

## Twin City Chinese Christian Church

### Pastoral and Elder Council 2023-2024 Annual Report

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 136:1). Praise the Lord for He has been so faithful to our church for so many years! Thank you brothers and sisters, in 2023 you have fervently prayed for and joyfully served each other and your church!

When we faithfully execute 2023 church theme together as one church family, we witness God's amazing grace and goodness when we reflect upon what the Lord has done. (1) Center on Christ: throughout the entire year, Christ is the center of our preaching, teaching, living, and witnessing. In everything, we uphold the preeminence of Christ since He is our glory, joy, and satisfaction. Praise the Lord for a wonderful church-wide Summer Conference. (2) Connect with Each Other: within our church family, we pray for each other for physical and spiritual needs, we love and care each other for practical needs. Outside our church family, we demonstrate the love of the Lord to others through fellowship/small group events, congregational events, and church-wide events sponsored by gospel-center. (3) Commit to the T4C Vision: in essence, the T4C vision is to make the Great Commission our own church-wide vision and action. When we firmly commit to the T4C vision in all ministry areas, together we experience Lord's faithful work among us far more abundantly than all that we can ask or think! For examples, Children's ministry witnesses marked increase in total enrollment and new families; Youth ministry witnesses sustaining hunger among teens for genuine relation with Lord Jesus and with each other; English congregation witnesses a growing congregation in general and a growing new College ministry in particular; Mandarin congregation witnesses a growing congregation brought by the transformative disciple-making training; Cantonese congregation witnesses a growing coworker base to demonstrate God's love not just within the church, but also outside the church.

Looking forward to the 2024 church theme "Called to Maturity in Christ", we are excited to further witness the Lord's faithful work among us. PEC 2023 Retreat identified an urgent church-wide need to raise up next generation church leaders. This includes: 1. the need for Children's Sunday school teachers, 2. the need to develop the young-adult and middle-aged demographic in the Cantonese congregation, and 3. the need to better equip parents to disciple their children. PEC will relentlessly focus on these and other priorities and develop action plans. Just as in 2023, even with the challenge of calling a new Cantonese minister/pastor in 2024, we trust and we know that the Lord will hold us firm in His hands. When we all focus on Lord Jesus, when we all focus on executing 2024 church theme throughout the entire year, when the disciple-making culture starts to take deep root within our church, when we persevere to the end of 2024, together we will joyfully proclaim: To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

**Children's Ministry 2023 Annual Report**  
**Jody Tellers, Children's Ministry Director**

**Goals for children's ministry:**

- To show welcome, love, and acceptance to each child who attends.
- To encourage children to grow in Bible knowledge, Bible memory, and Bible life application.
- To support families in training their children to know and love God.

**Children's Ministry Overview:**

<b>Current Numbers March 2024</b>	<b>Classrooms</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Average Attendance</b>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> hour – 9:30am	1 Nursery 4 classrooms	11 adults	42 children
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> hour -11am	1 Nursery 5 classrooms	13 adults	53 children
Total Sunday Participation	2 Nursery 9 classrooms	24 adults	70 children
Friday night - 7:30pm	Nursery 3 classrooms	8 adults	45 children
<b>Weekly schedule:</b>	<b>3 Nursery 12 classrooms</b>	<b>32 adults</b>	<b>75 children participating weekly</b>

Start of 2023	100 children on roster
Average Sunday attendance	Spring 56 / Fall 67
Average Friday attendance	Spring 32 / Fall 35

<b>Fall 2022 – Summer 2023</b>	<b>Annual Attendance Tracking</b>
Preschool children (Nurs-K)	Averaged 32 Sundays
Elementary children (G1-6)	Averaged 30 Sundays

**Attendance Roster**

The roster of families with children at T4C at the start of 2023 was 66 families with 100 children; at the start of 2024 the numbers increased to 74 families with 111 children.

Praise God for the blessing of new families joining us throughout the year!

**Nursery**

Sunday morning nursery reopened January 2023. We welcomed 5 new babies to our church family in 2023 bringing the nursery roster to 11 children under age 2. Little ones are a blessing from the Lord!

**Preschool & Kindergarten:**

In classes for age 2-3 and age 4-K, children sing praise songs to God, learn a lesson from the Bible, pray and play together!

During the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, children learn with an activity page and stickers from Gospel Light curriculum and take-home Family Fun Time activity pages for continued learning at home.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour class, children learn with an activity page from Gospel Project in class and receive a pack of Big Picture Story Cards for the 13-week quarter to review Bible lessons at home.

**Elementary:**

Elementary children begin each Sunday school hour with a 15-minute Praise Time assembly, then they study God's Word together in the classrooms. The assembly is when children are encouraged to give offering, sing praises to God, and review the all-church theme and Bible verses together.

1<sup>st</sup> hour classes learn from Gospel Light curriculum, Each Bible lesson is designed to point the children to Jesus and the truth of the gospel.

2<sup>nd</sup> hour classes study God's Word with lessons from the Gospel Project. Each Bible lesson from the 3-year through-the-Bible curriculum helps kids to see the Christ connection in all scripture.

Transition time allows the children to play and have a snack together during the 20 minutes between worship services.

### **Friday Night Boys and Girls Club:**

T4C children fellowship through playtime, singing and Bible study on Friday evening.

- Friday Preschool and Kindergarten children enjoy supervised playtime, Bible story videos, or Bible lesson teaching. The average attendance for this group is 8-10 children each Friday night. Several T4C young adults are hired as babysitters for this classroom. (Nursery is included in the Friday babysitting starting in Jan. 2024)
- Friday Elementary children enjoy singing, Bible study and small group activities, followed by playtime. The lesson series for this group is from Truth:78 called *Faithful to All His Promises*. This Bible study for children leads them to understand that God always keeps His promises. The average attendance for this group was 24 in spring and increased to 30+ in fall of 2023. Praise God for a committed team of leaders for this class!

**Summer Conference** in June brought 14 elementary kids together to learn about Wisdom from our guest teacher, Jennifer Lawver. The 8 preschoolers learned about Knowing God from our guest teacher, Katie Hildebrandt. Volunteers and babysitters from T4C assisted with the classes and cared for little ones while parents participated in the retreat.

**VBS 2023** theme was "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light". This 5-lesson series from Group Publishing allowed us to help children experience the love of Jesus.

T4C hosted 66 children for five mornings from July 10-14, 2023. Activities led by a volunteer team of 20 adults and 12 teens included: singing, games, science-gizmo activities, and Bible adventure lessons. Music links were shared with each participating family through a downloadable music card, and these songs continue to be used in Sunday school Praise Time and Boys and Girls Club.

### **Stellar Christmas in December**

A special Friday Christmas celebration included songs and review from the Vacation Bible School led by VBS leads Rachel Addington and Anita Nguyen. Adult fellowship groups and Boys and Girls Club coordinated to share the light of Jesus birth with those in attendance! A photo memory board of this program is in the north hallway.

### **Special mailings to children**

Throughout the year, each child on the T4C roster received greetings and activity pages by mail for special holidays and their own birthday. These mailings are an opportunity to share God's love to each child individually and encourage them to continue attending and participating in learning about God at church.

### **Come and See**

Please visit the Children's Ministry display board in the ministry fair and scan the QR code for more information on how you can serve in the children's classrooms and events for 2024. Let's work together to "*tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD*". (Psalm 78:4)

### **Prayer for 2024**

Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in the children's lives as they grow to know and love Jesus and become more like Him.

Pray for young adults and parents to commit to serving in the children's classrooms.

**2023 Youth Ministry Annual Report**  
**Pastor Tim Haas**

**Baptisms:** We had two teens baptized in 2023 and one teen accept Christ!

**Friday Youth Group:** For the 2022-23 school year, we studied Jesus' parables and teachings essential to discipleship. The Youth Staff taught in fall 2022 while I was on sabbatical. I taught in spring 2023 after my sabbatical, which was exciting after such a restful and fruitful break.

For the 2023-24 school year I have been teaching through Genesis 1-11, which is rich with important themes of identity, God's purpose for humans, and God's heart for the sinner.

**Youth Staff:** Youth Staff are the heart of the youth ministry. They build relationships with teens in order to counsel them and help build community within the youth group. Current Youth Staff are Jeanne Gin, Jing Tse, Monica Ngo, Dustin Kwee, Ian Beh, Nathanael Chan and Curtis Chiang. We are praying for and searching for more female youth staff.

**Student Leadership Team:** In fall 2023 I began having monthly meetings with the teens who lead the musical worship and games. The goal was to help the leaders not just to accomplish tasks but to grow as disciples through prayer, accountability, taking sabbaths, and giving input in the direction of the youth ministry. This has resulted in stronger student leadership and discipleship, as well as a sense of unity among the youth group as a whole.

**Sunday school:**

- The Junior High class follows the Gospel Project curriculum, which surveys the entire Bible in the three years they are in junior high. Weily Grina-Shay, Suelyne Hok and Aaron Tsai were the main teachers in 2023.
- The Senior High class teaches students to interpret and apply the Bible for themselves, usually using the inductive Bible study method. In the 2022-23 school year, the class surveyed the different genres of the Old Testament (narrative, poetry, prophecy, law, and wisdom). In the 2023-24 school year the class is studying the gospel of Mark. Jeanne Gin and Jason Chan were the main teachers in 2023.

**Retreats and Camp:** The 2023 Senior High Retreat in January was a great time of connection. Our speaker was Jon Mann, who challenged us to seek revival.

We had 23 teens attend Chinese Christian Union Church's Teen Camp in August. This event continues to catalyze spiritual growth in the teens, and we see fruit from it for months afterward.

Junior High Retreat in October was another great time of connection and growth. A number of senior high student leaders led the musical worship and games while the youth staff spent more time with the junior highers. Nate Gustafson challenged the teens to support each other in their journey of discipleship.

**New English College Sunday school class:** Cat Yong and I have started a college Sunday school class in the English congregation. In the past, we have guided our T4C graduates to join other college ministries and churches. While I still guide our college students in making wise choices in outside ministries to participate in, I became more aware of the unhealthy discipleship practices of the two main college ministries that T4C graduates would attend at the University of Minnesota: Covenant Life Church and Foundry (formerly known as Acts 2 Fellowship, associated with the church GracePoint). Our college class started small, but we have grown steadily, giving a number of college and graduate students a reason to call T4C their "home church." Attendance includes both T4C graduates and students who grew up elsewhere, and we are regularly seeing new students visit. I am committing much of my time to meeting with these college students for meals and helping them find rides to T4C on Sundays.

**Praises and Prayer Requests:**

- God has answered last year's prayer to convict teens of specific sin; pray for our discipleship efforts to continue to bear the fruit of repentance in their lives.
- Pray that the Lord sends more adults to help mentor the teens as youth staff.
- Pray that the Lord guides me in my increased efforts to pastor teens' parents who do not attend T4C.
- Praise for the new English College Sunday school class; pray for more leaders to join us.
- Pray I manage my time well with the increased demands of an expanding ministry.

In Christ,  
Pastor Tim

### **Equip to Grow and Go so we can Glo!**

The Lord continues to be gracious and faithful to us, and we saw great evidence of both in 2023. Our 2023 church-wide theme was “Center on Christ, Connect with Each Other, Commit to the T4C Vision.” In association with this theme, we memorized Isaiah 40:28-31 together, and Rev Simon Huang focused on it at our Summer Conference 2023.

Specifically In the English ministry, we centered on Christ and equipped to grow in many ways. Our Sunday sermons from Hebrews helped us celebrate the superior Jesus Christ, and sermons from Ecclesiastes showed the stark reality that everything is vanity apart from God so we must fear God and keep His commandments in order to enjoy life. We also trained another group of lay preachers who will give sermons in the near future, and we added a number of people to our various serving teams.

We had numerous opportunities to connect with each other. Over 60% of the regularly attending adults on Sundays also participate regularly in a small group or a SS class. Our new college SS class has grown in numbers and momentum. (Thanks to PTim and Cat Yong for their efforts to establish this class!) Our Open Rec (Wed, 5-7pm) provides young families (and the young at heart!) time to fellowship and to utilize the Rec Room to play. Come join us! We had congregational gatherings at Easter, a summer picnic and Christmas. These various connecting points were needed because God blessed us with a number of new young adults and families. Many of them already have committed to T4C membership and are serving actively.

We equipped one another to go forth in the name of Christ and committing to the T4C vision by hosting another Mid-Autumn Family Fest outreach, inviting especially Chinese immersion school families. We made modifications from the previous year to make it more overtly evangelistic, and we pray the seeds that got planted will germinate. Our SS classes also focused on discipleship – being a disciple and making disciples.

Looking forward to 2024 excites me! I am excited to see what God will do in and through His people while I am on sabbatical from March – August. My absence provides even more opportunities for everyone to serve, to take steps of faith and to grow. I am excited as we make plans to host another Mid-Autumn Family Fest outreach. I also am excited about strengthening connections with one another within our small groups and SS classes.

I am grateful for the great privilege to serve T4C for 22+ years now. The church’s generous sabbatical provision is just one of the myriad ways God has blessed my family and me through T4C. I pray for a fresh touch from God on the ministry and myself during this sabbatical time. I also am grateful the church granted me the privilege again to serve as adjunct faculty at UNWSP to teach on spiritual formation. Interactions with the students and course material once again stimulated my own formation, and I trust made me a better pastor. I also am grateful for the godly men and women who make up the English ministry. It is a privilege and joy to learn from them about how to love God and serve others. Most of all, I am grateful to the Lord for His overwhelming goodness and grace – to T4C as a whole and to the English ministry in specific. May we continue to center on Christ, connect with each other and commit to the T4C vision – all to the glory of the superior Jesus!

**Cantonese Ministry Annual Report**  
**Pastor Ivan Lee**  
**Disciples who have committed their lives**

Thanks be to God and our co-workers in the Lord for their faithful service in worship, fellowship groups, Sunday school, discipleship training, and gospel center as we experience God's grace and the joy of serving together. Amen!

**Looking back on 2023:**

The Cantonese congregation used a prayer meeting in April 2021 to kick off in-person worship after the pandemic. For three years, brothers and sisters have been praying continually for the church ministry on the third Wednesday night of every month, seeking God's will and testifying to His faithfulness and love.

In the worship sermons, Hebrews, Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Gospel of Mark pointed out that the gospel is the turning point in life, and we can only approach God through Jesus Christ. While suffering, we still have to persevere, never give up, and pursue growth. At the same time, we see that God will never abandon His people, so we should not be afraid in the face of threats and must continue to boldly bear witness for Christ.

Thanks to God for arranging warm and sunny weather on July 23 when two brothers and sisters were baptized in front of everyone. May the Lord strengthen our faith to bear witness for Him. We also ask for God's mercy on our relatives and friends who have not yet believed, so that they will turn to the Lord as soon as possible. After outdoor worship and baptism, we hiked and had afternoon refreshments, enjoying a wonderful time of fellowship.

We thank God for bringing Dr. Abraham Law from the Chinese Christian Mission in CA in September to be our speaker at our Cantonese Revival Meeting. Different sessions and seminars helped to equip the congregation and encourage everyone to find 'A Fruit-bearing Life'. Dr. Vivian Lui and Dr. Fish Ng also hosted 3 sessions for the Gospel Center on 11/11 on 'Lord! Your Loved One Is Sick' Care Seminar.

Gospel Center Ministry cooperated with West Metro Church this Christmas. Two churches, three languages, and five groups, a total of 76 people, proclaimed the good news through caroling at Asia Mall. About ten people helped with logistics on site. We are so thankful for the Lord's abundant grace!

We thank God our 3-language congregation united together and took part in a 6K fundraiser with World Vision. Later, we also collected food together to give to needy families in the community. The leaf-raking service and Christmas shoebox ministry have been great outreach opportunities, and we are thankful for all our volunteer participation!

Let us continue to serve together in unity and love! The Lord Jesus taught his disciples this way: “For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

**Looking ahead to 2024:**

We ask the Lord to use the Lunar New Year outreaches, special gatherings, various gospel center activities and the Cantonese congregation retreat from 8/23 to 8/25 to help us learn to devote ourselves to service, increase our love and care for each other, and adhere to the mission of preaching the gospel, becoming the disciples that we are called to be. Amen!

## Mandarin Congregation Pastoral Annual Report April 14, 2024

**To build up three interdependent congregations as one church to become the center of discipleship and outreach to the Chinese in the Twin Cities.**

**Praise and Thanksgiving:** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20–21). Lord Jesus is faithful and gracious to His own church; He has done amazing things among us, even when we face tremendous challenges.

**Reflection and Ministry Highlight:** 2023 marks the 4th year of executing Mandarin Congregation Growth Blueprint. We simply marvel at Lord's work among us, when we focus on fulfilling the Great Commission, making the T4C vision our vision, and practically applying 2023 annual theme. (1) Center on Christ: Lord is my all and He is the Lord of all! Through previous ministry progresses, the Lord prepares the entire congregation to be strong and united when several brothers and sisters in the congregation, including congregational leaders, experience serious health issues. We sharpen our Christ-centered focus and application through new preaching series on four gospels. In everything, we desire to imitate the Lord, to be God-glorifying, Christ-exalting, Spirit-guided, kingdom-minded, witness-unceasing, and joy-overflowing disciples of the Lord. (2) Connect with each other: the Lord cares His own people and leads His own church, He pours out His peace and love upon us when we intentionally care and pray for each other, not just within Mandarin congregation, but also across all three congregations; many congregation team members (Mandarin Pastor Elder Group, Mandarin Leadership Committee, Sunday School Teachers, Fellowship Coworkers, etc) joyfully step up and serve; United together in the Lord, we become a stronger congregation when facing attacks from Satan. We share Lord's victory for He has defeated Satan on the cross. (3) Commit to the T4C vision: the on-going grass-root level discipleship training help many believers to grow and mature; we witness the impact of discipleship training through two unofficial missions to Taiwan; special 2023 fall Sunday School class "Biblical Manhood and Womanhood" provides a sound biblical framework and training to address many practical and urgent questions; we witness heavenly joy through transformed lives in Easter and Thanksgiving baptisms; faithful Lord continuously adds new people to His church. Praise the Lord!

**Prayer Focus:** The importance of the Blueprint as the guiding/unifying principle/focus for all ministry areas is clearly proven. Looking ahead to 2024, as long as we remain faithful in executing Mandarin Congregation Growth Blueprint the Lord already gave us, we trust that the Lord will again do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think! Specifically, please pray for: (1) those already equipped in discipleship training will joyfully and boldly step out and train others, especially newcomers, new believers, and those without fellowships; (2) more intentional leadership development at different levels (including seminary students); (3) effective long-term mission strategy.

**Mandarin Congregation Growth Blueprint:** Through patient waiting and prayers, and God's own revelation in His word, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God graciously gave us the Blueprint, so that we have a clear vision to practically fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) which our Lord Jesus Christ gave to us. The Blueprint will be the guiding principle for all ministry activities.



# T4C Mandarin Congregation Growth Blueprint

