

Chinese Christian Church of Thousand Oaks

Quarterly Newsletter

April 2015

Volume 1 Number 1



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We are excited to have the opportunity to support the Weidman family as they prepare to answer God's calling on their lives.

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The words church and governance seem like they do not mix. However orderly church structure is important for a body to work together. Learn more about how CCCTO is organized.

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Our Building Renovation Committee has been busy during the first quarter. Find out more about what we are doing and you can help

A vision for 2015 and beyond

In early 2015, the Pastoral Team reconvened following the installation of two new elders. At the first meeting of the 2015 Executive Board, the Pastoral Team shared their vision for CCCTO for this coming year and the near future. We are excited to share this with you in our first edition of the CCCTO Quarterly Newsletter!

Why a quarterly newsletter?

Going forward, the Executive Board will be providing updates on a quarterly basis to the congregations about all of the different activities taking place. Our desire is that you would be encouraged by how God is moving among our church body and to see how you can be a part of His plan as we seek to glorify Him as a church.

An urgent prayer request

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

Thank God, the Holy Spirit has been leading us work together to serve Him till this day. During the process, Jianhua and I have received your help and full support, for which we are so thankful. Now we are facing a greater challenge for another time, we ask you to pray for us. If possible, please forward our prayer request to the church bodies, so more brothers/sisters may pray for us. May the Lord strengthen us!

According to this morning's (4/13/2015) CT report, there is a 5.7X4.0 cm tumor on the Jianhua's pancreas, dispersed and transferred to the right lobe of the liver, the largest tumor be 5.6X4.8cm in size, also moved to abdominal lymph nodes, the largest tumor 3.0X1.3 cm.

Our family doctor said there was no time to waste. We are referred to UCLA Surgical Oncology, and are hoping to go through surgery within 10 days for the best. On the other hand, the gastroenterologist suggested it's too difficult to do surgery in view of her condition, and suggested chemotherapy would be a better option.

No matter what doctors say, we want to pray to our God who created all things and still manages all things. He didn't spare his son Jesus Christ to save us, He will lead us and show us his way. Jianhua is faithful. She calmly said to me "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" , and vowed to be a soldier under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to fight the illness to the very end.

Even though I know this is a spiritual battle, an attack from Satan, but God also allows us to rely on Him to resist the temptation. I believe God will strengthen us and I pray to God to heal Jianhua completely! However, it is difficult for me to hold back sorrowful tears when I allow myself to imagine Jianhua's suffering. Especially now her symptoms are getting worse, and she has lost her appetite. In the past, I was devoted to the church's ministry, with little or no time for family matters, so Jianhu had to take care of everything. But now I need to ask her to put down all these for the obvious reasons, and ask other people to take up her ministries, so that she can focus on fighting against the disease with the power and strength from the Holy Spirit. Thus the church's ministry won't be affected and God's name will be exalted.

Please don't call or visit us right now, as we need to stay in contact with doctors, labs, hospital, and we don't want your call to be interrupted frequently. You may encourage Jianhua via WeChat, email, even though she might not have time to respond, for which we ask for your understanding and forgiveness.

We hope through your prayers we learn how to praise the Lord Jesus Christ in the most difficult time.

Youping



“...enabling them to be the driving force of the growth of the church.”

Focusing our combined efforts on the healthy growth of the church

In January, the Pastoral Team shared the following vision with the Executive Board. As we progress through the year, our various Departments and Committees will use this to guide how we plan for the future of CCCTO.

Reconfirm, promote, and implement the vision of the Great Oaks Church Planting Association

This year, the Pastoral Team plans to complete drafting the bylaws for the *Great Oaks Church Planting Association* and to initiate community service and outreach programs.

Promote the healthy growth of the church

We will look for ways to reconstruct our youth and children's ministries, enabling them to be the driving force of

the growth of the church. Aligned with this, we will complete the improvement of our current facilities to better support our ministries, while also exploring the feasibility of a new church facility.

We will focus on developing young ministry leaders for the next generation and we will build up a core group of leaders to help guide the future of our church.

We will support and encourage our fellowships to grow stronger.

Last but not least, in everything that we do, we will promote church unity and harmony.

Now what?

On the following pages of this newsletter, you will learn about CCCTO's different Departments and Committees. Each one is focused on implementing this vision and over the course of this year we hope that we all can participate in bring this vision to life.



Michael and Amy have been praying about how to live their lives to the fullest for God's kingdom. God answered their prayer by leading them to start a Navigators International Ministry in Vancouver, Canada reaching out to unreached international graduate students and young professionals. We are excited to see God moving among our church family to reach the world with the good news of the Gospel. As we prepare to send Michael and Amy into the mission field, we wanted to share more about what they will be doing and how each of us can help play a part in this exciting opportunity.

An urgent need

Currently, no Navigators' staff is reaching international students. The Navigators wants urgently to begin an international ministry to students, scholars and young professionals at the University of British Columbia. There are 50,000 students at the University of British Columbia, half of who are Asian; most of those are Chinese; 20% are international students. Simon Fraser University has 40,000 students. Moreover, there are over 20 colleges and universities in Vancouver. Some students will be returning to their home

Learn more about the organization that Michael and Amy are joining by visiting www.navigators.org

Answering God's call

Michael and Amy's future ministry in Vancouver, Canada

countries and sharing Christ with their family members and friends. Michael and Amy will be building a network with the local churches in Vancouver and overseas to make disciples and equip them to be disciple makers.

Getting to Canada

Before they can leave for the mission field, they are required by the Navigators to raise funds to cover the relocation expenses. They are also required to prove that they have enough supporters who have committed (or pledged) to give towards a monthly total of \$8,000. As of the writing of this newsletter, they are 25% of the way there.

You can become a monthly supporter by going to the [Navigators website](#), choosing "Donate", and searching for Michael or Amy Weidman.

You can also send a check made payable to "The Navigators" with the account number "23825351" in the memo line (do not write their names on the checks).

The Navigators
P.O. Box 6079
Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679

What happens next?

In March, the Executive Board formed a new committee that is responsible for

planning in preparation for Michael and Amy's departure. The committee is currently focused on creating a transition plan for the many things that Michael and Amy do in support of the different ministries at CCCTO.

Their exact departure date will depend on when they are able to raise the required funds to leave for the mission field. As required by CCCTO's Bylaws, Pastor Michael will notify the Executive Board 3 months in advance of their confirmed departure date. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact a member of the Transition Planning Committee:

- Bryan Yee
bryan.yee@cccto.org
- David Fang
david.fang@cccto.org
- David Kwong
david.kwong@cccto.org
- Thomas Yau
thomas.yau@cccto.org

As we prepare for a period of transition we are encouraged by God's faithfulness to this church over the past 30+ years. We look forward to how God will use his church for his glory and we are excited for the opportunity to partner with the Weidman Family as they answer God's call to minister to students in Vancouver.

How Our Church Functions

One team of brothers and sisters from three congregations serving one God

By the grace of God, CCCTO has enjoyed a history of over 30 years. Throughout its history, brothers and sisters who were called by God and confirmed by the church have served faithfully in a variety of the different positions at CCCTO. Like other churches, the way our church is organized and how its functions are governed by a constitution and set of bylaws. In this article, we hope to give you a glimpse into how it all works.

The Pastoral Team

As the spiritual leaders of the church, the Pastoral Team (PT) is responsible for spiritual guidance through teaching and caring. Made up of the Pastors and Elders, the PT meets on a regular basis to discuss the church's vision, which is carried out through the different departments and committees in the Executive Board (EB).

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees represents the church with regards to all legal and financial matters. Members of

the Board of Trustees are nominated by the EB and approved by the General Assembly to serve a four-year term.

The Executive Board

As the governing body of the church, the EB consists of the Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and Trustees and carries out the regular functions of the church. The EB currently meets once a month to provide updates for each of the departments and committees and to discuss future plans. Each year the EB elects 4 officers from among themselves. For 2015 these are:

- Chairman: Bryan Yee
- Vice-chairman: Houshi Li
- Secretary: Jerry Yu
- Treasurer: Ji Ma

Departments and Committees

Members of the EB either lead or participate in a number of departments and committees. Our departments represent the ongoing tasks related to running the church.

As needed, Committees are formed to achieve specific tasks.

We currently have 5 departments:

- **Missions**
chaired by Richard Rao
- **Human Resources**
chaired by Shiwen Zhang
- **Finance**
chaired by Ji Ma
- **Technology**
chaired by William Chu
- **General Affairs**
chaired by Tony Chau

How can you get involved at CCCTO?

There are many opportunities to serve at CCCTO. Contact one of the pastors, elders, or deacons and share with them what you have a passion for. There is a very good chance there is an opportunity to use your God-given gifts to serve at our church!

An Update From the Building Renovation Committee



Originally built in 1988

We completed construction and moved into our current Thousand Oaks facility in 1988. Over the years, this location has served as the home for weekly Sunday worship in multiple languages, AWANA during the week, the annual VBS program, and countless other ministries.

On any given Sunday it is easy to see that we are pushing the limits of what our current facility can currently support. Our challenges with parking can easily turn away a visitor. Our classrooms are also beyond capacity. This past year, we have asked ourselves how we can improve our facilities to better support the ministries and vision for our church.

Building for the future

One of the exciting committees that kicked off recently is the Building Renovation Committee, which is being led by William Chu. Over the first few months of the year the committee has already reviewed expansion plans that were previously drafted but not completed for one reason or another.

In the near future the committee will be hiring a design professional to evaluate the building code implications and to help create

drawings that will be used for a formal bidding process before we begin the building activities.

Key priorities

This project will be spread over a number of phases which are still to be determined, however the committee has prioritized changes in support of the Children's Ministry. This is one way that the EB has already aligned its priorities to support the vision to enable the Youth and Children's Ministries to be the driving force of growth in our church. Updates to the restrooms are also currently in progress as a part of the first phase of this project.

Other items under discussion for future phases include:

- Parking
- Sanctuary expansion
- Fellowship Hall renovation
- Classroom/building growth

Getting involved

Do you have experience with large renovation projects? Reach out to William Chu (william.chu@cccto.org) if you do.

As the plans are further detailed, we'll continue to provide updates and share about how you can be a part of this exciting opportunity we have to use what God has entrusted us with for his glory.