

## 2017 CCCGA ENGLISH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Dear CCCGA Family,

Let us praise God together as we reflect upon everything that happened this past year in the English Ministry and look forward to what God will continue to do in 2018. There cannot be any success in the preaching of the Gospel and the spiritual growth of Christians without everyone's prayers and willingness to serve together faithfully and self-sacrificially. To God be the glory!

In Christ,  
Pastor Ivan Yu

### Worship

#### *English Worship Service*

With a growth in the college student population this year, our English Worship Service attendance went up to around sixty. Thank you to Huiping Zhang, the Worship Deacon for continuing to organize our weekly presiders and ushers. Those who served as presiders or ushers include Huiping Zhang, Zhaolin Cheng, Jimmy Koh, Brian Yung, Mhinnie Tolentino, Chris Ho, and David Shieh.

This year, Pastor Ivan preached through five sermon series during the English Worship Service:

- January - **“Returning to the Heart of Worship”** – A three-part series about how our covenantal relationship with God should influence the way we worship Him internally in our hearts, externally in our actions, and in our work life. (<https://goo.gl/eseR6y>)
- February to May – **“The Preeminence of Christ”** – A series through the Book of Colossians. “Preeminence” means that Christ is first or number one in our life. He is first in the sense that He supreme above all creation. He is first in the sense that He is pre-existent before all things. By Him and through Him all things were made. He is first in priority in our lives. Is Christ number one in your life and do you submit to His lordship? (<https://goo.gl/65KDPj>)
- June to July – **“The Making of a Missionary”** – A series through the Book of Jonah focusing on God's role in missions and how He called and dealt with preparing an unlikely missionary named Jonah. (<https://goo.gl/xQqQAN>)

- September to October – “**Spiritual Gifts**” – A three-part series with an introduction about spiritual gifts, how we are to use them to serve in the church, and how to be a faithful servant. Prior to this series, members of the English Congregation took a spiritual gifts survey to discover what God may have given them. After this series, they took a serving interest survey to indicate how they would like to use their gifts to serve in the church. (<https://goo.gl/4msY2k>)
- October to December – “**I Am’ Statements of Jesus**” – In the Gospel of John there are seven “I Am” statements Jesus makes about Himself. These statements reveal the identity of Jesus in his person and ministry. (<https://goo.gl/23cJUU>)

To see a complete list of sermons preached this year, please go to the 2017 tab in the sermons page of the church website here: <http://www.cccga.org/en/sermons/>

### *Guest speakers*

The following guest speakers were invited to preach during the English worship services in 2017:

- 7/30 – **Sean Haber** (Graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary)
- 9/10 – **Daniel Ferritto** (Chaplain at Albany Capital City Rescue Mission)

### *Praise Team*

This year marked the fifteenth year since the CCCGA Praise Team was officially established in the summer of 2002. The Praise Team seeks to faithfully lead the congregation in the worship of our God during the English Worship Service, Joint Service, and other church events. Dennis Pu continued his leadership as the Praise Team coordinator since May of 2016.

Praise Team members for the 2017-2018 school year include Dennis Pu, Sophia Hsia, Cecilia Lu, Helen Yang, Iris Pu, Paul Tan, Chris Huang, and Jonathan Chin. Tech Team members include Albert Chang, Ian Lee, and Keith Zhang.

Beginning in January, rehearsals were moved to the morning from 10:00am-12:00pm on Saturdays. Rather than have a time of devotionals before rehearsals, they transitioned into a time of sharing and prayer for one another. To have a more uniform worship style during the English Worship Service, they no longer rotate leaders. Dennis chose songs and led worship mostly every Sunday with the exception of Sophia on a few occasions. He desires to see the congregation be more engaged in the worship.

This year, Praise Team worked with the Chinese Choir to lead the joint service worship together twice. Due to the positive feedback, from now on, they will continue to do this at least two times a year.

## ***2017 CCCGA Worship Night***

On February 24, CCCGA had another church-wide bilingual worship night. This is the second year in which Praise Team and Chinese Choir worked together to plan and lead. The theme was “Building Up Our Faith” (建立我們的信心) based on 2 Peter 1:5-8. Our faith can be increased by supplementing it with seven qualities: virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. We should also ask Jesus to increase our faith as the apostles did (Luke 17:5). During the worship night, Dennis preached a sermon for the first time based on this theme! Afterwards, the congregation broke up into small groups to pray and ask God to increase our faith in Him. Thank you to Dennis, Siyu, and Hongmei for planning this. Read more about the worship night here: <https://wp.me/p4b9du-tC>

## **Education**

### ***Junior High Sunday School***

This year’s Junior High Sunday School classes continued to be taught by Mhinnie Tolentino, Caiyun Chen and Tracy Zhang using the Regular Baptist Press’s Junior High Sunday School curriculum. The 20+ students were divided into two classes, with mixed gender and grade level.

- January to May - “Follow Me: Jesus in the Gospel of Mark” - The life of Christ as displayed in the Gospel of Mark
- May to September - “How Does God See Me?” - Our identity in Jesus Christ.
- September to December - “Beyond the List: The Ten Commandments” - Our heart behind the do’s and don’ts as listed.

It is our desire that, by having the students engaged in a systematic study of God’s word and challenged to actively apply His word in their lives, they will cultivate a heart that fears and loves the Lord, and a desire to grow to be more like Him.

### ***High School, College, and Young Adult Sunday School***

This year, the high school students, college student, and young adults combined to have Sunday School together. The following are the topics that were covered:

- January – Biotechnology Ethics (Zhaolin Cheng); Old Testament (He Ying)
- Spring Semester – Journey Together: Love, Dating, and Marriage (Brian & Jeanne Yung)
- Summer - Faith Lessons – That the World May Know (Zhaolin Cheng)
- Fall Semester – Overview of the Pentateuch (Jimmy Koh, He Ying)

## ***2017 Youth Scripture Memory Competition***

Thank you to Pastor Phil Woodrow for organizing this year's Scripture Memory Competition again. The verses used consisted a list of thirty baseline ones that are repeated every year and thirty others that are unique to this year. On April 30, Tiffany Liu's team won round 1 against Keith Zhang's team while Paul Tan's team won round 2 against Cecilia Lu's team. On May 14, the round 3 finals were held between Tiffany and Paul's Team. Congratulations to Paul Tan's team consisting of Jonah Eng, Krystal Li, Daniel Zhou, and Ethan Zhang for being the 2017 Scripture Memory Champions!

## **Christian Nurture**

### ***Mustard Seed Fellowship (Youth)***

By the grace of God, the Mustard Seed Fellowship continued with an average attendance of approximately 20 High School (HS) Students and Junior High School (JHS) students every Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at church. It is an honor and privilege to serve this group of young people together with our fellow coworkers: Zhaolin Cheng, Dennis Pu, David Shieh, Emily Zhang (summer), Ivan Yu, Joyce Tseng, Tracy and Huiping.

This year, we focused our study on some Old Testament Books: 1 Samuel, 1 and 2 Chronicles. We found that that such Biblical narratives are great in engaging the students. It has been our prayer that through studying the characters and works of the Lord in the Old Testament time, we will further understand His holiness and righteousness and learn to revere Him, and through studying the triumphs and failures of men, we will learn to love and trust in Him.

Almost all the game time and worship sessions were led by our HS students. For Bible study, our HS students rotated in leading their group study, while coworkers with the JHS group prepared Bible study with the student leaders during the week. It has been a blessing for us coworkers to be able to build relationship with the younger students through such preparation sessions.

During summer, we studied a Christian book titled "Do Hard Things" by Alex and Brett Harris, which challenges our young people to give our best for the glory of the Lord in everything we do. While the JHS students responded very positively and found it relevant to what they deal with every day, our HS student found it to be "over simplified". This learning will help us choose appropriate books to study for all age groups should the need arises in the future.

In addition to these Bible/book study nights, we also spent some special ones watching movies ("Hidden Figures", "Chariots of Fire" and "Christmas Charlie Brown" with a white elephant gift-exchange on Christmas Eve), playing board games, and taking a trip to a rope course challenge at the Edge Halfmoon.

Overall, we thank God for His faithfulness with this ministry. We are also thankful for the dedication of the coworkers and the support of the parents. May God bless the work of our hands!

### ***Foundations (College and Young Adult)***

The Foundations College and Young Adult Fellowship had the following gatherings this year:

- 1/22 –Worship at Sam Lee’s apartment
- 4/2 – Fellowship at Ye Song’s apartment – Making udon noodles
- 5/4 – Fellowship at Sam Lee’s apartment – Boba Tea and dessert
- 5/7 – College Senior Celebration at Huiping and Tracy’s house
- 11/18 – Fellowship at Pastor Ivan’s House w/ High School students – Board Games and Boba Tea

This past Fall Semester, CCCGA began an official partnership with CRU on the RPI and UAlbany Campus. Pastor Ivan and David Sheehan, a CRU staff worker, will meet to share and pray for their ministries to effectively reach out and serve our college students.

### ***2017 CCCGA English Ministry Retreat***

For the first time, the CCCGA English Ministry had its own retreat at Camp Pinnacle with 50 members during the youths’ spring break from April 21-23. In the previous years, our retreats were simultaneous with the Chinese congregation’s at a different facility in May. We invited **Pastor Kevin Rogers** from Open Arms Church in Schenectady, NY to be our guest speaker. The theme of this year’s retreat is *The Big Picture*. Pastor Kevin provided us with an overview of the whole Bible and how all of Scripture points to Jesus Christ in its redemptive narrative. His messages may be streamed or downloaded here: <https://goo.gl/8FtNg3>

Read more about the retreat here: <https://wp.me/p4b9du-uD>

## **Missions**

### ***2017 Evangelical Meeting***

For this year’s Evangelical Meeting, the English Ministry planned a one-day event on Saturday evening, November 4. **Dr. Sean Pierce**, pastor of River of Life Church, director of the Hudson Valley Baptist Association, and adjunct professor of missions at the Northeast Branch of Mid-America Baptist Theology Seminary was the guest speaker. He presented the Gospel message from Romans 1:16-20. His sermon may be streamed or downloaded here: <https://goo.gl/xfKxpX>

### ***Community Service Ministry***

The Community Service Ministry, led by Tong Wang and Yuhong Tian, is intended to provide youth with an opportunity to serve the community and put faith into action.

#### 2017 Service Projects:

- 2/4, 8/26, 12/9 - City Mission of Schenectady – Serving Community Dinner
- 7/15 – Albany Capital City Rescue Mission – Serving Community Dinner

### **Miscellaneous**

Congratulations to everyone as God leads you in the next chapter of your lives!

### ***Baptisms***

- Easter – Winnie Lin and Frankie Liu
- Christmas Eve – Jonah Eng

### ***Graduates***

- High School – Alan Dai, Michael Lee, Lucia Sun and Louise Xie
- RPI Undergraduate (Spring) – Jason Hu and Samantha Lee
- RPI Masters (Spring ) – Alphy Yu
- RPI Undergraduate (Fall) – Chris Ho and Jiequan Zhang

### ***Weddings***

- July – Zhao Chen and Sophia Hsia
- December – Pastor Ivan Yu and Joyce Tseng