

THE MESSENGER

CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NOV 2025 EDITION

EDITOR NOTES

This edition highlights the joy of fellowship in our church and the outreach work. From the inspiring stories of our English, Mandarin and Cantonese house groups, we see God at work in building community, nurturing faith, and deepening relationships. May these stories inspire you to connect, grow, and experience the richness of the fellowship of His church.

GROWING TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORD AND FELLOWSHIP

HILLS 2154 GROWTH GROUP (ENGLISH GG)

Author: Elder Frank Lee

Where and When We Meet

The English Ministry Small Group Program is called Growth Groups. I am privileged to look after a group located in the Castle Hill area, hence the name. We meet at North Rocks every Wednesday night from about 7:30 pm till about 10:00 pm, although we often run later because of the socialising we enjoy.

What We Do

We are a mixed gender group of 14 people who meet to study God's Word, pray together, and spend time living life together. Our yearly program usually spans February through to early December, loosely based on School terms, following the school term breaks to give everyone 2 weeks off between term blocks. We also enjoy social evenings like cooking, arts and crafts or playing board Games. The group loves to eat, so we also have been known to catch up over meals.

Who We Are

Our group is a broad mix of ages and life stages. My wife and I are the oldies, being 50-plus in age.

The rest of the group falls into the mid-20s to mid-30s age bracket. Our life stages include singles, recently married, married for a few years, and a young family with two children and an older couple.

Study and Apply the Truth

Our study program aims to cover an Old Testament book, a New Testament Book and a recommended book from the English Pastoral Team.



If we have odd weeks to cover, we may look at special topics or listen to encouraging podcasts, videos or sermons and then discuss them together.

As a group, we also like to get away on a weekend together and live in the same house altogether, enjoying the opportunity to share and have fun.



Our group faces the everyday challenges of all Christians, praying for friends and family to come to know Jesus, and individually trying to live godly lives as we serve God and live with other brothers and sisters to be a witness to God.

Prayer Points

If you would like to pray for my GG, here are some prayer points:

- Several of us have aging Parents and Grandparents who are not in the best of health, and we all pray that they accept Jesus as their saviour before it is too late.
- Pray we can apply what we have been learning about “Enjoying God” and studying from the Book of Daniel and Titus.
- Our young family recently added their second child in early August. Pray we can support them as they adjust to the change in their lives and praise God for the blessing of the addition in their family.

EIGHT JOYFUL YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

- MANDARIN LIVING SPRING FELLOWSHIP

Author: Chrystal Jing

Growing in Fellowship

Since its establishment in 2017, the Living Spring Fellowship has journeyed together for eight joyful years. The group is made up of several middle-aged couples with their children, meeting regularly on the third Saturday of each month.

Our gathering usually begins with a lovely feast—each family brings a dish to share. After the meal, the adults engage in Bible study, sharing, and prayer, while the children participate in their own fellowship activities.

We are especially grateful to God for the families who open their houses for the meetings. Apart from a brief period of online meetings during the pandemic, we have been consistently meeting in person. At each gathering, members enjoy God’s presence through the study of His Word. Through Bible study, shared meals, mutual care, and bearing one another’s burdens, our hearts have been closely knit together. Some members have shared: “Each gathering is filled with joy and gratitude; this is God’s precious grace to us.”

It's also encouraging that as parents, we have witnessed the growth of our children over the past eight years—they have grown from infants to primary school students, or from primary school to high school and university students. We thank God for His constant protection and care throughout the years.

Challenges and Solution

Choosing and preparing Bible study materials has always been a major challenge for us. We rotate to lead the Bible study. Many of us have not been trained to lead the study and have to learn through trial and error. While this approach has been a valuable training opportunity, we were concerned that we might make mistake in selecting materials or interpreting God's word. We are grateful to Rev. Wang for taking extra responsibility in guiding our Bible study. Beginning this year, small group leaders and the family designated to lead the study meet with the Minister for a pre-study session. This process not only ensures the correct interpretation of the bible passages but also serves as valuable training for the leaders.



Another challenge we face is that as the children grow older, their fellowship activities require more structured planning and spiritual guidance. Earlier, Pastor Shih noticed this need and has been praying and preparing to provide better assistance and support for the children's fellowship activities.



We are thankful for the care from the church ministers and pastors, which allows the Living Spring Fellowship to continue rooting itself in the truth. As the adults grow in faith, they also help the next generation establish a solid foundation in their spiritual lives.

Prayer and Vision

- Due to the space limitations of our host families, our fellowship has reached full capacity. We pray that God will raise up more leaders so that additional family groups can be established to support families in meeting their spiritual needs.
- The teenagers in the fellowship need guidance appropriate for their age and needs, so that they can be nurtured within a spiritual community and grow into future leaders and workers in the church.
- Over the past eight years, the fellowship has been more than just a series of meetings—it has been a journey walked together. There is laughter, prayer, and testimony. We are grateful to God for developing us in such a spiritual family. May God continue to use the Living Spring Fellowship to be a blessing to others.



CANTONESE HOUSE GROUP MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Author: Pastor Anita Chan

The Heart of House Group Ministry

*"How good and pleasant it is when
God's people live together in unity!"
(Psalm 133:1)*

House Groups are one of the most vital ministries in our Cantonese congregation. With 12 groups running strong (not including the two elderly fellowship groups), they have truly become the place where most of our people experience community, discipleship, and care. In fact, over 85% of our congregation is now part of a House Group or fellowship. This means House Groups are not only about Bible study and prayer but also about providing an essential structure for pastoral care. Month by month, groups have opened their homes—or gathered at Dunlop House in Epping—to edify each other through the Scripture, to share meals, pray for one another, and walk together through life's joys and challenges.



New Growth and Fresh Energy

This year, we had the joy of welcoming two newly formed groups: the Young Adults Group (YVF) and the Young Family Group (Jacob Group). Both are made up largely of recent migrants and overseas students. They have brought freshness and vibrancy to us, reminding us that our congregation is continually being renewed by God's gracious hand.

Alongside them, our other groups reflect the diverse seasons of life in our church family: young families with school-aged children, parents navigating the teenage and university years, and mature parents or early retirees with adult children. We are also blessed with functional groups—mothers' and men's groups—that faithfully serve both members and seekers. Of course, singles are also welcomed and integrated into several family groups. It is deeply encouraging to see how House Groups not only nurture faith within the church but also provide safe, welcoming spaces for newcomers and seekers to experience Christian community up close.

Gathering Places and Group Distinctives

Geographically, more than half of our groups meet in Epping, while the rest gather on the Lower North Shore, weaving this ministry naturally into the rhythms of where our people live and work. And while each group has its own flavour—some lively and bustling with children, others quieter and reflective—they all share the same heartbeat: to know Christ better and to love one another well.

Challenges, Growth, and Vision

Looking back, we see God's faithfulness in sustaining this ministry. Our leaders have carried heavy but joyful responsibilities, while members have supported one another in countless ways. The challenge of balancing care for long-term members while welcoming newer migrants has stretched us, but it has also grown us. As we look ahead to 2026, we hope to continue strengthening, equipping our leaders and developing more leaders. It is our desire to encourage every group to grow deeper in discipleship and broader in mission and remaining open to whatever new opportunities God places before us.

Above all, we give thanks to God for using our House Groups to weave together a community where faith is nurtured, friendships are deepened, and the love of Christ is made tangible in everyday life.

Perhaps the best evidence of this is simple: when you ask most of our people where they feel most connected, encouraged, and cared for, their answer is not a program or an event—but the living rooms and dining tables of their House Groups.



A NIGHT TO REACH OUT - CANTONESE HOTPOT NIGHT

Author: Freddie Fung

The Vision: An Evangelistic Outreach in Winter

Back in June this year, the Cantonese Board of Deacons proposed organizing an evangelistic outreach event during the cold month of August. It was later named: "Hotpot Night – A Night to Meet Friends."

A Warm Gathering on a Cold Night

This hotpot night took place on the evening of August 9, with around 100 people in attendance—among them, more than 30 were friends and family members who have not yet believed in Christ.

Since the purpose of the hotpot was evangelistic outreach, and due to venue limitations, we could only accept registrations of the church members and their non-Christian families and friends. We wished we could accommodate the entire Cantonese congregation.

An Overwhelming Response

Once the plan was confirmed, our pastor encouraged the congregation to invite their non-believing friends and family members.

Although we initially anticipated 60 to 80 participants, we ended up exceeding that estimate with nearly 100 people attending.

Practical Challenges: Equipment and Food Preparation

Hotpot requires cooking appliances—and where would we find enough stoves for 100 people? It was no small feat sourcing 12 gas stoves. Using electric pots would have required power sources and extension cords, which could create safety hazards—especially with children and elderly participants who could trip over wires.

But thanks be to God—through His abundant provision, we had borrowed enough gas stoves for the night.



Food selection and preparation posed another challenge. With so many participants, we worried there might not be enough food or that it wouldn't suit everyone's tastes.

We also lacked manpower. Preparing hotpot for nearly 100 people requires time, effort, and experience—of which we had little.

Yet, praise God, His grace was sufficient. He sent many willing brothers and sisters to help and even provided a food supplier who furnished part of the food and washed the vegetables. This saved us a great deal of time and labour!

Full Attendance Despite the Rainy Weather

On the day of the event, it rained continuously. But the poor weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm and love of our volunteers. A group of dedicated brothers and sisters arrived early to set up and took responsibility for their assigned tasks.

They helped arrange the space, assign seats, distribute food, and more. Everything went smoothly and in order. The venue was quickly transformed into a hotpot banquet hall, ready for the evening.

We were initially worried the rain might deter some guests. However, every registered guest and friend showed up. Not even wind and rain could stop them—praise our Heavenly Father for making it all happen!

A Night of Joy, Connection, and Witness

The evening's program was well planned and engaging, including Games, Gifts, Singing and Personal testimonies.

These elements helped create a joyful and relaxed atmosphere for our non-Christian guests, enabling them to hear the message of the Gospel through real-life stories. Everyone enjoyed the meal, connecting with each other over the delicious food.

A special children's area was set up at the back, allowing kids to play under supervision, so parents could enjoy dinner with peace of mind. The event ended in a truly joyful spirit.



Cleanup with a Heart to Serve

After the event, many brothers, sisters, and friends stayed behind to help with the clean up—willingly and proactively. In no time, the hall was spotless and ready for Sunday worship the next day. I was deeply moved by the teamwork and servant-heartedness of everyone involved.

Our Prayer and Praise

May our Heavenly Father enable the seeds of the Gospel, sown that night, to take root and grow. Let us pray that our new friends will come to know Jesus and accept His salvation in His perfect time!

From planning to execution, God protected and guided every step, just as the psalmist says:

*“For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.”
(Psalm 33:9)*

May all glory and praise be to our Heavenly Father!

