



From Our Senior Pastor:

How My Ministry Began



by PASTOR STEVEN CHIN

As I have shared my intention to retire this year, I have been reflecting on the journey the Lord has brought me on in the past 40 years.

I thought it may be helpful to share my testimony of how God has worked in my life during my time at BCEC. Hopefully, it can be a source of encouragement and guidance for others, as well as a source of praise for God's grace. My over 40 years of ministry at BCEC can be divided into three parts that relate to the three positions/periods I have served in: Assistant to the Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Senior Pastor. I plan to share about the other two positions/periods in later issues of *BCEC Connections*.

How did God start me on a journey that would eventually allow me to become Senior Pastor of BCEC? I was an American Born Chinese growing up in Cambridge. My immigrant parents were from Toisan in China. I was taught like many immigrant children to study hard, work hard, and make a lot of money. However, God was working in my life by using some older, Caucasian neighbors to invite me to church where I first heard about Jesus and the gospel. I accepted God's gift of salvation because I did not want to go to hell and because I found something free was hard to turn down. Nevertheless, my Christianity was more like fire insurance. I went away to college at NYU to become an engineer, but God used that time to grow me spiritually. I began to trust Jesus not only to go to heaven, but for the rest of my life on earth, as I reflected on His mercy and grace. Jesus was no longer just my Savior. He was now my Lord and Master. God used a small storefront Chinese church in New York's Chinatown to help change me. That church not only helped me to grow spiritually, but it also gave me a vision and passion for ministry to American Born Chinese like myself.

When I came back to Boston, I looked for a similar church in Boston. The closest was BCEC. The English ministry was minimal, and I tried my best to help as a layperson. However, I felt inadequate in helping people who kept coming to me with questions about the Bible. With the support of Nancy, who would eventually become my wife, I decided to take a year off from work to acquire some Bible training. The intention was not to go into full-time Christian work, but to be a better equipped layperson.

While I was in seminary among future pastors and missionaries, I became more open to the idea of possi-

bly becoming a youth minister. I wrote back to a key leader at BCEC to ask if the church needed a youth minister. He said the church had this need, but he doubted the church could afford it because it already had a huge challenge in raising enough money for its new building project at 249 Harrison Ave. I took it as a sign from God, and had my resume prepared to go back to the secular world.

But founding Pastor James Tan felt strongly that the church needed to minister more effectively to the younger English speakers, as many were dropping out. He persuaded the Board of Deacons to hire me as Assistant to the Pastor in October 1977. I did not realize it at the time, but this was a huge step of faith for both the deacons and myself because of the financial pressures.

Essentially, I was the youth director, janitor, and secretary. My tasks included working with high school and college students, buying the toilet paper, and typing and printing the weekly bulletin. My salary and benefits that first year was \$9000.

As Assistant to the Pastor I worked under Pastor James Tan. There was, however, an obstacle right away, as Pastor Tan spoke very little English, and I spoke very little Chinese. Yet God helped us to work together. Mrs. Linda Chin, one of the founders of the church, said our pastoral team of two reminded her of a proverbial Chinese story. That story had two people — one blind and the other lame. Both could not go very far. Nonetheless, by putting the lame person on the back of the blind person and the lame person guiding the blind man's steps, both were able to go far.

There were lots of challenges as a small church that God was able to help us to overcome. That process of dealing with challenges also helped to shape and mold me. When I first started working for the church, the one bilingual (Cantonese and English) worship service was held in rental space in the Pine Street Inn. The Pine Street Inn is a homeless shelter that was originally on Pine St., the small street adjacent to where 249 Harrison Ave. is located. To attend service, I had to hold my breath because of the awful smell, and sometimes, had to walk over drunk men lying on the ground. We had to have Sunday School and fellowship at 884 Washington St., a vacant storefront, that had no heat. I remember teaching, and I could see my breath. At last, in 1979, the 249 Harrison Ave. building was finally complete, and it was such a joy to move into the new facilities. The new building attracted more people, so that we had to do extensive renovations to the building almost right away to keep up with the increased ministry. I even finally had an office even though it was a converted closet. I learned that even though the church is the people, the building and facilities are important for ministry.

Another challenge was the bilingual worship ser-

vice. The Cantonese-speaking members thought it was great. They could learn the Bible and learn English at the same time. But to those who only understood English, the service was twice as long and twice as boring. I appealed to the church leaders to consider having two parallel Cantonese and English worship services. However, there was a lot of resistance to this change. Despite this handicap, the one service in the 249 Harrison Ave. sanctuary grew to a point where it became overcrowded. Finally, the leaders decided in 1983 to allow for two services — one in English and one in Cantonese. It took six years from proposing the idea until it was achieved. This taught me how to bring about big changes in the church. It took time, respectful communication, and prayer. Furthermore, it also taught me how important language and cultural differences were in planning ministries.

All these lessons helped shape me for the next phases of my ministry.



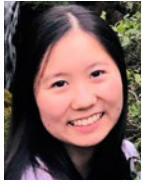
Pastor Steve, then the Assistant to the Pastor, with our first Senior Pastor, Pastor James Tan, in the 1970s

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Urbana 2018:

Faithful Witness



by ANGEL ZHAO,
NEWTON ENGLISH

I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Urbana 18 Student Missions Conference towards the end of December 2018. Urbana is run by InterVarsity, and as a part of the Johns Hopkins University InterVarsity chapter, I was strongly encouraged to attend. At the time of registration in June, I knew the theme for Urbana was discernment. This theme was quite appealing to me because I wanted God's discernment for all aspects of my life. As a college student, I often feel like I do not know what I am doing, so I wanted a space to take a step back and reflect. At Urbana, God did not reveal a blueprint for my entire life, as I had hoped for. Instead, He revealed his next step for me. I think this is for the best because it motivates us to truly put our trust in Him.

The more specific theme for Urbana 18 was "Faithful Witness." We were challenged to think about what might be holding us back from following Jesus. Is it a cost we don't want to face? Something we might lose? Or, do we think we are self-sufficient and therefore, don't need Jesus at all? Personally, living a double life was holding me back from following Jesus. The struggle of my double life centers around the intersection between Greek life and Christianity. When I joined my sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, I saw Greek life

and Christianity as two separate spheres of my life. One seemed to center around drinking, partying, and sex. The other centered around Jesus. How was I supposed to reconcile the two?

Amazingly, God allowed me to connect with Theta collegiate sisters across the nation and Greek InterVarsity staff members who are also Thetas. They shared their experiences with me about planting Greek InterVarsity and leading Bible studies in their Theta chapters. All in all, it inspired me to think more deeply about how Greek life intersects with Christianity.

Consequently, I left Urbana with a commitment I never saw coming: getting to know my Theta sisters better for the purpose of eventually starting a Bible study in our chapter. This commitment definitely scares me, but at Urbana, I learned that remember we might not know the answers to *who, what, where, and when* in the future. However, we know one thing: Jesus is in our future, a beautiful future spoken to us through Revelation! How do we know he is in our future? Jesus was slain, so He has triumphed! Therefore, we need to keep doing what we're called to do and remain hopeful, because Jesus will return, and we will share in that triumph!

In addition, I was reminded that how we see Jesus determines how we live Jesus. By living a double life, I did not put Jesus at the center of my life. Therefore, my actions and thoughts did not reflect what Jesus would have liked to see, and I struggled with guilt and shame over this. Yet because Jesus was slain, He washed away those sins and made everything new. I was also reminded of the urgency



of spreading the Good News, as only those whose names are written in the Book of Life will be victorious. Ultimately, it is not my doing, it is God's work that transform people's lives. We don't need to get our act together in order to do God's work. As 2 Corinthians 12:9 states, God meets us in our weakness.

Interestingly, I was going to take on a leadership position in my InterVarsity chapter at John Hopkins as Events Coordinator this past fall. Others also pushed me to become a Bible study small group leader. But in the end, I chose not to, and I think God told me to say "no" to those positions for my Urbana commitment.

Therefore, I would like to share my prayer request of being able to make strong connections with my Theta sisters as I intentionally plan to be more involved. In addition, I ask for prayer on having courage, persistence, and wisdom to be a faithful witness. Lastly, I ask for prayer for the other Urbana attendees, that they would stay firm to their commitments, as they pursue God's next step for them.

Called to Serve with Simple Obedience



by MELANIE LAM,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

Every three years InterVarsity holds a Christian student missions conference in St. Louis, Missouri that pulls together over 12,000 college students, graduate students, faculty, pastors, church and ministry leaders, missions organizations, and schools and mobilizes them for global missions — this is called Urbana. For the past six years, I have served on missions for a week every summer on a Native American Reservation in Minnesota. Last winter, I had the opportunity to take a semester off from school and do medical missions in the slums of Manila in the Philippines. Integrating my faith and healthcare profession has always been a dream, and I was amazed at what God did not only through me, but in me as well. These experiences have made my heart burn for the poor, the lost, and the marginalized. It felt like God was begging me to open

my eyes to his providence, and to have bigger faith for what He can do.

I went to Urbana excited to hear His call to radical life-risking dedications, but instead He convicted me of my constant failure to express faith in *simple obedience*. I have reevaluated what it means to invite the Holy Spirit to truly guide my each and every step, and what continuously saying yes to Him, even unto death, truly looks like. I wrestled heavily with the question of what brings true impact, transformation, and multiplication to a community. And what I kept coming back to is that as wonderfully well intentioned various efforts can be, it always boils down to one thing, that is, intentional long-term commitment in our *presence and proclamation* of God's love and heart for all people.

"Come out of Babylon, my people" (Revelation 18:4 - GWT). Quite honestly, the emphasis of this verse broke me. A time of raw reflection revealed to me that my very own idol manifested in my very own dreams and aspirations, which were rooted in worldly accolades, rather than kingdom-seeking motivations. I have always desired to be in the healthcare field. With time, that desire developed

into tunnel vision to get my Doctorate of Pharmacy degree, pursue two years of residency, specialize in oncology, and so on. In this concrete plan for my own life, I left no room for Jesus' plans for me. *I had muddled my calling by mistaking prideful self-sufficiency for ambition*. Since Urbana, I have been pondering if I would really give it all up for His Kingdom's sake. My answer is yes! I have been exploring and trying to discern who He is calling me to.

God willing, I will be serving again this summer in Red Lake, Minnesota to further relationships with that Native American community and further the gospel in their self-proclaimed broken hopelessness. Please pray for me, as I return with new eyes to try to see the opportunity and God's vision for these people long term.

Urbana 18 reminded me that we need to stop asking "if" we are called to lifelong missions — we are all called to be faithful witnesses and further Christ's kingdom. But rather, we need to start discerning how to set roots, to love, and to serve whatever people group we are called to, whatever age, race, class, sex, religion, and whether they are on the opposite of the world, or in our very own backyards.

There and Back Again: Reflections on Visiting our Partners



by RYAN SO,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

My ears always perk up on the mention of a cross-cultural ministry experience. Having been on a few short-term trips myself, I always get excited by the possibilities of new adventures in my walk with God. Not that there is anything wrong or mundane about serving the Lord here in Boston, but there has always been a sense in my heart that there is a larger world out there that God wants me to engage in. So, when the opportunity to go with Pastor Enoch to visit our partners around the world presented itself, it was hard to say no.

Our trip started out like a standard fair: multiple connecting flights, layovers, and long security lines. But once we arrived in our first destination, our adventure had begun! In the first leg of our journey, we met up with long-time partners Tim and Christine Fung. They showed us not only the beautiful cities where they worked, but also outstanding sites, rich with the history of early Christians. But these sites paled in comparison to the people that Tim and Christine introduced us to during our brief stay.

Once our time with Tim and Christine ended, we hopped, jumped, and skipped our way into Israel. There we met up with Oded and Bimini Cohen. They, like Tim and Christine, introduced us to the land of Israel with sites and locales. But again, this would pale in comparison to the amazing people we would meet along the way. Finally, on our way back home, we had a quick layover in the United Kingdom. There we met up with brothers and sisters from across the pond. Although our time with our international brothers and sisters was short, it was wonderful to share with each other how God has been moving in our different ministries. While it would be amazing to tell you of all of the stories and adventures we had, I'll focus on highlighting some of the most significant interactions I had while on the trip.

The first was with a family that Tim and Christine had befriended. They welcome us into their home, as if we were good friends, serving us tea and homemade desserts. I must admit, I felt really out of place when I arrived. Having zero command of the language, I sat in silence most of the time, hoping for God to miraculously imbue me with the gift to understand languages or for Google Translate to update: neither happened that night. Instead, their youngest son, about maybe 4-5 years old, approached me with a board game. Thankfully, the game had no words and the number system was similar to our own. I still had no ability to understand this game, since the instructions were foreign to me. Nonetheless, I engaged in dice rolling and moving cardboard cutouts of ducks, only to be told by the father a little later that I was losing. Soon children duck games moved to Legos, which moved to toy cars. I spent the whole night playing. At first, I wrote it off as just helping the adults have some time to talk and build relationships. But as Christine told me a little more about the family's story, I would discover that those couple of hours of ducky ducky adventure time (that's my name for the game; I have no idea what the actual name is) was encouraging and uplifting to the parents. What seemed like a small task would speak volumes to those watching. That moment showed me how God would work even when I had no ability to do anything. I couldn't speak the language, I couldn't interact on a normal level, I could only play with Legos and lose at a children's game. However, this would work to help further God's kingdom by providing good rapport to Tim and Christine's ministry.

The other significant interaction that left an impression on me was when we met with a family that Oded and Bimini had befriended in their outreach ministry. Deep regret set in as I wished I had paid more attention in my Hebrew classes, but they were quickly relieved when the son introduced himself in English. Our conversations started off normally. What do you do? How are you? However, as soon as we began to talk about hobbies, the conversation took a turn. His interest in games and Japanese animation brought excitement and life into his eyes. We shared and talked throughout the meal. Oded and Bimini expressed their joy in seeing the people whom they had been reaching out to being engaged. They told us



more about the son's background, how he struggled socially in school and that it was hard for him to make friends. He was dying to have people to talk to and engage with him. Again, I felt like I had not done much. I was just talking about things that I do in my free time (and they said playing games wouldn't be helpful). But all jokes aside, here God again showed me how little it mattered that I was seminary trained, that I had a master's degree, that I was a leader at church. At the end of the day, my ability to just sit and be with people was what mattered.

I came back home wondering where in my life I need to just sit and be with people. Sometimes, I leverage that fact that I can do so much that I forget that there are many times where God just wants me to be some place, with someone, and watch him work. Not because he needs me to be there, but to show how He is in control of all things. I don't know if I would have seen this if I had not gone to a place where my skills and gifts didn't matter that much. This trip showed me that going out to the field isn't always about my skillful preparedness as much as my willingness and openness to follow God and let Him work. What keeps you from stepping out in faith? Is it a fear that you're lacking a skill? Are you worried about the lack of resources? Perhaps it is family or other relationships that is impeding you. I am not necessarily saying drop everything and go, but what would it look like for us to be with God and watch him work around us? Are there areas where our skills and spiritual gifts can hinder us from seeing God work? Thus, I return back home looking for how God is working around me and not what I can do for God. I can go and watch him work and participate, as He invites me, too. Where is God inviting you to come and see what He is doing?



Reflections on Trip to Myanmar



by PASTOR BARRY LAM,
NEWTON CANTONESE

It was nine years ago when my wife and I shared a dream that one day we might have the opportunity to serve orphans.

However, we never took the initiative to contact any individuals or organizations involved. As a result, this dream gradually became a fantasy, and we did not think that we would have the opportunity to visit an orphanage. Then Silver Lining came along, and magically our dream that had vanished from our busy lives came true.

Silver Lining started as an aid organization that fought poverty in China's Guangxi province, helping the poverty-stricken minorities in the mountainous areas, improving the education and daily needs of the children in those areas, and assisting those with cerebral palsy by providing rehabilitation, job training, and urgent medical help. It even extended its service to orphans in Myanmar in 2017, when they founded the Silver Lining Family Village in Pyin Oo Lwin, welcoming over 60 orphans and providing them with a family and the opportunity to receive an education.

Last year, from November 25 to December 6, four other people and I formed a visitation team and flew to Myanmar from Boston to visit the

children at Silver Lining Family Village. After nearly 20 hours by plane and 1 hour 45 minutes by car, we arrived in Pyin Oo Lwin, where the Silver Lining Family Village was located. In the morning on the second day, we left our hotel and finally arrived at the village. Soon after our arrival, over 60 children returned from school, so we played games with them. Initially, I was anxious about how to get along with them, but my worries were proven unfounded, because they were well behaved. Not only did they obey what their teachers said, but they were patient and attentive when participating in activities.

After our games, we gave them small toys that we had brought from the United States. The children were so pure hearted that they became overjoyed with just a small and simple toy. While we were having fun with them in the sports ground, their cheerful faces and innocent laughter made our exhaustion disappear. Their uninhibited happiness also brought joy to our team of adults. After dinner, we went to the activity room to sing praise songs and dance, and we found out that this was part of their daily routine every evening. When they were singing, their lovely voices were as sweet as the sounds of angels, and that made us feel like we were in heaven. In the following week, I was greatly moved as I played, sang, and lived with them. I realized that, behind each of these lovely faces, there was something tragic that they had experienced. Children deserve to be well taken care of by their parents, but to them, love from their parents is as intangible as a mirage in the desert.



In reality, they have to face people's discrimination, often while taking care of their brothers and sisters. Yet, they bravely survive. Although they still have to tackle many other difficulties in the future, they have Silver Lining and a group of coworkers dedicated to love them and serve them, walking with them with steadfast love and bringing a ray of hope in their lives.

On this trip, I was able to better understand our Heavenly Father's mercy and love toward orphans and widows. In the Bible, God asked His people on many occasions to take care of and defend the



fatherless and the widows, so that He would bless them in everything that they were doing.

Deuteronomy 14:29 (NIV) says, "...the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."

This time God really showed me the blessings that He had promised and how they were fulfilled through the faithful service by Silver Lining. In addition, Paul has taught us that we were all spiritual orphans before we put our faith in Jesus, wandering in this world and not even recognizing

our Father who has created us and loves us. Our Heavenly Father did not forsake us, and He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to seek us, to give us the right to be His children through faith, and to enjoy all the abundant blessings in His family.

"For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will." (Ephesians 1:4-5 - NIV)

Heavenly Father, how wide and long and high and deep is Your love!



*Stephen Ministry:***Be a Stephen Minister**

by GRACE HUNG,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

In May 2017, I participated in a 50-hour Stephen Ministry training course. At the end of the course, the instructor asked us to provide feedback for the course. I wrote the following: "One lesson of the course described that a person without crisis is like a regular triangle standing stably on its base. However, when a crisis occurs, it becomes an inverted triangle and loses balance. That person needs help to regain balance. I was once an inverted triangle and fully understood how difficult an imbalanced life was. Thankfully, in those years, a sister walked with me through those darkest moments. Although she has since passed away, her example has moved me and so I decided to follow her footsteps. Stephen Ministers, through caring, help the people in need to persevere through the crisis and return to their stability. What a beautiful ministry!"

At the end of September 2017, I and four other students were commissioned as Stephen Ministers. I then started my caring ministry. Stephen Ministry was founded in 1975 by Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk. This organization has developed a training program for lay Christians to be equipped with how to give one-on-one Christ-centered care for hurting people. Their

faith motto is "Christ caring for people." Therefore, caring for the hurting brothers and sisters in the body of Christ is not only the responsibility of pastors, but also of every member. Through one-on-one and Christ-centered care, Stephen Ministers bring God's comfort and love to the care receivers. That is to say, the care receiver has experienced through you the love of God. In the past year, I have experienced many fruitful gains. I not only am honored to work with God, to witness God's work, but also to have experienced the love and mercy of God! God loves each one of us, and He would never forsake us. Even when we are suffering from difficult predicaments in life with seemingly no way out, He is still omnipresent. The tears we shed in the dark, the groaning in the pain, the yelling in despair — He knows and understands every single one. More importantly, He wants us to know that He is concerned and hopes to comfort us.

Paul said that we are members of the body of Christ, and that if "one member suffers, all suffer together." (1 Corinthians 12:26 – ESV) If someone unfamiliar sits next to me during service and is experiencing a crisis, I should also experience this suffering with him or her together. Brothers and sisters must



always look after each other as part of our Christian duties. In 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV), Paul said, "who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." As a result, when we care for the suffering people, God's comfort comes. A Stephen Minister's mission is to walk with hurting people, so that they will not despair. Brothers and sisters, if we look around closely the current situations of our church members, it is not difficult to find many of them are facing all kinds of hardships in life such as the loss of beloved ones, serious illnesses or long-term illnesses, relationships being challenged, unemployment, and so on. God definitely does not want them to face their hardships alone. I sincerely invite you to consider joining this caring team. The recruitment of the next Stephen Ministers will begin in February 2019.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CORNER

Charity Mini Grants Knit Together Hearts and Communities



by LING-MEI WONG,
CHINATOWN CANTONESE 3RD
SERVICE

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we thank God for our church members who have given back to the community. The Charity Fund's surplus has been made

available for mini grants to Boston Chinese Evangelical Church members to serve our local community in response to the church theme "Seek the Peace of the City." Proposals that serve our local communities that are underserved (for example, the elders, new immigrants, those who are homeless, etc.) are highly encouraged. Previous grantees have knitted items for elders and prepared Christmas gifts for children in need since 2017.

A recipient of a grant was the Love Knitting Group, which gathers at 120 Shawmut Avenue on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Women share new stitches, cook lunch together, and fellowship with each other. Members made more than 30 scarves,

hats, and pairs of gloves. Many of these knitted goods were given to elders at senior housing during Christmas visitations.

Moreover, the English college ministry applied for a grant to cover shipping for Operation Christmas Child in November 2017. College students purchased items for shoebox gifts out of their own funds. They assembled 18 shoebox gifts together and prayed for children around the world. Students were able to serve together and practice compassion for those less fortunate than themselves.

The Social Responsibility Committee welcomes your ideas! Any BCEC member can apply online at bcec.net/src.

Just a Little Something



by EVANGELINE LEE,
CHINATOWN ENGLISH

Have you ever wondered what you could do to tackle big social justice issues such as sex trafficking? Yes, we definitely can pray about these issues and prayer can move mountains! But have you also ever pondered about what you could do more tangibly to combat these issues? That's what I was thinking about as I sat in the Route One Ministry workshop, a part of the Social Responsibility Conference last year.

For those of you who don't know, Route One Ministry is a non-profit Christian organization and program of the Emmanuel Gospel Center. Its vision is to "minister to women exploited by the sex industry in the Greater Boston area and beyond." In order to do this, Route One Ministry goes into clubs, fosters relationships with the women there, and teaches the public about trafficking in the United States.

For me, sex trafficking is an issue that has rubbed my heart the wrong way for a while now. I have thought about hosting a documentary viewing to learn more about sex trafficking, followed by a prayer meeting, but unfortunately, I haven't done so yet. Thus, when I saw the bulletin announcement from our beloved Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) about whether we were looking for more ways to get involved with Route One Ministry, I ended up emailing SRC to ask how I could help.

I was asked to organize a snack drive to collect snacks for the people attending a Route One Ministry conference in September. The conference was entitled "Nonprofit Sustainability: Building leadership skills to end commercial sexual exploitation." With snack donations, the conference cost wouldn't be as high. Honestly, I thought to myself, *That sounds easy enough—I'm a pretty organized person, I have a car and snacks shouldn't be too hard to collect. This would just be a little something that I'd be doing to help.*

Accomplishing this task was a bit more difficult than I anticipated, but I was able to see God's faithfulness in it. I was slightly discouraged and disappointed when I hadn't received any emails, but close

to the deadline, God raised up a couple of brothers and sisters to meet the snack donation needs! Praise Him!

In organizing the snack drive, I felt that I played a very small part in helping to end commercial sexual exploitation. More people were able to attend the conference at a lower cost and hence, able to learn how to better combat sex trafficking and bring those involved in it to know Christ. Brothers and sisters, if our lives have truly been transformed by the message of Jesus Christ, then we would want anyone and everyone to know the life-changing gospel!

Also, the Bible teaches us that when we do things such as feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked, we are doing them unto God. Matthew 25:40 (ESV) says, *And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did...to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.* Brothers and sisters, I urge you to take action—whether it be signing up to volunteer at Boston Rescue Mission or donating a small amount of money to that Christian organization you've been meaning to! And if you're not sure where to start, you can email Social Responsibility Committee (srministry@bcec.net) for some ideas! Just do a little something for God's glory!







Servant appreciation dinner (12/10): Chinatown Mandarin ministries prepared a sumptuous dinner to appreciate all the staff, elders, deacons, and many more who have served in our church.



New Year Prayer Meeting (1/1)



2018 Annual Meeting (10/28)



Joint Leadership Meeting (1/12): The BOE, BOD, and staff came together for a day to pray, learn, and discern God's will on expansion at our Chinatown Campus.



Chinese Leadership Meeting (1/19)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 5 CHINESE NEW YEAR
OFFICE CLOSED
- 15-18 WINTER TEEN CONFERENCE (HIGH SCHOOL)
ENGLISH
- 16 COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS
SPRING SEMESTER PLACEMENT TEST
- 18 PRESIDENTS' DAY
OFFICE CLOSED
- 18-22 PDAS BREAK
- 22-24 WINTER TEEN CONFERENCE (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
ENGLISH

MARCH

- 2 COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS
SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN
- 3 CHINESE SUNDAY SCHOOL
SPRING SESSION BEGINS
- 8 COLLEGE RETREAT
ENGLISH
- 10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
ONE HOUR AHEAD
- 22-24 CANTONESE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
CHINESE

APRIL

- 15-19 PDAS BREAK
- 19 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
- 20 EASTER HOLIDAY
NO COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASSES
- 21 EASTER SUNDAY
- 21 BAPTISM

MAY

- 2 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
- 5 CARING SUNDAY
CHINESE
- 8 THE TABLE
ENGLISH
- 12 MOTHER'S DAY
- 24-27 TIOB YOUTH RETREAT
NEWTON ENGLISH
- 27 MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED



BCEC Connections is a quarterly publication of Boston Chinese Evangelical Church. We would love to hear from you!

If you would like to help with this publication (writing, translation, or editing), please contact Helena Fong at helena.fong@bcec.net.

Do you have a story you think would be a blessing to other BCEC members? Do you have a great photo of a recent church or ministry event you'd like to share? Please send your submissions, questions, or comments to helena.fong@bcec.net. *We reserve the right to edit the submissions, as we deem appropriate without notice.*

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