other brothers/sisters will serve as mentors. The plan includes organizing gatherings and other activities at least once a month.

10. In the new year, in addition to caring for newcomers and young people, the Cantonese Connection Ministry will strive to strengthen its care for church members and promote harmony among both new and existing members.

11. Thankful to our Lord for His blessings and guidance over the past year. May He continue to lead and guide us, making our service more effective and aligned with His will.

1. Use the caring ministry group (minister + team leader + caring members)

- a) Remind co-workers from time to time to care for believers and seekers in this group as well as new friends in the church
- b) Send prayers for urgent matters in the group

2. Team leader care meeting

Date: November 5th after worship

- a) Purpose: To encourage care group leaders to become role models in the group, and to provide opportunities for mutual exchange and learning between groups, so that they can work together to love God and people.
- b) Format: Simple lunch, greetings to each other, six group leaders, five ministers, and preachers all present

3. Caring for the New Year Luncheon

- a) Date: After Sunday worship on August 5, 2023
- b) Number of people: There are about 50 people participating including the members of the Lord
- c) Content: Get to know each other and communicate with each other. Everyone has a brief introduction and beautiful testimony. Pastor Qiu also has an encouraging message.

4. Daily body care ministry

Care ministers and co-workers understand the living conditions and spiritual status of members or new friends through phone calls, WeChat, and face-to-face. Especially for brothers and sisters who are weak in body and spirit, they invite prayers together and visit at home.

5. New Friends Care Ministry

For new friends who come to the church for the first time, whether they are seekers or Christians, we should establish contact with them in time to understand their life and belief status, welcome them to establish contact with brothers and sisters, ask for their consent, and invite them to enter group

6. Emergency Care Ministry

Invite preachers and other co-workers to jointly handle and coordinate emergencies, and set up a temporary care group for prayer follow-up and follow-up help

7. Ministry of special care for newly baptized brothers and sisters

Because of God's grace, He adds saved people to the church every day, but their lives are still very immature and they need the companionship and guidance of mature Christians. Therefore, one-to-one and two-to-one care groups were established in 2023, and for 2022 +Brothers and sisters who were baptized in 2023, care and encourage them to grow in Bible reading, prayer, worship, etc., and their lives affect lives. This ministry has received strong support and help from all co-workers, including the team leader! Most of the brothers and sisters who were just baptized are still in the church, thank the Lord!

In 2023, the reopening of onsite Sunday Worship service has led to a notable increase in the number of brothers and sisters borrowing and perusing spiritual books in the church library. Additionally, there has been a substantial influx of donated books, predominantly focusing on Bible study commentaries and Christian doctrine, crucial for strengthening the foundation of our faith. Notably, a significant number of books related to missionary ministries have also been received, enriching our understanding of God's will for making disciples.

The special issue commemorating the 45th anniversary of the founding of MCBC reminded us that God's grace is indeed sufficient. In the face of various challenges and difficulties, our church has experienced God's abundant provision.

Looking ahead, we pray for God's preparation of a new Department Head in the coming year to lead the Library & Publication ministry, ensuring the uninterrupted publication of Burning Wick. Currently, Jane Pak and Salina Ng serve as committee members. We also earnestly pray for divine wisdom to continue computerizing the book index on the church website. This endeavor aims to facilitate effective searching of spiritual books on the church website, allowing congregants to fully utilize the rich resources for the advancement of our church's Christian education ministry. Our prayer extends to the recruitment of more brothers and sisters to serve as librarians and actively participate in publishing ministries. Together, let us dedicate ourselves to serving the Lord with His words and living out the Gospel.

2023 was a productive year with several long term projects finishing up.

1. New grass and sprinkler system installation
2. Parking lot lamp post repair and update to LED fixtures
3. Security system update with new keypads and a functioning Creekbank entrance
4. Replacement of (3) HVAC rooftop units

There were also other projects and improvements.

1. (2) new stoves for the new/large kitchen
2. (3) classrooms with new paint
3. Cleanup of AV area in Rm.500
4. New racking in the gym storage area
5. Expanded TV Chrome Cast network
6. Additional Smart Thermostats
7. New landscaping supplier

Special thanks to all the volunteers and past FMD chairs for their continued support and efforts in maintaining what God has provided.

We look forward to another productive year with more improvements and repairs. Thank-you God for always providing.