

**2014 CCCGA ENGLISH MINISTRY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

2014 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the English Ministry at CCCGA. It has been a joy and blessing to witness God's hand at work in our church for spiritual growth. We thank all the co-workers listed below for their faithful service and support in prayer. This year's report, as you will see, shares the joy of all the amazing work God has done through the CCCGA English Ministry in 2014. To God be the glory!

In Christ,  
Huiping Zhang, Mr. Woodrow, & Ivan Yu

**Worship (Mr. Woodrow, Ivan Yu)**

During 2014, The English Worship Ministry sought to continue its primary mission contained within Ephesians 4:11-16 - "to build up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to full manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." It was toward this goal that we presented a number of series relating to issues reflecting the call of Christ upon our daily living.

**Sermon Series**

Discipleship	"Living a Life of Discipleship"
Evangelism	"Evangelism - Stepping into the Supernatural"
Prayer	"Responding to the Power of Prayer"
Spiritual Gifts	"Turning Gifts of Grace into a Life of Service"
Confession/Repentance & Forgiveness	"Christ's Formula for Finding Peace"
A Biblical View of the Family	"Challenges to Parent, Grandparents & Children"

**Individual Messages**

- "A Call to Righteousness" (Matthew 5:48)
- "Fear Not and be Strengthened" (Isaiah 41:1-13)
- "The Christian Freedom Challenge" (1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1)
- "Godly Responses to Persecution" (1 Peter 4:12-19)
- "Spiritual CPR: Grace through Spiritual Revival" (Nehemiah 8:1-18)
- "The Advents of Christ" (Colossians 3:1-15)

This year's worship schedule took on a 'new look' in that the 3rd Sunday of each month was merged into a Joint Service (Communion) with the adult congregation; Pastor Hsia shared the pulpit with Messrs. Woodrow and Yu on alternating Sundays. The last Sunday of the month was frequently set aside for guest speakers.

Adding greatly to the spiritual tone of our Worship Hour was the Praise Team that is covered within its own section of this report. We thank and praise God for the growth of the English congregation this year with an increase of attendance of up to fifty members.

As noted earlier, Phil Woodrow and Ivan Yu worked together this year collaborating in the planning and sharing of the preaching responsibilities of this important part of the overall English Ministry.

### **Guest speakers**

Throughout 2014, we have invited the following people to speak during our Sunday worship services: Daniel Carl Ferritto II (a seminary student at Mid America Baptist Theological Seminary), Chris Coppennoll (Pastor of Mission Community Church in Clifton Park), Peter Liu, Sunny Shih (Pastor at New Hope Fellowship in Flushing, NY), David Keogh (a missionary in China supported by CCCGA), and George Bailey (an elder at Clifton Park Community Church).

### **Praise Team (Alicia Chen, Mr. Woodrow)**

For the record, the CCCGA Praise Team began officially in the Summer of 2002 and, by God's grace, has developed and grown into a significant ministry within the framework of the English Worship Hour. Alicia Chen fulfilled her first year as the overall Leader/Coordinator of this dedicated group, while Sophia Hsia and Dennis Pu have both returned home from their individual "college experiences" to continue to serve as experienced support staff. They, along with William Wang, Louise Xie, and Emily Zhang (who had departed for college last fall semester) are part of a rotating leadership that assumes responsibility for preparing the Praise Team for leading in the worshipful music and singing each week. Other members of the 2014-15 Praise Team include Cecilia Lu, Iris Pu; Mhinnie Tolentino, and Helen Yang.

In addition to their weekly responsibilities, the Praise Team also: coordinates occasional weekend "Worship Events", both within and outside the church; holds once a month leadership meetings to plan ahead; and arrange for monthly fellowship meetings for good old fashioned fellowship including times of devotion, training, games and meals at one of the family homes.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Praise Team hosted a Worship Night and plans to continue to do so in 2015. We praise God for each of these leaders and members for the enormous amount of time invested, and thank Him for their parents who support the serious investment into this fruitful ministry.

## **Education**

### **Junior Sunday School (Caiyun Chen, Chunxin Zhang)**

This year's Junior Sunday school continued to be led/coordinated by Caiyun Chen, with a rotating teaching schedule shared with Tracy Zhang and Richard Wu until he moved to CA in May. During summer, we graduated five 9<sup>th</sup> graders and welcomed nine 6<sup>th</sup> graders into our class, and the class grew to 14 regular students. With more than half of them being boys, we sensed the need for a godly man to teach the class, and have been praying for the Lord to lead a brother to partake in this ministry.

We continue to use Regular Baptist Press' Junior High Sunday school series "Living My Faith" as our main material. This year we have covered topics from "The Church", "The Ten Commandments" to "Handling Problems".

### **High School Sunday School (Mrs. Woodrow)**

For the 2014 Sunday School Year, we have sought to apply 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 to our studies of the Scriptures. Returning often to Romans 12:1-2 and considering "presenting our bodies as living sacrifices" to the Lord, we learned to become more aware about taking control of our thought-lives. The Word of God exhorts us to "take captive of every thought to the obedience of Christ." Note, it is not "some or most" of our thoughts, but taking captive of "every" thought. According to 2 Corinthians 10:5, it is our goal to be aware of the principle that our thoughts are what shape the actions that will follow. Indeed, the Word says, "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7)

As we have continued to learn who we are in Christ, as God's dearly loved children, much time has been spent gleaning from His Word to build our self-esteem from the Word of God and teach our precious saints how to "speak blessings" to one another.

It has been my special joy and pleasure to get to know the younger students who have started high school and observe them quickly adjusting to the habit to taking notes during our class time discussions. To God be the glory!

### **Foundations [College and Career] (Huiping Zhang, Ivan Yu)**

Since the beginning of this past school semester, God had answered our prayers about reaching out to more American-born Chinese college students. We noticed an influx of new students from RPI and UAlbany who were interested in attending CCCGA. In addition, there also happened to be some returning college graduates and working adults as well. As a result, we formed a fellowship group for them which meets during the Sunday School time every week. This fellowship group is called "Foundations", based on Matthew 7:24-27. We desire to grow spiritual and build on the foundation set by Christ.

We thank God for putting a burden on Tracy Sun and Elaine Tse's hearts to step up and be the leaders of this fellowship group. They are both college graduates who returned to the Albany area and formerly attended CCCGA's youth program. This semester, they have led a study through the Book of Mark and encouraged discussion and sharings within the group to build each other up. On various Friday nights, they had also planned for events such as worship and prayer nights and other fun activities. Please pray for the growth of this ministry as we seek to reach out to more college students and young adults for Christ.

### **Baptism (Mr. Woodrow)**

As in past years, a six-week "Salvation & Baptism Class" was taught again this year covering the Gospel Message, the essentials of the Christian Faith and the significance of acknowledging Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord through the act of Baptism by immersion. It is always a joy to

witness the work of the Holy Spirit as our youth consider and respond to God's call upon their lives. This year, four of our youth were presented to Pastor Hsia for baptism. Angie Liu and Edward Lo were baptized on Easter Sunday (April 20<sup>th</sup>) while Sabrina Li and Justina Liu were baptized before Thanksgiving (November 16<sup>th</sup>). As we praise God for these supernatural life-transforming acts, let us now do our part in supporting and nurturing them as grow in the faith to maturity in Christ.

## **Christian Nurture**

### **Youth Friday Fellowship (Huiping Zhang, Chunxin Zhang, Ivan Yu)**

This year marks the third year of the Youth Friday Fellowship. We continue to meet every Friday night from 7:00 to 9:00pm for a time of worship in song, icebreaker games, and Bible study. From January to February, we finished studying the Book of John since we started in 2013. Next, we decided to study through some of the Apostle Paul's epistles in chronological order based on their date of writing. From March to May, we studied 1 and 2 Thessalonians. During this time that we began to give some of the youth the opportunity to lead their peers in the Bible study. We equipped them to use the Inductive Bible Study method and commentaries as well as show them how to lead by example. They enjoyed preparing for the Bible study and were able to learn more by God's grace even as we continued to study the Book of Galatians in the summer.

As a new school year began, we tried out a new format for Friday nights from August to October which involved topical messages given by Ivan with discussions. We began a message series on the topic of relationships with God, other believers, non-believers, parents, worldly authorities, and those within dating and marriage relationships. The overall theme of this message series showed that because God is a relational being with Himself in the Trinity, humans were also created to be relational beings. Every aspect of our human relationships should reflect the relationship of God because we were made in His image. We pray that the youths were able to practically apply what they learned in all of their personal relationships to glorify God.

Currently, we have returned to the Bible Study format and are in the middle of studying the Book of James. Lord willing, we may do another topical message series during 2015.

### **Prayer Ministry (Chunxin Zhang, Ivan Yu)**

This Group continues to dedicate itself to the ministry of prayers throughout the year, meeting after lunch every Sunday. William Wang, Darren Wu, Ivan Yu, Mhinnie Tolentino and Tracy Zhang have been leading these meetings. Without the conflict with Chinese school in the summer, these meeting were well attended by the youth. With Darren's leaving for CA in June, and Chinese school being in session, these meetings were attended mostly by William and some adults in the English congregation. In order to encourage our youth to pray as a group, we set aside some time for small-group prayers after Bible study on some Fridays, and plan to do so more often in 2015. Recognizing the importance of prayers in our overall ministry, we will continue to seek ways to involve the youth to pray for our church and for each other, and the prayers meetings on Sunday (1:15-2:15pm) are open to all who have the burden to join us in prayers.

This Ministry also continues to recognize the first Sunday of each month as “Persecuted Church Sunday”, with individuals volunteering to report on Christians around the globe who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ, and everyone praying for the persecuted in small-groups. This year, they also participated in the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church on the first Sunday in November that involved both the Sunday school and the Worship Hour with a message on how we should respond to persecution (1 Pet. 4:12-19).

### **Activities (Chunxin Zhang, Mr. Woodrow)**

This year, we have had the following activities to encourage the youth to fellowship among each other and reach out to and serve our community: Ice-skating at Empire State Plaza Ice Rink (February); Baptism celebration at Cheng-min Lo’s house (April); Annual Scripture Memory Contest (May); Graduation party at Fuming Zhang’s house (June); White Water Rafting at Sacandaga River and fellowship at Huiping’s house (August); Volunteering work on Patroon Land Farm (September); Operation Christmas Child (shoe-box wrapping/packing) and Thanksgiving gathering at Huiping’s house (November); and Christmas Caroling at St. Margaret’s Center (December). We thank all the coworkers and parents who provided rides, food, prayers and support in every possible way to make all these happen.

### **Retreat (Sunny Shih, Ivan Yu, Huiping Zhang)**

Our fourth retreat was held in Grace Manor from May 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker was Sunny Shih. Sunny used to attend CCCGA a number of years ago and is now a Pastor at New Hope Fellowship in Flushing, NY. The theme of the retreat is “Four Basic Elements of Church: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, and Evangelism”. This two-day/two-night retreat is a blessing to many youth who participated.

### **Youth/English Pastor Search (Huiping Zhang)**

The Search Committee includes Pastor Hsia, Huiping Zhang (Chair), Qi Tan, Xuming Wang, Eric Ting and Zewu Chen. The committee held a couple of meetings early in the year (2014) and decided to hold off the search effort till the end of 2015. Please continue to keep this matter in your prayer

### **Miscellaneous**

We continue to hold our quarterly coworkers meeting this year, which includes Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow, Ivan, Mr. & Mrs. Zhang, Mr. & Mrs. Chen, and Sophia Hsia.

We have come up with the following Mission Statement for overall CCCGA English Ministry. We will also discuss in 2015 the mission statements specific to our current youth ministry and college ministry.

## **English Ministry Mission Statement**

Under the authority of the Word of God and the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit, the CCCGA English Ministry seeks to introduce primarily American-born Chinese to a lifelong growing relationship with Jesus Christ, train them to become His humble servants, and equip them for every good work to the glory of God the Father. Together, we strive to accomplish this mission through sound biblical teaching and the ministries of discipleship, worship, prayer, fellowship, hospitality and service. We desire to set examples for one another by modeling the love of Christ and fulfilling His Great Commission to all.

(Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Luke 17:10; Matt. 28:18-20)