



November 3, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The year of 2021 is nearly over. What a year we have had as a church family! It is the time we would like to give thanks to the Lord for His grace and blessing, as well as reflect on the lesson that He wanted us to learn.

At the beginning of the year, we had hoped the pandemic would end soon so that we could return to a normal church life. As it turned out we have to live through it for a much-prolonged time period. At the moment that we can see the light at the end of tunnel, the Pastoral Team want to thank you all for your endurance, resilience, courage and dedication. You have lived out the 2021 theme from Philippians 2:2 and 15 – “then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind...so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.”

You have demonstrated yourselves are the children of God and have been shining in the world.

We give thanks to the Lord for the following blessings:

- We’ve kept our Sunday services for all three congregations non-interrupted, both online and in-person meeting. The total attendance for each congregation maintained about the same level as before the COVID.
- Almost all fellowship groups have held their regular bible study and fellowship meetings.
- Caring ministries are running well, providing cares to those who are in need.
- The Lord has kept bringing newcomer to our midst, and they are welcomed and cared by our caring coworkers and fellowship groups. New members joined the church, and new brothers and sisters were baptized.
- We continue supporting all the missionaries in the working field with our prayers and financial aid, sending our love to them and receiving their prayer requests and needs through our mission department.
- A few church members were infected with COVID-19, but all recovered fully.
- The church finance is in very healthy. As a matter of fact, we’ve seen more offerings than before the pandemic.
- Pastor Ming Li has successfully moved through the transition period and settled in the role as MM pastor.

The list can go on and on. These are a few highlights. Glory to the Lord!

On the other hand, we have also run into some challenging situations in this year:



- The Great Oaks Christian Ministry (GOCM) has not engaged in any other active ministry except Enlighten Mental Health ministry. All other planned programs have been put on hold.
- We have not been able to find the right candidate for Children Ministry director, so we had to rely on Jacy to take charge of both Children Ministry and Youth Ministry. In the meanwhile, the Lord has called Jacy to return to the children ministry.
- Sonia Renzi resigned from the position of CM minister and left CCCTO with her husband Neal Renzi.
- Even though the Pastoral Team have taken over all CM ministries and keep communicating with CM brothers and sisters, nevertheless they are left without a minister, feeling hurt and anxious.

Also, Pastor Curtis has decided to retire by the end of 2022, therefore, we are going to face more challenges in 2022.

- We need to seek God's guidance and follow governmental guidelines on when we can stop online streaming and fully return to in-person Sunday services.
- We need to consolidate the GOCM board since a few board directors have left or will retire, we need to find a CEO who will lead and plan to resume the programs.
- We need to find a youth director/pastor for youth, a minister for CM and a pastor for EM.
- We need to identify and ordain new elders since Elder David and Elder Meisheng will retire by the end of 2022 as they fulfill their 2 term (8 years) service.

“Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1). We are confident God will provide everything we need, as long as we faithfully do our part. We are sure God is faithful and He will continue blessing His own church, even more, as long as we follow His commandment of loving each other. We also believe God will make CCCTO as a blessing to the community, near and far, as long as we obey His Great Commission of preaching Gospel to the world.

We will live as a family, praying together and serving each other.

Your servants in Jesus Christ,

Elder David Fang
Elder Mitch Hsu
Elder Meisheng Jiang
Pastor Ming Li
Pastor Curtis Lowe
Elder Steve Yao



November 3, 2021

親愛的主內兄弟姐妹們：

轉眼 2021 年即將結束，這是不平凡的一年！此時此刻，我們一方面感謝主的恩典和祝福，同時也反思神要我們學習的功課。

年初之際我們曾希望新冠病毒能儘快結束，以便恢復正常的教會生活，然而神卻讓我們一整年都生活在病毒肆虐之中。現在我們終於可以看一絲希望，在此牧長團要感謝大家的耐力、韌性、勇氣和奉獻精神。你們活出了 2021 教會年度腓立比書 2 章 2 節和 15 節主題經文 - 「你們就要意念相同，愛心相同，有一樣的心思，有一樣的意念，使我的喜樂可以滿足 … 使你們無可指摘，誠實無偽，在這彎曲悖謬的世代作神無瑕疵的兒女。你們顯在這世代中，好像明光照耀。」

你們證明瞭自己是神的兒女，並且在世上成為祂的見證。

我們要為以下的事情感謝神的賜福：

- 我們三堂主日聚會沒有間斷，雲端和實體聚會同時進行。各堂聚會人數大體與 COVID 之前相當。
- 各團契沒有間斷小組查經和團契聚會。
- 關懷事工照常進行，為有需要的弟兄姐妹提供關懷服務。
- 主一直把新人帶到我們中間，關懷同工積極跟進。與此同時，有新會員加入教會，並且有新人受洗歸入基督。
- 我們持續籍著禱告和金錢支援在宣教工場的宣教士。通過宣教部的同工向他們傳遞教會對他們的愛和關懷，並接受他們的禱告請求和各種需要。
- 幾位會員雖然感染了病毒，但都完全康復。
- 教會的財務狀況良好，事實上今年教會收到的奉獻比新冠之前更多。
- 李明牧師過渡期順利，完全適應了中文堂牧師之職。

感恩事項數不勝數，以上榮耀僅是數項。

另一方面今年我們也遇到了諸多挑戰：

- 橡樹播種協會 (GOCM) 除了心理健康講座，沒有開展任何其他事工，原有計劃都被擱置。



- 我們未能找到合適的兒童部主任候選人，因此我們不得不讓 Jacy 姊妹同時負責兒童部和青年部事工。在此期間，神已經清楚指示 Jacy 回到兒童部。
- 鍾傳道辭去粵語堂傳道的職務，與丈夫 Neal 一起離開教會。
- 儘管牧長團立即接手粵語堂全部事工並且積極與粵語堂的兄弟姐妹們溝通，但他們失去鍾傳道以後，仍倍感受傷和焦慮。

此外，Curtis 劉牧師已決定在 2022 年底退休，因此在 2022 年我們將會面臨更多的挑戰。

- 我們需要尋求神的引領，並遵循政府的指導，決定何時可以停止雲端串流服務，而完全回歸主日實體聚會。
- 因為一些理事已經離開或即將退休，我們需要重整橡樹播種協會理事會，並且尋找新的總幹事來恢復和推動各項事工計劃。
- 我們需要聘請青年事工部主任或牧師，粵語堂傳道，以及英文堂牧師。
- 我們需要確認並按立新的長老，因為智武長老和梅生長老明年卸任。

“信是所望之事的實底，未見之事的確據（希伯來書 11: 1）”。我們確信，只要我們忠心，神會供應我們一切的需要。我們相信，只要我們彼此相愛，神是信實的並要繼續賜福祂自己的教會，甚至末後的要大過先前的。我們也相信，只要我們遵行大使命傳福音，神會籍千橡教會賜福我們的鄰舍以及遠方的社區。

在主里我們是一家人，一同禱告，彼此服事。

主僕：

Elder David Fang 方智武長老

Elder Mitch Hsu 徐銘正長老

Elder Meisheng Jiang 江梅生長老

Pastor Ming Li 李明牧師

Pastor Curtis Lowe 劉炳南牧師

Elder Steve Yao 姚文棣長老