

2018 CCCGA ENGLISH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Dear CCCGA Family,

Another year has passed by as we witnessed God's grace and mercy working through the ministries in our church. Thank you to all the faithful coworkers who serve to further the Kingdom of God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are happy to share what God has done in 2018 through the English Ministry! In this year's report, we included some pictures to give a small glimpse of what happened. Click on the hyperlinks in this report to learn more as well! Let us continue to praise God and look forward to what He will do in 2019!

In Christ,
Pastor Ivan Yu

Worship

English Worship Service



Our English Worship Services continue to be held on Sunday mornings at 11:15am in the sanctuary. This year, attendance have reached up to 70 people. Huiping Zhang finished serving his term as the Worship Deacon and will step down. We thank him for

his faithful service these past years. Those who served as presiders include Zhaolin Cheng, Jimmy Koh, David Lin, and Huiping Zhang. Those who served as ushers include Timothy Ho, Frankie Liu, Edward Lo, David Shieh, Mhinnie Tolentino, and Tong Wang.

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

- February to March - **“Under the Care of God’s Providence”** – A series through the Book of Ruth. God’s providence means that God has not abandoned the world that He created. But rather, He works and has control within that creation to manage all things according to His will. He is involved in your life, even though you sometimes may feel He is not there. He is God who sees and hears, because He is God who cares. In the Book of Ruth, we see how God providentially worked in the lives of Naomi and Ruth to

care and provide for them. He provided for them rest (temporary physical needs) and redemption (eternal salvation). (<https://goo.gl/dytHBk>)

- April to May – **“The Restoring Power of Forgiveness”** – A four-part series about forgiveness. Forgiveness is the cancelation of a debt. It is the release or dismissal of something owed. Because of sin, our vertical relationship with God and horizontal relationship with others are marred. But through the power of forgiveness, our relationships can be restored. (<https://goo.gl/4ByoJy>)
- September to December – **“Wisdom from Above”** – A series through the Book of James. James shares wisdom from God, concerning how we can be devoted and loyal to Him in many practical areas of our faith and life. (<https://goo.gl/3YLRfJ>)

To see a complete list of Pastor Ivan’s sermons preached this year during the English, Chinese, and Joint worship services, please go to the 2018 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 2018:

- 1/28 – **Joshua Kim** (Student of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary)
- 6/3 – **Joseph Chau** (Executive Director of Operations for CRU)
- 7/8 – **Daniel Ferritto** (Pastor & Chaplain at the Capital City Rescue Mission)
- 9/3 & 11/25 – **Dr. Steven Winiarski** (Professor of Greek and Linguistics at Missional University)

Praise Team

This year marked the sixteenth 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.



This year, he reimplemented the rotational schedule for the Sunday worship leaders.

The Praise Team leaders for the 2018-2019 school year are Dennis Pu, Joyce Tseng, Emily Zhang, and Iris Pu. Other members include Jonathan Chin, Kris Kwan, Stephen Chan, Joshua

Ling, Sabrina Li, and Joanna Chen. Tech Team members include Albert Chang, Ian Lee, and Joshua Wu.

Watch a video of Praise Team leading the song “Build My Life”: <https://goo.gl/5GGC97>

Education

Junior High Sunday School

This year's Junior High Sunday School have been taught by Caiyun Chen, Zhaolin Cheng, Min Li, Bei Liu, Mingfu Wu and Tracy Zhang. We continued using the Regular Baptist Press' curriculum. The 20+ students have been divided into two classes covered the following topics:

- January to May: **“My Life, My World, God's Answers”** - Equipping students in applying Biblical truth in real life issues.
- May to September: **“Elijah and Elisha: Guided by God”** - Teaching students how to follow and serve God.
- September to December: **“Essential Biblical Truth”** - Providing a systematic review of fundamental doctrines.

Our current curriculum is a three-year cycle studying Biblical characters and essential doctrines based on God's Word, and especially teaching students how to apply the Biblical truth in their lives. Discussions with their peers in the classroom setting provide a loving and supportive environment to encourage them to grow together and serve one another in Christ, which is very important for this age group. It is our desire and prayer that the parents will encourage and help their youth to be faithful in attending Sunday school, so they can be set on a path toward growing in their faith, knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

High School, College, and Young Adult Sunday School

Like last year, high school students, college students, and young adults continued to have Sunday School classes together. We covered the following topics this year:

- Spring Semester – **World Religions** (Pastor Ivan)

From January to June, we learned about various world religions including Roman Catholicism, Judaism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Atheism/Secular Humanism, Confucianism, Taoism, New Age, and Scientology. We covered the origins of these religions, their beliefs and doctrines in comparison to Christian doctrine, and effective ways to evangelize to people of these religions. Students volunteered in groups to do research and present about each of these religions.

- Summer – **Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John** (Joyce Tseng)

During the Summer, we compared the accounts of the four Gospels and learned about the chronological order of events. In doing so, we reviewed Jesus’ life and ministry including His birth, preparation for ministry, calling of His Disciples, teachings, and interactions with the Pharisees.

- Fall Semester – **Discipleship and Spiritual Formation** (Pastor Ivan)

From September to December, we tried a new format for Sunday School. Part of the class consisted of a lecture concerning being a disciple of Jesus Christ and growing in our relationship with Him. The second part of the class was a time for the students to meet in a small group that they stayed with for the whole semester to disciple one another. Small group leaders this semester consisted of Stephen Chan, Jonathan Chin, Shinji Coram, Jimmy Koh, Marisa Lee, David Lin, Joshua Ling, Iris Pu, Joyce Tseng, and Emily Zhang.



2018 Youth Scripture Memory Competition



This year’s Scripture Memory Competition was very competitive and intense! We studied the thirty “Year 3” verses in addition to the thirty baseline ones repeated every year. On April 29, Paul Tan’s team won round 1 against Cecilia Lu’s team while Keith Zhang’s team won round 2 against Tiffany Liu’s team. On May 13, the round 3 finals were held between Keith and Paul’s Team. This was the first time in the history of the CCCGA Scripture Memory Competition that both teams recited all of the main verses of the round correctly. This led to

the “Tiebreaker Round”. When each time recited their five verses correctly as well, we had to enter the “Sudden Death Round” which involved correctly identifying the reference of a verse read out by the Master Questioner. In the end Paul’s team consisting of Edward Lo, Hannah Eng, Joshua Wang, and Caleb Zhang pulled through and became the 2018 Scripture Memory Champions! Thank you to Pastor Phil Woodrow for always organizing these competitions!



Christian Nurture

Mustard Seed Fellowship (Youth)



Mustard Seed Youth Fellowship continues to meet every Friday from 7:00-9:00pm at church with an average attendance of 20 High School and Junior High School students. From January to June, we finished our inductive Bible study through 2 Chronicles. From July to December, we began to have small group discussions of Pastor Ivan's sermons from the previous Sunday to review them and see how we can apply God's Word in our lives.

Throughout the year, we also had some special evenings that include board game nights, movie nights ("The Star", "The Case for Christ", "I Can Only Imagine", "All Saints"), Veritas Forum debate "Faith vs. Science" at RPI, Chinese New Year celebration, NYSC sharing, special presentation on culture Marxism by Alan Yu, Hope is the Message Concert at Open Arms Church, watching a sermon on Purity in a Digital Age by Timothy Challies, preparing care packages for college students, Thanksgiving Celebration, and White Elephant gift exchange.

After leading the youth fellowship for ten years, Huiping and Tracy stepped down in August. We thank them for their faithful service. God led Zhaolin and Min to serve as the next leaders beginning in September.



Foundations (College and Young Adult)

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

- 2/24 – Dumpling-making Fellowship at Church
- 5/5 – College Senior Celebration at Pastor Ivan and Joyce's house
- 10/27 – Hot Pot Fellowship at Erin's apartment
- 12/15 – Sushi-making Fellowship at Marisa and Joanna's apartment

Pastor Ivan continued to have office hours at RPI to meet with students. During the Fall Semester, he was able to book a room to use in the Student Union with the help of Troy Fellowship and changed his office hours to Wednesdays from 12:00-4:00pm to better accommodate the students.



2018 CCCGA Retreat



This year, our church's annual retreat was held at Grace Manor Christian Retreat Center from April 13-15. The English sessions had about 40 members in attendance. Our guest speaker was **Pastor Travis Woronowicz** from Faith Baptist Church in Rexford, NY. The theme of the retreat is called *Embraced*. Pastor Travis emphasized on the Gospel and the love that our Heavenly Father has for us even though our Earthly fathers may not have been the best. His messages may be streamed or downloaded here: <https://goo.gl/a4HxAf>



We also thank Joshua and Hannah Kim for returning to be our guest worship leaders for the weekend!



Missions

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.

2018 Service Projects:

- 4/28 and 12/29 - City Mission of Schenectady – Serving Community Dinner
- 6/2 – Church Clean-up
- 9/22 – Patroon Land Farm – Harvest cucumbers



Miscellaneous

After serving three years as the English Deacon, Zhaolin Cheng will be stepping down. Thank you for your faithful service!

Baptisms

- December 23 – Joshua Wang, Ruth Zhang, Caleb Zhang

Graduates

- High School – Tiffany Liu, Cecilia Lu, Paul Tan, Helen Yang, Keith Zhang
- RPI Undergraduate (Spring) – Albert Chang, Song Ye
- RPI Masters (Spring) – Samantha Lee

Weddings

- August 18 – Chris Ho and Samantha Lee
- October 28 – Dennis Pu and Dai Jin
- December 29 – James Hsia and Tiffany Lin

Babies

- November 7 – Odelia Tian-Xuan Zhao – Born to Zhao Chen and Sophia Hsia-Zhao
- November 23 – Joshua Koh – Born to Jimmy Koh and Qianhe Lin
- December 1 – Olive Yu – Born to Ivan Yu and Joyce Tseng