



2022

PART I
MINISTRY
REPORTS



ANNUAL REPORT

Clayton Church of Christ Fellowship Inc.



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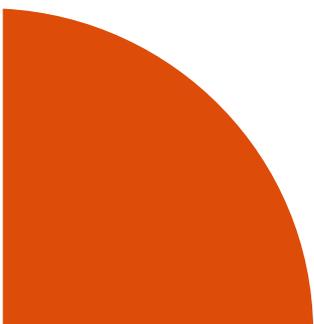
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OUR SHARED FUTURE



Our vision is to build disciples who represent Jesus to everyone, everywhere, with everything. As we build these disciples, we believe we will see...

An Enabling Church...

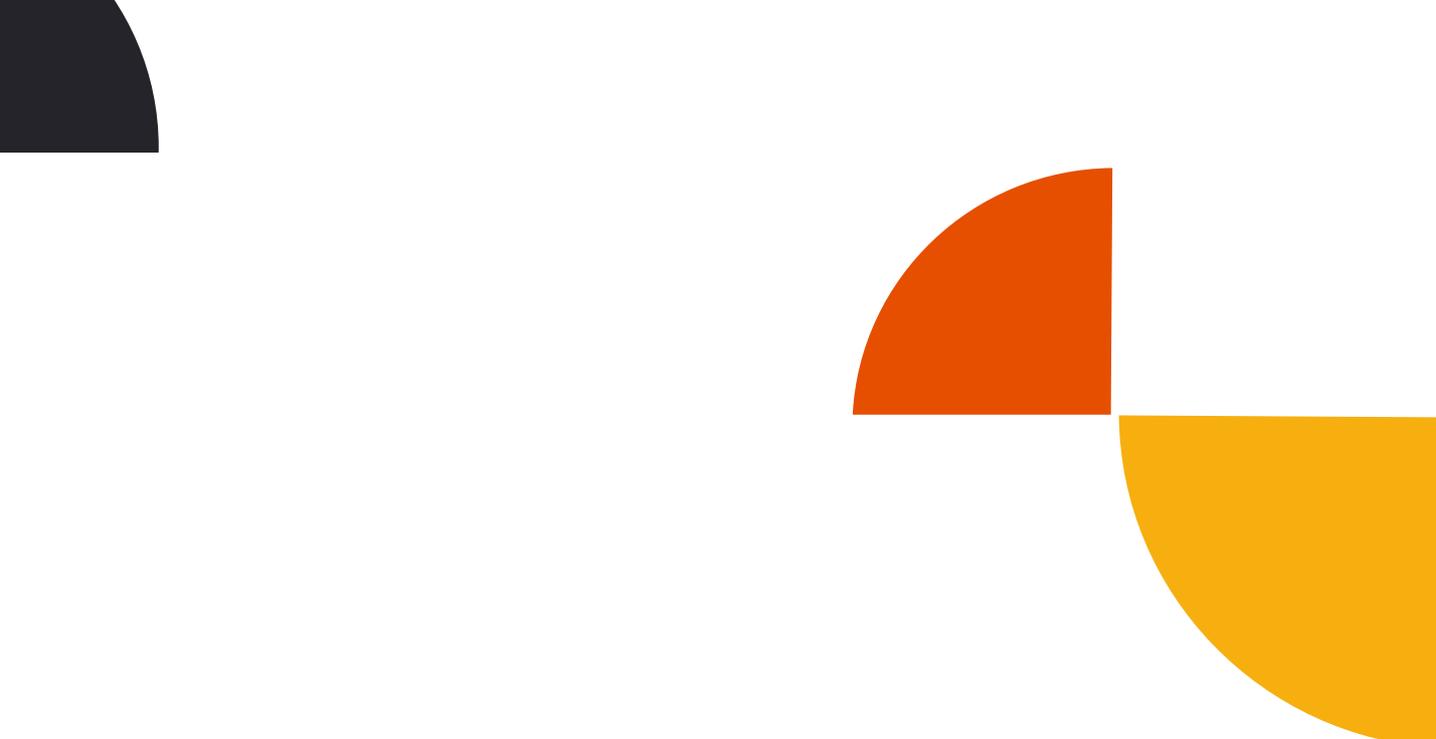
Enabled by strong governance and the right operational support. A church that builds adaptability in its governance and operations to enable and empower the fulfilment of the vision. A church that is above reproach as an organisation, that faithfully stewards its resources and cultivates healthy accountability and empowerment of its people.

A Christ-Centred Gathered Church...

Thriving in groups gathered around Jesus. A church thriving in groups gathered around Jesus. A church whose head is Jesus, and whose help is the Holy Spirit. A church that reveals Jesus better together to the world than alone. A church that gathers in life groups and Sunday celebrations experiencing life transformation through the uncompromising truth of God's Word, their encounters with the Holy Spirit and the tangible love of Jesus through one another. A church that encounters more of Jesus together than alone.

An Everyday Church...

Representing Jesus in our everyday moments. A church that believes Christ wants to be in everyone, everywhere and in everything. A church where people are freed from the disease of ME and everyday life becomes opportunities to represent Jesus - where mistakes become opportunities to model Christ-like humility, promotion to model Christ-like servanthood, work to contribute to society, family to pass the baton of faith to the next generation, hobbies to build relationships with those far from Jesus, money to bless and serve those in need. People who are discipled in the every day and people who make disciples in the everyday moments.



A Local Church...

Walking alongside stakeholders to transform Clayton. A church that embraces the community of Clayton as our own. We see ourselves becoming a people that walks alongside the community leaders, seeking to make the city better together. A people through whom acceptance is given, hope is re-birthed, restoration discovered and Christ is found. A people who embrace our unique calling to be His light in the most multicultural suburb in one of the most multicultural nations. A people where Jesus has broken down our walls of prejudice so we can build a diverse, multicultural and united church that reflects our community.

A Global Church...

Reaching the unreached people groups. A church that welcomes and makes a home for international students, to disciple and sends them back globally with a commitment and vision of the Great Commission. A church that focuses on global mission partnerships that empower a disciple-making movement globally among the unreached people groups.

A Pioneering Church...

Pioneering new frontiers and spheres. A church whose focus is on making disciples that multiply. A church where leaders equip and members are empowered to change lives by making disciples of Jesus. A church that is committed to multiplying leaders who can birth vision, with the boldness and courage to lead out a disciple-making movement in different spheres of influence.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

As I write this report, I am once again amazed by God's faithfulness. It's hard to believe that just at the start of 2022, we emerged from lockdown, uncertain about the impact of Covid on our church and unsure if another lockdown was looming. In light of this, 2022 became a year of bringing people together and experimentation to prepare for 2023 and beyond. This year provided valuable insights, enabling the church board and leadership to set the strategic direction of the church until the end of 2026.

It was also a year of new roles, structures, board, and initiatives. In my revised role as Senior Pastor, I was able to explore the implications of our vision beyond the church walls and pioneer new collaborative initiatives like Evolve Help Ukraine and Together For Clayton. We also welcomed new staff members like Sally Zhang, Meenoi Teo, Stephen Gullery, and Virginia Lau. The new church board was also transitioning during this time. We have so much to praise God for and celebrate, much of which can be read through the reports.

I want to thank our incredible and dedicated staff team who always serve with heart and passion before God. A special thank you to Chin Tan (our previous Business Operations Director) and Ray Cunliffe (our volunteer Business Operations Director) who gave above and beyond to help with the transition of Stephen Gullery, as well as Lauren Ng who volunteered a full year working along side me to see many initiatives get off the ground.



I also want to especially thank Tim Wong and Terence Mak for their servanthood and leadership of the church over the years. And of course, I want to thank each member of the church, as you are all 'living stones' who build this 'spiritual house' together (1 Peter 2:5).

On a personal note, I also want to thank the church for supporting me as I transitioned into married life with Eugenia and our family. It's a beautiful example of God's redemptive vision for my life, and my prayer is that as a church we can be part of seeing God's redemptive vision for all of life extend to everyone in our church and beyond.

I am excited about the future and sense a great spiritual momentum that only comes from the Holy Spirit. I am praying for a spiritual awakening and for God to move beyond the structures into the hearts of our people. Let's step out in faith into 2023!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Chee Fah



ENABLING CHURCH

BOARD REPORT

By Charles Skadiang, Board Chair



From Left: Anna Fernando (Secretary), Ahann Ker (Treasurer), Ps Chee Seng, Fah (Senior Pastor), Charles Skadiang (Chair), Tim Wong, Edmond Ng, Terence Mak

2022 has been a blessed year of growth, change and exploration for our church in Clayton, and it is a privilege as a board to be part of it. It has also been a year of transition. We want to sincerely thank Tim Wong and Terence Mak for their faithful years of service as Chair and Secretary of the board. They have been invaluable to the growth and stability of our church, bringing to mind Jeremiah 17:8

They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

As a church board, these deep roots are not just grounded in good governance but through faithfulness in the Word and prayer. We believe this leaves us well positioned into 2023, expectant and ready to see God move in greater ways.

We also welcomed Edmond Ng, Anna Fernando (Secretary) and Charles Skadiang (Chair) to the board, which also includes Ahann Ker (Treasurer) and Ps. Chee Seng Fah (Senior Pastor). Though we are a new team, we are unified in our approach, diverse in our skill-sets and passionate about seeing God work through us.

We are excited to extend the team and bring on more board members in the future. A massive thanks to Andrew Ah Sang and Edmund Fong as part of the Nominations Committee for playing such a vital role in this process.

A lot has happened this year but a big part has been supporting Ps. Chee and Ps. Paul as they step into their new terms / roles. We have explored a new framework for the Senior Pastor, which has had a significant impact both inside and outside the four walls of our church. There have been healthy and necessary discussions as we keep exploring this and discern the best path forward.

On a side note, we are continually grateful for the financial stewardship culture of our church. Due to the generosity of our people and God's abundant provision, we are in a strong financial position to make an impact, bless our people and bring healing to our Clayton community.

Thank you to the church for trusting us and supporting us in this season. We are genuinely excited for 2023. God is working and we are focused on strengthening our roots so that we will continue to see fruitfulness in our church.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ahann Ker, Treasurer

Our 31 December 2022 year-end financial report is a celebration of impact expressed in the Church's operating result, financial position and cash flows that answers the question, "How well did our Church respond to God's invitation to participate with Him in the year 2022?"

This Treasurer's Report read in conjunction with the ministry reports attached to the 2022 Annual Report will tell you stories that it is not all about us, that there are expenditures that demonstrate our love for lost and disconnected people, and there are stories of how we were investing time in people outside the walls of Clayton Church.

Financial Highlights:

- Our operating result for the year came to a deficit of \$15K [2021 surplus* \$227k]. The decrease in operating result was largely attributed to (1) Decrease in Total Offerings of \$72k (2) Decrease in Building Donation of \$28k (3) Increase in Employee Benefit Expense of \$78k and (4) Increase in Ministry related expenses of \$36k following lifting of lockdown restriction.

However, the operating result is favourable compared to the budget deficit of \$169k [Budgeted Operating Surplus before Non-Cash Item: \$51k, Non-Cash Item: Depreciation of \$220k]. This was largely attributed to favourable variances in (1) Building Donation \$26k (2) Ministry related revenue \$22k (3) Other revenue \$18k (4) Employee Benefit Expense \$58k and (5) Ministry related expense \$59k.

- This year we reached 97% [2021 122 %] of our General Offering budget. The shortfall was mainly caused by lower offerings received from English Campus by \$120k [shortfall of 9% of the English Campus budget].
- We set aside a Sinking Fund balance of \$219k [2021 \$107k] for the future maintenance of the Church Building.
- We maintained a cash reserve to meet at least 9 months [2021 9 months] of operating expenses, of which at least 3 months of the reserves are held in authorised deposit-taking institutions.

Thank God for His abundant provision. Despite the challenges we faced, God allowed us to arrive at the end of 2022 in a strong financial position. I would like to thank everyone who so faithfully gave and sowed into His Kingdom throughout the year and indeed, to God be the glory.

*Annualised figure of the 15-month financial period 2021

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

By Stephen Gullery, Business Operations Director

On the 24th October I walked into the church for the first time as its new Business Operations Director. Having gone through a rigorous employment application process and having done my own due-diligence as well as talking with my wife Christine and in Prayer with the Lord, I thought I was prepared for the next step in my career walk with God.

It is with immense warmth that I was welcomed by the members, congregation and staff of this Church. While it has only been a few months, in a positive way it feels like I have been a part of the team for a lot longer.

2022 was a year of change within the Business/Operations team where the Operations Director role was temporarily held by Chin Tan and Ray Cunliffe before I was appointed to the role in Oct 2022. When you look at the members of this team, it's a realisation of the quality of staff you have and their energy for their roles during a year of change, that the department operated so smoothly.

In early 2022, we hired Meenoi to be our full-time Admin staff; Sally Zhang to be our bookkeeper and contracted Chin Tan to be our part-time accountant. Guiding the area of Facilities, Risk and Compliance for the Church is Chong Wong, now the longest serving member of the Business/Operations team.



I would like to thank Chin for the effort and diligence as he oversaw the finances of the Church during this time of change and the help he has offered me in coming up to speed with this area. All the team has helped me settle in.

While 2022 was a case of “steady as she goes”, the vision ahead will see well researched and implemented changes.

Risk and Compliance

2022 marked the year when Melbourne gradually transitioned to living with COVID-19. As the year progressed, more congregants were attending on-site services and there was also an increase of more on-site activities within the church building. More services also meant the help of more volunteers were needed in various ministries.



The Operations Team facilitated several Volunteer Compliance events to encourage volunteers to renew their application details and to be aware of new legislative requirements as volunteers. Besides the roll out of a New Child Safe standard in July 2022, volunteers and staff have constantly been made aware of changes and new legislation and regulations that are now a requirement of their roles as volunteers and staff of a Church.

During this time we were blessed with the services of two volunteer assistants, SokPheng Ker and Sue Clarke to transfer the paper-based information submitted by our volunteers into our online database system.

The Operations team will continue to work with ministry team leaders to ensure that all volunteers at Clayton Church are fully aware of their compliance obligations before serving. We are moving to have the process for volunteers in the future fully automated including online video training. It's a sign of the times we live in.

Facilities and Maintenance

There were no major building works in 2022, other than the replacement of water damaged wooden floor panels in the cafe area with matching tiles and the addition of a storage room in Meeting Room 3. We also upgraded the old coffee machine and grinder with a newer and better system on a purpose-built cafe-style trolley.

The new coffee machine now lives at the main entrance foyer providing congregants with a chance to fellowship pre-service over a quality coffee. A very well trained team of church volunteer baristas serve us each Sunday.

The Operations team also took the opportunity to improve areas and clean all ground floor tile grout as these have not been done since we moved into the building.

Picking Up the Pace

2023 is the start of a new session for the Business/Operations team within Clayton Church. The Operations staff are embracing Review to Advance. There are many significant projects on the board for the years ahead within this area, all aiming at ensuring the church is administered at the "Best Practice" level and above and that we offer the best we can to the community of Clayton Church, the Ministerial staff and volunteers. These areas include finance, administration, security, policies, development, property maintenance and development.

A lot of what is achieved within this team can not be seen or is not of any significant news worthiness, but it is essential to ensure the vision shared each Sunday is supported.

Your Business / Operations team looks forward to serving you all.

CENTRAL MINISTRY SYSTEMS

By Sheron Wong, Global & Ministry Systems Director



It's hard to believe that we only began to come out of lockdown life in early 2022 when COVID-19 numbers were soaring and mask mandates and instructions to work from home were still in place until February. Personally, I managed to catch and survive COVID twice in 2022!

As restrictions lifted, and everybody began to explore what life in the new normal could look like, people started slowly returning back to church physically. With an average of only 47 attendees on-site in January, we saw roughly 350 people consistently come on-site by mid-year and finally reached an average of 403 by December in the English Sunday Service.

Throughout this time, we saw 356 newcomers and visitors come through our English Campus doors; many who came as guests for the 15 baptisms and 5 child dedications we celebrated together. And 97 newcomers and visitors for the Chinese Campus. In the English Campus, had 44 newcomers join us for Newcomers' Lunch over the course of 12 months.

Out of those who stuck around, 30 people registered to join Life Groups, and we successfully assimilated 34 people into English Life Groups, and 31 into Chinese Life Groups, including those who weren't new to our church community.

By the end of the year, 539 people were regularly receiving our weekly church news email, 21 more than last year.

Most exciting of all, we heard about 8 Salvations in the English Campus and 25 in the Chinese Campus!

Over the course of the year, we had 19 people commit to our church as Members, all of whom came from the English Campus.

One of the biggest highlights and catalytic events of the year, without a doubt, was our Church Camp at Phillip Island Adventure Resort, 'Called by Name'. We saw 223 people join us over the weekend, including our guest speaker, Ps Mark Conner.

As the first Church Camp we've had since 2018, before the world was acquainted with Coronavirus, we were particularly intentional about creating a space where people could connect with God and reconnect with one another after 2 years of being apart.

Ps Mark Conner spoke on topics that helped us rediscover our purpose, both individually and corporately, and challenged us to 'Re-Imagine' church as a community of Christ-followers, empowered by the Spirit to partner with God's mission in the world.

For me, the most memorable moment from camp was not the sessions, the camp fire, or even the late night chats over supper. Surprisingly, it was a moment on Saturday afternoon during the outdoor activities.

After losing his wife to terminal illness, one brave father brought his non-verbal, autistic teen son to camp. They had made it to the top of the Twin Flying Fox, but after being strapped in, the son was far too scared by the thought of jumping off the edge.

With everything considered, it was near impossible for the boy to come down the ladder the way he went up, and the only way down was to jump off the platform.

After what seemed like hours of wrestle and a small crowd gathering to cheer the father and son on, the sun began to set. All the participants had gone ahead, and this teen was the last one standing on the platform before the camp staff had to close the activity for the day.

And with one small push, he came flying down the zip line. The crowd goes wild. We're cheering, we're jumping, we're crying and we're hugging.

For me, it was a significant and emotional moment because it reminded me of how we came together as a community to cheer and support one another during the tough times. We could celebrate the victory together because we shared in the challenge together.

Looking back on the last few years, 2022 really felt like we finally jumped off the platform and began to fly as we were meant to. I thank God for the incredible community of staff (especially Ngoc Ng, who worked so closely with me!) and hundreds of volunteers who came together to not only cheer, but to step up, serve, and help others find belonging and encouragement to grow in their discipleship – Thank you!

356

Visitors in English Campus
97 Visitors in Chinese Campus



8 Salvations in English Campus
25 Salvations in Chinese Campus



9 Baptisms in English Campus
6 Baptisms in Chinese Campus



19 New Members



65 Assimilated into Life Groups

223

Attended Church Camp in May

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CHRIST-CENTRED GATHERED CHURCH

ENGLISH CAMPUS REPORT

By Ps Paul Tucker, English Campus Pastor

I am so thankful to God for 2022. My first full year as the English Campus pastor has been a joy. Sim, Noah, Jada and I have settled in well as we adapt to ministry life and see the fruits personally and corporately as we journey together with you all.

The year began with uncertainty as the effects of lockdowns lingered making it difficult to plan and prepare. However it was clear that we needed to make every effort to connect with the congregation, to encourage, to listen and understand how each one was doing. To do this, we birthed the 'Love them back' plan where a staff member and Zone Leader together would visit as many life groups as possible. What a blessing this was as we sat face to face with many of you and heard how God was working, your struggles and fears, hopes and joys. The feedback from these meetings informed much of our direction and theme for 2023, Refreshed to Revival.

My role covers the day-to-day operations of the English Campus together with Central Ministries which supports both campuses. You will read in this Annual Report encouraging reports from individual ministries where lives have been touched and people have grown closer to God.



I am deeply thankful and continually impressed with our English Campus staff team, key leaders and volunteers (especially April Tan who has volunteered as my personal assistant for much of the year) who selflessly give their time and commitment to see the vision come to pass, disciples grown, and God glorified.

Leading the English Campus Leadership Team is an honour. Each leader in this team (Ps Kyle, Phanin, Shamilla, Sheron, Stephen) is highly gifted and carries a passion for God that continues to grow as we pursue the vision together. In June we had the privilege of travelling to the Gold Coast for TeamFest, a leadership conference for Churches of Christ, where we learnt a lot and grew closer as a team.

In September the board and ministry staff went away on a retreat to discern the strategic direction of the church 2023 and beyond. This was a powerful time as we sought God and settled on a number of priorities to develop and invest our time and energy into going forward.



At the risk of doubling up with another story of change expressed in the ministry reports, I would refer to two areas where we have seen great movement.

Evolve help Ukraine was birthed in response to the war and the displaced Ukrainians making their way to Melbourne. It has been amazing seeing church members engaging with the Ukrainians to support them financially, with goods, rent, cars, offers of work, opening of homes for accommodation, hospitality and developing relationships. This has been great to see our church respond so actively as we work out the vision practically.

From my perspective, I have been overwhelmed with the 'Whole of Life' response where our people have inclined themselves to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. It is one thing to give money, but it is another to open your home and have someone live with you. For some to begin attending our church simply because they have a heart for the Ukrainians shows they're willing to submit everything.

I see this as an outworking of our vision where we seek to build disciples who represent Jesus to everyone, everywhere, with everything. Often in such an expansive vision, it can be hard to know where to start, however I believe the success of our service to the Ukrainians has been in the ability for people to respond quickly to the prompting of the Spirit who gives wisdom and insight to see how God has made them, and the resources He has given them, and then in faith to bring these things to serve other people. We need the Spirit's guidance to understand our everyone, our everywhere and our everything.



The second area of movement is the growth in the prayer ministry which has been my greatest joy in 2022. I firmly believe this is propelling the church forward as we press into God.

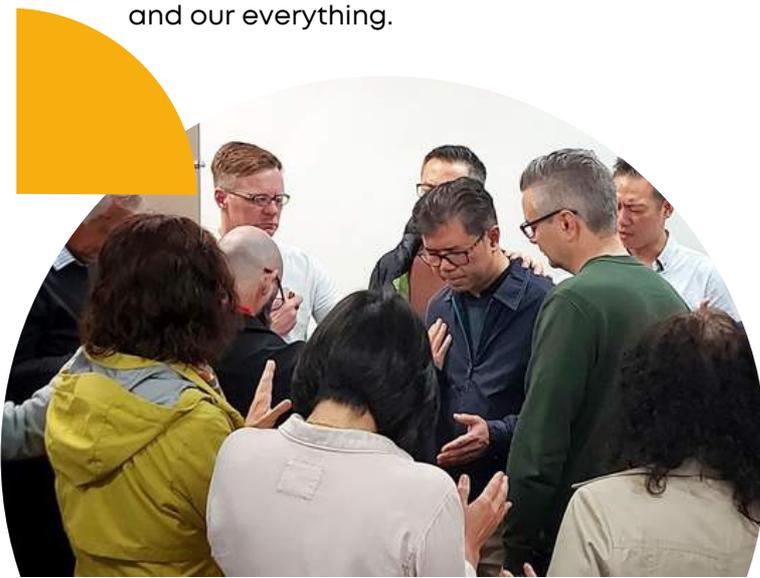
We are focusing our prayer as led by the Holy Spirit. This is not to under-value petitionary prayer, but to start from where we collectively sense the heart of God is, and then to pray accordingly, fosters a great sense of two-way communication. This has been expressed powerfully in 9am prayer, especially in the 4th week of the month where we have been inviting and praying for ministry leaders.

Watching the leaders receive and be deeply blessed coupled with a new breed and pray-ers seeking the Lord has been amazing. I am thankful for each of the Core Team consisting of Ron White, Carolyn Yong, Margaret Ruhl (finished end 2022) and the new members in 2023, Melinda Van Zyl and April Tan. These people continue to seek the face of Jesus and create avenues for other to do the same.

These two stories coupled together encourage me that we are moving forward in the right direction as more and more of us are edified by the Word, apply it to our life, then allow the Spirit to direct and empower the outcome.

We look forward to what God has in store for 2023 as we move from Refreshed to Revival.

God bless,
Ps Paul Tucker



PASTORAL CARE

By Margaret Ruhl, Pastoral Care Director



Pastoral Care is an important ministry in the body of Christ, though not very visible or high profile. It involves caring for the various parts of the body that are suffering in one way or another. As Jesus said: “By this all men will know that you are My disciples if you have love one for another”.

Pastoral does not mean it to be done by the “Pastor” or by any one person, but in line with our discipleship model, it involves coordinating pastoral care activities and involving life groups and volunteers to share the task and grow in discipleship, just like Jesus taught his disciples in hands-on fashion “Go and heal the sick...”. Pastoral care is meant to be multiplied by life groups and volunteers sharing in the vision.

Major areas of pastoral care required have been:

- New baby visitation
- Encouraging young mothers in their struggles
- Child dedication
- Supporting the older generation (loneliness and isolation, health issues, limited mobility, age care)

- Supporting young couples (pre-marriage preparation etc)
- Hospital/sick visitation
- Supporting people undergoing crisis events via encouragement/prayer/meals

Pastoral care is an essential part of “Life in the Body of Christ”: 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 “so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it”. In this way, mobilising the body, pastoral care has been delivered with the help of volunteers and life groups through many care events by different groups, all for the good and building up one another in Christ.

Some examples from this past year include:

- Supporting a family losing the wife and mother due to terminal illness: A classic example of a life group supporting in the care of the sick and journeying with the family throughout the difficult period.
- Supporting a brother who lost his daughter overseas due to sudden death: The overwhelming generosity of the body of Christ showing love and support while one of us is hurting.
- Three celebrations of life: We shared with Lorraine Morse on the heartbreaking loss of her son Jesse, and before that, her mother Helen Morse, in February. And again with the Nio family, for the loss of Grace in March.
- Five Children were dedicated during Mother’s/Father’s Day



Marriage Prepare/Enrich Team

Seven young couples from church were guided through the pre-marriage course. In addition, one pre-Christian couple went through the course with Ps Kyle as a way of outreach.

It is desirable that every newly married couple in our church would have some older couple as their mentors, to journey with them through stages of life. We have currently 10 couples as marriage mentors in our team. With further in-house training planned in place, as already delivered through our marriage training workshop in 2022, we are hoping to recruit more mentors into our team.

The marriage team recognises the needs of our married couples in our midst regardless of their age. So we facilitated an in-house "You&Me" date night to encourage couples in our midst to cultivate their marriages with a candle lit, three-course dinner and input on marriage issues all couples face.

Then, in August, to further enrich marriages, 50 couples signed up to the Alpha Marriage course for 6 sessions over Zoom. A celebration dinner was held with testimonies, sharing and some feedback from the course as below shows the positive impact on marriages:

Since participating in The Marriage Course, how has your commitment to each of the following changed, if at all? (1 - A LOT LESS, 5 = A LOT MORE)



Loving our seniors and those who are lonely

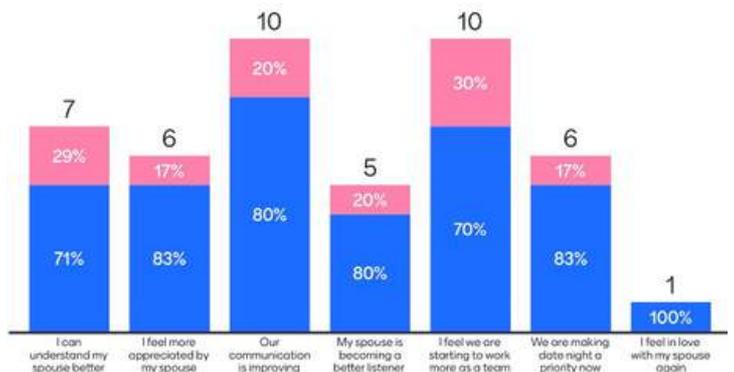
In collaboration with Kids Church, ten gift packs were wrapped and given out to a few of our seniors as a token of our appreciation to them for their service in church, to show our love, and to bless them in December .

Carolling visits to two aged-care facilities, housing some of our older members

Likewise, recognising the loneliness that some of our church members who are residents in aged care facilities are experiencing, especially during the festive seasons, we arranged for one of our Life Groups to spend two Saturdays carolling in two aged care facilities which house some of our members. We saw many elderly singing carols with us, even those with dementia. One resident commented that it was like bringing them back to their Sunday school when they were little.

Such is Pastoral Care. The fruit of all these may not be very visible, but it is as Jesus said: 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'
 – Matt 25:40

What changes have you noticed in your marriage these past weeks?



PRAYER REPORT

By Carolyn Yong, Prayer Core Team

Prayer Ministry in Clayton Church took various forms over the years in gathered groups and spaces. The Covid pandemic stopped in-person gatherings, but even with restrictions in place, the Lord made it possible to pray on Zoom. After a season of meeting only on Zoom, 'hybrid' gatherings followed, and by mid 2022 people were gathering and praying in person.

A Core Team was formed to seek the Holy Spirit's leading in planning the structure of the Prayer Ministry and sensing that the pre-service prayer at 9am is going to be where people will grow in prayer in various ways. With the different members of the Core Team initially leading Sunday Morning Prayer (SMP), other attendees were subsequently invited to facilitate; then leaders of various ministries were invited to be prayed for, both on a monthly basis.



- A SMP WhatsApp group was formed as a means of communication among the regulars.
- Clayton House of Prayer (CHOP) and 10am Service Prayer Team WhatsApp groups continued to receive confidential prayer requests.
- Two Prayer Training Sessions with the theme 'Partnering God the Holy Spirit' were held.
- A Prayer Luncheon took place in July with an open invitation to attend and take part in a prayer-themed survey to find out where the interests of the attendees were.
- A second Prayer Luncheon was held in December to share testimonies and to cast the vision for 2023.

Although the focus is not on numbers, it is encouraging to see how the Lord is drawing more and more people to gather for prayer, to grow and mature in understanding and confidence relationally with Him and with one another, and to step up in prayer leadership.

As we entrust this Ministry to the Holy Spirit's leading, we look forward with anticipation to what the Lord will do in and through Clayton Church in the days ahead.





Story of Change

By Melinda van Zyl

In March 2022 I first walk into Clayton and wonder what I would find in this new church, in what would be a whole new denomination for me.

But it is good. God is in it. Soon there is no doubt that this is where Johan and I are meant to be.

Yet, I avoid the 'Sunday Morning Prayer' meetings, wary that in this area, so close to my heart, my delight in Clayton Church of Christ may be fractured.

After weeks, I go.

I am astounded: a room full of people wanting to pray (so many men in a prayer group?!), and all three pastors there. Clearly prayer is not just a box to be checked. Even more, I experience a warm welcome that makes me feel as if I have always belonged there.

The tone of the facilitator conveys humility, a deep love of God and a fervent desire to draw close to Him. It is emphasized that there are no set expectations as to the level in which a person wishes to engage. Some people pray out loud, others affirm these prayers, others pray silently.

An atmosphere of grace, of freedom, of encouragement is created. And God is felt, is heard, is worshipped, and glorified. My heart soars.

Later in the year, I am invited to attend a 'Prayer Ministry Training' session. The afternoon starts with a session of teaching on the Trinity, the work of God the Holy Spirit and aspects regarding our role in partnering with God.

Ron, the facilitator emphasises that each person is free to approach the prayer time in their unique way, the way that feels right for that person.

This invitation to pray freely, creates in me a sense of boldness, a preparedness to step out further. It becomes an afternoon of intimacy with the Spirit, of building new relationships, of realising we are part of something shared, something glorious, something directed by God Himself.

I know without a doubt that God is in the Prayer Ministry at Clayton Church, and the people in Him. The sense that God is preparing us for something life and community transforming is palpable. Thank you, God.

I pray that You will touch our lips with a purifying coal and enable us to speak out Your desires, Your Will.



ENGLISH SUNDAY SERVICE

By Phanin Soeur, Service Ministry Director

2022, the comeback year! Everything was coming back and we were able to finally return to being fully onsite. I must say, thankfully, we did pretty well during the lockdown period of 2020-2021. The worship and service teams did an incredible job over last couple of years.

Though we understand and know that the online space should remain, as it's an open door to the world allowing the message of Jesus to reach beyond the four walls of our church, we simply love being together again under one roof declaring the goodness of God.

At the start of 2022 we did see less people onsite as some were still a little nervous about COVID-19. We too were cautious; we made sure our teams were well spread out and also that we didn't have too many people gathering in one location. But as 2022 continued to roll on, we began to relax as the rest of the country did. We saw more and more people coming back to our onsite service, and as a direct reflection of this we saw a slow decline in numbers watching online concurrently.

“I like that the service always feels like a journey”

“I like that our church is not afraid to address “difficult” topics from the platform”

We believe the Sunday Service is central to building a community of faith so we understand the importance of providing a service that is spiritually engaging, well structured, but still flexible at the same time.

In 2022 some of the highlights were - a successful church camp to bring everyone together again, going through the book of Samuel, diving into public square topics, exploring relationship topics, and finally finishing the year on a high with a community engaging series and initiative; Love Loud, helping our local retailers.

I'm extremely grateful for our amazing Sunday teams that, week in week out, create a very consistent, high standard service while still remaining authentic and open for God to do only what God can do.

I would like to say a special thank you to our relatively new production team. Prior to 2019 we only really had a media person changing slides and playing media and a sound person. Now, 3 years later, we've got a camera crew, vision mixers, front of house sound, plus broadcast audio which have helped iron out some of the complexities of moving into a hybrid church model. Thank you to everyone that serves on our Sunday Service teams and Worship Teams.



1014

**YouTube
Subscribers
in total**

188

**New Subscribers
in 2022**

“

“I have never felt comfortable singing in church until now. I’m not sure what you guys are doing but I just feel connected”

“Thank you for being a team that is so flexible with how you end your services, usually churches are so rigid, especially with their closing song, but your team seems to have changed the song to something that suited my message more” – Guest Speaker

“It’s good to have a balanced team of preachers. It’s like something for everyone but you’ll also receive something from each of them.”

”

MONTHLY CHAPEL SERVICE

By Winston Chin-Lenn

Following a prompting from the Lord, the Monthly Chapel Service commenced on Thursday 4th August in the Chapel at 1.30pm and it was such a joy to have 92 people attending our first service. Praise the Lord!

The 4 fold purposes of this service are:

- Praise and Worship
- The Lord's Supper
- The Word
- Fellowship

This also provided an opportunity for some who were not able to attend the Sunday Service and those that preferred a smaller group.

We had 5 services for the year with an average attendance of 69 per month, and communion was shared at each service.

However, attendance dropped off towards the end of the year due to some instances of Covid and people travelling overseas.

A number of visitors (christians and non-christians) joined us each month and we were encouraged and grateful to the Lord for those that made a special effort to invite their non-christian friends along.





Afternoon tea was provided at the end of each service and this was a good opportunity for people to connect and encourage one another.

During the year we had the privilege of having Ps Ron White, Ps Andrew Lian, Ps Ken Harris, Ps Phoebe Cheng and Cicely Tucker speak to us on various topics as prompted by the Lord.

Many thanks to :

- Phanin Soeur and Nic Lee for assisting us with the Sound System and the Audio Visuals,
- Ron White for leading the Prayer Group before each service,
- Lily for organising the lovely afternoon tea after the services.
- The Committee members for their love and dedication to the Lord's work.
- Shamilla and Ps Paul for their guidance and encouragement.

Committee: Winston and Yin Chin-Lenn, Gordon and Cicely Tucker, Peter and Soan Koh, Colin Kwong, Ai Theng Teoh , Lily Buyukcinar and Yvonne Chowa.

To God be the glory!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Evelyn Siew, Children & Family Ministry Director

KEY METRICS

Leaders

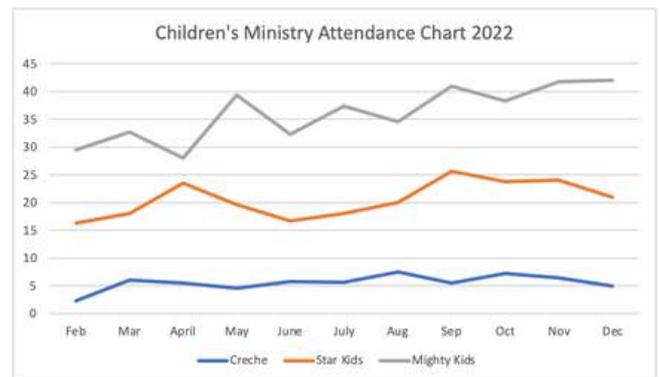
Children's Ministry was able to run in 2022 with the commitment of many faithful, loving and dedicated volunteers. In 2022, **Crèche** had 7 helpers and 6 leaders. **Star Kids** and **Mighty Kids** had 27 leaders (including those who joined and stepped down during the year) and 6 team leaders.

I would like to thank all our **Crèche**, **Star Kids** and **Mighty Kids** leaders for their relentless involvement in children's discipleship and their heart in serving the Lord in every capacity He had enabled them to.

Attendance

On average, **Crèche** had about 6 toddlers in the room each week, with the highest attendance of 11 on three separate Sundays.

The average **Star Kids** attendance was about 20 children a week and the highest was 30 in October. **Mighty Kids** had 36 children a week on average, and the highest turnout was 45 in October.



HIGHLIGHTS

Memory Verse and Bible Reading Challenge

In term 3, we initiated the 'Memory Verse Challenge' and 'Bible Reading Challenge' for the children in **Star and Mighty Kids** respectively. These challenges encouraged the children to engage with the Word of God at home on a regular basis. Through the partnership with parents, 32 children from grades 1 – 6 participated in the Bible-reading challenge and completed a 'two days a week' reading plan for the entire term. Even though some children in **Star Kids** were too young to understand the concept of engagement with the Word of God, 5 children (families) made the effort to memorise two Bible verses in a term.



Partnering with Parents

In August, we ran a session with all the parents/guardians in **Star and Mighty Kids** over lunch to share our hearts and vision on 'partnership with parents'. 29 families responded to our invitation totalling up to 73 people in the registration including children. However, more families attended the session and the final number of people gathered in room 3 that day was not counted. We used menti.com to run a survey to gather feedback from parents on how we could further support them in home discipleship. Lastly, we shared with the parents how they could partner with us to enhance their child's faith journey at Kids Church.

Pack for Ukrainian Families

One of the series that **Mighty Kids** covered in 2022 was 'Fruit of the Spirit'. We believe that authentic faith-building happens when children are able to put their learning and knowledge into action. A timely opportunity at that time for us to show love, practice kindness and goodness was to bless the displaced Ukrainian children in Melbourne with some toys and school supplies that they needed. Through the generous giving and donations from our Kids Church community, we were able to pack **40 bags** of toys and gifts for the Ukrainian children. These bags were delivered to Compass Church during the term 3 school holidays.

Sausage Sizzle and Cookie Fundraiser for Love Loud

Star and Mighty Kids contributed in meaningful ways to get lunch served for the church congregation last October. **Star Kids** helped put together baked cookies for sale while the **Mighty Kids** contributed to making advertising posters and assembling sausages, onions and bread for sale. We made a **\$588** profit from this event and this amount was used to buy food and gifts to make hampers to bless others as part of our participation in Love Loud. The children managed to pack **42 food hampers** for 'Hampers of Hope' by The Salvation Army and **10 hampers** for some elderly in our church.



The Love Loud project for **Mighty Kids** was to pack Christmas hampers for two groups of people. Firstly, we registered to pack for 'Hampers of Hope', organised by The Salvation Army. These hampers had a greater purpose - to bring hope to individuals and families who were in need over Christmas. The Salvation Army later emailed us to thank our church community for our generous support towards their Christmas appeal. They expressed how much they valued our support by presenting us with a certificate.

We also made 10 hampers for some elderly in our church to let them know that they are loved and remembered. These hampers were delivered to their place of residence and they were touched by this gesture of thoughtfulness in November. One of them wrote back to us and thanked us for the pleasant surprise as November marked the 60th year of her and her husband's commitment to the Lord and the church.

EMERGE YOUTH

By Duc Tran, Youth Director

KEY METRICS

Attendance – Our attendance was about 20-25 at the start of the year. By the end of the year we grew to 35 on average (with 44 being our highest at one stage).

Newcomers – 46 newcomers, and a few returning post-covid.

Salvations – We had 2 official statements of salvation made from our youth this year. With a few more expressing desire to recommit their lives throughout the year.

Baptisms – 1 Baptism – Eva

HIGHLIGHTS

2022 was a big year for Emerge Youth. Returning to an on-site program with face to face contact has been a really positive change for many of our youth.

Our theme for the year was “In Step with God”, exploring what it means to be disciples who walk in step with him. Each term we explored a different aspect of this: stepping up and serving, stepping forward in confidence, stepping out in faith and stepping alongside others.

Here are a few highlights from the year:

Emerge Leadership Program – This year we piloted an Emerge Leadership Program for high school students. We had 4 committed student leaders who dedicated additional time every week to learn about leadership, grow in their faith and serve as part of the youth program. The student leaders took charge of a few nights of youth and organised a few events, shared devotions



and planned games. They were also mentored and disciplined in their own walk with God. The success of the Emerge Leadership Program was evident not only in the way that our student leaders grew in their own faith, but how they subsequently reshaped the culture of youth to be more welcoming and loving.

Emerge Youth Care Program – This is an umbrella term for a number of initiatives that we ran this year as part of Youth. One initiative was the Mental Health initiative that was started by Rachel Goh and helped grow our youth and parents in their understanding of mental health from a biblical perspective and what it means to care for one another. We dedicated the theme of Term 2 towards Mental Health, with a guest speakers Danny Cheah and Jimmy Yiao providing valuable insight into these areas. A lot of feedback from youth and parents suggested that this was a really impactful and made a big difference.

Stepping out in Faith – In term 3 we explored the theme of evangelism and ran a number of workshop and panel nights to help our youth explore the hard questions in their faith, as well as what it means to reach out to their friends. Our youth were challenged in why they believe in what they believe in, and from there, be convicted to actively share this with their friends.



Believe & Belong Camp – We finished the year with a bang with our Emerge Youth Camp for 2022. In total we had 39 youth and 7 adults attend the camp. Ps Kyle spoke on the theme of Believe and Belong and we saw many of our youth take a stand for Christ and be committed to walking alongside one another in community as brothers and sisters in Christ.



46

Newcomers

2

Salvations!

1

Baptism

Stories of Change

Culture

We were pushing really hard to see our youth form good communities with one another, because it is through community that they are able to be accountable to one another and grow in their faith. Some of the awesome changes we witnessed throughout the year was that our youth started actively hanging out with each other outside of youth events. This is particularly evident on Sunday where they sat together during the service and would often go out for lunch together after the service. This is a pretty big thing as it meant that genuine friendships and brother/sisterhoods were forming amongst our kids.

Salvation

One of our youth responded after a message on one of the nights and took a step forward to give his life to Christ. He had grown up in a Christian home and knew about God on a surface level, but felt that he wanted to really get to know God deeply. After praying the sinner's prayer together, we spent a number of sessions exploring Christianity together.

Camp

Camp probably has too many stories of change to share all of them – The final session was a testimony sharing one and many of our youth came up to share and encourage one another about the impact that youth has had on them. In addition, there was a lot of feedback from parents about changes that they've noticed in their kids upon their return.



EMERGE CAMPUS

By Ps Kyle Schroder,
Groups & Generations Pastor

KEY METRICS

Attendance – Over the course of 2022 we had 25 students regularly attending our fortnightly meetings.

Newcomers – We had the joy of meeting 10 newcomers, and a couple students who graduated from Emerge Youth

Baptisms – 3 baptisms: Jonathan, Kevin and Hannah

Members – 1, Jackson

HIGHLIGHTS

We were pleasantly surprised to find that when we returned to in-person meetings, new faces were appearing on our doorstep. We did not know what the year would hold and we were unsure of whether students would show up, but we decided to go ahead with a “stripped back” fortnightly approach and test the waters. And what a year it ended up being!

We built a lovely little community of students who really like being together! We were able to join in and support Jonathan, Kevin and Hannah as they were baptised, and we welcomed Jackson into church membership. We studied the Bible, prayed for each other, caught up for lunches and dinners, went bouldering, and even helped each other move house.

Emerge Campus felt like it was on a restart journey after a tough few years in lockdowns, and I want to make sure to thank the leaders, Josh & Lisa, Stephen, and Melinda, who were devoted to making it a good space.



STORY OF CHANGE

A great story for us to share would be a student who came to us in her first year of uni, moved away from home, and did not have many solid pillars to lean on in terms of a home church, friends, or family. Everything was new and unfamiliar in Melbourne.

Within the space of a couple months at Emerge Campus, it became very clear that she had a passion to be more than just an attendee. We were able to connect her to Duc and Naomi at Emerge Youth where she became a leader-in-training and also connect her with an older mentor who spent a lot of time building her into a mature disciple. By the end of her first year here, she was baptised, sharing her testimony in front of people, leading on Emerge Youth camp.

This story is an exciting one, because it shows that it is not just one ministry or one person on their own impacting our Uni student's lives, but lots of different parts working together. I am hopeful that this is a story that will be more and more familiar as the years roll on.

YOUNG ADULTS

By Ps Kyle Schroder,
Groups & Generations Pastor



As the start of 2022 came around our Young Adult Life Groups were able to once again meet up in person. And while this came as a great relief, we were encouraged to see that our Life Groups were still very much operating and chasing the vision of making disciples even while online.

Throughout the year, we would have had an average of 30-40 young adults meeting in Life Groups, with a large number finishing up from this life-stage ministry at the end of the year.

It has been a year of big shifts and changes as we welcomed in the new leadership of Kenneth Wong and Samantha Seet as the ministry directors for Young Adults (congratulations on the engagement!!), and we also farewelled many of our longstanding Young Adult Life Group leaders; thank you Zak and Louise, Nic and Esther, Josh, Levi, and Benjamin.

Young Adults is an exciting ministry as this is a huge time of change for many of our members, whether it starting full time work for the first time, new relationships, marriages, a first home, or even the never-ending puppies that seem to flood our social medias. We have been encouraged by the way that Young Adults have supported each other as big life events have happened, (including Mandy getting baptised!) and we are expectant that God will continue to grow the people and the ministry in 2023.

A big highlight for 2022 was when we combined with Emerge Campus and had a Relationships Talk night with over 50 people in attendance. We had a great panel of speakers who shared openly and honestly about their stories, spoke wisdom from experience, and shared what they believe the Bible taught us about God honouring relationships.

We had positive feedback from the night with requests for similar nights, and even had a few people putting thought into sharing ways we can improve the session for the future.

A personal highlight from the night was just seeing so many of our young people all in one place at the same time learning how to be better singles, dating couples, husbands and wives. Then after the event I was able to sit and listen to the panel talk among themselves as they continued to ask questions of each other, trying to get more insight and guidance.



ALPHA COURSE

By Ahann & Sokpheng Ker



The Alpha course is an evangelistic course that seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. It is described by its organisers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life."

20 people registered for the 2022 Alpha course. These consisted of students, retirees, and working adults. On average about 10 people attended every week. At the end of course, 3 people came to faith in Christ.

A big thank you to Rosalind, Lily, Judy, Carol, Kim, Daniel, Natalie, Irene and Serene who provided supper for the Alpha course.

3

Salvations!

"Attend Alpha course to reinforce my Christianity faith and to obey Jesus's commandment to share gospel to others and to bring them to Christ."

"I have basic understanding and I believe Jesus died for my sin. I attended Alpha course to improve my shallow knowledge. I learn a lot from the Alpha videos and meet a lot of friendly people."

"Attend Alpha course because my friend invited me and my wife. Looking forward to come for the Alpha course every week. I experience so much fun, joy, great discussion, good fellowship. I learn a lot"

"Although I have been baptised and have decided to follow Christ, I know very little about Christianity. Alpha course gives me an opportunity to know more about the basics of Christianity"

"I was very doubtful and confused why someone would believe in a person who could not be proven to be true. Now I kind of understand who is Jesus, who is God. I am not surprise if I choose to believe Jesus one day."

EMPOWER MEN'S MINISTRY

By Adrian Low

It has been a great year serving in Empower Men's ministry. The core team comprises of Adrian Low, Joe Chen, Phillip Pham and Nic Lee. We are always looking to grow the team, but we have been blessed with these faithful servants.

Our identity has continue to grow and be shaped post-Covid, with many new ideas coming from the team. Our main core vision has never changed, to bridge the generations of men within the church, to build a culture of discipleship. To do so, our events cater for a wide range of age groups and interests.

We were blessed to host 2 main events this year, (with our camp being postponed to 2023), with walks and bbq to Lysterfield Lake as well as a Badminton event. At each of these events, we have had attendances of men from ages 18 – over 65! It is a blessing that at these events, we have a range of new comers from non-Christians to new comers to church, and that we have champions of Empower who use this time to intentionally connect to one another. We are looking to serve the men of our church in 2023.



It's really to connect to other guys at church. Since I have just joined at Clayton, it has been good to get involved, but Empower is a really focused way to get to know other guys. It's a place where I can connect to other guys, and intentionally partner alongside one another and leads to a better understanding to how we can support one another to pursue Christ – Simon

We get a good walk and a got a feed which was great, but even better is the opportunity to connecting to people and connecting to Jesus - Robin



EMBRACE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

By Juliet Soeur

Well it's been quite a busy year! We must've tried to make up for lack of together time during two years of Covid lockdowns.

We kicked off the year with our picnic at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary where 41 ladies came along to lunch and chat and play games together. Our competitiveness arose once again! We had 2 new visitors.

One of the visitors was so impressed with what she saw and heard and the people there. She informed Shamilla that she would love to come to our service and bring along her daughter, but due to work she has not really managed to attend.

That day, Monique also connected with her and have been following up with her. She shared about her sister's challenges in relation to her marriage, who Monique then followed up with.

Instead of following through with divorce plans, this sister accepted the Lord and the couple agreed to meet up with Monique & Michel. God is good and is working!



In April, our postponed Women's Self Defence workshop went ahead. Caydam Self Defence and Fitness Systems came to Clayton to teach 44 women reality based self-defence, practical techniques, awareness, and communication skills to diffuse situations. Participants were 13 years and up and included 5 non believers.

Church camp in May, we went for a ladies walk. On the way God used a few of our brains and doctors to assist an injured surfer. More than coincidence, we believe it was God's provision. And Ladies evening complete with relaxation and face masks!

Post-covid lockdowns we were excited to be able to hold an Embrace Women's Dinner again. Nearly 120 women gathered for a delicious meal and fellowship. For the first time, 30 ladies from Ji En joined us, as did 6 Ukrainian ladies who were kindly sponsored by Clayton Church members. Many members also invited their non believer friends, colleagues, family members.



We were privileged to hear Iryna Chuyko share her story of hope and trust in God in the face of being evacuated from Wuhan China when Covid-19 hit and then fleeing the war from Ukraine and how God has been working in and through her since.

With Clayton Church partnering with Evolve Help Ukraine, our team felt lead to hold a Silent Auction where we auctioned off donated goods and services, raising \$3813 to assist displaced Ukrainians. Thank you once again to our generous donors.

The 2022 Embrace Team consisted of Juliet Soeur, Lauren Ng, Yin Chen and Monique Viney. At the start of 2022 Cecilia Au joined the team and has been so inspiring. She has initiated a book club, meeting monthly, and facilitated 6 new mentor pairs. Both of these initiatives have helped to foster new cross-generational relationships.

Monique Viney is has been on a break and we are so grateful for Shamilla for stepping and assisting us when it was most needed!

At the end of 2022, we recruited more core team members to expand the team. We welcome Sam Gan, Vivienne Ho, Louise Cassar and Dena Ngieng into the Embrace Team and we can't wait to serve alongside you!

Jenn Trinh moved on from the core team in early 2022 and we are thankful for her contribution to the ministry over the years, and her willingness to always help.

Lastly we want to thank Yin Chen who is finishing up with Embrace in March after many years on the core team. She has been invaluable in her contribution and leadership borne out of her passion to see women flourish. We will miss you!

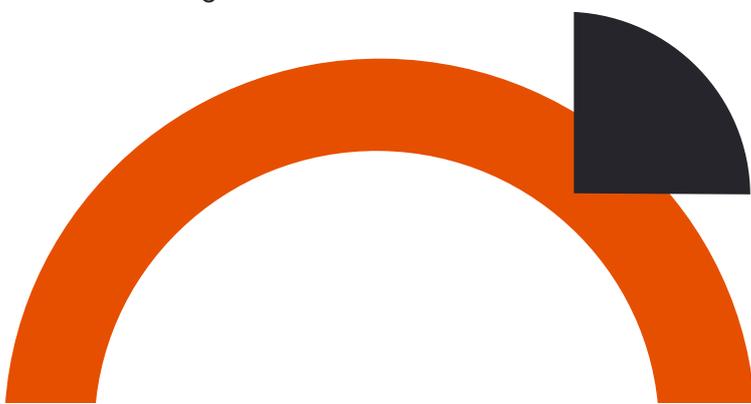
Looking forward to 2023 ladies!



“I have been attending church at CCOC for a little over a year now. I remember the very first Embrace event I attended was the self defence class. I was quite apprehensive, but I found that the moment I walked in to the room, women from church were warm and inviting.

The events I've attended since have helped me learn names, start conversations with people I don't yet know and forge friendships with people who have a been attending the church for many years. I believe the Ministry's social events provide a wonderful opportunity to extend an invitation to friends who don't attend church.”

SANDRA JAMIESON



ENRICH OVER 55S

By Winston Chin-Lenn

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” – Hebrews 10:24-25

We started the year with a Picnic/Bush Walk at Nortons Park, Wantirna South in April 2023, with 38 people turning up on a lovely day.

Then, in July, we had a Singalong/Testimony time in the evening at the Church (Rm 1) and we had Ps Ron White sharing his testimony with us, sang some hymns and had some fun with some secular songs, followed by supper. 66 people attended.

In August, we had another Picnic/Bush Walk at Jells Park with about 50 in attendance. It was great to have some folks from the JiEn service joining us with their friends. The day finished with some outdoor singing in the park.



The final event was in early October with a formal dinner at a restaurant in Rowville with 47 in attendance, and Win Morgan shared her testimony with the group.

As far as the Enrich Ministry is concerned, this is still a good platform for the Over 55's to connect, engage and encourage each other in their walk with the Lord and also have fun at the same time.

Many thanks to the Committee for all their support and contribution.

Committee: Winston and Yin Chin-Lenn, Peter and Soan Koh, Lily Buyukcinar, Yvonne Chowa, Ai Theng Teoh



PLAYGROUP REPORT

By Margaret Ruhl, Pastoral Care Director

Church Playgroup is an outreach ministry, not just a nice activity for the community. We are intentional about getting to know parents, connecting with them as soon as they step into our space, and making them feel welcome and part of the church Playgroup community.

Our vision for Playgroup is to see it as a flourishing expression of God's Kingdom whereby families from the community are able to find love, grace and acceptance. Faith is formed, shared and nurtured in our midst. Fullness of life in Christ is experienced. We value compassion and loving; missional intent; kingdom focus.

Post Covid Playgroup started this year as a much scaled down operation. We were meeting twice a week on Wednesday and Thursday during school term.

The two days of Playgroup is a continuation of a soft start post-Covid last year with a smaller number of attendants but seeing it as an opportunity for more intense focus and the outcome to have deeper relationship building and impact. As most of the children in Playgroup before Covid had all moved on to kindergarten or to school, a whole new batch of families came to start this new season from scratch.



2022 Playgroup is one that is super multicultural in attendance as well as in terms of our volunteers. Such as it is, picture this: an Indian Playgroup mum cuddling Haley Pease's baby, George, while Haley is busy doing the story telling. Or that the Korean volunteer and the Japanese volunteer sitting around chatting with the Taiwanese and Chinese mums, while the Macedonian mum and the Persian mum were happily giggling away, and the German and a Cantonese mums in lovely discussion while a Chilean mum and a Taiwanese mum seem happily connecting. Then a Sri Lankan mum in her hijab head gear, happily sharing about her holiday to some of us.

Putting aside political, cultural, racial and age differences, they are all mothers yearning for a loving community where they can belong. This seems like seeing a mini version of what heaven is like. And this is all happening in our church building during weekdays in room 1, in 2022.



Stories of Change

Connecting new families

M. came from a background of Persian and Armenian descent. She was the first mother enquiring about Playgroup and was super eager to join. On the day she turned up with her daughter, it was obvious that she was very concerned about her daughter's developmental progress at 15 months, she was not able to walk independently and, at times, "standing up" with her knees to grab things from a table. With much assurance, prayer and a targeted play on building confidence suggested, the little girl walked into the playgroup room all by herself with a full beam on her face on her 3rd week with us. M. was super grateful for the input from Playgroup. Referring to herself as more a Christian than Persian, this set a pattern for faith conversation on numerous occasions in the last year and even praying for her dad with suspected lung cancer towards the end of 2022.

Connecting with V

V came to us through M. The two are great buddies. A professing Christian that seems happy but needs lots of guidance in parenting and setting boundaries for her child. There were many occasions the coordinator had stepped in to show her how to set boundaries with good outcomes. Other times, to discuss personal issues and direction to pursue. At the Christmas break-up party, V. was very grateful for Playgroup and mentioned "This is a year I have been here and loving it. Thank you for being there for me!"

Easter eggs

Muslim father with his Afghan wife, came on a Thursday and helped carry heavy toy boxes for packing, chairs, sign board as well as wiping tables down after activities. On the last day of term one, after our delivery of the Easter story, the father decided to give out Easter eggs on his own initiative to everyone in Playgroup as a thank you for having them in our midst as it was their last day. Giving away Easter eggs, a symbol of new life in Christ, as we shared in the Easter story time, in Christian Playgroup just before Easter.

Growth outside Playgroup

German mum J, appreciating both playgroups (Presby & COC), decided to invite S (From Peru) to come to COC's, and chilling with our own Winnie Poh (from COC) and other Presby church mums, potentially for friendship evangelism and deeper level of knowing God. Both J and S are very open. Seeds are sown. Waiting for God to give growth.

Pastoral care

An ex-playgroup grandma came back to worship in our church

Journeying with two ex-playgroup mums currently in their stage 4 breast cancer and nasopharyngeal cancer. Ongoing prayer support and catch-up.



ENCOUNTER ENGLISH LEARNING

By Bob Oh

Encounter English Learning (EEL) is about helping newcomers to Australia build English language skills, connect with others, and settle down well in Australia.

The EEL program helps students build essential skills to live, study, work and make friends in Australia; covers all the basics of listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as teaching about the Australian culture, customs and way of life.

EEL helps students become more independent and successfully access important services.

HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a great year for Encounter English Learning Ministry. Three classes were conducted mostly via online zoom, whereas one class met on-site at church. It was encouraging to see teachers, tutors, and students develop a good relationship with one another and treating each other as friends. Praise God for His grace and all that He has done in the lives of EEL teachers, tutors, and students.

- A total of 83 students registered for the year. On average, 65 students attended classes weekly.
- EEL students came from China, Japan, Bangladesh, and Ukraine.
- On July 15, EEL class commenced for Ukrainians.
- Scripture verses were shared with students during lessons.
- Introduction of an 8-week ABC outreach class for seekers of the Christian faith in collaboration with JiEn.
- Two students accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- One student was baptised.



2

Salvations!

1

Baptism

It was a great joy and privilege to be serving with a team of experienced teachers and tutors who are passionate about wanting to see their students learn and improve their English every week.

Thank you Luning, Helen, Yeah Yin, Lily, James, Chun Hua, Christina, Shi Shi, WenLi and Rosy.

Stories of Change

Hello everyone, my name is Teresa. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to share the journey of my English learning experience at Clayton Church.

I'm very happy to join the English class at our church from August this year. I am also grateful to my friend Simon who recommended me to the English class so that I can learn English with other students.

I attended Helen's class on Tuesday mornings. In a short time of three months, I learned about going shopping, eating in restaurants and going to the hairdresser. The teaching materials prepared by Helen were very detailed. On the topic of restaurant meals, not only did she teach us how to order our favourite meals but also expanded our knowledge about coffee. This allowed us to understand that there are many different types of coffee, and the different countries that produced them. Australia has a very strong coffee culture. Cafes can be seen everywhere on the streets. Australians love their coffee because when I first arrived in Australia, I saw Australians buying and drinking coffee every day. I enjoyed Helen's class because she taught us about life in Australia and the Australian culture. This had helped me settled down in Australia so much easier.

With such a great teacher in a country that has high labour costs, you must be thinking that her class would be very expensive, right? It is unbelievable that the English classes are free. It is only through the selfless devotion from teacher Helen and God's love for us that give us the opportunity to learn English for free.

I thank God from the bottom of my heart. It is God who brought so many kind and friendly people into my life. Finally, I am very grateful to Helen for her dedication and hard work in teaching me English this year.

TERESA LIU

40

My name is Wang Yihan. I major in Data Science at Monash University.

In June this year, I came to Melbourne from China. Although I have been in a language class for ten weeks in China and have taken a year of online classes, my English level is still not enough to support my study and life in Australia.

Fortunately, my roommate met Shamilla. She recommended Bob's English class at the church to me. Bob always prepares the course content carefully to make it not only interesting, but also suitable for our English level. When we make some mistakes, Bob always guides us patiently. He also communicates with me kindly during the break, cares about my feelings about the course as well as my academic situation.

I not only learned a lot of interesting slang here, but also improved my reading, listening and expression skills. I also met many friendly sisters. So I sincerely appreciate the English class at Clayton Church. I hope I can continue to learn English with Bob in the English class next semester.

TRACY YIHAN WANG

Hello, first of all I want to say thank you for having me here. I really appreciate it. My name is Yevheniia, and I am originally from Ukraine. Due to the war, I came to Australia more than 3 months ago. I think it's a great place to live. I love it here.

I started to visit Encounter English Learning provided by Clayton Church in August. It's great idea to help people like me to settle down here (with study, work), find new friends and improve our English at the same time. I want to say thank you to all teachers and volunteers who help newcomers to Australia and especially to Bob, who teaches us and share his own life experiences.

In my opinion, these English lessons are an amazing opportunity for everyone, and I highly recommend it.

YEVHENIIA BIELIEKHOVA

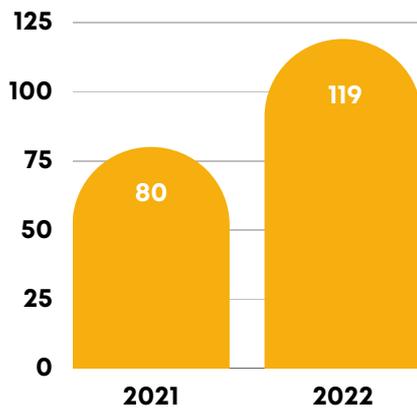


CHINESE CAMPUS REPORT

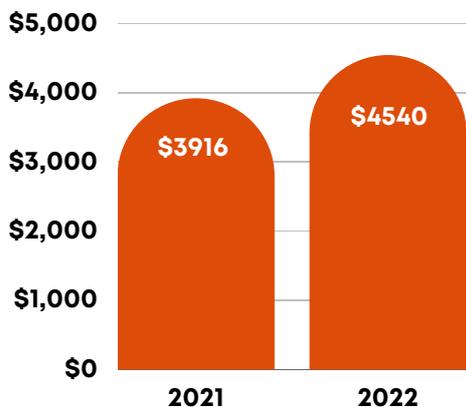
By Ps Lin Hai, Chinese Campus Pastor

Having been through two excruciating years, Ji En has re-bounded by the gracious power of God in the post-pandemic era starting early 2022. Let's look at the trends that speak of God's grace in the time of our struggles:

49% INCREASE IN AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



16% INCREASE IN AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING (27% MORE THAN BUDGETED)



We had 97 new attendees in the year of 2022, of which:

- 66% are non-believers
- 31% introduced to life groups
- 26% made commitments
- 6% got baptised

Although the future is unpredictable, our ministry leaders have been continuing to thrive. We are extremely grateful for God opening doors for us to grow in the post-pandemic world. Following is some precious moments:

1. Ms. Virginia Wong has come on board as the director of Cantonese Ministry. This is a major milestone in the church's outreach mission for Cantonese speaking people in Clayton and surrounding areas, that evidenced God's amazing guidance in Clayton church of Christ. The last few years have seen a mass migration of people out of Cantonese speaking regions. With the set-up of a new Cantonese leadership team, and the outreaching spirit of the whole church, we may expect to enter new frontier of ministering Cantonese people.



2. Even though youth and university students' gatherings had once dropped significantly to single digits, and supporting resources have been incredibly restricted, there is a close to 200% increase in numbers of regular attendees in late 2022. We must thank our God loving leaders and passionate volunteers who worked week in week out to lead the youth and university students.

Ji En life groups also took turns to provide catering support to single adults/student's gatherings. Combining with the individual mentoring and discipling program offered by Ji En families, we expect that the next generation's ministry will not only have further positive growth but will also be challenged in finding new approaches to connect and disciple the next Chinese generation.

3. God wants His Word to take root in our heart. Ji En has been Encouraging our brothers and sisters to study the Bible daily as part of spiritual life. The result is encouraging as there are five life groups doing daily reading and two life groups have persevered and finished reading the whole Bible in three years.

4. Ji En's global mission for China has been inspiring for us. While churches in China are facing various setbacks and struggles, the church, that has been financially supported by Ji En and under the leadership of Ps Lan in Guangxi, has flourished from a few to over one hundred members – this is more than thirty folds growth. Our sister, Shishi, has also been teaching three Bible study classes for Chinese churches on Zoom every week. About 40 brothers and sisters are solidified in the Word of God.



Collaboration with English Campus

1. Ji En has worked closely with the Encounter English Learning ministry to run the Christianity outreach class to both English learning students and people from China (on Zoom). Two students have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and one was baptised in Dec 2022.

2. The church wide Love Loud community projects have also witnessed Ji En's contributions to show God's love to our neighbours. We organised an auction event in Dec last year and raised above \$4000 to help Ukrainians to get back on their own feet again.

3. At last, God has also touched people's hearts to sponsor 15 children from Compassion organisation. They are sponsored by either individuals or life groups.

Glory be to our Lord! And we are grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm our volunteers bring to Ji En. Their valuable contributions are greatly appreciated.

Where is Ji En heading in 2023

We can't see into the future, but we fully trust that God is faithfully walking with us even amid challenges and struggles. We will be aligned with the church's vision "Refreshed to Revival" to embrace Whole of Life discipleship.

In addition, 2023 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for new ways of building whole of life disciples and especially English-speaking next generation of Chinese migrants. We pray that 2023 will give us a chance to fulfil God's plan and will on us.





LOCAL CHURCH

LOCAL CHURCH REPORT

By Shamilla Thiruganaselvam, Local and Gathering Director; Bill Pontikis, Community Care and Crisis Director; and Nic Lee, Point Lead, Love Loud initiatives

As we reflect on 2022, Love Loud has grown and expanded. If you were to ask different people across the diverse demographic of our church family, what does Love Loud mean to you, I'm sure we would receive a plethora of responses:

1) To some, Love Loud has given you and your Life Group an opportunity to serve the local community and contribute in one (or more) of the Saturday lunchtime packing sessions. We had a constant flow of life-groups volunteering throughout the year and Elizabeth de Guzman deserves special mention for signing up all her different groups to help out more than once – thank you!

2) To a growing number of individuals who are starting to call and recognise Clayton Church as part of their life and community, Love Loud has represented support in a time of crisis, a helping hand, a friendly face (of a driver) bringing them food each Saturday afternoon. To some of these meal and Sow a Seed recipients, Love Loud has been a God-send; and indeed this is where drivers are on that front-line, representing Jesus to people in need, showing in very tangible ways – God loves them and they are not alone.

3) To our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, Love Loud has been a bridge, instrumental in providing them accommodation, furnishings, clothing and even a car. Inasmuch that the physical goods were timely blessings from God, the relationships that continue even today and the spiritual connection to the wider church, with a sense of belonging, has no doubt given the Ukrainian families much relief and support whilst they have had their lives uprooted.

2022 also marked a key milestone in ways we connected and partnered with stakeholders. One of our congregation members, who is also the business owner of Melbourne Coffee Academy was exploring ways for his business to be a blessing to community - using what they know best and their skills, which is in “training and coffee”. At the very same time, one of our partners, OC Connections (a specialised disability support provider working with people living in disability) was looking at ways to equip and train their clients in barista type training.

We knew it was not a coincidence but God's favour and moving in this space – mobilising business through our people to bless community, in a very natural and organic, forming partnerships.





It was also the very first time, we brought together various stakeholder organisations such as Monash University, Clayton Traders Association, Regeneration Church, our Love Loud Drivers and local Members of Parliament, to chat and explore ways we can work together to transform Clayton and beyond. It was so good to hear the various testimonies and lives being transformed through the Love Loud initiatives shared at the stakeholder roundtable luncheon we experienced in June last year.

All in all, 2022 has seen God work in new and wondrous ways! He stirred our hearts and unveiled new opportunities, new people and new commitment. Loving our neighbours clearly became an all-year passion for us – so well done everyone!

In part, God has been preparing us for the last few years. Our COVID response initiatives in the Meal Delivery and Sow a Seed have found new life throughout 2022, particularly in directly supporting 9 families who arrived in Melbourne mid-year. We are very grateful to all people who opened up their homes to provide much-needed accommodation. As every need was met, Jesus' words from Matthew 25:40 were lived out: *"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"*

Some houses were donated void of furniture – that need was met. Many families had arrived with literally just their suitcases of belongings – that need was also met through generously donated and purchased clothing. The need for independent mobility was met through three vehicles donated, which has then enabled the adults to secure and maintain jobs.

God has continued to grow and stir our hearts to compassion, through our willingness to invite newcomers into our homes, sharing a meal and building friendships.

The latter part of 2022 saw us launch and deliver our seasonal Love Thy Neighbour initiative, where we partnered with the Clayton Traders Association to support our local traders. We encouraged our community to shop and eat locally, and held two project days where we got our hands dirty in removing graffiti, washing windows and collecting rubbish. The response and participation during this period galvanised the community as we continued to build relationships.

The Love Loud team has grown over 2022; a journey that we have been following since 2017. Our presence in the community continues to grow, through partnership with City of Monash and the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.

Together for Clayton and Beyond is part of this journey where we see more local churches join in the vision of loving our neighbours. Meal Delivery drivers have joined from other churches as well as the local community itself!

Last but not least, we ended 2022 with a new beginning. Throughout the year, via our community and stakeholder engagement, we are made aware that many are still struggling physically, mentally and emotionally post Covid and due to the pressures of inflation and the economy.



Families and relationships at home have had an impact and many are still struggling alone. As such, sometime mid last year, we focused on developing the next chapter of Love Loud in You Fit and submitted a proposal to the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) Community Projects Fund (CPF). The proposal is all about building a healthy “Whole of Life You” – helping people build self confidence, resilient, life skills and having community support systems to assist them deal with their everyday life issues.

In November 2022, we were informed that we were one of the successful applicants of the SRL CPF funds and was offered a grant funding of \$78,534 for our Love Loud: You Fit initiative. We just want to pause and give all praise to God for His favour and to see our Local church vision come to life, enabling us to create real presence, walking alongside stakeholders to transform Clayton together, with no strings attached.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR THREE KEY LOCAL INITIATIVES IN 2022

	MEAL DELIVERY (started in April 2020)	SOW A SEED (started in June 2020)	LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR (started in Dec 2020)
Goals	To assist those going through difficult times with a free meal. It's more than a meals program, but a way to connect, identify and assist people in need.	To practically and financially help those who were not only impacted by the effects of COVID-19 but also those struggling financially, mentally, physically, displaced or in a crisis to get back on their feet. (Ranging from meals to grocery, rent or bill assistance)	An initiative during the festive season to love our community with no strings attached. In 2022 we partnered with the Clayton Traders Association and City of Monash to clean and support the local traders.
Reach/Impact	4000 meals (7400+ in total) Approximately 40 household (decrease from peak of 70)	17 families/individuals (54 in total, similar active capacity to 2021)	170 traders across both sides of Clayton Rd. 3-4 high-visibility graffiti removal project locations with window washing offered to all traders
Frequency	Weekly (every Saturday)	Throughout the year	Annually in Nov - Dec
Funds Raised for 2022	Public/congregation: \$24K Bendigo Community Bank Pinewood: \$2700	Public/congregation: \$26K+ 6 cars donated that were transferred to 5 families	N/A
Key Finances	Donation received: \$55K+ Donation spent: \$39K Funds remaining: \$15K	Donation received: \$107K+ Donation spent: \$54K Funds remaining: \$53K	N/A
Volunteers	30	10	Approx 250 - 300
Key Stakeholder Partnerships	International Student Engagement, Monash Uni; Mama Gourmet Delights; City of Monash; Local Member of Parliament (Clarinda); Notting Hill Neighbourhood House; Regeneration church; Bendigo Community Bank, Pinewood; Clayton Pastors Network	City of Monash; Kingston Council; General Practitioners (GPs); Family Practice Lawyers; Salvation Army; Regeneration Church; Notting Hill Neighbourhood House; Clayton Pastors Network	Regeneration Church; Clayton Traders Association
Salvations & Baptisms	1	1	



GLOBAL CHURCH

GLOBAL CHURCH OVERVIEW

By Sheron Wong, Global & Ministry Systems Director



As the world slowly began to open up for travel after the pandemic, Global Mission once again felt achievable.

In May, our church hosted *Activate Mission Conference* for the very first time and saw 150 Young Adults from different churches, denominations and Bible Colleges come to explore 'the doors that remain open' in the Global Mission world. We invited 20 mission organisations and Bible colleges to host stalls across the weekend, and people were able to ask questions, hear stories, and be inspired by what God was continuing to do around the world and inquire about opportunities to go despite all the uncertainty around overseas travel at the time.

From our Global Sunday following Activate Conference, we saw two young men from our church connect with our partnering organisation, OMF Australia, to attend mission discussion groups, as well as a mission coaching weekend to explore where and how God might be calling them to serve Him in the global mission space.

Even though we weren't able to send any teams or new Global Workers overseas in 2022, we formed a short term mission team of 8 for the first time in 3 years, who spent the year preparing for their trip to visit Ps Skinner and his church in January 2023 (more about that in next year's report!).

We also had the wonderful privilege of having Simon and Janet back in Australia with us after 5 years on the field, and short visits from Ange, Jono and Steph, as they returned on Home Assignment to share and reconnect with supporters.

Throughout the year, we continued to partner with Ps Skinner, Empart, Cambodia Campus Crusade for Christ, and Compassion Australia.

In spite of all the persecution, unrest and sensitivity of the ministry details that I cannot share in writing, Ps Skinner's church and Empart remained strong in their calling and purpose as we partnered together in prayer and petition.

We also praise God for the lives impacted by the gospel through Cambodia Campus Crusade for Christ, in which you can read about in the following mission reports.

Furthermore, as of October 2022, our church members were sponsoring 73 children through Compassion Australia across 23 countries; 50 of which were located among unreached people groups - how incredible!

And as you read the following mission reports from our Global Workers, I hope you are as encouraged as I am by the way our God continues to work.

Finally, I wanted to say thank you to the Global Team: Amir Lingam, Ash Chan, Rachael Lim, Levi Truong, Voon Yee Lee and Cecilia Au (who finished up with the team in September, but continues to be a supported Global Worker) who were my advisors, sounding board, and faithful supporters of Global Missions at Clayton Church.

May more people in our church be mobilised for His Kingdom work, and even more among unreached people groups hear the gospel in 2023 and beyond!





Sonana (left) shares the gospel on campus

GLOBAL PARTNER

By Cambodia Campus Crusade for Christ

Our ministry presences cover 10 out of 24 provinces and Phnom Penh municipality, which are:

- Student-Led Movement (SLM) – high school and university students;
- Global Church Movement (GCM) – church planting, community aid and development, and the Jesus Film project; and
- Leader Strategies (LS) – alumni, professional workers, teachers and families.

KEY METRICS

- **36** missionary and church planting staff
- **Over 25,000** people heard the gospel of Jesus Christ
- **2,784** people prayed to receive Jesus Christ
- **85** trained student key volunteers
- **6** online training seminars for over **200** teacher participants
- **3** discipleship groups for alumni and professional workers
- **2** discipleship groups for family life
- **9** new house churches and **34** discipleship groups in churches

Cambodia Campus Crusade for Christ (CCCC) is a parachurch non-governmental organisation that helps to fulfil the Great Commission until every Cambodian knows someone who follows Jesus Christ.

Over 95% of staff and key volunteers are local Cambodian Christians who are committed to bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ by winning people to faith in Jesus Christ, building them in their faith and sending them to win and build others. Our evangelism and discipleship training and meetings are predominantly delivered in the local Khmer language, or Khmer translation is provided when hosting foreign visitors.

HIGHLIGHTS

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the travel and gathering restrictions were lifted for most of the year. Regular face-to-face church, and evangelism and discipleship training gatherings resumed. With household economics pressures, long study and work hours, and limited family time; building momentum and community has been challenging as people are less available for meet regularly compared to pre-pandemic times. Despite this, we were grateful to meet in-person to celebrate graduations, birthdays and weddings with our staff and disciples again.

Our organisation has tried its best to remain neutral by continuing to serve in partnerships with all members of the local body of Christ across factions to keep with its integrity and commitment to being a non-denominational and non-political organisation. Despite these obstacles, our ministry is grateful to God for the commitment of our existing faithful staff, key volunteers and ministry partners.

Within the organisation, great attention is given towards building team unity. The leadership team meet regularly for discussion and decision making for the strategies and operations of the ministry. We praise God for the first one-year National Strategic Plan agreed upon the leadership team and hope that each ministry arm will continue to effectively collaborate together in unity.

Secondly, we held a National Staff Conference with the theme, TEAM, for 38 staff and 10 children in Kampot province from 11 to 14 December 2022. The leadership team members lead devotionals and strategic evaluations which refreshed and re-energised the staff. All staff saw that they were a part of a bigger staff team, especially the provincial-based staff. On the final night, our Regional Team Leader presented staff with certificates and gifts at the service recognition awards night; which especially touched the hearts of staff serving with the ministry beyond 15 years.

We would like to thank Clayton Church of Christ for faithfully partnering with us through prayer, finances and care to help build multiplying disciples in Cambodia.



CCCC Team at the National Staff Conference in Kampot Province

Stories of Change

“Teacher Ten confronts her persecutor”

In Prey Veng province, Mrs Ten was hosting a church planting working group meeting at her rural wooden stilt home. While the group were singing praise and worship songs, the local Village Chief, Mr Thok, angrily stormed in her house as usual to stop the gathering. He even threatened Mrs Ten that he would use his connections to terminate her position as a teacher in the local school if she did not stop these gatherings.

Desperate with no rational solution, all the group could do was earnestly pray for God’s miraculous intervention. Two months later, the group members went to Mr Trok’s house to visit and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to him and his family. Amazingly, that day, Mr Trok and his wife decided to accept and believe in God. He gave permission to for Mrs Ten to resume church worship gatherings at her house and has been invited to join too. Praise God!

Somaly (in yellow) prays for the Christian teachers and Iseaders in Koh Kong Province





“Sonana steps out in faith on campus”

Since I became a Christian, I really want to share the gospel but I have never done it before because I don't know how to do it. After joining an evangelism training by a CCCC staff, Khay; I connected with CCCC SLM intern, Mary.

Mary met me on campus to teach a Follow Up lesson and showed me how to approach other students to share the gospel. As we were walking around campus to find other students, we saw one female student sitting alone on a bench. Mary encouraged me to approach her. I felt nervous at first but calmed down after starting a conversation with her. Since it was my first time, I had no idea if I shared the gospel well but I thank God that Mary stayed with me and engaged in the conversation when I needed some help.

The next day, I went back to campus with seven other friends who also joined the evangelism training. We were all nervous to share the gospel but trust in God's plan for the students we would talk with. I thank God that I shared the gospel with two students and could experience joy because of God's love and plan for them.

People used to tell me that many people hear about the gospel but I can see that they still don't really understand much about God. So I want to encourage everyone to continually share the gospel as most people have never heard about Jesus Christ.

Somaly prays for the Christian teachers and leaders in Koh Kong Province

“Somaly is Christian woman with a different spiritual story” (pictured below)

Unlike most Christians in Cambodia, her grandmother became a Christian in the 1970s so Somaly was raised in a Christian minority family since her childhood. She learned how to pray, attend church, and live by biblical morals from her family. But it wasn't until she joined the CCCC community as a university student where someone explained the good news of salvation by grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Changed and transformed, she committed to living for God.

Now, 20 years later, Somaly continues to faithfully love and serve God. she works as a teacher in a Christian school, and is married with three children. She serves as the National Volunteer Leader of the Cambodia Teacher Community (CTC) - a ministry of Leader Strategies - which gathers and trains teachers in professionalism and excellence in education. There are a group of committed teachers in a CTC in 6 out of 24 provinces. When teachers are empowered and committed, the students will receive excellent education.

Please pray for God's provision for Somaly, her husband and three children for their next ministry season as they will attend Bible College in Singapore for the next four years to be more equipped to serve in Christian ministry upon their return to Cambodia.



ANGE LIM & SAKAL AN WITH SONYA

Serving in Cambodia with Campus Crusade for Christ



THE LIVES OF MULTITASKING, RESOURCE STRETCHING MINISTRY LEADERS

Sakal

I wear multiple hats in ministry! I serve as the National Team Leader of Cambodia Campus Crusade for Christ (CCCC). Also, I lead the Leader Strategies ministry that builds disciples in the marketplace, education sector and families. Alongside full-time ministry, I am currently completing a Masters bible college degree via correspondence at EAST in Singapore. And I am privileged as a husband and father to lead my family in God.

This year, I am indeed grateful to God for sending more like-minded partners in helping to fulfil the Great Commission with us in Cambodia. Faithful and generous partners from Australia, Singapore, Canada, and the United States. Together with our teachers and professional key volunteers, we are able to sustain Christian faith communities in Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, Koh Kong and Sihanoukville.

I went on some memorable family missions across the north-eastern and southern areas of Cambodia. For the mission in the northeast, our family travelled 780kms in our dated but reliable 1999 Toyota Rav4 around the Tonle Sap Lake from Phnom Penh to Battambang to Siem Reap and back to Phnom Penh.

We visited and prayed with our provincial staff, joined a Christmas outreach by our partner for 2,500 guests, and spent time with our professional key volunteers to encourage and pray for God to use them as people of godly impact in their vocations. I was especially amazed by how God used our volunteers to influence high ranking Government officials to join this Christmas outreach.

A few days later, our little family jumped back into our Rav4 in Phnom Penh and squeezed in three others to join us southwards to Sihanoukville and Koh Kong provinces. Somaly and Vanna are a husband and wife volunteer team that runs our organisation's Cambodia Teachers Community (CTC). Their 10 year old son joined in for the ride and kept our 4 year old entertained for four long days.

In Sihanoukville, we enjoyed 30 minutes of beach time but spent a whole day meeting with three high school teachers who were ready to recruit more teacher volunteers and conduct evangelism training for teachers to share the gospel with colleagues. Then we travelled eight hours on bumpy, unpaved, dusty red dirt roads to Koh Kong.

Our key volunteer there had brought along nine Christian leaders and teachers in education that had been eagerly waiting for an opportunity to connect with a Christian community for evangelism training and professional development. I praise God how He has prepared like-minded and committed volunteers to see God's transformation through Christian education in Koh Kong province, Cambodia and beyond!



Ange

In April, words cannot describe my gratitude for a short three-week home assignment to Melbourne. It was refreshing to reunite with my parents, siblings and friends since our last family visit in October 2019. I am also grateful to meet and pray with key financial supporters during the short visit despite the interruptions due to ongoing COVID-19 local transmissions.

The other day, I was asked by a well-meaning fellow church member if “I had gone back to work yet?” I didn’t realise that in the eyes of others, that I had stopped. As missionary and mother, our family constantly engages with people in Cambodia – staff, disciples, ministry partners, neighbours, strangers – in intentional ways to help them know and experience God’s love and plan for their lives. Not with predictable tasks completed at a workplace where I clock on and off.

Every week, a Cambodian will ask me why our family doesn’t live in Australia since for them, it would be wise if we could leave for more secure and prosperous life opportunities. Because less than 2% of people in Cambodia know and follow Jesus Christ. An estimated 114,000 out of 17 million citizens have officially recorded their faith as Christianity in this extremely religious and spiritual society. Our family’s daily prayer is that God will use our family’s lives to impact others in building His Kingdom in Cambodia



I serve with CCCC to help Sakal in his leadership role through administrative, counselling and prayer support. And as the full-time caretaker of our four year old daughter - whom I also conduct home-schooling in English with, I try my best to manage a functional (not always tidy) household and warmly welcome guests in our home to provide a safe space to worship and practice our Christian faith, including the Christmas party we hosted at home with over 40 guests.

Our curious neighbours peek in our living room to notice that there is no ancestry worship shrine, and how we freely play and laugh together as a family without worry or shame. My daughter and I regularly bake and share western style muffins, cookies and cakes with our neighbours or members of one of the three bible study groups that I facilitate with women and families. I am always told how fast a child’s early years fly by so I am enjoying this season as I juggle ministry and family life in the global mission field.

Thank you, dear friends at Clayton Church of Christ, for your constant prayers, care and financial support for our family’s mission assignment. We couldn’t do this without you. May God bless you all.



DEREK & ROSEMARY SNIBSON

Urban Indigenous Ministry in Darwin with CMS

We have been in the Northern Territory for four and a half years. This followed 6 months of cross-cultural training at St Andrew's Hall, and 6 months visiting supporting link Churches and groups.

Ministry with Indigenous people involves long-term relationships, growing together over time; walking alongside amidst the demands and complex issues they face. This calls for a holistic involvement through the challenges and needs in their lives. It means depth rather than breadth. We cannot spread ourselves too thinly over too many people. We seek to encourage growth as disciples and in ministry for key people we trust God is leading us to over the long term.

The diversity of Indigenous cultures and languages also means ongoing learning for us, to meaningfully be able to teach and influence people in relevant ways in their context where they are. It is therefore difficult for us to measure achievements or count attendees.



A lot of our ministry involves going to their communities or caring institutions around Darwin. We find Indigenous Christians and support them in their context. We also serve people in and from the remote communities, through hospital visitation, Prison Services, phone calls and hospitality as well as encouraging students and Christian leaders in Darwin when at Nungalinga College or for other reasons.

Our objective is to disciple and equip Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Darwin who are open to grow in faith so that they are enabled and strengthened for ministry. We also support and encourage leaders from remote areas who come to Darwin for study or other reasons.

There is on-going support and partnership with leaders in the Bagot Community church, and with two Assistant teachers at Nungalinga College. Through Bible Study and reflection, we have seen growth and understanding of their faith in their own cultural context.

What has been exciting in 2022 has been the development of pathways between places and institutions that we visit and certain individuals' connection to wider worshipping communities such as Bagot Church and St James Sanderson. Seven people have been baptised recently.

Story of Change

We first met 'Theresa' three years ago at the Drug Rehab Centre where we hold a weekly Bible study. She was hungry to learn and grow in her understanding of the Christian faith. Theresa had encountered God in prison and recognised that this was a way of Him lovingly confronting her with the direction she had been taking. Theresa had read the bible in prison and wanted another copy when she came to the Rehab Centre.

After leaving Rehab, Theresa left and promised to keep contact with us in Darwin. We lost contact with her for about a year and she struggled with the same issues that had plagued her for a long time.

One-night, when Derek was driving around a hostel, Theresa popped out of the darkness- recognising him in the car and reconnected again with much joy. From that point on she started to attend worship both at Bagot and our local Church.



She got to know other Christians and enthusiastically engaged in other activities there, including Alpha, the Food for Life Hospitality and anything else where she could help.

'Theresa' learnt more about how to pray and share the Good News with others. Many times now, during the week, she is out on the street, in the bus or anywhere telling her testimony and praying for strangers in need.

At church on Sundays, she brings a row of people along that she has met and prayed for. She just said to Rosemary recently- 'I am never going back to my life before'. The public statement of this was evidenced at her baptism in early January 2023.



JONO & STEPH BAILEY WITH AZARIA, LEVI & MATAYA

Serving in Cambodia with Brave Home, Brave Ministry



We are so thankful for how Jesus transforms lives. Despite the challenges, we are grateful for what God has done and the tangible breakthrough.

This has been the third year of running the Brave Home. It has been a year of both busy times and slower times but we've learnt to trust that the Lord is in it all. We have witnessed God bring change and hope into men's lives. We've also seen men struggle with the various issues that come against them. This has been with guys who are more established in their walk with the Lord and those new to the faith. We continue to pray for freedom and wisdom for them.

Brave Home exists to help reintegrate men by providing a loving and supportive Christian environment. Our goal is to see them build their lives in God, develop in their work and study and to live free and whole into the future. We aim to connect with men who are in a difficult situation and who don't have supportive networks.



We are still homeschooling our two older children and our baby daughter is already 1 year old. We are really excited to see what God will do in this coming year in the Brave Home, in our neighbourhood and in our family.

We were really grateful to go back to Australia for the first time in 5 years. While it meant we weren't able to take on any new guys for a while, it was a really special time for us reconnecting with family, friends and churches.



“

Story of Change

Heng struggles with mental health in a country which has limited resources and awareness to help him effectively.

We've walked with Heng for almost 5 years through obstacles that most people don't need to face. Originally Heng was just a friend and neighbor, and then later on he moved into the Brave Home.

Due to his dysfunctional family situation and his mental health troubles, Heng needed a place like Brave Home to have the loving support that would help him overcome and develop his life. .



Heng

Heng has grown through his sufferings to be very humble, patient, trustworthy and compassionate toward others.

Heng has come from total disbelief years ago when we first connected to now devoted to Jesus and seeking to follow fully. Heng is now at Bible School and desires to follow Jesus and serve with everything he has.

Praise God for this friend of ours and please pray for his future to be blessed and for the Lord's grace and favor over all Heng does



”

MEGUMI CRITTLE

Japanese Diaspora Returnees Ministry with OMF International

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Ps 27:13-14

Ladies online fellowship

I continued to meet with the five Japanese ladies via zoom. Two in Japan and three in Melbourne.

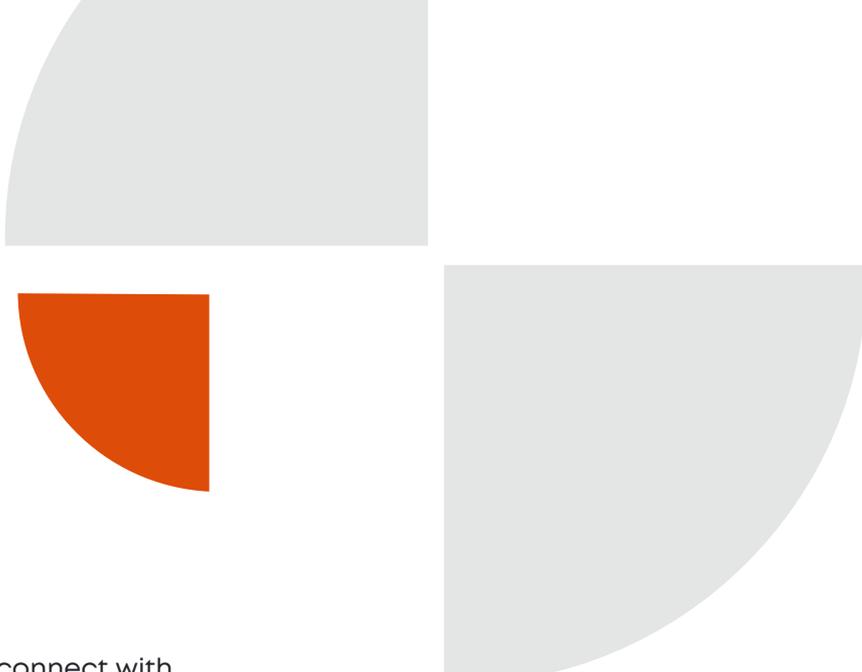
I started a new series of Bible studies with the ladies group. The theme of "Happy Home" really resonated with them. Using Proverbs as my main source I was able to show them that the teachings of the Bible are relevant in their day to day living, especially with family life. Pray that His Spirit would continue to open their eyes. Pray for protection against doubts and hindrances.



For the final session I presented a very quick overview of what I had taught them in 2022. The highlight was an open and honest discussion time. Previously I had prepared some questions for them to ponder.

- Since studying the Bible this year, has your perception of Christianity changed?
- From the Bible studies what have you learnt that has made an impression?
- How has teachings from the Bible impacted your daily life?
- What do you find difficult to understand?
- What would you like to know more about?

Their answers showed me that indeed the Spirit is working in their hearts and minds. From initially being cautious and wary of the Christianity to being very positive. From thinking the Bible had nothing to do with daily living but coming to see that this is not the case. They have all been touched by 'God's very deep love' and want to know more! Despite my lack of faith at times He is working in their lives even though I can't see it.



After a long absence

Praise God that I was able to reconnect with a Japanese mum after a long absence. Her family returned to Japan in 2017. I tutored her children in English and she was a regular attendee at Simon's English classes for the mums at Clayton Church of Christ. Initially, we started zooming fortnightly for English conversation. I am praying that this would lead to future conversations of a spiritual nature.

Saying good-bye

In April, a Japanese family came to see me to say good-bye as they had to return for the husband's work. The mother was part of the core group at the mum's English class. Her son attended the playgroup. I gave them a Japanese New Testament and encouraged them to read the notes that I had included with it, explaining key concepts of Christianity.

Highlight of 2022

My recommissioning was held on 29th August at church. I thank God for the opportunity to share my "Emmaus Road" journey with Clayton Church. I feel very privileged and grateful to have the support and encouragement from Clayton. Once again various members came to my aid in helping me to move house for the second time since Simon passed away in 2021.

Home Assignment

I commenced a 3 month home assignment in mid October.

I thank God that He has enabled me to continue in diaspora returnee ministry without Simon. There have been difficult moments, pervasive tiredness and ongoing grief throughout 2022. Even when walking through the 'shadow of death' I can rest in the shadow of the Almighty (Ps 91:1). There is shelter and protection from the storms of life under the shadow of His wings. (Ps 17:8)

Under His Mercy,
Megumi

SIMON & JANET WITH CHARLOTTE & SARAH

Serving in Australia with OMF International

Thank you to brothers and sisters at Clayton Church of Christ for supporting our family for another year. We are very grateful and couldn't do this work without your support.

At the end of 2021 after living and serving in China since 2017 we returned to Melbourne. Leaving was very difficult but we felt that the Lord had made this decision quite obvious with a series of closed doors on the opportunities to stay there. It was particularly hard for Charlotte and Sarah who left their school and friends. They had been there since they were 3 and 1 years old.

Our ministry in China was amongst some of the least reached people groups: Chinese Muslims (Hui) and Tibetans. We still feel a burden for these people and continue to pray that the gospel will reach them. Seeds He had planted through us, we pray, will continue to grow. Our praise is that we did leave China in a controlled way and were not asked to leave. We believe that were the Lord call us to go again, it would be possible to return.



In 2022 we went through a process of 're-entry' to life in Australia. At times this was challenging. We are grateful to many of you who counselled us through this experience. It is sometimes called 'reverse culture shock' and can affect emotions even leading to spiritual attacks.

Simon worked through challenging internal issues with male accountability partners and has seen victory in many areas. As a family we also attended a 're-entry' retreat on Philip Island organised by Missions Interlink. This helped us to process what God had called us to do and where he is leading.

We are very grateful to have met Nathan and Bagila who had also gone through re-entry. They have been a source of encouragement and support to us.





During 2022 we also started getting more experience with OMF here in Melbourne. This has involved sharing about our experiences at mission conferences, learning how to do missions training, encouraging and mobilising others to be more involved in missions.

This has enabled us to use our past experiences in China to continue contributing to God's plan to reach the unreached as we ourselves are not able to go at this time.

We applied to become members of OMF, and in 2022 attended national conference, staff conference and Candidates Course in Sydney. We are happy to say that we have now been cleared and accepted.



We will be moving towards associate membership during 2023 following more training. Simon will have a role in OMF as 'Mobiliser' and Janet as 'Home Ministry Team Coordinator' supporting missionaries and ministries from OMF Victoria.

We will also be taking up part-time studies at Melbourne School of Theology (MST) and looking forward to what God has in store for us a family.

Charlotte and Sarah are doing well. They have settled back into Donvale Christian College and really loving being back as part of Clayton Kids church. It is wonderful to be amongst you all at Clayton and we hope to be involved in serving as part of our church family during 2023.



CECILIA AU

Reaching International Students at Monash Uni with Power to Change

2022 was a difficult year of ministry – probably more difficult than even the lockdown years.

After I returned from a much-needed long service leave, God helped me realise that I was suffering from burnout and that I needed to make some drastic changes in my ministry. It also came at a good time because many of our student leaders had graduated and we did not have any upcoming student leaders.

With the help of my very supportive leaders, I was able to temporarily close down my ministry to international students, settle my team and take an extended 5-month break.

During this period, God helped me to heal and recover from burnout. He also helped me rediscover my trust in Him as well as my passion for making disciples. I am very thankful for this period of rest and rediscovery. I am now looking forward to stepping out on campus again, and continuing to reach international students at Monash as part of a new team.



Mandy's baptism

Despite the difficulty of last year, I was still able to witness two students demonstrate their commitment towards Jesus through baptism. At the start of the year, I had the privilege of baptising Mandy myself. I have been so encouraged to see her growth in Christlikeness and to see her become more involved at church.

At the end of the year, I was excited to hear that Siu decided to get baptised through our church's Cantonese fellowship. We met Siu at Monash in 2021 and had the privilege of sharing the gospel with her. Mandy and I also had the opportunity to do a follow-up Bible study with her during lockdown.

We often hear that it takes a village to raise a child, so Mandy and Siu's baptisms are reminders to me that it takes a whole community of believers empowered by Jesus to raise young believers to maturity.

Siu's baptism through Ji En's Cantonese Ministry





PIONEERING CHURCH

PIONEERING CHURCH REPORT

By Ps Chee Fah, Senior Pastor

In 2022, Clayton Church had a unique opportunity to explore its role in the wider kingdom beyond the four walls of the church.

With the strategic hire of Pastor Paul as the English Campus Pastor, it created space for me to lead in my area of gifting and to pioneer new initiatives. This 'experimental year' taught the church a lot about this shared future and the impact it can have on the Christ-Centred Church and the wider community. These were some of the collaborative work in the pioneering space that happened this year:

1. Monthly Chapel Service

I have loved seeing God lay the vision and passion in the heart of Winston and Yin with their core team, to pioneer the mid week chapel services. This has enabled many others to engage midweek to be built to worship together, hear the Word of God, and an opportunity to serve and invite others to engage with the body of Christ.

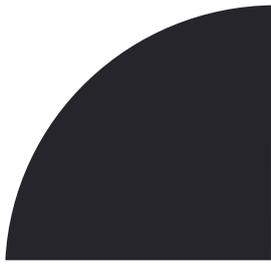


2. Evolve Help Ukraine

I had felt the burden that as a church we needed to do more than just pray, and through divine connections, God made a way for us to collaborate with Evolve Hep Ukraine. Our collaboration with Nataliya Osipova included being a sounding board as a team to help frame her ministry and create a better front of house website (evolvehelpukraine.org) along with a promotional video (thanks Lauren Ng and Karen Woo!).

More importantly as a church we assisted in the resettlement of displaced Ukrainians through our Sow A Seed ministry and Encounter English Learning Ministry, and as individuals within our church.

I've been so amazed how the members of our church has embraced them into part of our community. Multiculturalism is a mark of a new covenant community.



3. Together for Clayton and Beyond

After a year of planning, we finally launched Together for Clayton and Beyond to all our churches. This is a cross-denominational network of four churches in Clayton and Cafe Care that is seeking to pray, partner and plant for the good of Clayton and beyond.

It was a beautiful picture of unity as we shared our pulpits across our churches and gathered over 200 people for our vision / prayer launch. This is a strategic step towards achieving our shared local future of walking alongside the local stakeholders to transform Clayton. I believe the unity of the churches will build a collective trust and impact into our community as well as bringing the blessing of God found in unity.

We have planned further steps of collaboration in small, sustainable ways, beginning with Clayton Festival in 2023 as our first public launch into our community as a collective of churches. We will also continue to host the vision/prayer night each year.

4. Co-Working Business Centres

Alongside Lauren, I've had the opportunity to strategically input into the thinking of how the great commission can be fulfilled in this marketplace. I believe God has used us to build a bridge between these centres and another organisation that I'm hopeful in seeing His mission fulfilled in the future arena of co-working spaces.



5. Reventure - Faith & Work (<https://www.reventure.ltd>)

Currently I'm working one day a week at this faith/work organisation. My role is the Strategic Manager for Faith/work Integration.

This year we've finalised the vision and strategic plans. I'm now involved in co-creating a church partnership program. This is a national network that is cross-denominational that will journey with 12 churches as a learning community championing whole of life discipleship with a focus on faith and work. Clayton Church will be one of those churches, and I believe this shared learning will enable us to learn from others and help us see God's vision established further in our church.

The church believes that the pioneering work of individuals and the church helps sharpen the missional edge of the church and moves it forward beyond the four walls of the church. The church is committed to cultivating this pioneering work to further establish God's vision in the church and beyond.

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