

# 2019 CCCGA ENGLISH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Dear CCCGA Family,

2019 was not only another year that went by, but also a mark of the end of another decade! Throughout these past years, we continue to praise God for His faithfulness to our church as He works in our ministries and uses our faithful coworkers to serve and further His Kingdom. After reading this year's annual report, look back at the previous ones since 2002 in the following link (<http://bit.ly/2SKDcau>) to reflect on how God has worked in the English Ministry!

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. In addition to the ministry of Praise Team to lead worship, we officially started the



Hospitality Team consisting of presidors and ushers who have a focus on greeting and welcoming visitors. More about the new Hospitality Team is described below.

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

- January to February - **“Faithful Giving”** – A four-part series preached to both English and Chinese congregations about faithful giving of our offering gifts to God. This was needed to remind us of the right heart behind offering especially as our church implemented a new online offering system (<http://bit.ly/2tYtzKX>). This series taught the following: (1) Offering is an act of worship to God (John 4:19-26); (2) We should not give offering with an attitude of reluctance, obligation, or unhappiness, but with an attitude of complete trust in God's provision for us (Malachi 3:6-12; 2 Corinthians 9:7); (3) We can be faithful servants in the stewardship of the gifts God has given us for His purposes (Matthew 25:14-30); (4) If we want to give faithfully, we need to be aware of the dangers of loving riches (James 5:1-6). (<http://bit.ly/35gGsNj>)
- March to May – **“Countercultural Living – The Life of Elijah”** – A six-part series from 1 Kings 16:29-19:18 about the life of Elijah. The Prophet Elijah was living in a time of Israel's history during which the Israelites have turned away from worshipping the true God of Israel to worshipping

the false god Baal, under the influence of the evil King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. As Christians today, we are also called to live counterculturally in our society that is against God and not conform with others in sinful practices and beliefs. (<http://bit.ly/35diUZU>)

- June to August – **“Hope and Holiness”** – A series through the Book of 1 Thessalonians. As Christians, our Source of true hope is in Christ alone, who died on the cross for our sins and provided us with salvation. This is why we can stand firm in Him and look forward to His second coming. But there is a relationship between hope and holiness. Our hope in Christ leads us to live out a conduct of holiness. Paul taught the Thessalonians about this and encouraged them to have hope in Christ since many were hopeless over their brothers and sisters who had passed away before Christ returned. (<http://bit.ly/39u4eJf>)
- September to December – **“Joyful Life in Christ”** – A series through the Book of Philippians. Paul taught the Philippians that they can have joy no matter the circumstances in life, even as he had joy while writing this letter and suffering in prison. He listed out many reasons why we can have a joyful life in Christ since Christ is at the center of our lives. (<http://bit.ly/2MKsFYW>)

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 2019 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 2019:

- 5/26 – **Pastor Sean Nolan** (Engage Church Albany)
- 7/7 – **Pastor Daniel Ferritto** (Chaplain at the Capital City Rescue Mission)
- 11/3 – **Joseph Ferritto** (Bible and Latin teacher at Augustine Classical Academy)

### *Praise Team*

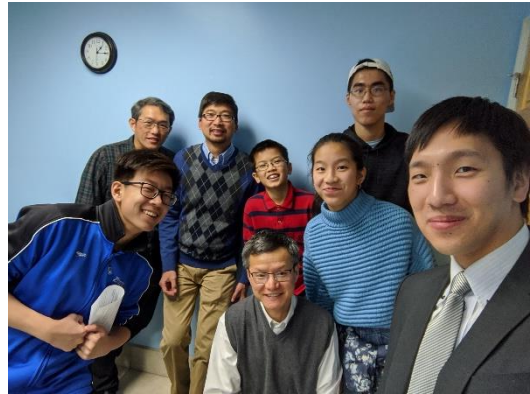


The Praise Team seeks to faithfully lead the congregation in the worship of our God during the English Worship Service, Joint Service, and other church events. Dennis Pu continued his leadership as the coordinator. The Praise Team leaders for the 2019-2020 school year are Dennis Pu, Joanna Chen, and Emily Zhang. Other members include Albert Chang, Kris Kwan, James Johanson, Brian

Wang, and Norina Zhang. Tech Team members include Ian Lee, Jonah Eng, and Joshua Wu.

## *Hospitality Team*

We are very grateful that many people served as presiders and ushers for the English worship services in the past few years. During the fall, we officially formed a Hospitality Team for committed members to serve and fellowship together in. The purpose of the Hospitality Team is to glorify God by welcoming members of the congregation to the English Worship Service and lead them to worship God through prayer and offering. David Lin serves as the coordinator for the Hospitality and is one of the presiders including Jimmy Koh and Huiping Zhang. Ushers on the team include Frankie Liu, Caleb Zhang, Ethan Zhang, and Ruth Zhang. Pastor Ivan provided training for presiders on October 5 and training for ushers on November 23. The team is currently working on preparing a welcome gift with information about our church to give to newcomers who visit the English worship service.



## Education

### *Junior High Sunday School*

This year's Junior High Sunday School have been taught by Zhaolin Cheng, Min Li, Tracy Zhang, Hsi-An Kwong, Faith Kwong, Bei Liu and Mhinnie Tolentino. We divided the students into two classes from January to May and then combined them for the rest of the year. We covered the following topics:

- January to May: **“Character Building”** – Learning from the examples of biblical characters such as Rahab, Caleb, Daniel, Lydia and Silas to know how to develop Christlikeness.
- May to September: **“Follow Me: Jesus in the Gospel of Mark”** - The life of Christ as displayed in the Gospel of Mark
- September to December: **“Preparing for Adolescence: How to Survive the Coming Years of Change”** (Dr. James Dobson) – Addressing topics in preparation for the teenage years including self-esteem, making sound decisions, peer pressure, the meaning of love, puberty, sexual development, independence, and identity in Christ.

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

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

- Spring Semester – **Evangelism - Making Your Case for Christ** (Pastor Ivan)

From January to April, we went through a six-session curriculum called “Making Your Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg. This curriculum is based on Lee Strobel’s book and movie: “The Case for Christ” and equipped students to understand and share the gospel with

nonbelieving friends and family members. We continued the same Sunday School format started in Fall of 2018. After watching the video for each week’s session, we divided the students into small groups that they stayed with for the whole semester. Small group leaders consisted of Stephen Chan, Jonathan Chin, Shinji Coram, Jimmy Koh, David Lin, Joshua Ling, Iris Pu, Joyce Tseng, and Emily Zhang. During this semester, we also went through a video series called “Not a Fan” by Kyle Idleman.

- Summer – **Christian Community** (Joyce Tseng)

During the summer, we touched upon the topics of Christian community, discernment of false teaching, letting God be the source of spiritual nourishment, and steps to spiritual maturity. We had a time of worship, sharing, and prayer in the beginning of each class to encourage students to care for one another.

- Fall Semester – **Questions and Answers** (Pastor Ivan)

In the beginning of the fall semester, Pastor Ivan handed out index cards to the students and had them write out any questions they have about the Bible, Christianity, or living the Christian life. These could have been hard questions asked by nonbelievers they are not able to answer. Throughout this semester, we discussed and answered these questions. Some of these questions were answered in the form of a lecture or through small group discussions. Topics of these questions included the Trinity, salvation, baptism, hermeneutics, sexuality and LGBTQ, and Christian History.

### ***2019 Youth Scripture Memory Competition***



Thank you to Phil Woodrow for continuing to organize the Scripture Memory Competitions each year. The youth studied thirty “Year 4” verses in addition to the thirty baseline ones repeated every year. On April 14, Frankie Liu’s team won round 1 against Sabrina Li’s team while Edward Lo’s team won round 2 against Jonah Eng’s team. On April 28, the round 3 finals were held between Frankie and Edward’s teams. Edward’s team consisting of

Christina Cheng, Michael Xie, and Caleb Zhang became the 2019 Scripture Memory Champions!

## **Christian Nurture**

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

Mustard Seed Youth Fellowship continued to meet every Friday from 7:00-9:00pm at church with the format of icebreaker games, worship, and a study. From January to May, we studied the Book of Genesis. In June, we went through a four-part video series by Francis Chan on Prayer and had discussions





after watching each session. From July to August, we went through a five-part video series by Francis Chan called *Greater Than* to help us understand that God is greater than any pain, sin or hardship that we might encounter in this life. Beginning in September, we returned to Bible study with the Book of Mark. With a deep study of the book, we hope the youth would not only know about the biographical or historical account of Jesus' life, but also know Jesus' sufferings in His ministries. Our faith in Christ can result in suffering and persecution. We plan to continue and finish our study of the Book of Mark in 2020.

Throughout the year, we also had some special evenings that include board game nights, movie nights ("Risen", "The Drop Box"), preparing and packaging shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and a Thanksgiving celebration. Other fellowship activities include kayaking and skiing trips.

### ***Foundations (College)***

The Foundations College Fellowship had the following gatherings this year:

- 2/6 – Fellowship at Pastor Ivan’s and Joyce’s home
- 4/28 – College Senior Celebration at Huiping and Tracy’s home
- 6/15 – Board Game fellowship at Pastor Ivan and Joyce’s home
- 10/12 – Corn Maze at Samascott’s Garden Market
- 11/23 – Laser Tag at Zero Gravity
- 12/13 – Sushi-making fellowship at Ian’s apartment.



Pastor Ivan continued to have office hours at RPI Student Union to meet with students on Wednesdays from 12:00-4:00pm.

### ***English Adult Fellowship***



Since there was a need of a fellowship for English-speaking adults, one was started in the fall. This fellowship met once every two Thursdays at church to share a potluck and do a book study on *How Then Should We Work?: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work* by Hugh Welch. It is an important and relevant topic to know about how Christians should view their work in the secular environment. On our last meeting of the year, we had a guest named Lovonia Mallory who came to share about her experiences as a Christian working at a secular radio station, working for NY state, and also working in her ministry, H2O 4 Africa Equals Life.

## 2019 CCCGA Retreat

### #strugglenomore



As always, everyone is excited for CCCGA's annual retreats. This year, it was held from May 10-12. We changed to a new host location at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference & Family Retreat Center up by Lake George. Although it is a further drive from Albany compared to our previous retreat locations, the accommodations were great with hotel-like lodging and other activities like archery and kayaking. We invited **Pastor Cristobal Tong** from 3Stone, a ministry of NYCAC and the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, to be our guest speaker for the English congregation. He preached a series of sermons under the theme called "#strugglenomore". The theme is a play off #thestruggleisreal. His sermons went through the book of 1 Corinthians and touched on various forms of earthly struggles, such as self image, body image and addictions while being grounded in the words of Paul. Pastor Cristobal's sermons may be streamed or downloaded here: <http://bit.ly/2u9RhUL>



A video slideshow of the retreat created by Jonah Eng can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/37rcwj6>

Since this year's retreat also coincided with Mother's Day, the youth made a video to appreciate their mothers! It can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2QxtgOW>

## Activities Coordinating Team

During the fall, we provided another opportunity for people to serve by starting a new ministry called the Activities Coordinating Team (ACT). The vision for ACT is to carry out the exhortation from Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Therefore, this ministry team seeks to foster spaces of encouragement, fellowship, and spiritual growth in our church community. Specifically, ACT serves to organize special monthly events and facilitate weekly games during Mustard Seed Fellowship. Upon the formation of this team just a few months ago, ACT has implemented a weekly Mustard Seed Fellowship game leader rotation, planned this year's Baptism celebration, Thanksgiving Sunday School, and the Christmas Skit.



The ACT ministry is led by Emily Zhang, and faithful members of the team include Michael Xie, Daniel Zhou, Hannah Eng, Christina Cheng, Chelsea Zhao, Kris Kwan, and Solomon Chang.

## Miscellaneous

### *Ordination*

- On January 26, Pastor Ivan Yu was ordained by the church with Rev. Huaiqing Chen, Rev. Wei Feng, Rev. Ming-Liang Hsia, Rev. George Lee, and Rev. Sean Pierce on the ordination council.

### *Baptisms*

- April 21 – Christina Cheng, Everest Kuang, Norina Zhang
- May 19 – Stephen Chan, Joshua Ling
- November 24 – Michael Xie, Kevin Zong

### *Graduates*

- High School – Iris Pu
- RPI Undergraduate (Spring) – Stephen Chan, Albert Chang, Jonathan Chin, Shinji Coram, Erin He, Marisa Lee, Joshua Ling
- RPI Masters (Spring) – Albert Chang
- Albany Medical College (Spring) – David Shieh
- RPI Undergraduate (Fall) – Joanna Ng, Jenny Cho