

# THE MESSENGER

CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

OCT 2025 EDITION

## EDITOR NOTES

This edition highlights the vibrant heart of our church community. We warmly introduce you to Jeannette Kuswadi, a beloved long-standing member whose journey offers a testament of faithful living. Alongside her story, you'll discover more about our Senior Ministry. We are also pleased to present an overview of our Line Dancing Ministry, a wonderful way to connect and stay active.

## A LIFE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

*Submitted by Elder Jason Foo*



Jeannette Kuswadi or fondly known as Auntie Jeannette celebrated her 80th birthday recently. Jeannette is passionate about global mission and God's witness to the nations, and she is also an OMF Australia national council member. Trix Wilkins from OMF Australia recently featured Auntie Jeannette in the Billions magazine. We decided to republish an extract from the article to encourage CCC members to serve God and reach out to the nations with the Gospel (summarised by Jason Foo). To read the full transcript of the interview, please refer to the article published by OMF. <https://omf.org/au/a-lifetime-of-gods-faithfulness/>

### *A Life Rooted in Faith*

- **Early Life & Conversion:** Born in China in 1945 into a Christian family, Jeannette moved to Australia as a child. Her personal commitment to Jesus began at a Billy Graham crusade in 1959, where she learned salvation comes through grace, not good deeds.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Her faith was nurtured through communities like Chinese Presbyterian Church, Overseas Christian Fellowship (OCF), and Evangelical Union at Sydney University. Influential mentors and missionaries, including Eric Norgate

and the writings of Hudson Taylor, deepened her trust in prayer and God's provision.

### *Marriage & Ministry*

- **Partner in Faith:** Jeannette met Jim Kuswadi at OCF in 1970. Their relationship blossomed through shared ministry and correspondence, leading to engagement and marriage in 1972. Jim served in Indonesia with Perkantas, and Jeannette joined him in mission work despite cultural and financial challenges.
- **Life in Indonesia:** Encouraged by OMF missionaries and inspired by biographies of CIM pioneers, Jeannette found strength in prayer and perseverance during difficult seasons abroad.

### *Faith Through Trials*

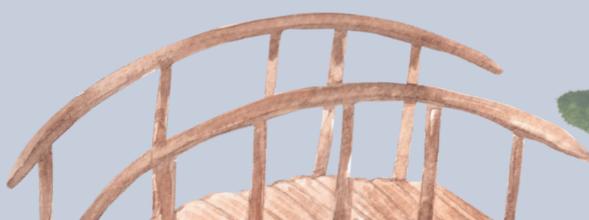
- **Family & Finances:** Jeannette experienced God's provision when Uncle Jim decided to go into business. She witnessed God's faithfulness and answers to her prayers in her children's schooling and having to be careful with family finances. The children had hand me down toys and clothes.
- **Loss & Comfort:** The death of their first son, Daniel after a perfect pregnancy was a profound sorrow. Yet Jeannette felt God's peace and support through prayer and caring friends.

### *A Legacy of Prayer & Service*

- **Prayer Warrior:** Jeannette has witnessed countless answers to prayer—from prayer for more men believers in Thailand to restored missionaries. Her involvement with Bible Study Fellowship and OMF's national council has allowed her to support and encourage others in their faith journeys.
- **Enduring Faith:** Reflecting on over 60 years as a follower of Jesus, Jeannette celebrates God's unwavering faithfulness, mercy, and provision in both ordinary and extraordinary moments.

### *Aunty Jeannette's tips for those preparing to serve*

- Pray first about everything and keep praying. Sometimes I offer to do something then when it gets hard, the enemy tempts me to think I shouldn't have offered! Pray for the Lord to give you His joy to serve and He does.
- It's not always going to be easy. Make sure that you know it is God's will and He will enable you when the circumstances become tough.
- Missionaries are normal Christians. Know you'll need to see God's trustworthiness proved in Australia, because your problems on the field will be harder.
- Invite missionaries to lunch—it means a lot. I was really encouraged last year after lunch at our home with a couple when the wife said, "Please don't stop inviting missionaries to lunch."
- "Just turn up" for mission events. Your presence is an encouragement to others. Go to conferences, prayer groups, 'regular' OMF events.
- Commit each day to the Lord, asking Him to bless those you will be in contact with. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guard your thoughts, feelings, words and actions.
- When you have problems, trust God. I suffer from idiosyncratic sleep apnoea, from which God hasn't healed me. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 reminds me to trust God through all the problems of life.
- Seek to live a life that honors Jesus, then there is nothing to fear. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)



# SENIOR CITIZEN GROUP MINISTRY

By Pastor Caroline Dong

## Our Vision and Mission

The Senior Citizen Group serves elderly members of the community. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the CCC church hall. This ministry was initiated over 30 years ago by a group of sisters in Christ from CCC. Today, it is supported and run by co-workers from different CCC congregations, former CCC members, and council volunteers. All volunteers meet the requirements set by the government for community service.

The vision of this ministry is to be a blessing to the community by sharing the love of Jesus through caring for Chinese-speaking seniors. In partnership with the Crows Nest Centre, this ministry is open to the wider community. Most of the attendees speak either Mandarin or Cantonese. Some are believers from CCC and other churches, while others are seekers or non-believers.



## Programs and Activities

- Each gathering begins with the singing of hymns, followed by a variety of programs such as health talks and seasonal celebrations. Four bus outings are also arranged throughout the year. We are grateful that during special occasions like Easter and Christmas, we invite church pastors to share the Gospel message. Brothers and sisters also bear witness to God's work in their lives, and many seekers are encouraged to attend Sunday worship.

## Gratitude and Fellowship

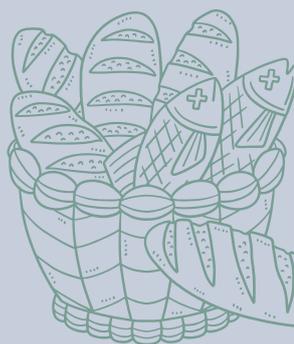
- We thank the Lord for His abundant provision and for the faithful service of brothers and sisters from various congregations. Their dedication in preparing delicious lunches and refreshments for each gathering has deeply encouraged us and created a warm, joyful space for seniors to connect. May the Lord continue to lead us, so that this ministry may be a beautiful testimony of God's love in the community.



## Prayer Points:

- We thank God that some of our neighbors have come to know the church through this ministry in the past year. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in the hearts of the elderly seekers, drawing them closer to our Lord and God.
- Many of our co-workers have served faithfully in this ministry for over 10 or even 20 years. May the Lord accept their offering, watch over them, and bless them with good health.

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." —Ephesians 3:20–21*



# CANTONESE EDEN FELLOWSHIP

By Rev Victor Yeung

## *Nurturing Faith in Later Years*

The Eden Fellowship has a rich history spanning many years. Our core mission is to nurture the spiritual lives of our senior members. Our approach to the participants is encapsulated in this motto: **"PICK HIM/HER UP; HOLD HIM/HER UP; BUILD HIM/HER UP."**

Our gatherings are held on the first Saturday of every month, starting at 3:15 PM. We begin with a time of fellowship over the refreshments, followed by a worship. Then, we dedicate about half an hour into spiritual devotion, led by the minister, before moving into our special program item. We meet in the chapel at Milsons Point church.

Our fellowship is guided by the goals of spiritual growth and evangelism, with a particular emphasis on the devotion segment. In the past year or two, our devotion topics have included:

1. **Concise Theology**
2. **Devotional Studies**
3. **Missions Information and Sharing**

Handouts are provided for each study.

Apart from the devotions, our special programs and activities include health talks, legal knowledge sharing, Baduanjin exercises, and Praise Aerobics. Each gathering typically sees around 20-25 attendees. After the fellowship, we usually enjoy dinner together at a nearby restaurant.



Our members are also consistently involved in the church's Sunday morning prayer meetings. For many years, we have truly lived out the spirit of "brothers dwell in unity" (Psalm 133).



## *Challenges and Future Focus*

Our main challenge over the years has been a shortage of leaders. We are in need of committed, down-to-earth, and consistently responsible group leaders. We earnestly hope that younger members from within the church will step forward to assist us. Generally speaking, leaders and workers for senior fellowships don't necessarily have to be seniors themselves, so we ask for the church's attention and prayers in this regard.

Looking ahead to the coming year, our focus will be on **re-evaluating and refining the quality of our members' lives**. Our goal is to strive towards ensuring that everyone possesses a born-again life, as this is the solemn command of the Lord Jesus (John 3:5-7). Only a truly born-again life can love the Lord and others without regret, serve with enduring patience and without complaint, and remain steadfast through life's storms. In terms of teaching, we aim to establish a correct understanding of God, and to convey the Gospel message so that more lives can be transformed.

*"So even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come." (Psalm 71:18).* This is the fervent prayer and vow of us, a group of people who have reached our twilight years, to our God.

# CANAAN FELLOWSHIP - CANTONESE SENIORS MINISTRY

By Yin Yin Tsao-Wong

## I. Grace in Illness, Resolve to Serve

In 2023, I was critically ill, on the verge of death. Yet, God's gracious hand rescued me from the valley of the shadow of death. Having experienced this rebirth, I resolved: for the rest of my life, I must bear witness for the Lord and commit myself to service, in repayment for God's life-saving grace. I firmly believe that God preserved my life for His beautiful purpose.

## II. Team Restructuring, Serving with One Heart

In early 2024, the Canaan Fellowship was reorganized. I am grateful to Elder Mark Herron for inviting me to join this vibrant team. Our committee comprises both experienced seniors and energetic young co-workers:

- **Leader:** Elder Mark Herron
- **Committee Members:** Elsie Fung, Yvonne Au, Dora Yeung, Kelly Yeung, Yin Yin Tso
- **Pastors:** Rev Francis Fung, Rev Nathan Chan

With God's guidance, our team has grown from just a few individuals to its current size of forty to fifty people. We not only serve the seniors of the Cantonese congregation but have also attracted many senior friends from the Epping area.

## III. Diverse Ministries, Holistic Care

The vision of Canaan Fellowship is:

1. **Spiritual Nurturing:** Spreading the gospel, strengthening faith, encouraging service.
2. **Life Care:**
  - Health seminars (health talk, exercise guidance)
  - Technology instruction (mobile phone usage, photography skills)
  - Annual activities: two outings, four birthday parties, festival celebration (Moon Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Christmas and New Year celebrations etc).



**Creative Memorabilia:** Taking photos for seniors, making holiday greeting cards; editing short activity videos with music and narration after each gathering to preserve beautiful memories.

## IV. Practicing Love, Serving with Detail

We meet on the second Saturday of each month at Dunlop House in Epping. Considering the seniors' transportation challenges, co-workers proactively provide pick-up and drop-off services. Responding to requests, if there is a fifth Saturday in any month, we also hold additional activities.

## V. Seniors' Voices, Life Companionship

Many fellowship members' children and grandchildren are busy with life, unable to always be by their side. Coupled with rapid technological advancements, seniors often feel disconnected from the times and isolated at home. Canaan Fellowship is like a big family, allowing seniors to:

- Break free from loneliness and build social circles.
- Learn new things and regain confidence.
- Share their feelings among peers and spend their golden years together. Serving seniors requires immense patience: constant reminders, a slower pace, and always offering support. But seeing their radiant smiles makes all the effort worthwhile.

During gatherings, co-workers and fellowship members always meticulously prepare refreshments. What moves me mostly is that the seniors, knowing I need a low-salt diet, often specially prepare salt-free snacks for me. This love is sweet on the palate and even warmer in the heart.



*VI. Gratitude and Vision*

Hallelujah! May God continue to use Canaan Fellowship to be:

- **Salt of the earth** – seasoning the flavor of life.



- **Light of the world** – illuminating the path of the elderly.

May the Lord enable us, in this "beautiful land of Canaan," to continue bearing gospel fruit and glorifying His name!



# OUR LINE DANCING MINISTRY - A JOURNEY OF FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH

*From an Idea to a Ministry*

Back in October 2007, Pam from our church office suggested starting a line dancing class in the church hall. We gave it a go—and to our surprise, it was a hit! At our 2008 house party, line dancing became one of the highlights. Little did we know then that so many would be interested. Following the house party, we officially launched this as a ministry to bring together ladies from all our different congregations—giving us a chance to exercise, have fun, and share life together.



*A Community of Faith and Friendship*

Over the years, God has led us in new and meaningful directions. Today, most of our members are seniors over 60, coming from a rich variety of backgrounds—Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Taiwan. Though we live in different parts of Sydney—M.P., Chatswood, Hornsby, Riverwood, Berowra Heights, Alexandria, Strathfield, Doonnside etc—we are united through this group.

*By Kathy Chua*

We are deeply thankful that our church, CCC, continues to support us with the space and opportunity not just to exercise, but also to witness for Christ and nurture a community of care. We've built lasting friendships. When someone is unwell, we keep in touch and lift her up in prayer.

This Wednesday class has become something the ladies truly look forward to each week. And it doesn't stop at dancing—we often continue the fellowship over lunch, cherishing the joy of being together while spreading God's love by caring for one another.

A Note to the New Members: Unfortunately, for safety reasons, the class is currently full, and we are not accepting new members at this stage.

