

THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2025

A Message from the Board of Elders

Grace and peace to you all!

It is with immense joy that “The Messenger“ is published. This newsletter is born from a desire to witness God’s continuous work within our church and strengthen our bonds as a community.

As we journey through this year, there is so much happening – the progress of the Church Planting, the flourishing of the University Ministries, and the baptism in each congregation, etc. God’s faithfulness is evident in everywhere. This newsletter will be a window into these stories, a reminder of your prayers support to the ministries.



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Church Planting in Macquarie Park

1. THE GOSPEL CALL

Picture the heavy cross on Jesus’ back torn apart only moments ago as he was beaten and tortured as a criminal. He wasn’t just carrying a piece of heavy piece of wood—but He was carrying the very instrument on which He would be executed for the sin of the world. Yours, mine, everyone’s. He willingly took the punishment we deserved so that we could be set free. Why? Because the penalty for sin is death. Without a Saviour, we’re lost, separated from God forever and as the Apostle Paul says, destined for God’s judgement. But God, in His great love, didn’t leave us in that hopeless state. He sent Jesus. Jesus’ death wasn’t just a tragic end to an innocent man’s life. He is God’s plan to redeem humanity. On that cross, Jesus took our sin and shame and nailed it there, forever. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:21, “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” That means the cross

wasn’t the end. It was the beginning. Three days later, Jesus rose from the grave! His resurrection is proof that sin has been defeated. Death has been conquered. The empty tomb stands as a declaration of victory for all who believe in Him. As 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, “Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

But this victory isn’t just for us to celebrate—it’s the impetus for the mission we’ve been given. Jesus told His followers in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18–20, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” He didn’t call us to sit on the sidelines. He didn’t call us to keep this good news to ourselves. He called us to go. Why? So, others can hear about Jesus and put their trust in Him. Without Him, they’re still lost in their sin. Without Him, they face His judgement, and

an eternity separated from God. But here's the truth: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

That's why we share. That's why we go. That's why we live boldly for Jesus—because the stakes are eternal, and the victory is already

won.

So, I ask you today: What will you do with this message in your life? Will you join the mission to proclaim His name to the ends of the earth? People need Jesus. It's for the sake of the Gospel that we hope to plant a church.

2. WHY CHURCH PLANTING?

Church planting is BIBLICAL

There is no single command saying that believers should keep planting churches to the end of the age. What we see though in the book of Acts, is a church planting movement. People became Christians through the preaching of the gospel and when they became Christians they gathered together for prayer and fellowship. We then see in many of the epistles instructions to set up godly leadership and for orderly worship in the gathered community. The people in these churches were also called to persevere in the gospel, conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel, become partners in the gospel and to proclaim the gospel. Church planting is Biblical, but is there a point when we should stop planting churches? One might argue there are so many churches around that it is a waste of resources to do so.

Church planting is EFFECTIVE

Research shows that planting churches is one the most effective ways we can reach new people with the Gospel. There are many other things we can do to try and reach people, we can hold revival meetings, evangelistic dinners and events, but one of the most effective methods for reaching new people is through church planting.

"New congregations empower new people and new peoples much more quickly and readily than can older churches" – Timothy Keller

Keller conducted research on why we should plant churches and discovered that "the average new church gains most of its new members (60-80%) from the [unchurched population], while churches over 10-15 years of age gain 80-90% of new members by transfer from other congregations." ¹ The National Church Life Survey statistics from Australia in 2011 show that 6% of people in existing churches weren't in church five years ago. But this figure was 33% in church plants. That's five times more effective at drawing in people who either have no history with church or who haven't been to church in a very long time².

Church planting is NEEDED

In Australia, the average membership of congregants in churches is aging and there is an urgent need to reach the next generation. The Church must prioritise planting more churches because the current landscape reveals a significant missional gap. Across Australia, church density is far from saturated, and existing congregations are struggling to engage their local communities. With nearly every denomination facing decline in both adherence and attendance, it is clear that the traditional models of church are struggling to effectively reach the population. New churches create fresh opportunities for gospel engagement, especially in areas where no vibrant or culturally relevant church exists. A second reason is the urgent demographic challenge. The average age of church members is steadily increasing, and many congregations are aging without successfully passing on the faith to the next generation. This creates a sustainability crisis—without younger believers being reached and disciplined, the Church faces long-term decline. New churches are uniquely positioned to engage emerging generations by adopting approaches,

¹ Timothy Keller, *Why Plant Churches*, Feb 2002, Cited June 2025. http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/Why_Plant_Churches-Keller.pdf

² Reach Australia, Cited June 2024. *Reach Australia - Why Start New Churches?*

language, and styles of worship that resonate more deeply with them, fostering new spiritual communities that are both intergenerational and future oriented. Finally, church planting represents a strategic investment in renewal and growth. While reviving struggling churches has value, it is often more effective to multiply new ones that are missionally focused, agile, and outward-looking. Church plants tend to be more evangelistic and dynamic, better equipped to innovate and connect with the unchurched. In a time when the Church faces cultural marginalisation and spiritual disengagement, planting new churches is not optional—it is essential for revitalising the mission and expanding God’s kingdom in a changing world. By planting churches, we open fresh doors for gospel transformation in communities where people may never walk into the churches we already have.

3. WHY CHURCH PLANTING AT MACQUARIE PARK?



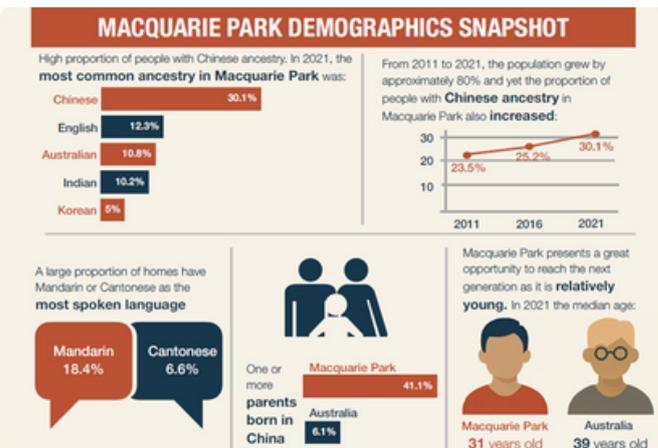
We have in Macquarie Park/North Ryde, an incredible Gospel opportunity. With it’s proximity to a major university, a research hospital, a large business district, the completion of the metro stations and the renovated shopping centre, Macquarie Park/Park has attracted significant residential and commercial developments. There are many more approved large developments that will attract more than 2400 families into the area, transform Macquarie Park into a significant business district and will improve public space to help integrate work-life balance, wellness, and community. All this new development has seen a steady increase in the population, much of whom have a Chinese background.

HIGH & GROWING CHINESE POPULATION

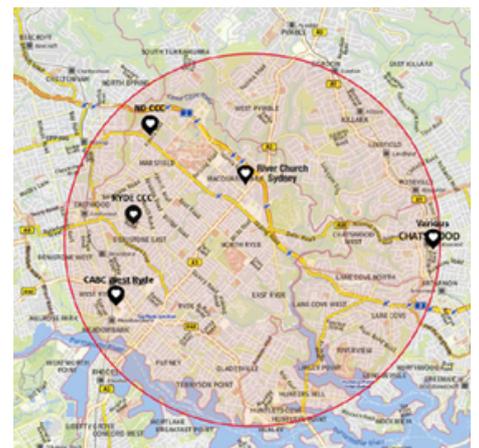
CCC with a history of building Chinese Christian communities is well positioned to respond to this Gospel opportunity. The Snapshot 1 of demographic (ABS) helps us see the opportunities for significant gospel work to Chinese in the area.

FEW CHINESE CHURCHES IN THE AREA

What makes a church plant more urgent and compelling is that there are very few Chinese churches in North Ryde. The Snapshot 2 shows a 5km radius from North Ryde with the nearest Chinese churches. An important Gospel opportunity awaits a new Chinese church in the area!



Snapshot 1



Snapshot 2

4. VISION & MISSION

VISION - What We See

A healthy, relevant multi-generational Chinese church that will intentionally engage and reach the thousands of Chinese people living in the Macquarie Park/North Ryde region for generations to come.

MISSION - How We Get to What We See

To make disciples of Mandarin and English-speaking Asians living within 15 minutes travel time of Macquarie Park:

- engaging with them by making contact and making friends
- evangelising them by proclaiming Gospel of Jesus Christ to them
- establishing them by providing a loving community they can belong to and teaching them to learn and grow in knowledge and faith in Jesus, and
- empowering them to live for Jesus Christ and share their faith

so that they would be sent out to make more disciples. “Making disciples who make disciples”

For a more detailed plan of how we hope to establish this church plant, please click the following link to download the full plan: <http://tiny.cc/MQPCHURCHPLANT>



A Growing Ministry – English Uni-Students & Young Adults Ministry

FYA (Fellowship of Young Adults) is a growing ministry of around 30–35 young adults, ranging from first-year university students to those in the early years of their careers. We meet every Wednesday night at church for a time of Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. These gatherings are the heartbeat of our community—where we open God’s Word together, encourage one another in prayer, and share life in genuine friendship.

Our vision is to see young adults grow deep in their faith and become mature disciples of Jesus who are grounded in Scripture, committed in prayer, and equipped to share the gospel naturally in everyday life. Whether it’s learning how to read the Bible with others, having gospel conversations at university or work, or praying boldly for those who don’t yet know Christ, FYA exists to help our generation live out their faith with confidence and conviction.

We also recognise that this season of life comes with transitions and challenges. FYA supports young adults as they navigate the shift from student to worker and learn how to honour God in areas like career, relationships and financial responsibility. Through teaching, mentoring and shared experience, we want to equip our members to follow Jesus not just on Sundays, but in every aspect of their lives.



Importantly, FYA is not just about individual growth, but about building a strong and welcoming community where young adults can belong, be known, and be supported. We want to be a place where people encounter Jesus, grow in their love for Him, and are sent out to live and serve wherever God has placed them. Our hope is to raise a generation of young adults who love Jesus, love the church, and live with purpose in a complex and changing world.

A New Chapter – Cantonese University Ministry!

For many years, the Cantonese university ministry lay dormant, as we saw very few university students joining the service. Since January 2024, our Cantonese Diaconate and pastors have been earnestly seeking God’s guidance and praying for the development of our young people’s ministry.



And our Lord has responded! Between February and April 2024, three young people began attending the Cantonese service. Two of them were students from the University of Sydney! Seizing this opportunity, Rev. Nathan Chan has begun reaching out to students on the Sydney University campus, specifically connecting with the Cantonese Student Fellowship. Through this fellowship, he has been able to build relationships with more university students.

In May 2024, a youth group officially formed with one male and three female university students. Though small in number, they built solid relationships through bi-weekly Bible studies. We witnessed God’s faithfulness as their regular attendance grew to 6-7 individuals within six months of this initiative.

Thanks to God’s continued guidance, this group blossomed. Since April 2025, the youth group has developed into a fellowship, comprising both university students and young workers. We named this new community: the “Youth Vessel Fellowship“ (YVF)! The mission of YVF is firmly rooted in scripture: Philippians 2:15-16 and Colossians 1:28. Our aim is to grow together as God’s vessels, shining brightly in the world, holding fast to the truth, and ultimately leading more people to the Lord.



We now have an average of 12 attendees at each gathering! It is especially encouraging to see these young believers showing a passion to deepen their faith and to serve the church. They have recently begun leading worship in singing and serving morning tea. Some of them are regular participants in our Adult Sunday School.

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In June, a committee of four members was officially formed to support the fellowship’s further development. This committee is involved in planning programs and providing care for new members.

Please join us in prayer for the YVF! These passionate young people have many non-believing friends within their university circles. We earnestly pray that God will powerfully use this fellowship as a beacon to witness the salvation of our Lord Jesus, and that through their lives and witness, He will bring many more young people into the family of God.

God's Abundant Blessing - Mandarin International Student Ministry

The Cedarwood Fellowship (International Student Ministry) began in 2017, sparked by Rev. Jeff Wang's heartfelt vision and deep concern for the international students who had been consistently joining our service. Under Rev. Wang's leadership, alongside Pastor Dong and several dedicated



co-workers, Cedarwood Fellowship was formed with a clear focus: to provide care and companionship specifically for our international student community.

Over the past eight years, we have profoundly experienced God's faithfulness and grace. We've been blessed to witness His remarkable works and blessings unfold through this vital ministry.

One of the most incredible testimonies has been seeing groups of international students come to faith in Jesus and experience life transformation. Many of them, after graduating, have obtained Australian permanent residency and chosen to stay in Sydney. Their faith has continued to deepen, and they are now faithfully serving CCC as deacons, worship chairpersons, Sunday school teachers, and in many other areas.

We are especially thankful to the Lord for continually leading so many wonderful students to our church! And our gratitude extends to the uncles and aunties in our congregation for their incredible love and care. Rev. Wang, his wife, and many other brothers and sisters have lovingly prepared delicious homemade meals for the students. This act of kindness truly helps them feel at home in a foreign land.

In the past year (2024-2025), God has been preparing more than fifty newcomers to join either our Sunday service or the Cedarwood Fellowship. Among them, we joyfully celebrated the baptisms of two brothers and sisters!



Currently, a vibrant group of 20-30 individuals regularly attend our Fellowship every Friday night. The group includes international students and young professionals with an international student background. Our gatherings are a time of warm fellowship, beginning with a shared meal, followed by worship in songs, Bible study, and small group prayer.

As international students complete their studies, their journeys diverge: some continue their education in the

United States or the United Kingdom, others find employment in different Australian cities, and many return to their home countries like China. No matter where their paths lead, we are committed to staying in touch with them. We continually encourage them to root themselves in a local church, to become gospel witnesses, and to bless their local communities wherever they go.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will deepen our young people's faith in a world that is filled with many distractions. We also lift up the many students who have not yet come to believe in Jesus. We pray that the Lord will use this ministry to help more people know His unfailing love and truth, leading them to come to Christ.

“So that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” (Psalm 67:2)



Baptism Testimonies

Introduction

Last year, we witnessed the public faith declaration of 3 of our youths through the water baptism. Arielle, Alyse and Sophia who are active attendees of our Foundation Youth (FY) fellowship made a commitment to be followers of Jesus, and the entire church rejoiced with them. For those that have missed out on witnessing the baptism, we have included an abridged version of their testimony. We hope these personal accounts serve as a reminder that we are called to serve one another, especially supporting our young people as they journey with our Lord.

Arielle

I was very fortunate to grow up in a Christian family. Every week, I would go to church and attend Sunday school, which I always saw as an opportunity to play games and hang out with friends. Although I enjoyed Sunday school and learning about different Bible stories greatly, I never saw the true importance of God's word and thought that reading the Bible and being familiar with the stories in it was what made a good Christian, rather than really speaking to Him and connecting with Him through the Bible.

In primary school, I always referred to myself as a Christian; it was an assumption as I went to church consistently and my parents and many relatives were Christian. However, it was in late primary school where I started to see that, although I went to a Christian school, many of my friends and peers came from non-Christian families. Furthermore, high school brought feelings of confusion and sometimes disobedience for God's word, as I was being exposed to atheist views and the normalisation of different genders and sexualities in daily life through social media and friends at school.

This exposure sometimes led me to believe that those opinions and views were normal and expected by the world, and didn't necessarily go against God's word. This was also a time when we started talking about these topics more in FY, which encouraged me to start thinking over what I had initially thought about them and made clear what the Bible said regarding them. While understanding more about God's word helped me to begin to build a real relationship with Him, I had not yet put my full trust and faith in Him but had begun learning that the trials I endure in the world are not in my control, but in the Lord's. I experienced an evident turning point at KEC (Katoomba Easter Convention) where God's love and grace was made evident to me in the lyrics of the songs that we were singing there. The lyrics were portraying a very real punishment that I could only avoid if I put my faith in Christ. Through the fellowship in worship that I took part in with other Christian high schoolers, as well as meeting other Christian high schoolers, I was encouraged by the importance of community in the Christian life to bring me closer to God.

I am grateful that God's grace has provided me with family and friends that have supported me in my journey of becoming a Christian and helped me to understand that I do not need to be a 'perfect' Christian in order to be baptised, and that I can continue to grow my relationship with God with my brothers & sisters in Christ, and help others who do not know God yet to grow in their faith.

Alyse

Growing up in a Christian family, I was fortunate to have the whole gospel presented to me from a young age. However, as a child, I hadn't fully understood the deeper implications of my faith or what it truly meant to have a personal relationship with God. I prioritised many things over the belief I held, a faith driven more by feelings and surface knowledge.

It was during high school that God mercifully revealed Himself and demonstrated His persistent love. I began asking deeper questions about what I believed and why. It was during high school that God mercifully revealed Himself and demonstrated His persistent love. I began asking deeper questions about what I believed and why. Though I desired a genuine relationship with God, my heart wasn't fully open, and space wasn't always made to truly invite Him in. Though over time, it became clear that God is always near, patiently waiting to be welcomed.

Even so, baptism was a way of dedicating my life to Him, but walking with Him daily is what helps that dedication grow.



Sophia

Growing up in a Christian family, I was always surrounded by a Christian community whether it was at home, church or school. This was my "normal".

However, I slowly came to realise that I was living in my own 'bubble' and that this wasn't what the world truly looked like. In high school, everyone around me seemed to be preoccupied with such different values and opinions to myself; people who prioritised their wealth, appearance, reputation, and chased after others' validation and attention. All of a sudden, it wasn't 'normal' to be Christian, it wasn't easy to be Christian... and I started to question whether I wanted to call myself a Christian at all. I felt so isolated and out of place. I kept asking myself, "Why would I want to associate myself with something that is hated by others?"

But it was really in the midst of all these doubts, that God worked in me. The first time I truly experienced God's presence was at KYCK in April 2023. The speaker was preaching on the book of Mark, and he explained that the true problem of our sin was relational, not behavioural. In other words, it wasn't about what we did or how bad we are, but it's how we've rejected God and put ourselves on the throne... choosing me over Him. He went on to say how, as Christians, we don't belong on earth, but our home is with God in Heaven.

This message really struck me because it made me realise how I had been putting myself on the throne and convincing myself that I could control what happens in my life. I believed Satan's lie that chasing after earthly things would fulfil my life and, in this, I had been prioritising my personal glory, success and gain... it was all about me. Except, I can't save myself. There's nothing that I can do that will save me from the wrath of God. Yet God, in his great mercy and love for us, sent His one and only son, Jesus, to die for my sins, so that I may be declared righteous in the eyes of God. It's only because of Jesus' death and resurrection that I can live without constantly bearing the weight of my sin but live with joy knowing that I may never be good enough, but that's ok because Jesus was good enough. To me this is a truth that's worth sacrificing for and knowing that God is always with me gives me the confidence to push through hate and other distractions that pull me away from what really matters.

As I've started to see more of how God really works in my life, I've realised how God has a plan for me and He puts me through trials and times of hardship for good purposes. Not only does it build endurance and character as said in Romans 5:3-5, but it strengthens my faith and draws me nearer to God. I realise now that being a Christian isn't about having all the answers, or being the perfect sinless person, but it's surrendering control over my life, taking up my cross and choosing Jesus.