



Where is God leading us?

Pastor Don Laing

2020 is becoming the year of the pause. Many are waiting for COVID-19 to pass and life to restart. But if we aren't careful, we'll miss what God is doing right now in and through this season. Consider the birth of a baby. The family needs to plan and prepare well in order to be ready to receive their expected blessing. Much like a baby, ministry and spiritual life growth requires ongoing work with an expectant heart that God is on the move. We can fret and worry, but instead, God counsels us to pray and bring everything with prayer and petitions before Him. This requires faith—faith that God is faithful and belief that He will continue to work in and around us.

I'm thankful for the sight God has given me to see His Spirit at work among our body. Here at CCCFC, God has used the crisis to bring our Chinese and English coworkers together to serve our community and one another. What a beautiful picture of God at work, amen? In addition, He has used our online streaming worship to help us reach people we might never have reached otherwise. Not only that, He has also motivated us to learn and engage online ministry like never before. In such a challenging situation and with the steep learning curve, our coworkers could have easily thought it was too much too soon, but no! So many have stepped up to learn, grow and serve.

Consider our HomeGroups. October of last year, we were prepping the prelaunch meetings. Who would have guessed how important this timing was? God was at work preparing us for a supportive community even as the unseen storm of COVID-19 was approaching. Looking back, I rejoice greatly in the providence and provision of our Gracious Father and the willingness and faithfulness of congregation to care, commit, and serve.

What's next? Continue to press on to the goal. Which goal? The ongoing need to continually realign our life with His Life. Our Lord will lead us. Lead us where? Out of darkness and into the light. Whether we need to acknowledge our fears and failure to trust Him through repentance or continue to believe and serve one another with the gifts he has given through sacrificially serving with our time, talent, and treasures, God intends to complete His work in our lives and produce the fruit reflective of our identity and calling. Why? His church is the hope of the world, and we are the church!

We have embraced a vision that calls us to reproduce disciples through transformative communities to reach people and plant churches. Have you embraced this? Is this vision something that stirs your heart to long to be a fruitful follower of Christ? What if CCCFC gets overrun by people who live like Jesus and are equipped to help others live the same way?

What could we do?

Whatever our intentions, we must embrace to call be a reproductive disciple who is being shaped by the grace and truth of God's word today. Not tomorrow, but today! For in some ways, tomorrow never comes if we are unwilling to act on God's truth today. For today is the day the Lord has made. Let us not ever waste today!



The Same Faithful God

Pastor Roberto Samidin

My wife, Elena, and I accepted the call to serve at CCCFC in August 2002. Before that, I accepted the call to youth ministry after my wife and I had been married for just one year. Prior to attending Southwestern Theological Seminary, I volunteered for a youth ministry at a Baptist church in Bakersfield, California. I was doing my undergraduate studies at the same time. After college, I told God that I wanted to study at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary and stay in California afterwards. God had a different plan. It was a better plan for my life to study at Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. There I met my wife, Elena, served in a Hispanic church as youth and worship leader (in Spanish), and taught Youth Sunday School at an Iranian church in Arlington, TX.

I was connected to CCCFC through Sumiwati, a dear friend of ours, who served as the Children's minister at DCFC. She told us that CCCFC was looking for a youth minister. At that time, CCCFC had around 20 students. Pastor Lee-Ho Hwang, the leading pastor of CCCFC at the time, invited me for an interview in June 2002 and invited to speak to the youth for the months of June and July. On August 1, 2002, we moved from Fort Worth to Plano and joined the CCCFC ministry team. This was shortly after I graduated from Southwestern. At that time, CCCFC conducted Friday night meetings at Legacy church and Sunday worship at Jasper High school.

Working with teenagers requires lots of patience, compassion, and being a good listener. I love teenagers and I believe that God uses them to accomplish His plan. Given the opportunities, teenagers can grow in Christ, serve, and be witnesses for the Lord. CCCFC has been a place where students can come and find a community where they belong and can experience God. Our Youth Ministry team consists of adults and students who are on a mission for Christ. Our goals are to help students praise God, know Christ, and serve by using their God-given talents.

This year (2020) has been a year full of challenges. It has given us opportunities to think outside of the box. As we celebrate CCCFC's 20th anniversary, I remember how Youth ministry was done in the past: we had to rent a place, carry the projectors, and bring the keyboards and guitars in our cars to be set up every Friday and Sunday. We faced challenges and disappointments, but we also celebrated God's victory through the trials we faced. The faithful God we served 20 years ago is the same faithful God we serve today. His love endures forever! God has established CCCFC to be a beacon of light in our community. Let us continue to encourage and care for one another. May we serve together another 20 years and raise this generation of teens.



From Fourteen to Thirty : God is Faithful

Ines Chien

I was fourteen when I visited CCCFC for the first time. We were still meeting at Jasper High School for Sunday service! Back then, the English Ministry did not exist, nor did the church building. Now in 2020, we are blessed to have a building and a growing English Ministry alongside the Chinese Ministry. While COVID-19 has greatly limited our ability to gather in person as a congregation, I am reminded that with or without our own building, meeting in person or virtually, the church is the treasured body of Christ. The church is family.

Sixteen years ago, I was eagerly looking for a way to serve at CCCFC. As a young Christian, I didn't know how to go about doing that, so on my second or third Sunday, I went up to Pastor Roberto and asked, "Can I join you on the worship team?" And the rest is history! Little did I know that I would continue to serve alongside this pastor for the next eleven years in youth ministry and that God was going to show me what a humble and faithful servant for Christ looks like through Pastor Roberto's life and character.

My high school years at this church were exciting and full of opportunities. School was rough, so I often looked forward to Fridays and Sundays at church. And the more I grew attached to this church, the more I wanted to see it grow. Having come from a well-established Chinese church in Florida, I was hoping for a similar environment at CCCFC: upperclassmen pouring into the underclassmen, and someone for every person to look up to in each class. But CCCFC was only three years old! Being the impatient and passionate person I was, I considered what the youth ministry could become and decided that I was going to change the youth ministry. But unlike what I had imagined, God actually changed me and the youth ministry in ways that I never expected. His ways are higher than my ways, and his thoughts higher than my thoughts (Isa. 55:9)!

One of my fondest memories in that season is having frequent Sunday lunches with Pastor Roberto at McDonald's after worship practice. I burdened him with my life troubles and questions, but he always listened patiently. Whenever I tried to pay for my chicken nuggets, he would always say, "Only when you get a job!" I also complained to him about the state of the ministry on multiple occasions. Even though I should've been called out for my attitude, he never made me feel like my opinions didn't matter. None of these little things escaped my notice.

The first time that I thought about leaving this church was during my freshman year in college. The reason that I wanted to leave is the same reason why I didn't end up leaving: I'd longed for partners in ministry as well as a community of sisters in my life stage, and God did provide all of these. However, I found these things outside my church community at my college ministry! What started as a simple desire for more young adult counselors became a painful longing and prayer request. I tried running away to DCBC for a while, only to come back to CCCFC feeling more convinced that I must stay. I knew that God loves His church, and He loves this church. So if He chooses to have His way, then who am I to complain that He is not working on my timetable? Will He not work out His perfect will in His perfect timing?

As I pondered if I should really stay, even if no young adult was ever going to intern at our church, the answer was already "I should" because "God can." I saw this as God's call for me to respond to the Great Commission by investing in the lives of the youth now in the ways that I can. It didn't matter if it was just two or three. It didn't even matter if the only thing I knew about discipleship was hearing about it from a friend's experience. I have the Holy Spirit, Google, and resources that will lead and help me along the way.

Ironically, when I sought to impact the lives of teens through discipleship, God used them to impact me! One of my favorite memories is having a servant leadership retreat with the youth leaders at my house. Whenever we tried to recall this memory, we always laughed at how it took three to four people to open my unloiled front door and something about the way James Huang ate salad? We read and studied Scripture, played games, prayed, built a tent in my bedroom, and they stayed the night. The planned outdoor picnic never happened because we all slept in, but I'll never forget the sound of our morning voices worshipping God while we washed each other's feet. I was often and still am humbled by their hearts of gold, their hunger for God, their genuine concern for one another, and their willingness to learn.

Even though 2013 was a dip in my personal walk with Jesus, I was so blessed to be inspired by the youth leaders. I knew I was never alone in ministry even though it felt lonely at times. Serving alongside this class reinvigorated my hope in the Lord and His faithfulness as I saw many of them mature in their faith, impacting my own. Sometime that year, I told Pastor Roberto for the first time that I felt called to full-time ministry and missions and that I wanted to attend seminary. When he responded, "Ines, I've been praying for that for so many years!" with the biggest smile on his face, it didn't register in my head in real time, but when I thought about it some more at home, I cried. I knew I was in His Perfect Hands.

From 2014 to the beginning of 2017, the English Ministry went through all sorts of experimental phases. To be honest, I remember the valleys more clearly than the mountaintops in this era. Adapting to change always comes with its challenges, but in many ways I was becoming increasingly discouraged about ministry and the lack of a community of sisters. Whenever I didn't feel like persevering anymore, I'd have just enough strength to run to God. His Spirit would comfort me and provide me with yet another testimony that indeed, God is my true sufficiency. Because His mercies are new every morning, I can keep running! At some point, I felt convicted that I was loving my ideal version of the church more than my actual church; I questioned if I loved my dream of having a community of sisters more than the actual people who make up my church community at the time.

Through the valleys of this era, I learned to bring my frustrations, tears, hopes and dreams to my heavenly Father. He has also been answering my prayers for having the affections of Christ for my church family. There is much more that I can praise God for: Pastor Don's example of grace and authenticity, amazing winter retreats, answered prayers for ministry partners and a community of sisters, Acuna missions, the support and care of many church members for my mother's health not just now but also when she was fighting cancer.

Though this journey is filled with highs and lows and everything in between, the Lord has been constant through it all. As I look back, I cannot help but sing with King David: "I have never seen the righteous forsaken!" (Psa. 37:25) "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want!" (Psa. 23:1) "I have tasted and seen that the Lord is good!" (cf. Psa. 24:8)

This 20th anniversary, let's celebrate Christ in us and Christ with us! "To Him who is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen" (Jude 24).



How God led me to CCCFC

Samantha Chao

I never meant to stay at CCCFC.

It was July 1, 2012: my dad's first day at CCCFC. To show our support as a family, we all attended the youth worship service since there wasn't an English service yet. I can't tell you what the sermon was about, who preached, who led worship, or what songs we sang. But I remember meeting some of the high schoolers who were about to start their senior year. As expected, they were nice to me. People are always nice to visitors. But I figured I would stay with my old church since I was about to start college, and I wasn't looking to make more big changes than necessary.

Somehow, I got involved with VBS the following week. During a moment of free time, the seniors asked if I wanted to go with them to Starbucks for some promotion they were having. I was surprised. I wasn't used to being included when people at church wanted to hang out. I felt happy, included, and loved because of this simple gesture.

It was July 14, 2012. I was invited to CCCFC's grad banquet even though I had only been around for exactly 14 days. The planning team had created a bulletin board for each graduate, and attendees could write notes to each person. I didn't expect much. Imagine my surprise at the end of the night when I took home a bulletin board full of notes. There were so many that there were more notes than pins to hold them. They weren't short, generic notes either. Some of them expressed that they wished we could have met sooner, others said they had fun serving with me in VBS, and a few expressed well wishes for my time in college. People who had only known me for a short time made a noticeable effort to try to include me even though as far as they knew, I was going to college far away from Plano. There was no way they could have known at that time that my love language is words of affirmation. There was also no way they knew that day was the first time I started considering the idea of regularly attending CCCFC.

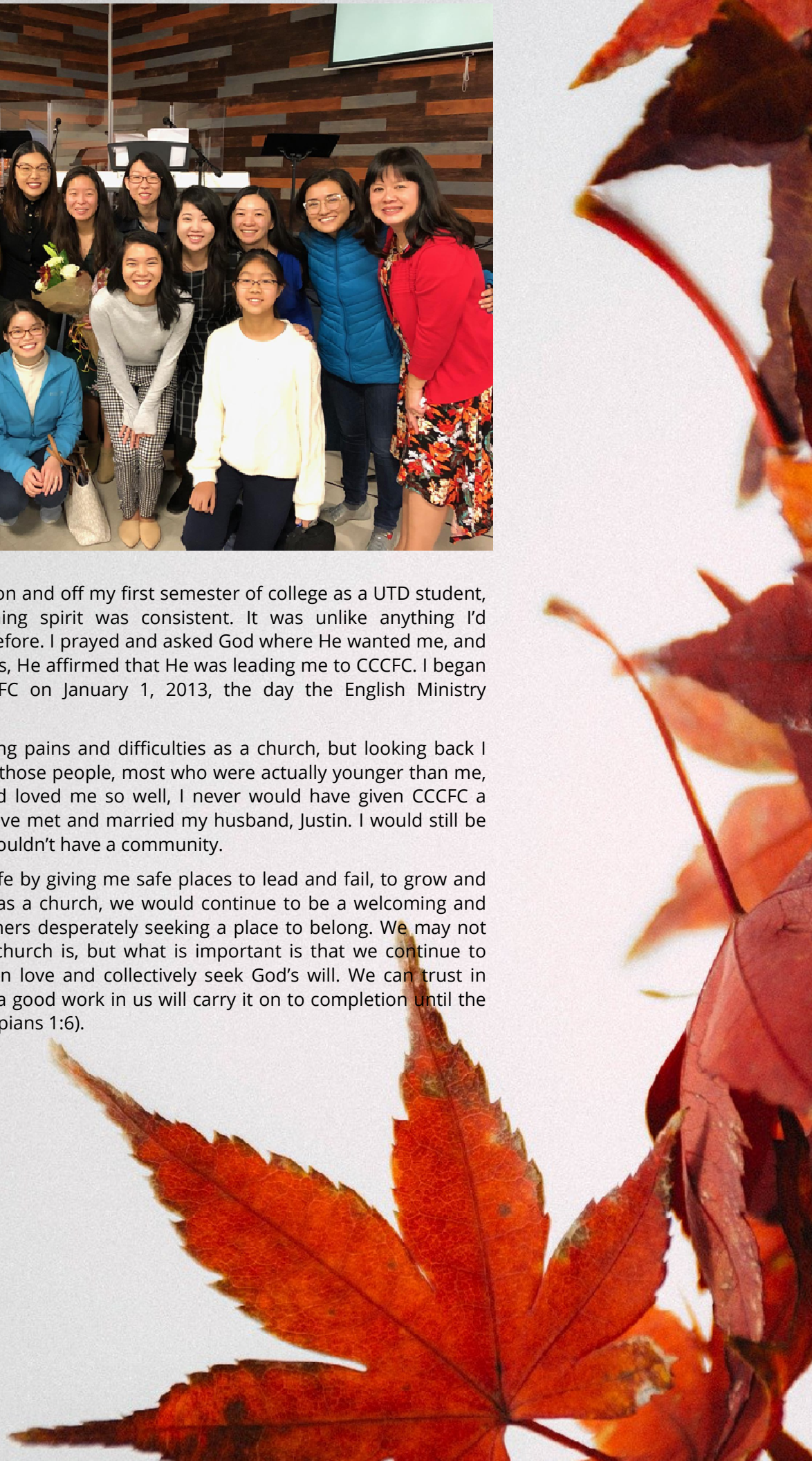




As I attended CCCFC on and off my first semester of college as a UTD student, that warm and welcoming spirit was consistent. It was unlike anything I'd experienced anywhere before. I prayed and asked God where He wanted me, and through a series of events, He affirmed that He was leading me to CCCFC. I began regularly attending CCCFC on January 1, 2013, the day the English Ministry launched.

We've had our growing pains and difficulties as a church, but looking back I see God's faithfulness. If those people, most who were actually younger than me, had not reached out and loved me so well, I never would have given CCCFC a chance. I never would have met and married my husband, Justin. I would still be attending church, but I wouldn't have a community.

CCCFC changed my life by giving me safe places to lead and fail, to grow and learn. My prayer is that as a church, we would continue to be a welcoming and loving community for others desperately seeking a place to belong. We may not be perfect, because no church is, but what is important is that we continue to move forward together in love and collectively seek God's will. We can trust in this: that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).



GREETING FROM HONG KONG

Sumi

Praise God that the CCCFC family has been a great blessing to Amie, me and HIS Cie Cie (Jie-Jie) mission in Hong Kong! We have great partnership in many areas, here we only mention few of them. They come alongside support such as our pastors, elders and other church families come to HK to do Cie Cie missions. They do family mission trips, share testimonies, give seminars, workshops, preaching, etc. In addition, pastors and church leaders give continuous guidance and encouragement. We also took mission classes from the pastor. CCCFC family also asks for prayer requests and cares for our well-being. During the social unrest and Covid-19 attacks in Hong Kong, our church family even sent from the US to HK a lot of masks to distribute to our Cie Cies as a tool to reach other Cie Cie!

Praise God for blessed partnerships between HIS sending church and HIS field workers!

Testimony

Student Grade 12

CCCFC was one of the many churches I visited when I moved to Texas. I don't know exactly why I chose CCCFC, but I thank God that I did. As I attended church, I was warmly welcomed and received support from those around me, especially Pastor Roberto. Through CCCFC I was able to meet my closest friends, go on 2 mission trips to Mexico, become involved in the tutoring program, and find a passion for worship. This church has truly become my home the past few years.

The people within CCCFC helped me grow not only in my faith, but also challenged me to learn more about God and the impact that I have in the world. From going to Acuna and leading worship, I learned a lot about myself and about the importance of having Christ at the center of my life. I am very thankful for the time and effort that all the church leaders give in order for the youth ministry to thrive, and I pray that the church continues to grow and better equip the youth with the knowledge and love of God.

The church has made me a better Christian by teaching me to meet people where they are instead of having people come to me. I also would not be the friend, leader, or Christian that I am without the church supporting me and allowing me to lead, teach, and things that are out of my comfort zone. For example, I have had the opportunity to talk with kids despite a language and cultural barrier and I have stood on stage to lead people in worship.

CCCFC is the church I spent my youth days in, it's the church that helped me grow in my faith and the church that helped me make lasting friendships. CCCFC will always have a special place in my heart and I can't wait to see the other lives it will change.

Tonia Wang

CCCFC has a very special place in my heart because of how big of an impact it's had on my life. I was able to make lifelong friendships within its walls while pursuing Christ and furthering my walk with God. This church will forever be dear to me as it has helped me in so many ways.



Joshua Wai

Throughout my life, God has shown up many times, but during this COVID pandemic I was privileged to be blessed by Him again. After quarantine started, life grew increasingly more and more boring, but God sent two of my oldest childhood friends over to live with us. Suddenly, quarantine never became boring again. I was so happy to see that God was still watching over us in these low times and feel him helping us along every inch of the way.

When we came here just two years ago, CCCFC gladly welcomed us into its community, and I feel like that was also God's blessing. When we didn't know which church to go to, we were welcomed here with open arms. I've met so many great and fun people here at CCCFC and I'm super grateful to be part of this church. These things felt nothing short of a miracle, and we all know that God is the God of Miracles.

Annie Xia

I only have one negative to say about reading: it gave me an inaccurate view of what best friends are supposed to be. In books, there's a high number of best friends who know every fact and detail about each other. They know what the other person is thinking just by looking at their expression. But at CCCFC, God showed me that many times friendship is very different than that.

They might not believe me, but my friends at church are my best friends—hands down, no cap, period. But I absolutely cannot read their minds. At some point, I know I must've said the wrong things, hurt their feelings, or been annoying. And I definitely don't know everything about them. I don't even know basic things like what their favorite colors are, whether or not they have middle names, or if they've ever broken a bone. I literally still get confused about birthdays. We don't find the same things funny or interesting, and our personalities are all extremely varied. But through these friendships, God showed me human beings don't have to understand each other fully, or even halfway, to be close friends. He showed me that He created us so intricately that none of us will ever perfectly understand or know someone else. Only He can do that.

I'm hoping Jesus is smiling as I write this because he must be relating so hard—he was misunderstood his entire life by basically everyone, including his closest friends. At CCCFC, God taught me that friendships, just like love, are a choice. I learned that your "tribe" isn't really something you "find". Community is something God gives us and calls us to build and take care of.





How CCCFC Has Changed My Life

Sudy Qin

Before I lived in Texas, I lived in Nebraska. Practically in the middle of nowhere, our church in Nebraska was extremely small. We had worship and services in the rented basement of another church and we had no official pastor leading the church. For many years, my faith remained stagnant because we had a practically non-existent youth ministry. It wasn't until we moved here to Dallas that my faith started to grow again.

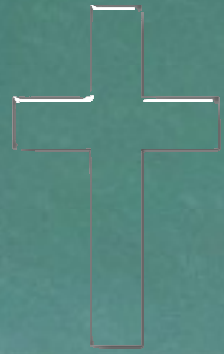
The first time I heard Pastor Roberto speak on a Sunday, it was like the first drops of water after a long walk in the desert. Listening to Pastor Roberto speak was the first time I heard a church pastor deliver a sermon that was especially aimed at kids. From then on, I was inspired to take my relationship with Christ seriously. For the next few months, I eagerly pursued a deeper understanding of the Bible and Jesus Christ. I was eventually baptized on Easter of my 8th grade year and ever since, I have grown even more in Christ.

Although I have occasionally struggled to keep God as the number one priority in my life, the church has always been a major anchoring force making sure that I continue to walk with God. CCCFC and its community of dedicated believers have provided a nurturing environment for my faith. I am so immensely thankful for all the continued support and efforts our Bible study leaders, worship team, and pastors put into us and our spiritual health.

Furthermore, at CCCFC I've been able to meet other teens who share the same religious beliefs as me. Through our discussions and continual support of each other, we have been able to grow together as children of Christ. To me, that is a far cry from my old church in Nebraska, where I could count the number of regular church-going kids on one hand. Being able to have such a strong support group of both Christ-centered teens and young adults at church has been an immense blessing. I know that there are a lot of people I can fall back on whenever I'm struggling spiritually: people who genuinely care about my wellbeing and people who can understand and empathize with me. Because of this church, I have been able to draw closer to God and I will forever be thankful to the impact CCCFC has had on my walk with God.

Testimony

Edward Cao



My name is Edward Cao. I am a 25-year-old accountant who has been with this church for over a decade. This is the story of how I started with God and thought about leaving God multiple times throughout my life like a rollercoaster.

God has always been a presence in my life as a child. My mom became a believer some years after she came to America and took me to church at DCFC as a child. There I grew up and did the typical Christian kid stuff: VBS, singing songs, the AWANA program, memorizing Bible verses, and learning lessons about how to be a good Christian. Growing up, my favorite passages were the stories of the founding of Israel and how they came to be blessed by God. I learned that they were led by great leaders and other individuals such as Moses, Joshua, Ruth, David, and Josiah.

This continued until I was in middle school, where I started to have a crisis in my faith. This was partially because I was entering the rebellious stage of my preteen years and partially because I was starting to feel like God was not reaching out to me. I soon started to skip church, hang out with non-religious and those of other faith friends, and tried to pretend God was not a factor in my life. This continued through high school, and my decision to go in and out of my faith during this time contributed greatly to why I felt uncomfortable at times when I went back to church and did not have many memorable moments when I was there or close relationships with people my age. However, I felt God was still watching me even as I struggled through my teenage years.

In college I was invited to join InterVarsity, an on-campus ministry whose desire was to reach out to students—those of faith and those not of faith—and help them build a stronger relationship with God. During the time I was with the ministry, I grew the strongest in faith. I found a stronger community with the people in my ministry, and for the first time, I learned how important my faith was. Doing detailed studies of the Bible, ministering to other students on campus, and participating in group events drastically reversed my life. I attribute these spiritual “highs” to the leaders of my ministry and older members who mentored me through the process.

But as with all spiritual highs, it would come crashing down again like the downward fall of the dip of a rollercoaster. This time it came in the form of school, which became an obsession. I still was going to church, but I essentially abandoned my on-campus ministry to focus on school and getting a job. I attributed my successes to my diligence and connections instead of honoring God. I was at an uneasy impasse with God where I still attended church, but I felt more like someone who was made to go to church like it was a chore.

My mother was a great influence during my troubled times. She routinely prayed for me and attempted to send me Bible verses and words of encouragement. Without her, I'm not sure if I would continue to be in the church. My favorite passages came from the Psalms and Proverbs of the Old Testament encouraging wisdom, spiritual strength, and reflecting on the time spent with God.

In the present day, while observing the illnesses affecting the world, both physically and spiritually, I still have not fully recovered. Coming to God can still be a struggle because it's really easy to be downtrodden by negative events, but in downtrodden moments when I do come to God, it's easy to realize how much He is there for us. I am hopeful for the future and believe God will always shine a light on the dark path not only for me but also for all of us.

This with one of my favorite passages that gets me through the spiritual rollercoaster dips and peaks of life.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” – Isaiah 41:10

COVID Reflection

Vincent Li

Though COVID-19 has been an unprecedented disaster affecting the entire world, I have often succumbed to humanity's sinful tendency to make everything about self. In the pandemic's earliest days, I mourned as case counts and fatalities rose, but even more so as my own plans unraveled. Everything I eagerly anticipated about the final months of medical school was cancelled—first classes and rotations, then mission trips and vacation plans, then Match Day and graduation itself. Even the simple joys of fellowshiping at church, studying the Bible in small groups, or just hanging out with friends were dampened by the perpetual awkwardness of endless Zoom calls. Faced with the stark reality of this new normal, ennui set in.

Thankfully, God did not allow me to wallow in self-centeredness for too long. One thing that helped re-awaken my sense of Christian duty and purpose was engaging with the CCCFC COVID Task Force, for several reasons:

- This task force was a tangible reminder that other people are experiencing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, now magnified and exacerbated by COVID. If this was the case within a relatively affluent church, then how much more so elsewhere!

- Implicit in the task force's existence was the premise that Christians are to be God's hands and feet by addressing needs both inside and outside the church.

- Throughout history, God has used trials and suffering to unite His people and mobilize them for God-glorifying action (i.e. spreading the Gospel to surrounding communities). This task force, born from a difficult situation, helped unite the Chinese and English congregations not only to assist church members, but also to reach the community in creative ways (e.g. mask drives, food pantry donations, and home group fundraisers).

As I graduated medical school without all the pomp, circumstance, and fun, I was grateful for these reminders to turn from a self-centered attitude to serve God, who is greater than both the sufferings and the blessings of this world. This was especially needed for my career path, which will involve lifelong service of high-need patient populations. Even more importantly, my Christian "career" (and the church's) will involve lifelong service of all people, addressing the highest need of all: to know God through Jesus, our Savior from an ailment far deadlier than COVID. How might the COVID Task Force impact this greater purpose?

In Sunday School, I remember hearing a convicting question regarding the local church: If a church disappeared today, would anyone notice? During this season when people are sequestered in their homes and church is relegated to the Internet, churches risk being easily forgettable to all but the most dedicated congregants. COVID has therefore heightened the need for local churches to serve as cities on hills and lamps on stands (Matthew 5:14-16) and to demonstrate faith through action (James 2:14-17). The COVID task force has shown that CCCFC is fully capable of doing this in innovative ways. And when COVID dies down, CCCFC must continue to live up to its purpose. As we commemorate the church's 20th anniversary, I eagerly anticipate many more years of building up Christ's body and inviting others into it—by God's strength, for His glory, and for the eternal good of His people.

From Fear to Faith – Serving Youth, College, International Students

Jeanne Jeng, CCCFC English Ministry

Serving CCCFC Youths – 2009-2017

Our family started attending CCCFC in 2006, but it was not until 2009 when God led me to start serving in the Youth Ministry. I was a 1.5 generation kid who immigrated to America at a young age with my 1st generation parents. Before I had my own kids, I had always thought I would be a cool Chinese-American mom since I have deep roots in both cultures. How wrong I was! My ABC daughter, when she was a rebellious teenager, constantly reminded me that I was a Not-So-Cool Dinosaur-Age mom. I was convinced that I could not be effective serving in the Youth Ministry. But I found out that God's plan was bigger than my fear.

In 2009, I had an opportunity to help at a CCHC (Chinese Christian Herald Crusades) Dallas Music Summer Camp held at CCCFC. That was the first time I served with other CCCFC sisters. I learned from them how moms can be loving helpers in the Youth Ministry. The college "Ge-Ges" and "Jie-Jies" like Ines Chien, Yiwen Xu, and Nathan Chiu connected and bonded with the younger campers. Irene Cao was my trusted, dependable middle school helper. Indeed, serving in the Youth Ministry is not so scary and is more effective if the responsibilities and burdens are shared with a multi-generational team.

2009 Music camp from left: Ines Chien, Dalbert Chen, Tiffany Weng, Yiwen Xu.



CCHC Dallas Music Camp Program 07-23-09

From Left: Nathan Chiu, Michelle Chou, Bingkun Yi



That positive music camp experience gave me confidence to say yes when Pastor Roberto asked me to teach 6th grade Sunday School (SS) in Fall 2011.

My first SS class consisted of Bridget Lin, Allyson Ma, Diane Bao, Dianna Dai, Esther Wang, Max Fu, Jerry Yang, Bing Yi, and Austin Yuan. Yes, THAT group. They were smart, outgoing, fun-loving, and helped me overcome my fear of teaching middle schoolers. They were still at that age where the boys and girls preferred NOT to sit together at the same table. So when some boys talked too much, I moved them to the "girls" table. Certain boys always ended up at the "girls" table. Now that I look back, that actually might have been a "don't throw me into the briarpatch" situation :)

My most memorable experience as a first year SS teacher when Jennifer Ke arrived from Michigan Jennifer's Dad stopped by our SS class to inform us that his family was moving to Plano soon. I got their phone number and called Jennifer's mom in Michigan to introduce our SS class. By the time Jennifer finally arrived, our entire class was ready to welcome her. The girls, especially Bridget, took it to heart to make sure Jennifer felt included and welcomed. They are currently 3rd year college students, but still the best of friends. In all subsequent years that I taught middle school SS, God continued to instill this same welcoming spirit and heart in our youths for the newcomers.

2012-2013 7th Grade Sunday School



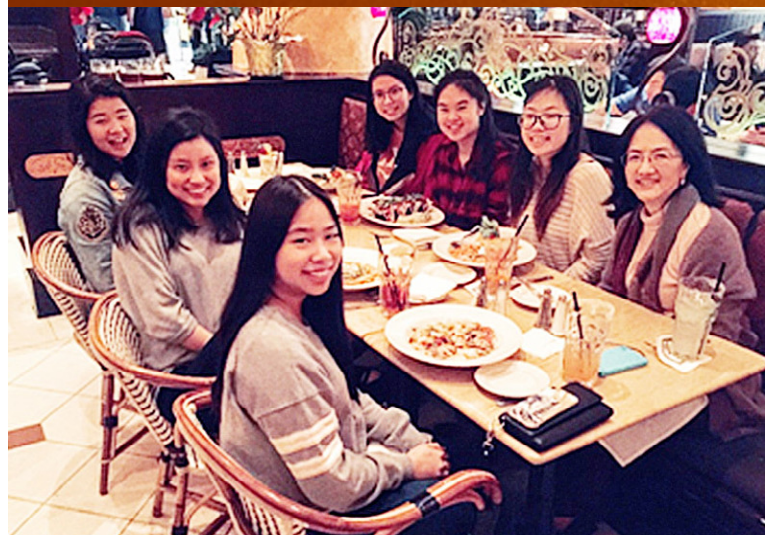
March 2013: 7th Grade Baptism of Bing, Max, Austin, Jerry with Allyson, Esther, and Dianna



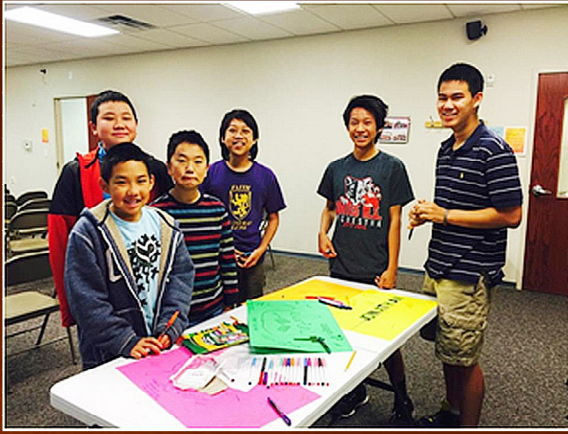
2016: 10th Graders: Allyson Ma, Jennifer Ke, Bridget Lin



December 2018: 1st year college students: Allyson, Bridget, Zoe, Esther, Jennifer, Kristina



March 2016: 7th Grade Sunday School boys



June 2019 Youth helping Acuna bake sale: Nathanael Ding, Gabriel Laing



March 2016: 7th Grade Sunday School girls



Matthew Xu, Simon Lin



Tonia Wang, Laura Li



March 2016: 7th & 8th grade baptism



March 2017: Big sister support at baptism:



March 2017 7th & 8th grade baptism



Early Days of CCCFC Hosting UTD International Students – 2009-2015

Another CCCFC ministry that impacted my faith walk and changed my worldview was home hosting new UTD students from China. My father came to this country as an international student in 1964 and was hosted by an American family. I was inspired by the impact that host family had on my father. God opened my heart to make a Texas-sized welcoming impact on these Chinese students during their first days here. Of course, we had the support of our entire Kindness 1 (K1) cell group sharing the hosting duties. Brother James Chang, Sister Susan Guo, and many others always brought home cooked dinners to our house. Our group offered a K1 Uber Service for the students — this was before Uber existed.

One of my most memorable student hosting experiences was when I took several students to IKEA to buy furniture. They bought way too much to fit in my minivan. It was a hot, hot August Sunday afternoon. Brother Jianlong and Sister Dongwei Hu answered my desperate call for help at the IKEA parking lot. The students were surprised at how quickly they came to our rescue. Their caring hearts were a testimony not only to the students but also to me.

The first year we hosted, a cute young UTD girl named AnQi Li came to our Christmas party. By that time, she was already involved in the precursor to CCCFC's Living Waters Student Fellowship (LWSF) at UTD. I was so impressed by AnQi's capable leadership in that student fellowship that I asked her to help serve in many ministry events. She always poured her heart into every serving opportunity. I knew then whoever marries that girl was going to be one lucky guy.

Fall of 2010, we hosted a very tall newbie named Jin Li. The day after he arrived, we brought Jin to CCCFC and he asked me, "What is this place?" Perhaps it was very strange to him that we were sitting in a gym waiting for some kind of event to start. I took him to the UTD Student Fellowship by convincing him they served yummy Chinese food there. The rest was history. AnQi and Jin fell in love and got married. Jin was baptized in April 2011. God moved fast in opening Jin's heart to receive Christ. He grew in his faith by leaps and bounds and also became a LWSF leader. Now they have 2 beautiful children and they are cell group leaders for CCCFC's young couples group. My heart is always full of joy when I see them serving in our church.

K1 Catering and Uber Service for New UTD Students:



August 2010: just arrived Jin and others at our home:



2010 December LWSF Baptism: JiWei, Jin, AnQi & Coworkers



April 2011: Jin Li baptism:



2011 August newbies at CCCFC



2017 FanTai Kong & Yiou Zhou married; both serving faithfully in CCCFC ministries



2015 August newbie with FanTai Kong providing uber service to the newbies



Early Days of CCCFC College / Young Adult Ministry – 2013-2015

2013: Arrival of Pastor Don at CCCFC jump started our College Ministry. Praise God: many of these then college kids are now our Young Adult leaders



2014 January College Winter Break Retreat at Magazine, Arkansas – bonding of our college group



By 2014 Summer: College Ministry was thriving, bonding over game nights and pool parties



2015 December: Pastor Don & college group - road trip to Urbana Student Missions Conference.



By 2015, many graduated and they morphed into a strong faithful young adult group



Those years I served in student ministries prepared me well for the future seasons in ministry. It was a gradual revelation where I grew little by little in my spiritual faith walk. As believers, we are always called to obey and to serve. I am prepared to follow the course God has laid out for me, to run the race and to take steps where He leads.