

August 2025 EDITION

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CHURCH MAINTENANCE MINISTRY



By Elder David Chan

A Spirit of Stewardship in Action

It is a God-given mandate for Adam—and now for us—to tend and maintain His creation. Just as the tribe of Levi cared for the Tabernacle and Temple, we too are called to faithfully steward the resources entrusted to us.

Maintenance, by nature, isn't a one-time fix but an ongoing commitment. Proactive upkeep is far more effective than emergency repairs. Regular inspections and timely intervention help prevent costly breakdowns and disruptions.

To minimise the impact on ministry activities, maintenance tasks are strategically broken down into manageable pieces. Our target is to complete essential works within 7 days between consecutive Sundays, ensuring our church spaces remain welcoming and functional.

Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers, much of this work happens quietly in the background. These efforts uphold and enhance the ministries of CCC, enabling full utilisation of church

facilities throughout the week. They also nurture fellowship and a shared sense of belonging among brothers and sisters, and build up friendships with the community.



Walking the Grounds with Vision

On 17 June 2025, a walk-through of our church buildings was conducted by Russel, Daniel, David, and Frankie. These periodic reviews—ideally occurring every three months—are essential for early detection of issues.

- Russel brings invaluable historical knowledge of the church facilities.
- Daniel contributes technical expertise and insight.
- David serves as maintenance team convenor and liaison to the Board of Elders.
- Frankie actively follows up on quotations, oversees work



implementation, and is on-site for facility management and to manage the contractors.

🔧 Maintenance Projects in Progress

Several urgent issues require attention, particularly concerning the rainwater system:

1. Replacement of roof flashing is underway.



2. Water leakage stains have been there for a while and must be resolved.

3. Gutters, downpipes, and drains require regular inspection and cleaning.

4. Rainwater must be redirected away from the stone wall to prevent damage.



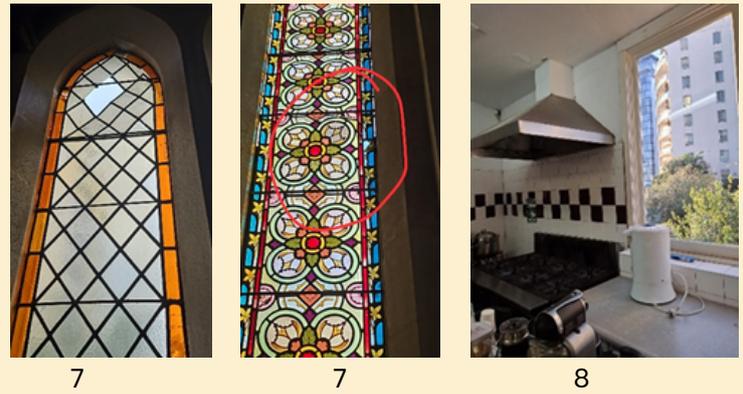
Other works in planning:

5. The chapel's external wall and its drainage system has been replaced.



6. Balcony concerns at the Education Centre—including canopy gutters, concrete cancer, and railings—are under review.

7. Stained glass pieces in the main church need specialist restoration due to their heritage status.



8. The kitchen exhaust fan is set for replacement.

🙏 Let Us Pray Together

Thank God for the provision of a \$50,000 budget for the 2025 works. We pray this becomes a standing 5% of the annual budget going forward.

These challenges deserve spiritual support:

- That more brothers and sisters join the maintenance ministry.
- For wisdom and courage to act quickly on requests and quotations.
- That more contractors step forward to partner with CCC.
- And discernment when only one quotation is received.

In all things, we trust God's guidance and provision. Amen.

🧱 Ready to Serve? Here's How You Can Help

Every willing hand makes a difference. Whether you're skilled in trade, enjoy organising, or simply want to lend a hand, **your participation matters.**

Step up and Be Part of This Ministry:

- **Reach out to join** the maintenance team
- **Help us monitor and report** wear and tear around the facilities
- **Volunteer your time or talents**—even a few hours a month go a long way

Together, let's steward God's house faithfully and foster deeper bonds within our church family. 🙏



Church Planting Survey Updates

A church-wide church planting survey was conducted on 13th July, and we would like to thank those who contributed.

We received a good response rate with a total of 329 responses received across the 3 congregations. The main results were generally positive. The readiness scored lower by comparison as many indicated unsure. This is understandable as we expect more time for our church members to digest all the information being made available. The church leadership will address this over the coming months. We were pleased to see that a majority of respondents were positive that the church is mission minded.

The Board of Elders discussed these results on 25th July and concluded that church planting in Macquarie Park will continue according to the ministry plan, starting from small groups, with English and Mandarin ministries first, and Cantonese ministry will join later when appropriate. Please continue to pray for God's guidance and leading in our church planting. For those who want to find out more information or want to be involved, please contact Rev Jeff and Rev Winston accordingly.



FOUNDATION YOUTH (FY) *by Rev Winston Mah*

What is FY? FY stands for Foundation Youth. It is the youth group for the whole of CCC. We meet every Friday night during school term.

• What is the vision and mission of FY?

Our Vision: FY exists for Youth to develop and share their trust in Jesus as a community in the most formative years of their life, and to grow Christian leaders for the future.

The mission of our Youth Ministry is to help our youth: "Believe, Belong, Branch"

Believe - Help the youth learn God's Word and understand how to read it for themselves, so that they may know and understand who God is and be able to navigate all the challenges and temptations in life and remain in Christ.

Belong - As much as possible help youth grow up together with all the other youth of the church and help them belong together as a community. The goal is that every youth will develop good

friends that will support and spur each other on during and beyond youth years.

Branch - Disciple and empower the youth for personal evangelism and create a safe and fun community for them to invite their friends to join them in a faith journey with them and help them belong to the youth community.

• What has been happening at FY this year?

God has been at work among our youth! Friday nights at FY are buzzing with energy, laughter, and hearts being shaped by Jesus! We are grateful for the many youth who have joined FY since the beginning of the year and have become an integral part of FY! Since February, we've averaged about 40 youth each week, and 13 new friends have joined us. Some of these visitors have found their belonging in the FY community! One new youth came for three weeks in a row. At first, she was quiet and finding her place, and now she's laughing with others and praying in her small group. That's

just one super encouraging example! Praise God for making FY a place of welcome! Every Friday night we either have a Bible talk or have a small group discussion. One highlight of our teaching series was hearing Mike Lee, one of our missionaries, to share his story of how he became a missionary in China and the challenges and the ministry he had. His sharing inspired youth to see that mission isn't for "special Christians"—it's for all of us!

We also run different events every term. These events are opportunities for the youth to invite their friends to come to FY and share their faith with them. One of these events was the June 27 Evangelistic Night. Ryan Seeto tackled, "In a world with so much suffering, how can we say there is a good God?" Following the talk we had an extensive Q&A time and the youth were very engaged and asked some very important



and relevant questions.

• **Prayer and Praise**

We would love your prayers for all the youth. Pray that they would each come to know God personally for themselves and receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Pray also for the FY leaders for strength and energy and love to pour into the youth every Friday night.

Thank you to all parents for your partnership! Thank you for carpooling youth to FY and back home and thanks for all the delicious suppers! We praise God for a joyful and vibrant youth community.



We kicked off Term 3 on 25 July! If you are in high school, you are always welcome to join us! For

more information you can contact **Rev Winston Mah on 0403113657.**

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN GROWTH **- The Journey of the 9am Youth Ministry**

By Pastor Anita Chan

A New Ministry

The 9am Youth Ministry was born out of the restructuring of our three English-speaking congregations into one unified ministry. In the midst of this transition, we are deeply thankful for the faithfulness of a few Cantonese parents who stepped forward to care for our youth, supported by Pastor Thomas and Pastor Anita. Their willingness to serve was the seed God used to begin something new.

A Growing Community

By God's grace, the ministry has not only endured—it has grown. We are currently journeying with 10 junior high students, 8 senior high students, and 3 university students whom also being trained as leaders. Each week, we run a simple Bible study to help our youth grow in their knowledge of God, deepen their love for Christ, and learn to care for others. We also hold a monthly youth-led worship service, where young people are encouraged to learn, serve, and actively participate in the worship experience. It has been a joy to see them grow in confidence, faith, and responsibility.

Transforming Lives

During the early years, we saw the departure of some students for various reasons, but we have also witnessed something far greater: lives transformed by the gospel. In April this year, seven of our youth were baptized—a powerful and joyful reminder that God is at work, even though fragile beginnings.

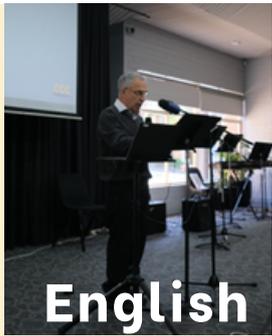


The Challenge of Belonging

As our youth continue to grow, we now face a new challenge—helping them develop a deep sense of belonging within CCC and connecting them meaningfully with the wider church body. The Cantonese congregation has hosted five bilingual services each year to foster intergenerational worship, and while these are a good start, we see the need for more consistent spiritual mentoring, stronger cross-congregational relationships, and regular opportunities for our youth to participate in Holy Communion alongside mature believers.

Faithfully Sowing and trusting

Still, we remain full of hope. We trust that our Lord, who has begun this good work, will continue to guide and provide. We believe with all our hearts that He will neither leave nor forsake these young disciples. His Spirit will teach, shape, and use them in ways beyond what we can imagine. As parents, leaders, and a church family, we are called to faithfully sow, water, and pray—trusting that in His perfect time, God will bring the growth.



English Houseparty 2025

Joy in God and Joy in Each Other

By Angie Sutanto

“Joy in God and Joy in Each Other“ – how good is that! With this theme in mind, the English Houseparty Committee came together in one spirit to work out the logistics so that everyone can have a safe and blessed time together.

Fellowship and Unity

101 people were registered full time at the Houseparty and our biggest attendance day was Saturday with 140 people joining us on that day. We are thankful to the Lord for bringing so many of us together for the event.

Talking about food – we seemed to be eating all the time! The meals were well prepared and hearty. It appears that the “hero“ in the dining room was the hot drinks machine that seemed to tirelessly produce endless cups of coffee and hot chocolate for us to enjoy. We were treated with freshly baked cakes and cookies for morning and afternoon tea out on the veranda. We had a good time chatting, enjoying the sunshine and fresh air despite some annoying birds trying to join in the fun.

Many who were at the Houseparty had a great time catching up with one another. We ate together, shared rooms and cabins together and tried to out beat each other during the “All In Fun” games time together. During free time, a group of us, especially those who are “young at heart“ were also able to enjoy a walk along the beach and appreciate God’s beautiful creation, whilst others enjoyed some sport or a good sleep.

The Prayer and Praise night was amazing as many felt united in the bond of love towards God and each other. Overall, it was so beautiful to see the young and the old interact with each other over meals and activities in a joyful and relaxed manner.



Joy in Philippians

Since the theme for this year’s Houseparty was “Joy in God and Joy in Each Other“, our speaker Phil Nicholson, shared with us from the book of Philippians. Phil reminded us of the following:

- Joy comes in the hard work we do in building up relationships
- Paul’s joy was not situational, but relational
- Joy is a mark of true salvation.

In our group discussions, we were challenged to take a closer look at our walk with God and to follow Paul’s example to live a life that is marked with joy despite our circumstances.

Taken together, we found joy in God and joy in each other after spending a wonderful weekend together – **All glory be to God!**



Introduction:

We're excited to share a beautiful moment from our Cantonese Easter Sunday service on 20 April 2025! It was a privilege to witness seven young people publicly declare their faith in Christ through baptism. In our last edition, we shared three of their inspiring testimonies. We are delighted to bring you more in this issue.

Jaiden Lau

The Roots of My Faith

Being born into a Christian family, my identity as a Christian has been shaped for as long as I can remember. My parents instilled into me the importance of God from the get go, often going through the exciting stories of David and Goliath and the miracles of Jesus, things that my young mind found fascinating as stories even if I hadn't grasped their true meaning yet. I was told to pray before food and my dad or mum often sat with me to pray with me and I would do all these things, but it wasn't until later that I understood how important these things were and their significance in my life.

The Power of Prayer

Oftentimes, I experienced the power of prayer when my mum prayed for a parking spot before church and found one or when a family member was sick and prayer helped to heal them. God's answer to these always came about quite quickly, but others were slower. Since I was quite young, I had been praying for my mum's father, who wasn't a Christian for a long time, and it wasn't until around 2 years ago that he finally believed, which is an awesome show of God's power.



A Conscious Decision

As a young child in the church, the decision to go every day was often an unconscious one, of going to waking up early to go to church as my dad did choir early and hanging out with friends. I'm sure many of my Sunday School teachers remember my friends and I being rowdy and often just being a nuisance instead of sitting and listening properly. It wasn't until around year 7 or 8 that going to church became a more conscious rather than unconscious decision. Entering high school meant that I was far more independent, often left on my own to figure things out, and the more I looked around me, the more I realised how important Jesus needed to be in my life.

The Influence of Friends

However, I still didn't fully grasp the full breadth and depth of the importance of Christianity. This ultimately came around during Year 10-11 at High school where many people at school started hooking up with others and drinking a lot. I was fortunate enough to have a good group of Christian friends who I had been going to Friday youth with since year 5 who didn't do many of these things and instead focused more on Jesus. I believe that these friends were very influential in my Christian faith, especially seeing how some of them like me were born into a Christian family and how others, who were not learnt to love Jesus and are now going to church on Sundays. I often prayed for my friends in hopes that they would turn to God and when they did, I knew that God's love had touched them in one way or another,

A Struggle with Discipline

While I didn't have an "aha" epiphany, I did start to try and put my focus more on God and tried to do things for God instead of for myself. For example, one of the key areas in which I struggle is discipline in studying, often wanting to read a book or watch YouTube instead, not really studying until a day before the test. This was fine until around year 11 when subjects started getting more difficult, and I couldn't get good marks like I once had. Once I made the decision to follow God and put him as number 1, this often became a lot easier. That's not to say it was always easy. To this day, I sometimes still struggle with discipline, and during these times, I understand the power of prayer to strengthen myself through the Holy Spirit, not the strength of my own will.

Joshua Lau

Understanding My Christian Identity

For me, being a Christian means having faith in God and believing in his sending of his son Jesus to die for us, sacrificing himself to bear the weight of our sins, making us clean and able to have a relationship with God, meaning, when we die, we can have eternal life with God in Heaven.

The Normalization of Faith

However, this was not always my understanding of being a Christian. Growing up in a Christian family, I attended church and Sunday school every week, regularly prayed, praised God and was surrounded by a very Christian environment because of my parents. I am very grateful for this as it helped me to develop a very strong foundational knowledge of the bible including the stories and general foundational



Changing My Habits

While I am still learning as a Christian the basic habits of reading the bible in the morning, praying before meals and before bed and reading the bible with family still hasn't changed, yet the ways I go around these habits have changed. Before making a conscious decision to follow Christ, reading the bible was something that I didn't want to do in the morning, and when I did, I read the passage and forgot it almost instantaneously. Now, I try to read and digest the content, seeking to find somewhere in my life where this knowledge can be applied, and I do my best to act in accordance with the bible. Praying has also changed from being something I spurt out before going to bed to trying to find something to thank God for and trying to pray for relevant topics instead of a memorised prayer.



characteristics of Christianity. However, in my early years, these repeated actions led to an almost normalisation of Christianity where everything became habits rather than a meaningful act of growing my Christian faith.

Expanding My Horizons

During high school, I expanded my Christian activities to a weekly ISCF group at school as well as joining the FY youth group here at church on Friday nights. Previously, I had only done Christian things at home and at church on Sunday and having these additional events outside of that opened me up not only to more Christians from a wide variety of backgrounds but also enriched me with different perspectives outside of church and home. However, during early school, I still wasn't a very devoted Christian and still treated these events as routines rather than having a personal willingness to attend.

A Deeper Understanding

Reflecting on my own experiences as a Christian, I think I began properly understanding what it meant to be a Christian around Year 10 in High School. During this time, I was maturing mentally, changing from a goofy and hyperactive child to a more controlled teenager. Because of this, I think I was able to seriously reflect upon my own life and began to take Christianity more seriously. As such, my ISCF group at school became more important as my leaders demonstrated through their actions what it meant to be a Christian at my age. Furthermore, as I became a student leader at ISCF during Year 11, my faith was strengthened through a deeper understanding of the bible and thought-provoking discussions during our bible studies. I was also “forced” to grow in my faith due to my new role as a leader which created a desire within me to be able to respond to questions my students asked.

The Importance of Routine

Nowadays, since year 12, time has been tight due to an increased workload from school and

extracurricular activities. Ironically, routines have now become vital in my relationship with God. By creating routines, I have time for my Uni Christian group, church and daily devotions as well as regular prayer. Unlike my childhood, this has nurtured my faith as this regularity ensures I am shaping my life around God and my faith as well as ensuring I can regularly connect with God and other Christians, creating consistent spiritual growth.

A Journey of Faith

Although I don't think I had an extremely significant 180 turnaround as others might've had, I think my journey was a slow process over my entire life starting with my family, then the church and the people around me. My choice to be baptised is a result of my whole journey as a Christian and comes from the confidence in my belief that comes from the Holy Spirit. I am often comforted by the latter half of James 2 which reminds us, we are not saved by works but instead, we are saved by God's grace and we cannot earn it, it is given to us although works can be a sign of faith.

