

# PULSE

## NEWSLETTER

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## Easter Celebration

Quotes By: Event Attendees and Helpers | Photos By: Mollie Ma and Richard Lee

On April 6th, in partnership with Mobilize Love, Sunset hosted an Easter outreach event for our neighborhood. This outreach came from both a challenge and desire for Sunset to be more present and visible in our community and share Christ's love as we create those spaces.

Thank you for praying, supporting and serving with us during the event. Because of your help, we were able to serve over 800 people with food, fun, games, haircuts, and friendships. To see our church, organize and serve together in an event like this is really encouraging and a big blessing to witness. May we keep striving to make Gospel transformed disciples of all peoples in the city and in the world. ▶





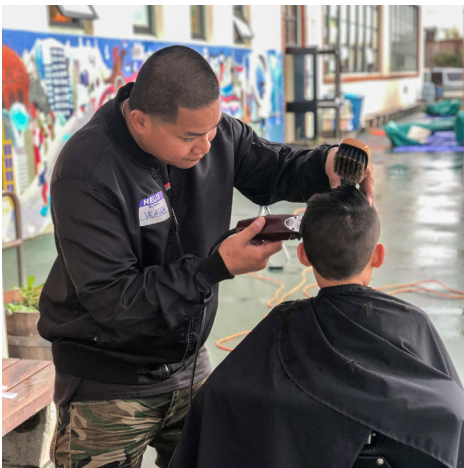
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### What were some of the things you were thankful for from the event?

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**Ailyn:** For the volunteers. A couple of days before the event we barely had half of our needed volunteers, but miraculously all the slots were filled just a day before the event. Not only that, people were coming in the day of the event, volunteering themselves or dropping of donations and prizes for the community. All the volunteers were proactive in asking what they could do and how they could help. The event just somehow fell into place and it would not have been possible without the volunteers.

**Isaiah:** For the flow of people. I was in-charge of the food and it was just non-stop that day. People just kept coming. We had prepared 720 hotdogs and we thought we would have so much leftover, but it turns out we didn't have enough. We didn't know where all the people and the families came from, but we are thankful that they kept coming. The water I was using to cook the hotdogs stopped boiling, but I am still thankful for that. The volunteers all displayed a servant attitude, constantly willing to help. It made the time go quickly.



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### How did you see God at work during the event?

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**Lorraine:** It was forecasted to rain during the event, for the whole week this was what I was worried about. We had no plan B if it rained and didn't know what the turnout would be like if it did. I was constantly asking people to pray. The day before the event, it was forecasted that the rain will hold off just in time for the window of time that we will be doing our event. Come morning of the event, it was raining, and it kept raining until the event started. It was discouraging; I was secretly hoping that God would show off his power by not making it rain at all. But He had other plans to glorify His Name. He caused the rain to come, but even so, He caused an overwhelmingly large number of people to come as well. None of us expected the turn out. Here, I was so worried about the weather when that was not even the most important thing. I was reminded again that God is in control and He knows what He is doing.

**Josephine:** I was serving at the food both the whole time of the outreach but had this memorable conversation with a ►







lady who was thanking Sunset for hosting an event as such. She asked about the church and our Easter services. This gave me an opportunity to share about Sunset and invite her to our upcoming Easter events. It was so cool to see and experience the community appreciating the church.

**Christian:** During the week of the event, we had received a text that there was a neighbor who dropped by Sunset church on a weekday to ask about the Easter outreach event. She shared that her kids were so excited for the event and was looking forward to it. She also shared that she lives a couple of blocks from Sunset, has always been interested about Christianity, has gone to Sunset once to join the service and is looking forward to learning more. She signed up for one of Sunset's Easter event. When I heard that, that made it for me; that was one of my main motivations during the event. Even if we had only one person come to Christ during the event, it would all have been worth it and successful for me. ■





# 2019年溢樂教會情人節晚餐

## A Special Valentine's Day Dinner at Sunset Church

Written By: By Angelina Wong | Photos By: Isaac Lo and Teresa Cheng



On the evening of February 16, the auditorium of the CE building turned into a fine dining hall. Roses, balloons, candles, chocolates, dim lights and music filled the hall with romance. About thirty-five couples from the Cantonese Young Family Ministry joined the banquet.

Husbands and wives dressed up for the event, and a photo booth was set up with a backdrop of red hearts love pattern for the couples to have their pictures taken.



The four-course dinner started with an appetizer of jumbo shrimp with cocktail sauce and roasted corn tomato salsa, followed by a seasonal green salad, and hot entree choice of gourmet prime rib or Chilean sea bass. The special Valentine's dessert was Entremet Syracuse, a pistachio Joconde cake with mascarpone vanilla cream mousse and raspberry coulis on a piece of shortbread. Chef David Chen cooked the food so wonderfully while Chef Ray Jang's dessert was lovely and delicious.

The dinner event was such a great success due to the service of many brothers and sisters. The planning committee included Pastor Simon, Deacon Cheau-Long, Julie Choy, Teresa Cheng, and Chef David. At one time, Pastor Simon chatted with Cheau-Long about having a Valentine's Day dinner for the young family ministry. Cheau-Long responded enthusiastically that it would be just an easy job and the idea eventually became reality. As Julie began to shop for different nearby restaurants, their high costs prompted the decision to hold the event back at Sunset Church. Teresa formulated many decoration ideas, ranging from room décor and lighting to table-setting for the banquet. Meisze Cheung hosted the dinner with many entertaining games and bonding moments for the couples. Many thanks to Lucy Gee who helped organized the kitchen crew, setup the beverage table, and prepared the venue for the special event. Philip Ho also provided extensive assistance with the kitchen given his culinary and hotel management experience. Isaac Lo was busy taking pictures for the couples all night long.



Last, but not least, it was the service of those sisters who poured out their love that made the evening so unique. ►





Julie, who loves hosting parties, recruited a number of sisters from different small groups to be table servers for the event. They wore black and white uniforms and served so professionally with a joyful heart. They pampered us like we were VIPs. I was touched by their humility especially when they frequently asked what we needed and how we liked the food. The dear sisters sacrificed their time and energy so we can enjoy a special Valentine's Day dining experience!

After the dinner, Cheau-Long and Teresa showed the slideshow they prepared featuring old pictures of the couples while they were dating, wedding photos and current photos of their families. We laughed and clapped at "those were the days" moments.

It was an unforgettable Valentine's Day dinner and many thanks to all the brothers and sisters who made this event so special.

2019年2月16日，情人節後的兩天，星期六傍晚，溢樂教會教育樓的禮堂，搖身一變成為充滿浪漫情調的餐廳。氣球，蠟燭，朱古力，佈置精美的餐桌上有玫瑰花的擺設。情侶一雙一對進入會場。我已經記不起多久之前，我曾經刻意打扮和外子外出晚飯拍拖了。

印刷精緻的餐單上寫著四道菜：前菜是大蝦，沙拉，主菜是牛排或鱈魚。David Chen陳帆弟兄是西餐大廚，我在一次祈禱會裡認識他。謙虛文靜的外表，其實身懷非凡的廚藝。一條四十五磅重的鱈魚在David手中，成為一道豐美，令人難忘的主菜。牛排從南三藩市一間餐館訂購。每人收費三十元而能享用如此豐盛的大餐，背後有多少人付出時間和心思去籌備這一切？



鄭牧師腦裡浮現舉辦情人節晚餐的念頭，因而去找巧龍弟兄商量。巧龍立刻響應說“其實很簡單”，就是這樣，溢樂教會情人節晚餐聚會逐步成為事實。

Julie姊妹號召了一群來自教會不同小組的姊妹們，幫忙佈置場地，甚至穿起制服，在聚會中端餐。這是最令我感動的，大家都是平等的，在這個大教會中，可能只是碰面時打個招呼，這班姊妹們實在沒有義務和理由來這樣伺候我們。她們的謙卑和愛心，令我想起主耶穌為門徒洗腳的一幕。

甜點是我最期待的。用開心果，香草摩絲和山莓果醬造成的半圓形蛋糕，樣子極可愛，配熱咖啡，真的可口極了。設計這道情人節特別甜點的糕點大廚是Ray Jang 弟兄。

晚餐之後，巧龍和Teresa播放夫婦們提供的舊照片。看到眼前熟悉的弟兄姊妹從前的模樣，新娘子甜美，新郎哥俊朗，引來大家不斷的掌聲和歡笑聲。

最後，鄭牧師播放一段電影之中一對結婚多年的夫婦的對話。丈夫問妻子，記不記得對上一次享受閨房之樂是什麼時候，妻子無言以對。丈夫還說結婚多年的夫婦經常像兄妹一樣。結婚久了，忙碌的生活令我們忽視了維繫婚姻關係最重要的愛。所以這頓情人節晚餐只是開場的上集，下集需要我們專注上帝對婚姻的旨意，一起去編寫。 ▶





### Quotes from the servers:

It is a blessing to have the opportunity to serve and mingle with our young Christian couples. I am rejuvenated and enlightened by this experience.

– Julie

It was my pleasure to be one of the participants in the 2019 Valentine's Day party at Sunset Chinese Baptist Church, being assigned to be the server at one of the tables. I'm so happy to see the smiling faces from our guests while I served them. It was a great experience to learn and serve alongside other brothers and sisters.

– Emily

It is my honor to serve at the Valentine's party. I really appreciate everyone's enthusiastic participation. We witnessed the harmony of God's love flow among those who served and those who are being served. Looking forward to the next opportunity to serve again. Thank you everyone. May God bless you.

– Terrie

I'm also feel grateful to be given opportunity to serve in the Valentine's event that night, especially when I saw the happy faces of the young couples and they enjoyed my service to them.

– Lisa

I feel grateful to be given an opportunity to serve in this cross fellowship meaningful and romantic event.

Pastor Simon and Teresa are wonderful to make it happen. May the well-meaning work glorify God and enlighten us to the next opportunity.

– Joyce

God grant me a very meaningful Valentine's Day! Without Him, I wouldn't have this opportunity to serve. You guys are my good models and I'm looking forward to serving more in the future!

– Candice ■





# APC Annual Gala 2019: Overcome

Written By: Elgin Quan 关李瑶真 | Photos By: Gary Gin and Alpha Pregnancy Center



From trick baby to National speaker, servant leader, author and entrepreneur Dr. Ron Archer held 300 attendees spellbound at this year's Alpha Pregnancy Center Gala on March 1 with the theme of "Overcome". He recounted his horrific story about his near abortion by Ron's mother who was a 17-year-old prostitute. After multiple failed back alley abortion attempts, Ron emerged into the world prematurely with significant medical problems. Ron continued to struggle through his childhood, victim of a speech impediment, a severe learning disability and ongoing sexual, physical, and verbal abuse. At age 10 he decided to end his life. As he put a loaded gun to his head, the gun didn't fire, due to a locked safety latch. His life began to change when his fourth-grade teacher lovingly taught him about God. She told him that God did not make a mistake in creating him and showed him all the similarly dysfunctional characters God used in the Bible. She told him: *"Ronaldo, God uses greatly those who have been wounded very deeply. He will turn our pain into power, your wounds into wisdom, and your mess into a message."*

His teacher gave him a Gideon Bible and taught him to read Jeremiah 1 – *"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I consecrated you."* (Jer. 1:5) -- *"You are in the Bible!"* -- Grippled by these words, he realized the Bible was speaking directly to him. Ron began voraciously to read into a tape recorder and ended up memorizing 2,000 scriptures. Developing a photographic memory, Ron conquered his learning disabilities and his speech impediment, and graduated head of his class.

Imagine his surprise when at the age of 28, he accidentally meets his biological father. Unaware that Ron, his biological son had become a renowned speaker and pastor, his father, now a lawyer, relays how Ron's grandfather was a pastor and had prayed for *"generations yet unborn."* (Ps. 139:13) Ron suddenly realized where he received his gift of preaching. In spite of his near abortion experience, death could not triumph. In spite of his abuse and persecuted past, his gift could not be silenced. God had been at work even before he was born. (Jer 1:5)

Filled with trauma, drama and powerful overcoming, Ron began preaching Sunday nights in a Cleveland church at the age of 16. With a booming voice and a take command stage presence, Ron Archer challenges you to face your greatest fears head on. Blessings, he says, are connected to your greatest challenges. He reminds us that the Bible calls those who are persecuted - blessed (Matt. 5:10) *"it means you got game!"*

Dr. Archer extolled the work of the Alpha Pregnancy Center saying God works in hidden places with hidden people. The center serves about 20 women a day and in 2018, has touched over 2,000 individuals (women, their partners and children). In the past year, they performed 99 pregnancy tests and 150 ultrasounds while empowering 89% of their clients toward a positive, life-giving decision. 80 babies were born in 2018 with 889 children cared for.\* The Center's goal is to economically, emotionally and spiritually empower families facing unplanned pregnancies or raising children as a result of ▶





an unplanned pregnancy. Free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, case management, material assistance and education are also offered and provided.

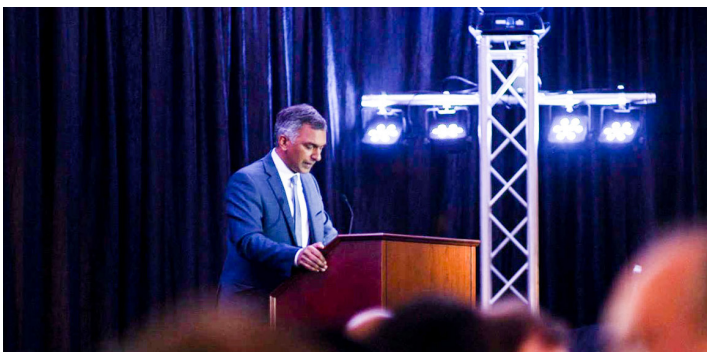
A powerful saga of redemption, grit, grace and a God that overcomes, Ron's story exemplifies that miracles do happen. He is a true overcomer who empowers others to overcome. Tragedy turned into triumph, the entire room cheered when Ron concluded that even though he was a trick baby, the trick was on the devil!!

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Alpha Pregnancy Center, check out their website at [alphapc.org](http://alphapc.org).

\*Statistics provided by Alpha Pregnancy Center 2018, Faith Paull, Executive Director.

I enjoyed hearing the inspirational stories from the APC staff and especially from Dr. Ron Archer's personal story and his personal experiences. May God continue to bless all the work of APC and its staff. May God continue to bless the speaker and his ministries to glorify God tremendously. Keep up all your good work for God!

— Donna Chan ■





# Serving The Butte County Residents 服侍Butte縣居民

Quotes and Photos By: Team Members



It was my first-time helping people after a natural disaster. The homeowners I talked to didn't know what to do next and they feel lost. It was really encouraging for them to see people helping them. It was encouraging for me to see other Christians with a heart of service.

The night before our scheduled Samaritan's Purse assignment, Pastor Paul, Edward, Tong and I met and prayed with a lady named Susan who lived in Paradise and was affected by the fire. We talked to her to figure out how we can assist her. Without knowing her faith, we prayed for her and the situation she was in as well as prayed for her medical condition. Surprisingly, she prayed as well and prayed for

the Sunset Team, in our volunteering effort and the impact we will make.

Afterwards, she was suddenly hospitalized for 3 weeks due to her medical condition and passed away recently. I am happy to declare that Susan became a believer and was baptized last month.

Sometimes, we don't know how much impact we make in someone's life. However, the little impact we make daily can affect them eternity. Please continue to do good works for God's glory!

這是我第一次參與幫忙受天災影響的居民。我和一些屋主們傾談，發現他們大都感到前路茫茫，不知如何是好。當見到有義工來給他們施予援手時，確實給他們很大的鼓勵；而我見到不少基督徒真心的服侍，亦給我極大的鼓舞。

在出發前一晚，何牧師、Edward、湯仔和我與一位居住於天堂鎮 (Paradise) 受火災影響的Susan女士傾談，了解她的實際需要及我們可以如何協助她，之後我們為她所處的景況及健康祈禱；令我驚訝的是，她也同時為我們溢樂團隊眾義工的努力及可以帶來的影響祈禱。

後來得知她因健康狀況不理想而要入院，留院三星期後離世了。我很高興 Susan 願意相信耶穌並於上月受浸。很多時候我們不會知道所作的，對他人生命中有何影響，但小小的事卻足以影響他人永恆的生命，願意我們繼續多作善工，榮神益人！

– Victor Chan (領隊)



I saw people coming from different states to come help.

我看見來自不同州的義工們，齊心協力幫助災民

– Marco Lo

We visited 3 houses and we were able to show them love and how much we care. For one homeowner, we cried together, we talked and then we hugged her. I told her, "I Love You" and ask if I can hug her and she was so appreciated and gave me a wet kiss!

我們探訪了三間房屋，有機會向災民們表達我們是何等的愛及關懷他們。其中有一個屋主，我們和她一起傾談、一同哭泣，並且給她擁抱以表達我們對她的關懷。最後我對她說：『我愛妳！』並且問她我可否給她擁抱，她非常欣賞和感激，更回贈我一個濕吻。

– Pastor Paul Ho 何牧師 ▶





Two years ago, God touched my heart at the Texas trip. It is amazing to see God's work being done by His people. If you have more time, come out to stay at least 3 nights to experience "God moments" and experience the emotions that homeowners go through after an item is found. As a follow-up following our time serving with Samaritan's Purse, **146 people have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!**

兩年前我在德州的旅程中，神已深深觸動我的心，看見神的子民為主作工，是何等美妙的事。若可以安排到多一點時間，鼓勵大家到當地逗留最少三晚，親身體驗一下，看看神的作為，感受一下屋主們尋獲失物那份喜悅。後記：神透過今次我們的服侍，讓**146位**朋友願意接受基督成為他們個人的救主及生命的主。

– Gary Lee

It is a blessing to see brothers and sisters sacrifice their time to serve. I had quality time talking to the homeowners too. At the 2nd house, the homeowners had moved in only 2-3 months before the fire. We were helping her dig up items that had sentimental value. The volunteers were able to bring hope to them and to let them know that they have not been forgotten and was able to experience what a church is.

看到弟兄姊妹願意犧牲自己的時間參與服侍，是何等大的祝福。我也有一段寶貴的時間和幾位屋主傾談，其中第二間探訪的屋主，是在火災前2-3個月才搬進去的，我們幫她尋找一些具有記念價值的物品。義工們不單為他們帶來希望，也讓災民們知道，他們是沒有被遺忘的，同時讓他們感受到何謂教會。

– Pastor Simon Cheng 鄭牧師

It was such an encouragement to see God's people coming together to help the homeowners in Butte County. It is only with the love of God can we endure shoveling through ashes and debris in the rain to try to recover items for the homeowners. It was all worth it when we see the homeowner's tears of joy when she picked up her grandmother's watch or her niece's clay vase. One homeowner, Chuck, told us that he lost his wife 16 months ago and he wanted to find her ring. Our team dig through the debris and found his wife's ring and his father's purple metal heart along with other sentimental items. At the end of the recovery, the homeowners were presented with a bible signed by all the volunteers. It was a privilege to be able to serve in Jesus' name. A special thank you to Victor's church friends who welcomed our team into their homes and made lunches for our whole team!



看到神的子民願意走在一起去幫助布特縣 (Butte County) 受災的屋主，令我感到非常鼓舞。我們能夠忍受在雨中，在一堆堆灰燼、瓦礫中挖掘，嘗試替屋主們找回一些物品，完全是因為有神的愛在其中；當看見屋主們因為找回祖母的手錶、或外甥女的粘土花瓶時所流下喜樂的眼淚，便會覺得一切都是值得的。其中一位名叫 Chuck 的屋主告訴我們，他的妻子於 16 個月前逝世，他想找回她的結婚戒子，我們整隊義工便替他在瓦礫中挖掘，終於找回了這戒子和他父親的紫色心形金屬擺設，還有一些有記念價值的物品。最後，我們向每一位屋主送上一本附有所有義工簽名的聖經作留念。在此亦特別多謝 Victor 的教會朋友，他接待我們整隊義工，並為我們預備了豐富的午餐。

– Lucy Gee

We all had to take a day from work to come here to serve. I feel very blessed, protected and thankful for what we have after seeing the people who have lost everything.

我們都是放下工作，請假一天到來服侍這群喪失家園的人。當看見他們一切盡失時，我感到自己原來是何等的被祝福和被保護，並且為我們所擁有的一切感恩。

– Philip Ho ■



# Cantonese Newcomer Luncheon 迎新餐會

Article and Photos By: Newcomer Team 迎新小組

今年中文部的迎新午餐已在一月廿七日在教會教育樓舉行。當日有七十多人出席，超過半數是新朋友及其家人。由於這日子是頗近農曆新年，迎新組把會場擺放了彩色枱布，金色咭子，菜單也有新春特色。來賓都享受教會小組/團契及長執們的熱情款待，氣氛非常熱鬧。

何伯昌牧師放了一短幻燈片- 簡單介紹溢樂教會的歷史及中文堂的小組活動等。然後他帶領一個破冰遊戲：[世界之最]；增加我們彼此認識及老少一起開懷大笑。當然我們還少不了歌唱頌神。

最後何牧師及鄭牧師兩位派新年利是，金句取自民數記 6:24-26  
願耶和華賜福給你，保護你，賜恩給你，賜你平安！

迎新午餐在歡樂聲中結束

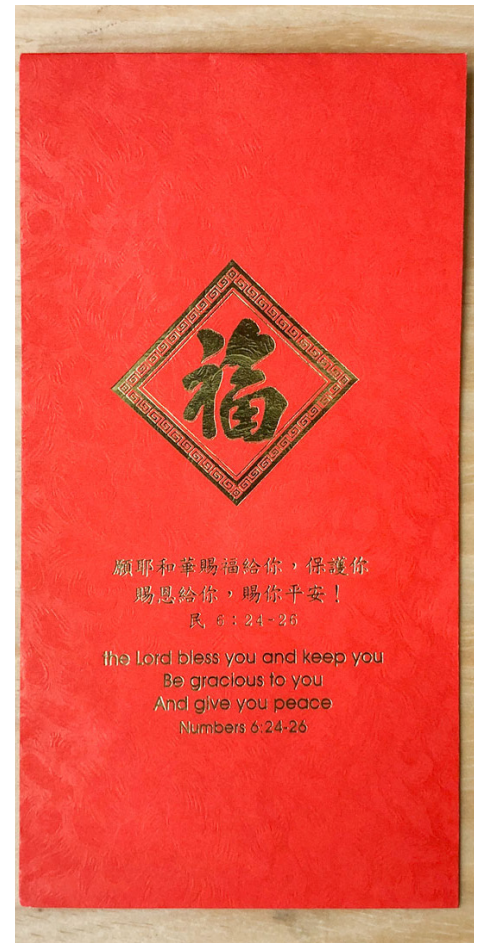
The Cantonese Newcomer Ministry welcomed 2019 with a Newcomer Luncheon on Sunday, January 27th, at our CE multi-purpose room. There were 75 people in attendance, over half were visitors and their families.

The tables were colorful with plates of Mandarin oranges, and the menu included some festive dishes for the Lunar New Year, which was to be one week later. The visitors enjoyed the welcoming from various group/fellowship members, and met other newcomers as well.

Pastor Ho showed a slide show to introduce Sunset Church history and various Cantonese fellowship groups and activities. He then led us an ice-breaker game, "The World's Most...", which brought much laughter to all. The luncheon ended with another delightful surprise: Pastor Ho and Pastor Cheng gave out red envelopes with a printed golden verse from Numbers 6:24-26

"The Lord bless you and keep you, Be gracious to you, And give you peace"

This was our prayer to everyone for the New Year as well. ■





# City Impact Adopt-a-Building Chinese Ministry

Written By: Molinda Hom and Jasmine Wong | Photos By: Simon Cheng



Over the past three years, Sunset Church has adopted four Chinese-speaking buildings through City Impact's Adopt a Building (AAB) ministry. Adopt a Building is a long term volunteer opportunity "to intervene through building relationships that will lead people to life transformation", by visiting and delivering meals to people who lives in the Tenderloin on a regular basis. This work with City Impact began when Diana Lee and Suzette Lee were approached by Patty Moll, the Co-Manager of Adopt a Building, regarding whether there might be interest in visiting a building with a high concentration of Chinese-speaking residents. Diana then invited Molinda Hom to join them, in part, because of her Chinese language skills. That first building was Padre, a place where God began to open doors for us. During the first year, God also brought Mary Leong and Jasmine Wong to join the team that visits Padre. In the second year, Mary Law joined the Padre team. One year after we started at Padre, God opened the doors for us at Herald; and provided Mary Ling and Elaine Tam to join the ministry there. Two more buildings were added recently as

Selina Liu joined the team visiting Dorothy Day and elder David Ho and his wife Gloria formed a new team visiting Ellis Street. Within three years, members of Sunset Church now visit each of these four buildings once a month.

During this time, God has grown our team of volunteers, bringing people of all ages and with a wide range of skillsets on board. At times, serving can be challenging, but God continues to give us strength and to guide us. Residents across buildings routinely join in our activities and excitedly welcome us when we visit. A handful of residents have even begun to attend City Impact's Chinese Worship Service, led by Bernice and James Leung, and some have even accepted the Lord as their personal savior. It has been especially encouraging to see many of the residents form friendships with one another, with many inviting their neighbors to attend our activities and worship! Time and time again, we have been reminded that what we cannot do, God can! "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13). One thing that has repeatedly stood out to us over these past three years is how much we are able to experience God's presence when we are willing and obedient. In particular, we have learned to depend on God rather than ourselves. Looking back, we definitely did not know what to expect when we began serving, but it has become clear that He answered our prayers and was with us each step of the way. We have also each grown through our relationships with the residents. We have learned how to care for them, and we have learned to be good listeners. Every resident has a unique story, and we have been blessed by our relationships with each of them.



This year, Bernice and James led a Chinese New Year celebration at City Impact. The event was incredibly well-attended by the residents and was an especially joyful celebration. Volunteers from both Chinese and English congregations participated, including Pastor Simon and his wife, Teresa. Volunteers from several other churches also participated. The TGIF Women's Fellowship made 300 Chinese New Year's crafts for residents, and Pastor Ma's wife donated lovely angels as gifts. The program included singing led by Jasmine, singing and dancing by the residents, playing riddle games, and raffles. Through this celebration, it was evident that the residents were experiencing Christ's love.

At this point, the ministry is continuing to expand, and we are hopeful that others might also find that God is putting the Tenderloin, and our ministry there, on their hearts. Right now, we are in need of Chinese-speaking volunteers at each of ►



these buildings. You do not have to have any special abilities or skills to serve - you just have to be open to talking with the residents and being friendly and warm to them. Current volunteers will guide you through the process and make sure that you feel comfortable and prepared to visit the residents. If you have any interest in checking out the ministry or even in learning more about it, please contact Molinda at [molinda.hom@gmail.com](mailto:molinda.hom@gmail.com).

在過去的三年裡，溢樂華人浸信會透過City Impact的Adopt a Building (AAB)事工“領養”了四座位於田德隆區，華人聚居的住宅大廈。AAB事工的異象是透過定期的探訪，與大廈的住戶建立關係，從而影響他們的生命得到蛻變。這項與City Impact的合作始於2016年。當時AAB事工的負責人Patty Moll與負責溢樂教會AAB團隊的Diana Lee和Suzette Lee聯絡，以了解溢樂教會的會友是否有興趣探訪一些華人聚居的住宅大廈。這些華人住戶不諳英文，但Diana和Suzette的中文並不流俐。於是Diana邀請通曉廣東話及台山話的Molinda Hom加入，開墾華人聚居的Padre大廈的探訪事工。一年後，Mary Leong, Jasmine Wong及Mary Law加入了Padre的探訪行列。在Padre大廈之後，神繼續為我們開門並預備同工。之後的一年，神開了Herald大廈的大門，並有Mary Ling和Elaine Tam加入；再過一年，神又再打開了Dorothy Day大廈的門，並有Selina Liu加入。2019年開始，神再開門，讓我們有機會探訪Ellis Street大廈，並預備了何大杰長老夫婦加入。在短短三年間，溢樂教會的AAB團隊已“領養”了四棟華人聚居的住宅大廈，每月也會到這些大廈進行探訪工作。



在此期間，神為我們預備了不同年齡，背景和具備不同恩賜的教會弟兄姊妹參與這事工。有時，事奉也極具挑戰性，但神繼續給我們力量並帶領我們。大廈的住客經常參加我們的活動，並在我們探訪時興奮地歡迎我們。在2017年9月，City Impact開始了中文崇拜，每週日四時在位於230 Jones Street的City Impact Worship Center (敬拜中心) 舉行。因這中文崇拜位於田德隆區，讓我們有機會在探訪時邀請大廈的住客參加 - 有些住客更因這中文崇拜而接受了耶穌作為他們的個人救主。看到居民們認識神，彼此建立友誼，甚至邀請他們的鄰居參加我們的活動和敬拜，實在令我們鼓舞！神透過祂大能的作為一次又一次提醒我們 - 雖然我們不能作什麼，神卻可以！而“我靠著那加給我力量的，凡事都能做 (腓立比書3:16)”。在過去的三年裡，我們最大的功課是：當我們願意順服神時，就是我們最能夠經歷到神同在的時候。我們學會了依靠神，而不是靠我們自己的能力。回想起來，當我們開始City Impact的事奉時，我們並不知道會發生什麼。但很明顯，神應允了我們的祈禱，並且每一步都與我們同在。我們每一名義工也透過與居民建立關係而得到造就。我們學會如何關心他們，並學習成為一位聆聽者。每一位居民也有一個獨特的故事，我們因他們的友誼得到祝福。

City Impact 的中文事工每年也會舉辦農曆新年和中秋的慶祝活動，這些活動非常受到居民的歡迎。今年的農曆新年慶祝活動，是一次特別愉快的經驗。來自溢樂華人浸信會中英文堂的弟兄姊妹也參予其中。其中包括鄭識文牧師和師母，及CYAF 團契的弟兄姊妹。TGIF姊妹團契為居民製作了300份中國新年手工藝品，馬鍾佩蘭師母捐贈了可愛的天使串珠作為禮物。當天的節目包括由Jasmine帶領居民唱賀年歌曲，大廈居民組成的唱歌小組唱福音粵曲和跳舞，居民們玩對聯遊戲，並有抽獎活動。我們希望透過這些慶祝活動，讓居民們體驗基督的愛。

現時，AAB的事工正繼續擴展，我們盼望神把田德隆區的事工放在更多弟兄姊妹的心中。我們極需要講中文的義工參予探訪的行列。您不必具備任何特殊的能力或技能 - 您只需敞開心懷與居民交談，並對他們保持友善和親切。我們的團隊將陪伴您進行探訪，並幫助您準備拜訪居民。如果您有興趣更深入了解這事工，請透過電郵地址[molinda.hom@gmail.com](mailto:molinda.hom@gmail.com)與Molinda聯絡。■



# 2019 Thailand Mission Trip

Written By: Various Team Members | Photos By: Thailand STM Team

What I learned from this trip is that missions are about acting in full obedience to God. Getting to see and talk to the missionaries, I learned that they left their families behind in the States, left comfort and security, took their children along with them (some as young as only a few months old), and moved to a foreign place where they didn't know anyone, where they now face persecution, all to live out their faith so that they could one day see people from every tongue, tribe and nation bow down and worship God, as it says in Revelation 7:9-10.

After I came home from the trip, the night before our team's debrief sharing, I was praying and I heard the Holy Spirit say to me, "Do you love me? Do you trust me?" In my heart, I said, "Yes, Lord. I love you and I trust you." Then I heard the Lord saying, "GO, and tell them about ME".

I don't know when or where God is calling me to go and make disciples of all nations, but I know that this is a clear commandment from Him. As I wrestle with this, and what it means for me and my family, I want to encourage others to think about their answer to God's question, "Do you love me? Do you trust me?" and let Him lead you to be obedient to Him. I also want to encourage others to learn more about missions and consider God's role for you in the Great Commission. And if you don't yet have the burden or desire in your heart for missions, I encourage you to earnestly pray that God would give you that burden and desire.

— April Homan



We had a really, really, great trip. Thank you so much for your prayers/financial support. We saw God bring our team together, being able to use some of our strengths and skills or gifts that we have. He just really blended them together. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with the kids and interacting with their families.

One of the things that really struck me from our time in Thailand was hearing of the loneliness of our brothers and sisters who are serving overseas. For some missing the corporate worship that we enjoy here at home. Worship might be three adults. One goes to help work with the kids, and that leaves two. I know I often take our time of corporate worship for granted. Seeing their desire for corporate worship, how much they miss it, reminded me to be more thankful for it.



We had opportunity to spend some time with Anita, and she expressed the times of missing her brothers and sisters from Sunset. She was so eager to be able to spend time with us. She said she wanted to soak in our time together and store it up for the future, times where she would miss that fellowship with her brothers and sisters. When we came back from Thailand and (and a personal trip to Japan) our wonderful missions director, Lorraine, had organized a workshop/seminar on caring for missionaries. It was so good to hear and learn more about ways that we can support our missionaries. It is not something that we might do. It is something we are supposed to do. Hearing from missionaries how much a note whether is by mail, email, text can mean so much to them when they are out in the field. When they are home, there are many ways to help them during their stay. We need to support them by working together to minister to them and take care of them.

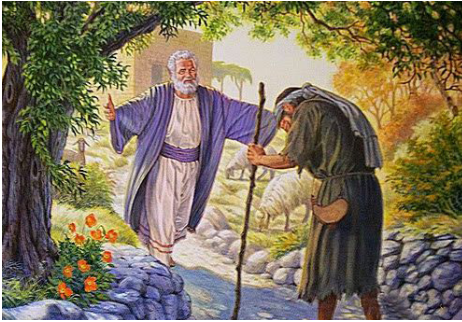
— Phil and Betty Wong ■



# The Father and Prodigal Son

## (Fifth in a series of Relational Wisdom Applications)

Written By: Elgin Quan 关李瑶真



From rebellion to repentance to redemption. Those who travel this journey successfully, find that they must wrestle with two fundamental tensions of the human condition: the deceptions of the heart and the illusions of the mind. In the story of the Prodigal Son Luke 15, the younger son asks his father for his share of inheritance to leave home. Travelling to a distant country, he indulges in wild and profligate living. Famine strikes the land and the younger son ends up living amongst pigs and eating their food. Sunk to the lowest possible depth, he wakes up one day and comes to his senses. *“how many of my father’s hired men have food to spare and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”* Luke 15:17-19

### Six Relational Wisdom Principles:

**1. God aware** - Rebellion. The younger son was self-seeking and not God aware. He wrestled with his desire to leave home to seek his independence. He yearned for something more, something that was missing, something beyond his earthly understanding of reality. In seeking his own fulfillment, his heart turned away from God.

**2. God engaged** - A heart that is in rebellion, often masks the need to fill a soul that is empty, to fulfill an ethereal journey in an effort to know God, our ultimate Creator, who put eternity in everyone’s heart (Ecc 3:11). In his soul search, the younger son was led into a spiritual wilderness far beyond his material home to a *distant country* Luke 15:13. This wilderness experience ultimately leads him to cry out *“Father, I have sinned...”* Luke 15:18

**3. Self-aware** - Strong will, self-centered, full of zeal, the younger son’s heart turns away from God, towards unbridled passions, self-seeking freedom and self-discovery. Under the illusion of being in control, he thought only of himself, and demanded his share of the inheritance *“Father give me my share of the estate”*. Luke 15:12.

**4. Self-engaged** - Repentance. Falling into hard times, younger son begins to feel remorse, and regret, remembers what he had left behind, -- a home full of security, love, and acceptance. *“When he came to his senses,”* (15:17) is work of the Holy Spirit who brings spiritual awakening to his heart, -- an awareness of what he had lost, an awareness of a false look at the world, the truth of what his life could be. For now, he knew he had hit bottom. His heart was broken. His illusion of life was shattered. Self-pity, life spinning out of control, he is moved to repentance.

**5. Other aware** - The younger son was aware he needed to return home to his Father. However, first he needed to ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness meant he admits to what he did was wrong. He was aware he made an error in judgment, error in thinking. His zeal for profligate living brought him face to face with hard reality. His illusion of freedom, and the independent life brought him the loss of real life. His wild living had cost him a loss of living. He had lost a loving home engaged in active relationship with His father. *“Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”* (Luke 15:17-19) Turning away from his illusion of a false reality, he is faced with the truth of what life is supposed to be. The younger son was open to correction. He was willing to change.

**6. Other engaged** - Redemption. As the younger son returns home, he humbly asks his father for forgiveness and accepts the gifts of ring, (covenant), sandals (status) and cloak (identity) -- the marks of redemption and regeneration.

Rebellion Repentance Redemption. The deceptions of the heart lead us away from God. Hard times help to shatter our illusions. God has given us all we need and is willing to forgive. Yet how are we continuing to deceive ourselves and what are our illusions? In repentance and with a grateful redemptive heart, how have you claimed for yourself what Jesus came to deliver: *“I once was lost but now am found, was dead but now alive”*? Luke 15: 32 ■





# Sunset Profile: Pastor Paul Ho

## 溢樂簡介: 何伯昌牧師

**Question: Tell us a little about yourself, your family, your background and your spiritual journey.**

**Pastor Paul:** I was born and raised in Hong Kong. I have four sisters and I am the only son in the family. My Dad was a Carpenter and my Mom was a stay at home housewife. (They both passed away and one of the privileges of being a pastor is I can officiate my Mom and Dad's funeral). When I was 18, I went to Canada and studied abroad. It was the year that changed my life. Sometimes you have to be at the end of the rope then you will see the glory of God. Simply put, it is because of God's love, I became Christian. This is what I do every day until the day I die. Read, Pray, Love.

**Q: What are your hobbies or interests?**

**PP:** This is what I tell people, whatever is outdoor and is not staying at home I like to do. Here is the list: swimming, surfing, SUPing (standup paddleboarding), snorkeling, sailing, motor-cycling, hiking, camping, RVing, running, walking, driving a convertible, playing soccer, practicing silence and solitude, drinking Coffee and reading books with my wife, sunbathing and much, much more.



Pastor Paul with his wife, Vanessa, and their two sons.

**Q: If you can go anywhere and do anything, where would you go and do?**

**PP:** One of dream "jobs" in the world for me is to become a medical missionary. I want to go to Nepal, India, Africa, Syria or any places that to care for the unwanted and to tell them I love you and I care about you.

**Q: You are the lead Cantonese Pastor, what is your vision and hope for this role?**

**PP:** Wow, that is a big one and a very serious question. This is what I hope to do. I do not want to be a pastor. I just want to come and love people. I love you, whoever is reading this, by the way.

**Q: What is something that people would be surprised to know about you?**

**PP:** I am an introvert. If I am not married, I think that I would want to stay in the monastery praying to God and loving him for the rest of my life. However, God has another plan for me. I am married with two sons. I am a pastor now. So, I come to serve Christ and for the sake of God's Kingdom. I am an extrovert. I love to talk to people and to tell them I love you.

**Q: What Bible verse has been the most impactful to you in your Christian Journey? Why?**

**PP:** There are many...Go to check this out. Matt 6:33, Isa 30:15, Isa 49:15-16; Job 38:4, Ps 8. Every time when I meditate on these texts, it reminds me of who He is, and what should be my priority. I am still trembling every time when I think of Him. He loves me.

By the way, I have many favorites songs too. Here are some of it. "The Greatest Thing", "I just want to be where you are"

**問：告訴我們一些關於你自己，你的家庭背景和靈命。**

我在香港出生長大。我有四個姐姐，我是家中唯一的兒子。我的爸爸是個木匠，媽媽是個家庭主婦。（父母都去世了，作為牧師的特權之一就是可以主持自己父母的葬禮）。當我18歲的時候，我去了加拿大留學。這一年改變了我的生命。有時你必須在「繩子的盡頭」然後你才會看到上帝的榮耀。簡單地說，這是因為上帝的愛，我成了基督徒。我每天都做相同的事，就是不斷讀聖經、祈禱、愛直到我死。▶



**問：你的興趣或愛好是什麼？**

**何伯昌：**我經常告訴其他人，只要是戶外活動，不用留在家的我都喜歡。這是我的清單：游泳，衝浪，SUPING，浮潛，帆船，開摩托車，爬山，露營，開旅行車，跑步，散步，駕駛開篷車，踢足球，練習沉默和獨處，喝咖啡和與我的妻子一起看書，享受日光浴等等。

**問：如果你可以去任何地方做任何事情，你會去哪里和做什麼？**

**何伯昌：**對我來說，世界上的夢想“工作”之一就是成為一名醫療宣教士。我想去尼泊爾、印度、非洲、敘利亞或任何地方去照顧被放棄的人，並告訴他們：“我愛你，我關心你。”

**問：你是粵語帶領牧師，你對這個角色的看法和希望是什麼？**

**何伯昌：**哇，這是一個很大的問題，也是一個非常嚴肅的問題。我希望：我不想成為一名牧師。我只想來愛人。順便說一句，我愛你，無論是誰在讀這篇文章。

**問：人們會對你有什麼驚喜？**

**何伯昌：**我是一個內向的人。如果我沒有結婚，我想我會留在修道院裡向上帝祈禱，並在我的餘生中愛他。但是，上帝對我有另一個計劃。我結了婚，育有兩個兒子。我現在是牧師。所以，任何時候需要服侍基督，為了上帝的王國。我變成外向的人。我喜歡和人交談並告訴他們：“我愛你”。

**問：在你的基督徒生命中，哪些聖經經文對你最有影響力？為什麼？**

**何伯昌：**有很多……去看看吧。馬太福音6:33，以賽亞書30:15，以賽亞書49:15-16；約伯記38:4，箴言 8。每當我冥想這些經本時，經文都會讓我想起他是誰，以及我應該優先考慮的是什麼。每當我想到他時，我仍然在顫抖。他愛我。

順便說一下，我也有很多喜歡的詩歌。這裡有一些。“最偉大的事情”，“我只想成為你的所在” ■

