

Praise to  
the Lord  
當讚美  
耶和華

用大響的鈸讚美祂  
用絲絃的樂器和簫的聲音讚美祂

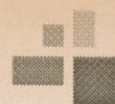
擊鼓跳舞讚美祂  
鼓瑟彈琴讚美祂

Celebrating 40 Years of God's Faithfulness

主恩帥領四十載 欢庆颂赞信实神

18 / 08 / 2018 , Saturday 星期六

Favourite Kitchen 佳宴餐厅



Evangelical Community Church



## WHY WE CELEBRATE

In Psalm 78, the psalmist recounted all that the Lord had done for His chosen people right from the time when they were in Egypt until David became king. The psalmist declared verses 3 and 4:

“things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

And how did they “not hide them from their descendants”? In Psalm 105:1-6, the psalmist pointing to the past when God led them, says:

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.”

Although Evangelical Community Church officially started in July 2004, our journey as a church actually started in August 1978 when four families came together to start a fellowship (then called Eastern Suburbs Chinese Christian Fellowship) which eventually developed into a church. What was the motivation for the starting of the fellowship? When the guns were still firing in East Timor and Vietnam

and refugees were coming to our Australian shores, there was a call to reach out to them with the Gospel. Not long later in 1982, 15 founding members led by the late Rev. Ang Hoe Peng who had years before served as honorary pastor of the Chinese Uniting Church in Little Bourke Street, constituted the Evangelical Chinese Church, Melbourne. Today, some of those members who are still with us and who witnessed the faithfulness of God since those formative years of the church want to testify of His faithfulness. It is because of this that we celebrate. May this celebration be a testimony of what the Lord has done.

### **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUMBER 40**

This year is the fortieth year of our ministry. This is a significant year. The number **40** in the Bible has great significance. Throughout the Bible, the number **40** is associated and symbolic of a period of testing, probation and trial, but not judgement as is the case with Jesus' fasting in the wilderness and the following temptation by the Devil. The Devil was testing Jesus, obviously in the hopes that He would fail the "test", which of course He did not. **40** also means purification, an encounter with the Divine, and could mean a great and spiritual change as one encounters with the divine.

According to Hebrew numerology, the number **40** also suggests a long period of time in which a person, or people, face challenges. Noah's faith was put to the test. After he built the ark, it rained for **40** days and **40** nights (Genesis 7:17). After they were freed from slavery in Egypt, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for **40** years before they entered the Promised Land (Numbers 14; Joshua 5:6). Jesus' fasted for **40** days before he began his public ministry (Matt. 4:2).

There are a number of other biblical references to the number **40**.

- For **40** days and **40** nights Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive the Law (Exodus 24:18) which God bestowed upon him in the form of two stone tablets. (Deuteronomy 9).
- Moses was in the mount for **40** days after the sin of the golden calf (Deut. 9:18, 25)
- The spies, issued the penal sentence of **40** years (Numbers 14:33, 34).
- Goliath, the champion of the Philistines, took his stand in front of the Israelite army for **40** days before David faced him (1 Samuel 17:16)
- After Elijah killed the prophets of Baal, he ate and drank and was able to travel for **40** days and **40** nights on the strength of that food (1 Kings 19:8).
- Jonah prophesied to Nineveh the city's destruction in **40** days (Jonah 3:4).
- For **40** days Ezekiel lay on his right side to symbolize the **40** years of Judah's transgression (Ezekiel 4:9).
- In the New Testament, after Jesus was baptized, He was driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, where he was tested for **40** days (Matthew 4:2; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2).
- For **40** days Jesus was seen of His disciples, speaking of things pertaining to God's kingdom (Acts 1:3).
- When the Apostle Paul recounted his suffering to the Corinthians, he said he received the punishment of **40** lashes minus 1 on five separate occasions (2 Corinthians 11:24).

As the Israelites gave thanks for the Lord's faithfulness, we today too must give thanks and celebrate on our 40th year. It will be wrong for us not to celebrate and we will be missing out on the Lord's blessings. We can see how God guided us through difficult circumstances. If not for His guidance, there would be no ECC churches today. The founder members in the early years caught the vision and made their commitment to give their best and be obedient to God.

## **IN WHAT WAYS DO WE SEE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST 40 YEARS?**

Looking back through the past 40 years, we have seen God's guiding hands and some unexpected happenings and miraculous healings, physical and spiritual, but because of time and space, only some significant ones can be mentioned.

### **1. The Lord sent us His Servants to Help Us.**

In our journey as a church, we experienced a number of disagreements and conflicts during which there were times when members left us and we were on the verge of calling it quits. During these times, the Lord not only brought reconciliation and healing, He sent a number of His servants to help us regain our spiritual direction. Among these, in the early days were men like Rev Nigel Lau, who at that time was a student at Kingsley College and Dr. Spencer Sutherland, an American Alliance Missionary to Vietnam. There was also contribution from Rev Arthur Russell an Alliance Pastor who also regularly preached at our services and helped in our cell-groups. Mr Sieh Kuok Hsiong and Mrs Yu from Taiwan too helped to support us in finance and prayer. A great contribution was from Dr. Sutherland who travelled from Canberra fortnightly to conduct Bible teaching under his college's Theological Education by Extension (TEE) at our church. He later became our teaching pastor from 1996-1999. His ministry on discipleship helped to give our church stability. In later years, there were also a number of His servants like Rev. Lau To-Chan, Rev. George Teo and Ps Ray Pugh. There were also many others, including the faithful pastors past and present, and non-pastors who have helped to shepherd and support our ministry. These servants are not forgotten but to mention them and their contributions is beyond the scope of this short article.

## **2. The Lord Gave Us a Limo instead of a Yaris.**

As part of our growth and progress, the Lord gave us the wisdom to come to a realisation that we needed a permanent home if our Church was to continue to grow. We found and signed up a residential property which we thought could be used as our base. However, before we could settle on the property, the Lord led us to come to know that the Citadel of the Koonung Corp of the Salvation Army was available for sale. The Salvation Army, because of its growth, was moving to a bigger property in East Doncaster to the very location where we were about to finalise the purchase of the residential property. Little did we know that the Lord had other plans for us. This property that we had signed up satisfied the type of home that the Salvation Army was looking for their officer-in-charge. We were amazed to see that all the conditions viz. location, the number of bedrooms, the age of the property, price, etc all fitted the conditions spelt out by the Salvation Army officer. Thus, by His grace, we were able to arrange a “swap”. In doing this, the Salvation Army also gave us a good discount. The asking price was reduced from \$127,000 to \$105,000. Praise the Lord! We were settling for a residential home but overnight, the Lord gave us a sanctuary in which we were able to worship Him and through which our church continued to grow. It was as though we were asking for a Toyota Yaris but the Lord gave us a limousine and at a good discount!

Elgar Road in Box Hill North was not the only property that the Lord gave us. He led us to purchase other properties in Blackburn South and Box Hill, both with considerable discounts. In all these transactions the vendor churches made sacrifices in selling the properties. May the Lord bless the Salvation Army, Crossway Baptist Church and One Community Church of Christ for their magnanimous action.

### **3. The Lord Fed us with Vitamin M**

Throughout these 40 years, the Lord has seen us through by providing finances through some able givers. There were also interest-free loans from some members to meet with the bank loan repayment obligations. We sometimes could not understand how it was possible but it happened. The Lord is always faithful for He owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10).

### **4. The Lord Gave Us Clear and not Tunnel Vision**

The Lord has given us the vision of church-planting and from the ministry that He gave us and in obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), other congregations were started: viz. the English and the Cantonese congregations. Our ministry was originally bi-lingual (Mandarin and English). The vision of church planting brought us to 4 more locations at Geelong, Frankston (which later was relocated at Springvale), Blackburn South and Box Hill, each church started at the different locations eventually becoming autonomous.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Lord has brought us through the past 40 years. It has not always been plain sailing. Because of our human failings, there were disagreements and crisis through which we learnt lessons and matured. Each time we saw the Lord at work through His Spirit. This celebration we are having is about Him and not about us. The Israelites wandered for 40 years before they entered the Promised Land. May the Lord guide us, after 40 years, to more years of ministry as we pass the baton to the next generation. As 2 Corinthians 4:5 says: “We do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord.” We dare not and will not rob God of His glory (Isaiah 48:11). May He grant us the wisdom and strength to press forward and do the work that He has entrusted to us with greater enthusiasm and gusto until He comes again. May all of us today with one voice shout: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Amen.

Rev Dr Woo York Ang



## 为什么我们要庆祝呢？

在诗篇 78 篇，诗人数算了从在埃及直到大卫作王的期间，上帝为祂的选民所行的事。诗人在第 3 及第 4 节宣告说：

「<sup>3</sup> 是我们所听见、所知道的，也是我们的祖宗告诉我们的。」

<sup>4</sup> 我们不将这些事向他们的子孙隐瞒，要将耶和華的美德和祂的能力，并祂奇妙的作为，述说给后代听。」

他们是如何「不将这些事向他们的子孙隐瞒」？在诗篇 105: 1-6，诗人提到过去，神是如何带领他们：

<sup>1</sup> 你们要称谢耶和華，求告祂的名，在万民中传扬祂的作为！

<sup>2</sup> 要向祂唱诗歌颂，谈论祂一切奇妙的作为！

<sup>3</sup> 要以祂的圣名夸耀！寻求耶和華的人，心中应当欢喜！

<sup>4</sup> 要寻求耶和華与祂的能力，时常寻求祂的面。

<sup>5-6</sup> 祂仆人亚伯拉罕的後裔，祂所拣选雅各的子孙哪，你们要记念祂奇妙的作为和祂的奇事，并祂口中的判语。

虽然，爱邻宣道堂是于 2004 年 7 月才正式开始。但实际上，我们的教会已于 1978 年 8 月开始聚会。当时，是由四个家庭开始组成团契（后来称为东区华人基督徒团契），之后发展成为一所教会。然而，究竟是什么的因素推动我们开始团契呢？当时，因着东帝汶及越南所发生的战役，有许多难民逃到澳大利亚寻求庇护。在那时，神呼召我们，我们有责任要向这些难民分享福音。不久之后，在 1982 年，由已故并曾在位于 Little Bourke Street 的华人联合教会担任荣誉牧师的洪和平牧师所领导的 15 位创始成员，成立

了墨尔本华人宣道堂。今天，那些过去曾经目睹上帝信实的几位成员，现在还与我们一起，并证实神的信实。正因为如此，我们才会在这里一同庆祝。我愿这个庆祝活动，能见证主为我们所作的工。

## 数字 40 的重要性

今年是我们教会事工的第 40 个年头。这是重要的一年。四十这个数字在圣经中具有重要意义。在整本圣经中，这个数字代表了神对祂选民的考验、试验与试炼，但并非审判。就像耶稣在旷野禁食和受魔鬼试探一样。当魔鬼试探耶稣时，祂显然希望耶稣被「试探」所胜，当然祂没有。40 也意味着净化，与神的相遇，并且可能意味着与圣洁的神相遇时，所带来属灵生命上的改变。

根据希伯来语的数字学，数字 40 也表明一个人或一群人，面临一段很长时间的挑战。挪亚的信心受到了考验。他建造方舟后，雨下了 40 夜（创世纪 7:17）。以色列人被神从埃及为奴之地中释放出来之后，在旷野漂流 40 年，然后才进入应许之地（民数记 14; 约书亚记 5:6）。耶稣在开始公开传道之前，他也禁食了 40 天（马太福音 4:2）。

对于数字 40，圣经中还有许多其他记载：

- 摩西在西奈山 40 昼夜，接受了上帝赐给他的律法（出埃及记 24:18），上帝将律法刻在两块石板上交给了摩西（申命记 9）。
- 在百姓犯了拜祭金牛犊罪之后，摩西在山上住了 40 天（申命记 9:18, 25）。
- 规探者不听从上帝，众人要担当罪孽 40 年（民数记 14:33, 34）。
- 非利士的巨人歌利亚在被大卫挑战之前，在以色列军队面前叫嚣了 40 天（撒母耳记上 17:16）
- 在以利亚杀死了巴力的先知之后，他吃了又喝了，并且凭着所吃喝的食物，能行走 40 昼夜（王上 19:8）。
- 约拿预言尼尼微再等 40 天必倾覆了（约拿书 3:4）。

- 以西结按上帝的定规向右侧躺卧 40 天，象征担当犹太家四十年的过犯（以西结书 4：6）。
- 在新约圣经中，在耶稣受洗之后，祂被圣灵引领到了旷野。在那里，祂被魔鬼试探了 40 天（马太福音 4：2；马可福音 1:13；路加福音 4：2）。
- 耶稣与祂的门徒在一起 40 天，讲述与上帝国度有关的事（使徒行传 1：3）。
- 当使徒保罗向哥林多人讲述他的苦难时，提到他在五个不同的情况下（哥林多后书 11:24）接受了 40 减 1 的鞭打惩罚。

正如以色列人感谢主的信实，我们今天也要学效他们感恩，并要庆祝主已带领我们 40 年，假如我们不庆祝，会失去主赐与我们的福份。我们可以看到上帝如何引导我们度过不同的困境。如果没有祂的帅领，今天就没有宣道堂。早年的创始成员们就是抓紧了这样的一个异象，并承诺尽最大努力并顺从上帝的带领。

## 在过去的 40 年里，从何看到上帝的信实呢？

回顾过去 40 年，我们看到了上帝恩手的引导，不可思议的事情，以及奇迹的医治（包括肉体及灵性上），但由于时间和篇幅的限制，我只能举一些较为代表性及重要的事物来做见证。

### 1. 主赐祂的仆人来帮助我们

在教会成长的过程中，我们经历了一些分歧和冲突。也因此有些成员离开了我们，并迫使我们险些就结束了整个教会。在这个时期，主不仅带来了和好及医治，还差遣了一些仆人来帮助我们，重新获得灵性上的指导。当中，早期有仍就读于 Kingsley College 的 Nigel Lau 牧师和任职于 American Alliance Missionary to Vietnam 的 Spencer Sutherland 博士的帮助。任职于 American Alliance Missionary 的 Arthur Russell 牧师也经常在主日中讲道，并帮助我们的小组成长，为教会贡献不少。来自台湾的 Sieh Kuok Hsiong 先生和余太太在经济及祈祷上支持我们。另外，Dr. Sutherland 也为我们作出了很大的贡献，他每周两次从坎培拉来到墨尔本，

在我们教会开办神学教育延伸（TEE）课程，及后来成为我们 1996 - 1999 年的教导牧师，其门徒训练有助于稳定我们的教会。在往后几年中，还有许多仆人，如 Lau To-Chan 牧师，George Teo 牧师和 Ray Pugh 传道帮助教会，还有其他人仆人，包括过去任职和现任的牧师团，以及其他领袖的帮助。神将会纪念这些仆人的事奉。对于他们的贡献，在这篇短文中不能详细述说。

## **2. 主所赐的是一辆豪华轿车，而不是一辆丰田小车**

在我们成长的过程中，主赐智慧给我们，使我们得悉一个永久的聚会所，这对教会成长很重要。主应允了我们，让我们找到并准备签约购置一个聚会所时，然而，就在我们要签署购买合约的前夕，主让我们知道救世军的 Citadel of the Koonung Corp 正好要出售。由于救世军在成长中，因此正着手搬迁到 Doncaster East 一间更大的物业，而这个物业就是位于我们即将购买的物业附近。我们不知道主对我们有其他的计划，当我们正要签约购买的这个物业时，正好符合了救世军所期望的牧师宿舍条件，如地点、卧室数量、房龄及价格等。我们惊喜地看到神的恩典；能够与救世军安排「交换」。在这过程中，救世军也给了我们很大的折扣。他们把原本要定的价格从 127,000 澳元降至 105,000 澳元。赞美主！我们原本只是要购置一个物业，但是一夜之间，主给了我们一个更大的聚会所。在那里我们不但可以敬拜祂，也让我们的教会能够继续成长；就好像我们向主祈求一辆丰田小车，但是祂却给了我们一辆豪华轿车，并获得一个很大的优惠！

Box Hill North 的 Elgar Road 聚会所，并不是主赐给我们唯一的产业。祂带领我们在 Blackburn South 和 Box Hill 购买了其他物业，售价上都有很大的优惠。在这些交易中，那些教会都在价格上作出了很大的让步。愿上帝纪念救世军，Crossway Baptist Church 和 One Community Church of Christ 的雅量。

### 3.主饲养我们维生素 M

在这40年中，主借着在经济上有能力的人资助我们，一些会员还提供了无息贷款来帮助教会，以偿还银行按揭。我们有时无法理解事情的发生，但终于发生了；主是永远信实的，因为祂拥有千山上的牲畜 - 即丰盛与丰富（诗篇 50:10）。

### 4.主给我们宽广而非狭窄的视野

主已经赐给我们建立教会的异象，以及赐我们力量来完成大使命（马太福音 28：19-20）。当初我们先开始了英语和华语的双语事工。后来也开始了其他崇拜；英语和粤语聚会。但是，神要我们建立教会的这个异象，为我们多拓展了4个地点 Geelong，Frankston（后来搬迁至 Springvale），Blackburn South 及 Box Hill。每个聚会点都是由我们在这些不同地区所开拓的，而且，每一所教会最终都可以在财务行政上独立运作。

### 结论

在过去的40年里，主亲自带领我们走过了那些岁月。我们所经历过的并非都一帆风顺。由于世人本性的软弱，我们在每一次的分歧和危机中，吸取了教训和从中得以成长。每次因着圣灵的同在，我们看到主的大能。现在我们要庆祝是因着祂，而不是为了我们自己。以色列人在进入应许之地前，曾漂流40年之久。愿经过这40年后，主仍然引导我们，让我们能将这属于主的事工，薪火相传 - 把棒子交给下一代。使神的福音持续在未来的年月一直传下去。正如哥林多后书 4：5 所说：「我们原不是传自己，乃是传基督耶稣为主。」我们不会也不敢抢夺上帝的荣耀（以赛亚书 48:11）。愿祂赐给我们智慧和力量，继续向前迈进，并以更大的热忱来完成祂所托付给我们的工作，直到祂再来。愿今天我们所所有人都一同来大声呼喊：哈利路亚！赞美主！阿门。

# Significant Moments 重要时刻

In 1995,  
Dr Woo York Ang  
was the first  
pastor to be  
ordained.

洪与约医生于  
1995 年成为教会  
第一位被按立的  
牧师。



In 1998, introducing  
the Founding  
Members at 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Celebration.

宣道堂于 1998 年  
在 20 周年年庆上  
介绍创始成员。

In 2003, ECC  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration –  
Thanksgiving  
Service.

宣道堂于 2003 年  
举办 25 周年年庆  
的感恩崇拜。



# 1978 – 1988



Eastern Suburbs Chinese Christian Fellowship started in August 1978.  
Christmas Choir presentation at St Andrews Uniting Church Box Hill

東區華人基督徒團契于1978年8月成立。詩班于圣诞节在圣安德烈教堂献诗。

In 1981, Discipleship Training conducted at the home of Rev Woo York Ang.  
于1981年门徒培训在洪与约牧师家里举行。



1983 ECCM Church Picnic  
1983年教会的郊游活动

1986 Sunday School Kids and Youth Christmas Play.

1986年主日学的儿童及少年于圣诞节献诗。



# 1988 – 1998

In 1993, ECC  
15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
celebration at Kew  
Secondary School.

宣道堂于 1993 年  
在 Kew 中学庆祝  
15 周年。



In 1994,  
Ladies' Group  
Camp at Elgar  
Road Church, Box  
Hill.

宣道堂于 1994 年  
在博士山教会  
举办姐妹营会。



In 1995, Junior Youth  
Leaders meeting with  
parents of English &  
Cantonese  
congregations.

英语及粤语会众的  
父母于 1995 年进行  
少年组的会议。



In 1996, Friday Youth  
Fellowship moved  
from Rev. Ang's home  
to meet at Holland  
Road Campus.

少年团契于 1996 年  
从洪与约牧师家移到  
Holland Road  
进行。

# 1998 – 2008



In 1999, Hai Leng Ang conducting Parenting Seminar for Cantonese Congregation.  
洪师母于 1999 年与粤语会众进行亲子讲座。

In 1999, Singing Fountain gathering at Tatra Hut.

赞美泉源于 1999 年在 Tatra Hut 进行活动。



In 2002, Junior Youths from English and Cantonese congregations' activity at Holland Road Campus.

英语及粤语堂的青少年于 2002 年在 Holland Road 进行活动。

In 2003, Alpha Course conducted at Chapel, Holland Road Campus.

启发课程于 2003 年在 Holland Road 副堂举办。



# 2008 – 2018

In 2014, Combined Church Camp at Marysville.

英语及华语堂于 2014 年在 Marysville 举办营会。



In 2016, Church Mission at Taiwan FHL Academy.

教会于 2016 年到台湾信望爱少年学园宣教。

In 2017, Kids Presentation on Mother's Day Combined Service at Court Street.

儿童于 2017 年在 Court Street 母亲联合崇拜献诗。



In 2018, ECCL outreach at Box Hill Central.

爱邻宣道堂于 2018 年在 Box Hill Central 进行户外佈道。





## 40 周年的感言

感谢主带领宣道堂走过 40 年！  
40 这个数字在圣经里有特别的意义，洪与约主任牧师已在这本小册子的开始时，清楚说明 40 这个数字的意义。在这里，我会分享上帝如何带领华语堂的成立，以及上帝所赐的恩典！

腓立比书四 19 说：「我的神必照祂荣耀的丰富，在基督耶稣里，使你们一切所需用的都充足。」

### 1 上帝供应人手

爱邻宣道堂的华语事工于 2004 年 8 月 8 日正式成立。当时，许多的华人移民到澳洲，由于张吉成牧师和洪与约牧师对讲华语的移民有负担，因此，在 13 Holland Road, Blackburn 聚会点开始了国语/普通话的团契。因着爱邻宣道堂需要一位全职的牧者来带领华语堂，所以，我在 2005 年 5 月份被邀请到 Blackburn 宣道堂服事。另外，当我要在 2011 年回去台湾时，上帝也带领了当时的王荣庆传道加入爱邻宣道堂华语事工来服事，继续牧养华语堂的会众。

当教会在人手上缺乏的时候，我们却看到上帝的手引领教会，上帝是信实的，祂已经预备了人手在爱邻宣道堂继续带领华语事工。如果不是上帝的带领，又如何很短的时间内找到合适的人选来带领教会呢？

### 2 上帝预备地方

华语堂刚开始时，聚会的人数大约是十位，因着人数的增长，决定从 13 Holland Road 的一个小的聚会所搬到一个正式的地方——Blackburn 聚会点的小教堂，因此有更多空间，也能够容纳 100 多人来崇拜。

而当时 13 Holland Road 的聚会所，只能容纳 20 几人，不能容纳更多的人。上帝让我们看到华语堂的成长，需要更多的空间。感谢主赐给我们勇气踏出去，愿意接受祂为我们安排的地方——小教堂，让我们有更大的成长空间，带领更多人到主的面前来归向祂！

### 3 上帝带领博士山事工的开始

于 2010 年，爱邻宣道堂购买了 Court Street 的教堂，因此部分的英语会众也移到那里聚会。于 2013 年 8 月，Box Hill 的会众看见这里的华人需要福音，邀请我从台湾回到澳洲开始新的华语事工。第一次的聚会始于九月一日，当时大约只有 4 个人，因此在牧师楼开始团契。当人数增加到十几人时，便从牧师楼搬到教会现在主日学所用的房间。大约二十人时，便从主日学所用的房间搬到现在 Box Hill 聚会点的副堂崇拜。于 2016 年 7 月份，连文学传道所带领的天粮堂基督教会加入爱邻宣道堂一同敬拜和服事。

随着事工的需要，感谢主于 2017 和 2018 年带领了几位同工来帮助华语及教会其他的事工。如果不是上帝的带领，今天不可能看到我们教会的华语事工。感谢主，给教会有这样的看见，以致在 博士山开始了华语事工。博士山的确是聚集了许多的华人，求主给我们对华人有传福音的负担，带领他们作主的门徒！

上帝所赐的福，是超过我们所想所求的！如以弗所书三 20 所说「神能照着运行在我们心里的大力，充充足足的成就一切超过我们所求所想的」。感谢祂过去的供应、预备和带领，以致华语堂走的每一步都能发出赞美的声音！但愿上帝继续引领爱邻宣道堂华语事工走向另外一个 40 年，直到主再来！

司徒嘉宝牧师



## 40th Anniversary Testimony

Thanks to the Lord for leading ECCI for 40 years! The number 40 has a special meaning in the Bible. Senior Pastor Woo York Ang has clearly stated the meaning of the number 40 at the beginning of this booklet. Here, I will share how God established the Chinese congregation and the grace that He has shown us!

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 19

### **1 God provides manpower**

The Chinese ministry in ECCI was formally established on August 8, 2004. At that time, many Chinese had immigrated to Australia, and Rev Keat Seng Teoh and Rev Woo York Ang felt a burden for the Chinese-speaking migrants. Therefore, a mandarin fellowship was formed and met at 13 Holland Road, Blackburn. As ECCI needed a full-time pastor to lead the Chinese congregation. Therefore, I was invited to serve at the Blackburn campus in May 2005. When I had to go back to Taiwan in 2011, God led Pastor Caleb Ong to serve and continue the Chinese congregation.

When the church lacked manpower, we witnessed God's hands guiding the church. God is faithful. He had prepared manpower for the Chinese ministry to continue. If not for His guidance, would we have found the right people to lead the church in such a short time?

### **2 God prepares a place**

At the beginning, there were about 10 people attending the service. Due to the increase in numbers, the Chinese congregation decided to move from the small meeting place at 13 Holland Road to a small chapel in Blackburn with space that could accommodate more than 100 people. At the time, 13 Holland Road could only accommodate around 20 people.

God helped the Chinese congregation to grow and consequently need more space. Thanks to our Lord for giving us the courage to step out in faith and accept the small chapel that He had arranged for us, so that we had more room for growth and could bring more people to the Lord!

### **3 God leads the start of Box Hill's ministry**

In 2010, ECCI purchased the property at Court Street and part of the congregation moved to Court Street. In August 2013, English Box Hill congregation saw the need for a ministry to minister to the Chinese-speaking people in Box Hill campus and invited me to return to Australia from Taiwan to start a new Chinese ministry. The fellowship was held on September 1 with only 4 people, so it was held in the manse. When the numbers increased to more than a dozen people, we moved from the manse to the multipurpose room where the Kids' Church is now. When it reached about twenty people, we moved from the multipurpose room to the Annex Hall where we now hold our services in the Box Hill campus. In July 2016, Pastor Andrew Lian and his congregation at Bethlehem Christian Assembly also joined ECCI to worship and serve together.

When there was a need for people, we thank God for bringing workers in 2017 and 2018 to serve in the Chinese congregation and other ministries in church. If not for God's guidance, the Chinese ministry would not exist today. Thank the Lord for giving his church the vision to start the Chinese ministry in Box Hill. Box Hill indeed has a huge Chinese population, and we ask the Lord to give us the burden in our hearts to evangelise to the Chinese and lead them to be God's people!

The blessings that God has given to us are more than what we could ever imagine or ask for! Ephesians 3: 20 "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," Thank God for His provision, preparation and guidance in the past, so that every step the Chinese congregation took could be filled with praise and worship! May God continue to lead ECCI's Chinese congregation towards another 40 years if the Lord tarries!

Rev Dorcas Ka Po Seto

# 2005 – 2018



In 2006, Induction Service of Ps Dorcas Seto, the first female pastor of ECCI.

司徒嘉宝传道于 2006 年成为爱邻宣道堂第一位就职的女传道。

In 2006, Mandarin congregation held BBQ at Jells Park.

华语堂会众于 2006 年在 Jells Park 进行烧烤活动。



In 2010, Induction Service of Ps Caleb Ong.

2010 年，王荣庆传道的就职典礼。

In 2013, ECCI started Mandarin Fellowship at Court Street, Box Hill.

爱邻宣道堂于 2013 年在 Court Street, Box Hill 开始华语团契。



In 2014, Chinese New Year celebration at Blackburn Chapel.

华语堂于 2014 年在 Blackburn 副堂举行农历新年庆祝活动。



In 2017, Mandarin congregation held BBQ at Jells Park.  
华语堂会众于 2017 年在 Jells Park 进行烧烤活动。

In 2016, Ps Andrew Lian joined ECCI Mandarin Ministry at Court Street, Box Hill.

连文学传道于 2016 年加入爱邻宣道堂华语事工一同服事。



In 2017, Induction Service of Ps Doris Cheung.

2017 年，张玉玲传道的就职典礼。