



2024 Year End Message

From the Pastoral Team to All CCCTO Active Members

November 3, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As 2024 comes to a close, let us reflect together with thankful hearts what God has done for us, and look ahead how we may better serve the Lord in the new year.

This is what Apostle Paul prayed for in Romans 15:5-6: *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Church unity, exemplified by the Pastoral Team with the same attitude of mind and one voice, is pleasing to God, and has been a lasting prayer from many brothers and sisters. It is also a goal the Pastoral Team (PT) strives toward. Praise the Lord, Pastor Tim Ip started shepherding English Ministry since December 2023; Elder Mitch Hsu established the church 401K plan for all full-time staff prior to moving away in mid 2024. Through serving, Pastors and Elders worked together to better understand each other and put aside our own ideas and ambitions to focus on what's best for the church. Christ centered, obedient to Holy Spirit's leading, PT intends to speak with a unified voice to guide church decisions spiritually, with the goal of glorifying God and edifying people. For we are convinced, God is the sovereign source of our church and spiritual life growth. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.

2024 continues to be a year that we learn to be obedient and persevere in our faith. The Children Ministry Director position remains unfilled, and we are still searching for a Youth Director and Cantonese Minister. This year's Awana was canceled again despite all the prayers. Nevertheless, we still trust the Lord *"that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28) Praise the Lord, more people are joining to serve at Children's Sunday School with key coworkers stepping up to lead and coordinate, paving the way to better support the future Children Ministry Director. We also start to see young Christians coming back to help leading the Youth Ministry. Some brothers and sisters are even starting to plan next year's Awana well ahead of time. Let us continue to pray earnestly for God's provision.

You are encouraged to attend the General Assembly meeting where more detailed updates on various ministries will be provided. PT's visions for the church continue to be:

- Evangelize in Thousand Oaks and nearby areas, especially towards young generation and young professional families.
- Encourage mentorship to shepherd and cultivate our younger generation to be CCCTO future coworkers.
- Grow in spiritual life by strengthening members' faith via worship, sermon and Sunday school teaching, we all are leading by examples.

Following this year's church theme **"The Righteous shall Live by Faith"**, PT has determined the church theme for 2025: **"Jesus: The Founder and Perfecter of our Faith (Hebrews 12:2)"**. Let us remain true to the Lord with all our hearts in the upcoming new year. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your servants in Jesus Christ,

Pastors — Tim Ip, Ming Li

Elders - Wayne Chen, Ji Ma, Steve Yao



牧長團致千橡城基督教會現任會員

年終寄語

2024 年 11 月 3 日

親愛的主內弟兄姐妹們：

在 2024 年即將結束之際，讓我們一起懷著感恩的心，來回顧神對我們的眷顧帶領，展望新的一年如何繼續更好地為主所用。

使徒保羅在【羅 15:5-6】為教會的眾聖徒這樣祈求：「但願賜忍耐、安慰的神叫你們彼此同心，效法基督耶穌，一心一口榮耀神我們主耶穌基督的父！」教會的合一，牧長團同心合一的表率帶領，是神所喜悅的，是眾弟兄姐妹期盼代求的，也是我們牧長看重並為之努力的。感謝神的帶領，葉興源牧師從 2023 年年底開始了英文堂的牧養事奉；徐銘正長老在今年年中搬離千橡城前，也完成了多年來同工期待的教會員工 401K 計劃。牧長在事奉中磨合，放下自我、彼此同心，目標是以基督為中心，順從聖靈的帶領，使牧長團在教會事工的決策上有合一的屬靈帶領，蒙神悅納，榮神益人。因為我們堅信，神是使教會增長、信徒生命成長並一切美善福氣的源頭。

這一年也是我們繼續操練信心、學習順服忍耐的一年，兒童部主任的職位依舊空缺，我們也仍然在尋找青少年、粵語部的傳道人，眾人禱告的 Awana 事工最後還是取消了。然而，我們依然相信神使「萬事都互相效力，叫愛神的人得益處，就是按他旨意被召的人」（羅 8:28）。感謝主，有更多的弟兄姐妹加入到兒童主日學的事奉中，神也興起兒童負責同工更好地組織聯絡大家，為將來更好的支持神呼召到我們當中的兒童部主任，打下堅實的基礎。我們也開始看到神感動年輕的基督徒回到教會來支持帶領青少年事工，神也呼召感動更多的同工現在就開始為明年的 Awana 籌備計畫。讓我們一起繼續為教會以上的需要迫切禱告。

鼓勵你來參加會員大會，傾聽教會各項事工更詳細的報告。牧長團對教會的異象依舊是：

- 在千橡城以及附近地區傳福音，特別是面向年輕一代和專業年輕家庭。
- 用指導與牧養，來培養年輕的一代，成為千橡城基督教會未來的同工。
- 通過敬拜講道與主日學，彼此以身作則，來加強會眾的信仰及屬靈生活的成長。

在今年教會主題「義人必因信得生」的基礎上，牧長團確定了 2025 年的教會主題：

「仰望為我們信心創始成終的耶穌」（來 12:2），盼望我們新的一年恆久靠主。願主耶穌基督的恩惠、神的慈愛、聖靈的感動，常與你們眾人同在！

主僕：

牧師 - 葉興源，李明

長老 - 陳維平, 馬驥, 姚文棟