

# CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF BREATER ALBANY

## 2004 Annual Report On Youth /English Ministries

It is a privilege to submit this report, covering calendar 2004, the third full year of the Church's formal Youth/English Ministries Program.

### **I. Corporate Worship**

We began the year at the Mt. Ida Baptist Church in Troy, with the worship hour taking place between at the 11:00 o'clock hour in the upstairs sanctuary. By mid-year, the CCCGA had returned to its home location, the Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Albany. Here, our worship began at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary area of the vacated Daycare Center but, by August, our designated location became the mini-sanctuary within the main church where we continue to worship.

The Worship Hour itself has continued to evolve during the year in an attempt to meet the needs of our changing congregation. With the introduction of a large number of younger children in July, the praise time was adjusted to take place intermittently throughout the service, seeking to maintain their maximum attention. At the same time, the preaching/teaching was shortened and modified to encourage interaction from the younger congregation.

From these various changes, we have confirmed once again that worship is not a matter of style or location but, rather, a matter of the heart that seeks to glorify God wherever His people are gathered to worship Him "in spirit and truth."

The messages during 2004 were presented within four major series:

The Church – the Body of Christ	1/11 – 3/14
The Bible – The Truth Upon Which We Stand	3/21 – 6/27
God's Salvation – Our Hope and Joy	7/04 – 9/19
The Holy Spirit – God's Secret Weapon	9/26 – 11/28

Though recognizing your messenger is lacking in many ways and, I can report with much joy that God has impacted upon my life in a profound way over

the course of preparing and delivering each message. It is my fervent prayer that they have also touched our youth as well. We intend to review and highlight these messages during the month of January 2005, seeking to refresh minds and encourage hearts toward the goal of applying these truths from God's word.

Our Worship/Praise Team continued to evolve over the course of the past twelve months, the first six under the leadership of Sunny Shih. Due to personal circumstances, Sunny was unable to continue with his responsibilities and, as a result, your Director of Youth/English Ministries worked directly with the Praise Team from July into November. I have continued to meet regularly with Sunny since July, providing encouragement and support wherever possible.

Peter Ting, a first year graduate student at Albany Medical School, came on the scene over the summer and, in early November, inquired about the possibility of joining the Praise Team. We met on two occasions to discuss the matter further and, as a result, Peter began as Team Leader on November 14, 2004. It should be noted that Peter's work with youth, both as a Summer Camp Counselor and with other Praise Teams (both in his home church and at Cornell University) allowed him to begin his duties with a large degree of confidence. We praise God for his spiritual leadership, and the love he has demonstrated for our youth.

We are also thankful for the support received from George Bailey, Dr. Gary Griffieth and Dr. James Li for their faithfulness in preaching at our youth worship services on those occasions when your Director was unavailable.

## **II. Sunday School**

The High School/ College Class began its study of Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life," in the Fall of 2003., and continued to be their curriculum through October, 2004. The overall theme of the study was "It's All About God," with the author presenting his view of the five biblical purposes God intends for our lives: We are:

Planned for His Good Pleasure

Formed for His Family

Created to Become Like Christ

Shaped for Serving God, and

Made for a Mission.



Leadership for this course was shared by: Joel Lee; Jennie Ng; Ping-Zhon Tan; and Blossom and Phil Woodrow. The classes were well attended and the material prompted much meaningful discussion on the part of our youth.

Peter Ting became the primary teacher for this class in November of 2004, presenting a video series entitled, "Velocity." This deals with a number of key topics relative to teenagers (I.e. their relationship with God; their views of various social issues of the day) and offers a biblical perspective on how they are to deal with the problems of 21<sup>st</sup> Century life in a godless world. Current enrollment in this class is 17, with regular attendance averaging at about 12 per week.

The Junior Class, which was inactive early in the year, was revitalized by nineteen lively 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who joined the Youth/English Ministry during the summer. Alex and Amy Chien and Gary and Carol Geng have remained with this group, continuing to share the teaching responsibilities, with Phil Woodrow assisting as necessary. Their curriculum comes from the Disciple Land Publishing Company, and focuses upon the key figures and events in the Old Testament. Average weekly attendance is estimated at about 10.

We praise God for and thank all the above-named teachers for their faithfulness in serving the Lord in this area of ministry that is so important to the training of our children.

### **III. Youth Activities**

With our youth involved in many extra-curricula school activities (music, sports and clubs), our special events during 2004 included:

- EXCEL weekend, sponsored by the Capital District YFC
- Snow Camp, sponsored by Word of Life
- Family St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Woodrow's
- Family Day Trip to Word of Life Family Campground
- Church Sponsored Family Hofstra Retreat Weekend

Family Cook-out/ Swimming party at the Daly's

Family Mt. Climbing Day, sponsored by Chinese School

The newest addition to our activities was the Friday Night Movies, hosted by the Woodrow's each Friday during the summer vacation and continuing during the school year on the first Friday of every month. The films are selected from the library of CleanFilms.com and, as the title suggests, have been edited by removing inappropriate language and scenes to encourage family viewing.

Movie Night has become a very popular event among our youth and their families and usually includes light snacks and valuable time for fellowship before and following the film. Average attendance for this event has been around 12, and its popularity is growing.

It seems so inadequate, yet in saying "thank you" to the Adult Leadership Team and all the parents who have assisted with the planning and support of these activities, we trust they also sense the blessing from the Lord whom we all seek to glorify.

#### **IV. Looking to 2005**

Yes, most of us are aware that, within the Chinese Culture, this is the year of the rooster. However, within CCCGA Youth/English Ministry, we are declaring 2005 to be "THE YEAR OF THE PARENT." This, of course, must be more than a slick slogan. It will be a year during which we will encourage our youth to serve the Lord by loving, obeying and demonstrating their appreciation to their parents as they grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God.

We will also seek to work with parents, inviting them to become more actively involved in the Youth Ministry and coming to more fully understand the biblical principle of providing spiritual instruction and leadership within the home.

"The Year of the Parent" calls us ... the leadership and the parents ... to pray, plan and persevere as we commit to building up our youth to maturity in Christ while there is yet time, and preparing them to serve Him well by the time they are college-bound.

Plans are already under way to develop this theme in practical ways ... through worship, Bible study and various parent and family activities throughout the year. These will be discussed, with the church leadership as well as with parents and youth in the near future.

This is an exciting work into which God has called us and we sense that precious bonds established between the Woodrow's and the families within this Church will only deepen as we labor together during this, – “The Year of the Parent.”.

In closing, I claim Paul's prayer for the Ephesians as ours during 2005:

:“I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you may grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called – his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.”  
(Ephesians 1:16-18 – NLT)

Respectfully submitted,

Philip W. Woodrow  
Director of Youth/English Ministries