

Pastoral Sharing

Pastor Cedric Chau

*"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."
(John 6 v 68)*

Where else can we go? To whom else shall we go? We know there is only one way – but it doesn't mean the way is always easy. Can we keep going strong all the time?

The Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin was incorporated in May 1992. For the first six months, we borrowed a meeting hall and held a monthly Sunday worship service. Proper weekly services then began in January 1993. The end of 2007 therefore marks the 15-year milestone of our weekly services, and marks almost 16 years as a church. If we add the 10 years or so of our existence as a Fellowship prior to that, it means that some of our founding members had been serving non-stop for 25 years.

It has therefore been a relatively long journey for us as a church. Of course, alongside the many challenges and struggles over the 25 years, there had also been plenty of victories. We have witnessed God's faithfulness and sovereign power over the years; and we can testify to His grace. We are thankful to God for sustaining the Dublin church over the years.

But the past is the past. While the past can show us where we have come from and why we are here, it is the present that we are now standing at, and it is the future that we must all look to. Indeed, the present moment is the turning point separating the future from the past.

So how do we feel at this present moment about our future? From where we are standing now, are we excited and hopeful for the future? Or perhaps we have a sense that, after all these years and after all the battles that had to be fought, we are now feeling wounded and weary instead? Rather than a battle cry for a forward charge, are we now all crying out for time-out instead?

The Apostle Paul urged us to press on, to not give up (Philippians 3 v 12–14). There is a need to stay determined, to be resolved in our hearts, in our minds and in our spirits to stand our grounds, and to keep going forward. There is such a need because the going is never easy. It seems that we will always have to struggle until we get to the end of our journey – not that we cannot have joy and fulfilment in the process of struggling, but struggles we cannot avoid.

Even Isaiah talked about those waiting upon the Lord would “run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40 v 31). Isaiah did not talk about stopping, but rather finding the strength to continue to walk and to run. When Jesus said, “all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” He promised rest, but not a permanent stop. For He then immediately asked us to take his yoke upon us and still carry a burden – we still have to carry our burden, albeit an easier and lighter one (Matthew 11 v 28-30).

We have to struggle because all around us is a world that has fallen, and we ourselves also inherited a fallen and sinful nature. As sinful people in the midst of a fallen and sinful world, we must guard our hopes and not to lose heart. In our struggles, we can very easily lose heart and allow our hopes to fade if we do not keep our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12 v 1-3). What do we see when we take our eyes off Jesus? We see our own frailty and we see our weaknesses. We also see each other’s failure and we see and feel the pains and the hurts resulting from those failures. And when we take our eyes off Jesus, very soon we will begin to be overwhelmed by a sense of hopelessness, and the desire to give up rapidly begins to flood in.

But when we consider Jesus again, we can renew our hope. We look to Jesus, and not to others. When others fail and fall, we should not be discouraged by their failure. We do not even count their failures (1 Corinthians 13 v 4-7). Instead we need to stand by them, and become part of the strength from which they can draw the support to rise again. We look to Jesus, and not ourselves. When we ourselves fail and fall, we should not dwell in our own past failures. Instead, we need to be resolved to face our weaknesses, to draw strength from God and from others, and to rise again anew.

We have hope because Jesus had shown us the way. We have Jesus who is able to sympathise with our weaknesses and our struggles, who was tempted in every way just as we are (Hebrews 4 v 15). And Jesus not only showed us His own victory by His sinless life and His resurrection from death, but He also granted us access to that same victory. We therefore have this hope that we ourselves can also renew our strength and soar on wings like eagles; that we also can run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40 v 31).

The way of Christ is about new beginnings, new hope, and new strength. As the Apostle Paul urged us, therefore let us forget what is behind, and straining toward what is ahead, let us press on forward anew (Philippians 3 v 13–14).

Deacons

Mr Yee Hoi Wong (Representative)

Mr Kevin Chiu

Mrs Sabrina Fok

Ms Zora Law

Mrs Yan-Ki Leung

Dr Jean Li

Mr Alan Li

Mr David Ng

Mr Kam-Hay Sin

Dr Ruth Sin

Dr Tommy Kyaw-Tun

Church Office 2007

Council Members:

Pastor Roy Armstrong
Pastor Frank Cheung
Pastor Stan Fleming
Elder George Morrison
Ms. Mary Wang

Advisors

Pastor Andrew Chan
Pastor Daniel Chu

Pastor

Pastor Cedric Chau

Full Time Evangelist

Mr Gary Tsang

Full Time Staff

Mr Ken Martin

Elders

Elder Mimi Kuan
Elder Amy Ng
Elder Ghee-Seng Teo
Elder Kathy Teo

Treasurer

Elder Kathy Teo

Secretary

Elder Amy Ng

Evangelist Report

Evangelist Gary Tsang

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
(Matthew 28:19)*

Our church has carried the great mission of evangelising and spreading the Gospel in the year 2007. From the beginning of the year till the end, we had organised a series of outreach and mission trips domestically and abroad. There were new members joining the church and believing in Christ. The church was also encouraged to continue in carrying the burden of spreading the Gospel.

The evangelistic work included delivering leaflets, visitation, organising outreach meetings and mission trips. Everyone who participated needed to be like Jesus Christ; equipped with the Spirit that is dwelling among us and the heart for the lost souls. We ought to sacrifice our time, energy and money for the Lord. I believe that God does not grant us the spiritual gifts for no purposes. We have to make the most use of our talents, to become the army of God and to fight a victorious battle for Him.

In Dublin, we had organised outreach meetings for the Chinese New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival. In Swords and Blanchardstown, we had held a Cantonese based outreach meeting which had attracted around seventy to eighty people. Apart from having internal speakers from our church, we also had Pastor Enoch Lam from Hong Kong. Pastor Lam brought out the Gospel message in the form of a talk show. He had attracted a great number of people from the local Chinese community in Dublin to listen to the message and accept the Lord Jesus. This created a positive impact and response. I believe that evangelistic outreach meetings have now become one of the bridges between CGCD and the local Chinese community.

Not only are our brothers and sisters enthusiastic over local outreach events, but they also actively participated in mission trips abroad in which they have all experienced God's guidance. During 2007, we had a mission team of seven brothers, visiting Antwerp Truth Church in Belgium and spreading the Gospel to the Chinese community over there. We also had a team of eleven who went to Cork, Limerick and Galway for visiting local fellowship groups and holding outreach meetings. Apart from this, we had also a team of eight visited to Budapest and organised the Youth Summer Mission Camp. During this trip,

we have established a good relationship with the Chinese churches in Hungary. It has also greatly encouraged the church to take a step further to lead the Summer Camp again in 2008 and to care for the Youth in Budapest.

Besides, our fellow Chinese in mainland China also have the need for the Gospel. I praise the Lord for giving us an opportunity to join the mission and training ministry in China. In the provinces of Anhui and Guangdong, we worked with the local missionaries in equipping and training the local evangelists so as to build up more churches in China and that God's name will be glorified.

Evangelistic mission is not easy and it requires support from different aspects, such as spiritual partnership, personal preparation and financial support etc. However, we believe that with the help of God, the commitments and dedication from the congregation and the church, the great work of evangelistic mission will continue.

Statements of Belief

1. The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2. The unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
3. The sovereignty of God in Creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
5. Redemption from the guilt penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death. (as our Representative & Substitute) of Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God.
6. The Full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God; His virgin birth and His real and sinless humanity; His death on the cross, His bodily resurrection, and His present reign in heaven and earth.
7. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ.
8. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
9. The one Holy universal Church which is the Body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong
10. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Doctrine is what we believe in. Statements of doctrine are therefore statements of our belief. And our belief determines how we think or live, as long as we can translate the head knowledge and understanding of the doctrine into our hearts and lives and to let them become who we are.

Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin 都柏林中華福音堂
Income & Expenditure Account 二零零七年
For the year ended 31/12/2007 財政報告

Bank Loans Summary 銀行貸款總結

	2007	2006
	Euro	Euro
Ulster Bank No. 1 Loan Account 銀行貸款		
Opening Balance @ 01/01/2007 二零零七年一月一日貸款總額	120222.36	133364.42
Interest for the year 利息	<u>8841.13</u>	<u>8304.10</u>
	129063.49	141668.52
Less Repayment (1787.18x12) 貸款攤還	<u>21446.16</u>	<u>21446.16</u>
Closing Balance @ 31/12/2007 二零零七年終結欠	<u>107617.33</u>	<u>120222.36</u>
	2007	2006
	Euro	Euro
Ulster Bank No. 2 Loan Account 銀行貸款		
Opening Balance @ 01/01/2007 二零零七年一月一日貸款總額	85908.89	90260.28
Interest for the year 利息	<u>5558.35</u>	<u>5754.89</u>
	91647.24	96015.17
Less Repayment (842.19x9) 貸款攤還	7579.71	10106.28
Repaid in full 貸款清還	<u>83887.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Closing Balance @ 31/12/2007 二零零七年終結欠	<u>0.00</u>	<u>85908.89</u>

2007 Review**Elder Mimi Kuan**

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

At AGM 2007, we sensed that God wanted to bring us to build a stronger foundation on His word, hence the verse: "You have the words of eternal life." There are many events that build upon the foundation of the word of God. For instance, there was a reading plan for the whole church to endeavour to read through the Bible in one year. Each week we also had a memory verse that we can meditate on for the week. The Adult Sunday schools continue to grow with the addition of one for the under 21's. Elder Yeng Shiong expounded on the theme of God's word during the Easter retreat.

However, more significantly, I believe, God showed us the reality of the first part of the verse, "Lord to whom shall we go?" Last year was the 15th year since the establishment of the church. Many people had been in and serving in the church for many of those years. There comes a point when we need to switch from what is predictable and rehearsed to stepping out of the boat (comfort zone) to where God brings us. Many of our worlds were shaken by events that were outside the norm. We too have to re-examine our commitment to God and His plans for our lives. I am glad that for many, we came in ourselves to say Lord, I want to follow you, where else can we go to find life apart from you – it is a moment of revelation.

The youth mission trips in the summer impacted the participants greatly. Revival came to Dungarvan as youths from Belgium and Ireland encountered the Holy Spirit's move powerfully in the one week mission. They continue to grow and build their spiritual life through experience and God's word. The mission to the youth in Budapest impacted on the leaders of the church as we are now called to show God's love to a hurting youth in Budapest where only His love can bring healing. There are plans to continue to build on the foundation of the relationships that Pastor Chu had built up during his tenure there. Many of the youth also visited Christian conferences in Amsterdam and London. Pastor Cliff Gregston once again spoke at the youth retreat and blessed the young people who attended the event.

Apart from European missions, a China mission was organised for many church members who were in Hong Kong during the summer months. The fervency of the Chinese Christians and the miraculous signs that accompanied

the mission certainly astounded the mission team members. The word of God became a reality: signs and miracles accompanied the gospel message. There has also been a number of gospel events that were held in Chinese restaurants and hotel rather than in church hall. Pastor Enoch Lam also came for a outreach event in September and many came to hear the gospel and became Christ followers. There were also a number of other outreach events organised by the different care groups (Mandarin, Cantonese Youth and English) in the church. For the first time, there were two Christmas day services, which were also gospel meetings to bring the gift of salvation to the people. God continues to add numbers to the congregation.

The leadership team, elders and deacons, went away for retreats in October and November to Kilkenny to refresh and renew our commitment to God. Pastor Stephen Chan was the speaker for the elders' retreat while Pastor Frank Cheung was the speaker for the deacons' retreat.

While we were sad to see brother Chi and sister Sze Sze leave for Hong Kong, we were happy that brother Andy came back to Dublin for another period. We were thrilled to see Edmund, Miranda and Ally in September.

Towards the end of the year, Pastor Chu came to visit us to pose a challenge for our church to reach out to the youth in Budapest. He called us to continue to share God's love in 'Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth'. In order to share this love, we as a church will need to experience God's love ever more so that we become His channel for love.

I am confident that God is bringing us closer to His heart so that our hearts beat with the same compassion which He has for this world (John 3:16). May you know the extent of His love in 2008.

Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin		都柏林中華福音堂	
Income & Expenditure Account		二零零七年	
For the year ended 31/12/2007		財政報告	
		2007	2006
		Euro	Euro
Missions & Outreach	宣教及外展		
Summer Mission Team	夏季短宣支助	-	2088.27
Various Local Outreach	本地外展	935.89	-
Ireland Mission	愛爾蘭短宣	115.15	-
Mission outside Ireland	歐洲及中國短宣	1929.03	-
Yeah Show	林以諾佈道會	2074.75	-
Mission uniforms	短宣制服	1920.00	-
Stream Of Praise	讚美之泉佈道會	<u>150.00</u>	<u>10508.33</u>
		<u>7124.82</u>	<u>12596.60</u>
Offerings	奉獻		
Luxembourg Chinese Church	盧森堡華人教會	-	5000.00
Stream of Praise	讚美之泉 (US\$3000)	-	2418.77
Xiang Qing Building Fund	(Note 1)	5000.00	-
	鄉情建設基金(注一)		
COCM	基督教華僑佈道會	2400.00	2400.00
OM - Ng Wai Leong	世界福音動員會	2400.00	2400.00
Herald Europe	號角歐洲版	2400.00	2400.00
Xiang Qing	鄉情	3250.00	2375.24
Pastor Cliff Gregston	美國宣教牧師	3900.00	2400.00
Living Water	活水	1000.00	1000.00
Chinese Christian Mission	中信 (US\$ 1400)	968.93	775.77
Oversea Campus	海外校園 (US\$1400)	968.93	775.77
Offering to Outreach & Others	Speakers其他講員	<u>1800.00</u>	<u>1900.00</u>
		<u>24087.86</u>	<u>23845.55</u>
Total Expenses		總支出	
		174161.84	179880.85

Note 1: The church has reserved €5000 for Xiang Qing Building Project.

Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin 都柏林中華福音堂
Income & Expenditure Account 二零零七年
For the year ended 31/12/2007 財政報告

	2007	2006
	Euro	Euro
Fire Extinguishers & Services 防火設備	339.02	466.10
Bank Charges 銀行費	317.19	333.64
CCLI Copyright 音樂版權費	240.00	266.00
TV License 電視牌照	<u>158.00</u>	<u>155.00</u>
	<u>19124.48</u>	<u>20476.14</u>

Ministry Expenses 事工支出

Elders/Deacons Retreats 長執退修會	4291.04	-
Easter Retreat 復活節退修會支出	1325.17	1140.19
Youth Retreat 青年冬令會	940.04	560.82
Youth Summer Camp 青年夏令營	741.00	-
Hillsongs Conference 敬拜音樂訓練支助	-	870.50
Chinese Class 中文班	1291.05	991.90
Kids Club & Sunday School 兒童組及主日學	16.45	936.90
Teens 少年組	-	508.91
Bibles/Books/Tracts 聖經/書籍	1162.49	761.29
Christmas Expenses 聖誕節支出	910.77	924.57
CNY & Special Events Expenses 新年及特別節日支出	703.44	491.05
Staff Traveling Expenses 職工機票	-	120.98
Speakers & Visitors Flights/Hotel Expenses 講員機票及酒店	<u>900.00</u>	<u>2196.41</u>
	<u>12281.45</u>	<u>9503.52</u>

Care Groups & Bible Study Groups

Castleknock Bible Study Group

Evangelist Gary Tsang

The Castleknock Bible Study is one of the family groups. It is held in the household of brother Thomas and sister Maria on every Tuesday at 11.30am. There are about 20 brothers and sisters, who are mainly engaged in restaurant business and live nearby. We used to meet at church every week, but because there are many Chinese people residing in Castleknock, Blanchardstown and the surrounding areas, we moved to Castleknock in November 2007. We believe this is a harvest field of the Gospel, also a direction for the outreach ministry of our church, the guidance and the grace of God.

The Castleknock Bible Study Group has only started for a short while, just a few months. Every time we enjoy the encouragements among brothers and sisters and the edification of the words of God very much. I believe that through the Holy Spirit, God is working in each one of us so that we are making an impact on people's lives around us.

May God raise more brothers and sisters, and use this bible study group as the salt and the light of the world to bring people into His kingdom.

Ladies Group

Deacon Sabrina Fok

When I was about to write the annual report for the Ladies Group, faces of each sister came to my mind. Some sisters love to talk volubly, some work quietly, some with woebegone face, some like to listen in silence, some seem always rushing, some fashionably dressed, etc. They have different backgrounds and their own special characters, and different stories behind, but they have the same spirit and the same heart to serve God. Whenever there is gathering, they will make a variety of dishes. Or whenever there is help needed, they all have the heart of willingness. Their motivation is believed to have come from our Lord Jesus. God puts us in a group, He has His perfect will. These familiar faces have gone through many moments of happiness, anger, grief and joy with me.

All the while sisters make up the majority of the church; they are also the faithful parts in the family of God. In this new era, the difficulties that women face are getting more and more complicated. Thank God for guiding and blessing us continuously in the past year. Through different topics of sharing, they grow in the teaching of God, and gain an understanding of the truth and the real knowledge to face and handle challenges in everyday living. Seeing the sisters discovering and living out the truth of God, I believe the grace of God is sufficient for them to face the challenges of life, just like the praises that we sing, "We have victory in Christ, we have victory in Christ". May all glory be to our God.

The meetings of the Ladies Group do not have major changes in general. The number is very stable as well, with more than 18 people at each meeting. From the second half of the year 2007 to 2008, our theme is 'Women in the Bible'. We learn God's teachings through different women in the Bible so that we can also be the blessed women of God's use. We incorporate worship and prayers in our meetings to help us approaching God with confidence and to make prayers of offering. In these, we can share the experiences and the feelings of one another, pray for one another and let God comfort us.

In the new year, we hope that there are more sisters especially from the Mandarin Group joining us. Let us learn together on how to walk with God and how to be united in Him.

English Care Group

Deacon Jean Li

There are a lot of changes in the group over the years, eg many have left for home countries or other places to work, so the dynamic of the group keeps changing and it is not easy to adjust to the change. We also encounter lots of difficulties in raising new leaders due to the same reason.

Many of us are moulded by God through the year and become His disciples and have started serving others in the church.

Over the year, I have learned that the caregroup is not for us, our lives or our success, but it is for God and His salvation for all, especially the unsaved. We just need to do our best in our part and God will engineer the situation to accomplish His plan.

Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31/12/2007

都柏林中華福音堂
二零零七年
財政報告

Expenditure Summary 支出概要	2007 Euro	2006 Euro
Loans Repayment 銀行還款		
No.1 Loan Account 貸款攤還	21446.16	21446.16
No.2 Loan Account 貸款攤還	<u>7579.71</u>	<u>10106.28</u>
	<u>29025.87</u>	<u>31552.44</u>
Salaries 職工薪金		
Gross Wages 薪金	69705.20	67900.20
Prsi (Employer) 社會福利保險金	7343.15	7160.81
Pension (Employer) 公積金	2100.00	1925.00
2006 Paye/Prsi Balance 繳付稅項	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1336.00</u>
	<u>79148.35</u>	<u>78322.01</u>
Fixture, Fitting & Equipment 裝置和設備	<u>790.77</u>	<u>1632.25</u>
Musical Equipment 音響器材	<u>2578.24</u>	<u>1952.4</u>
Church General Expenses 一般支出		
Gas/ESB/ Phone 煤氣/電話/電費	5244.91	6912.18
Building Insurance 教會保險	3451.26	3269.90
Postage Printing & Stationary 文具/印刷/郵費	2160.77	2469.92
Alarm Maintenance 警鐘年費及維修	2070.23	1594.67
Photocopier Maintenance 影印機維修	1140.63	1074.24
General Building Materials & Repairs 一般維修	1873.98	1485.30
Tea & General Expenses 茶點雜費	966.99	1150.24
Dublin City Council 垃圾費	375.00	700.00
Garda Record 警察年刊	786.50	598.95

Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin 都柏林中華福音堂
Income & Expenditure Account 二零零七年
For the year ended 31/12/2007 財政報告

	2007	2006
	Euro	Euro
Opening Balance @ 01/01/2007 二零零七年一月一日結存	<u>133087.18</u>	<u>93491.60</u>
Sunday Offerings & Standing Orders 主日及自動轉賬奉獻	156262.74	137783.60
Overseas & other Offerings 海外及其他奉獻	1350.00	750.00
Offering to Stream of Praise 讚美之泉奉獻	-	2677.05
Tax Relief for Donations 退稅	36013.68	36722.09
Shop front Rent – Hidden Hearing 助聽公司租金	45000.00	41546.08
Filipino Fellowship 菲律賓團契奉獻	2700.00	3600.00
Sale of Work 賣物會	4006.50	-
Youth Food Fare 青年組食品義賣	814.60	-
Others 其他	<u>218.01</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total Income 總收入	246365.53	223278.82
Total Expenditure 總支出	<u>174161.84</u>	<u>179880.85</u>
Surplus for the year 二零零七年盈餘	<u>72203.69</u>	<u>43397.97</u>
	205290.87	136889.57
Transfer to Building Renovation Fund 撥入教會維修基金	0.00	3802.39
Paid Off 2nd Bank Loan Account 貸款清還	<u>83887.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Balance @ 31/12/2007 二零零七年終結存	<u>121403.34</u>	<u>133087.18</u>

Our vision for the coming year is to continue to make disciples and outreach after outreach.

Lucan Bible Study Group

Sister Chi-Kuen Lee

I have been attending the Lucan bible study group for two years. During these two years of fellowship, there are great improvement and breakthrough in my understanding of God and my relationship with Him. There are more than ten sisters in the bible study group, and a few sisters who stopped attending due to childbirth also rejoined us. But we also miss some sisters who have left us to accompany their husbands in the newly established Castleknock Bible Study Group which meets at the same time.

We have a strong sense of belonging in this group. We try our best to adjust our daily housework in order to gather together before God. We often share with one another, from God to trivialities of daily life. In the bible study group, we sing praises together. Although we don't have the voices of angels and often sing out of tune, but I think we are improving. A sister once said that singing out of tune does not matter; most importantly we use our heart to praise and worship. Through the love of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, we are able to share openly and truthfully, at times sobbing grievously and at times joyfully praising God.

We are no longer the same. At the moment we are studying the book "No longer the same". This is a book of life-changing training, to test, approve and live out God's will. It is also our aim for the second half of the year and also for the coming year. From this book, we learn about God's will and the purpose of our lives, and how we can focus on God. We are all willing to learn and to listen to God's voice. We must have an intimate relationship with God in order to discern His comfort and His voice in this era with hubbub of noises.

In completing this lesson, we hope we can sing this praise with one heart: "Mould me, oh God, make me bear greater fruits in the Spirit. Purify my heart, oh wonderful Holy Spirit. Remove the filth and make me holy. Make me be like you, gracious Lord, gentle and humble in heart, changing thousands of lives with sincere love, reflecting a beautiful and loving spirit."

May our Lord continue to guide and bless our bible study group.

Mandarin Care Groups

Agape Group

Deacon Ruth Sin

Looking back to 2006, it passed by in the twinkling of an eye. Yet 2007 flid even faster without our realization. In 2007, the Agape Group has a significant increase in number as well as in our spiritual lives, with 10 to 12 attendants every Tuesday. In terms of the number of people, Han Qiang and Xi Yue started to join us at the end of last year, and Uncle Han (Han Qiang's father) even accepted Christ under the prayers and cares from our brothers and sisters! Hallelujah! Glory be to our God. In terms of quality, I could see that there is also a significant growth in the spiritual lives of our brothers and sisters. Everyone had different trials and experiences from God. In the past year we studied the book "The Piercing Gospel" written by Pastor So Wing Chi to encourage us to spread the Gospel from different aspects.

In 2007, besides internal build up, our group also reached out to the public. In fact, this is the purpose of the existence of a church. A group of 15 members went caroling at Beaumont Hospital during Christmas. Even though it was only for an hour, the brothers and sisters were fervently blessing those who were in need. During Christmas, Elder Ghee Seng also led a group of brothers and sisters including brother Han Qiang and family, sister Chen Feng, sister Wang Lin and the others to Cork to participate in and co-organize a retreat. They were greatly encouraged and edified through this. God also blessed Cheng Ju and Chen Bin with a lovely daughter, Xin Min, who adds lots of joy to us.

In 2008, the vision of Agape Group is to continue to reach out. We hope to visit children's homes, nursery homes for elderly and some Chinese families who are in need to care for them. May God continue to guide us and lead us. Hallelujah!

Reports

Building Report

Brother Ken Martin

This past year has been another busy year in the building, with more progress being made in upgrading the facility, as well as a lot of work on unseen things which most people don't know about, but which all contributes to making this a house of worship for God's people.

At present I am working on creating a removable 5-foot extension for the platform, which will be used at Christmas and other times when programs and events take place in the church which need a large platform. I am also starting to do more work in upgrading the sound booth.

Earlier this year I started work in the basement, preparing it to be a large storage area - which the church desperately needs. At some point, we are hoping to construct a stairway to the basement, which will then make it easily accessible. Cabinets were constructed in the office and one of the classrooms, and repairs were done at several places throughout the church.

During the year I have also coordinated a number of times with the company that leases the shopfront from us. Besides a gas leak, and minor plumbing problems, there was also a mysterious harmonic tremor which shook the building for two months, and which was finally traced by environmental officers to a giant exhaust fan on top of a building across the street which had been malfunctioning for several months.

There are probably dozens of minor things I've done which I don't remember at the moment, but once again I would like to thank the Lord for His strength, and for the opportunity to work for Him here in the Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin.

and started to play the piano for the worship session. In the second half of the year, Tommy and Peey Sei also joined to lead worship and play music.

In October, I had the opportunity to share with the congregation on a Sunday. When I was preparing, once again God reminded me that worship is not only in the church or in bible studies, and it is not only singing songs of praise, praying, and serving. Worship is the whole life, every minute, every second, every single word, every single thought...in the future will also gear to this direction, to encourage the congregation to worship God with their lives.

Emmanuel Group

Evangelist Gary Tsang

The mandarin ministry of the church has been established for many years, from initially just a small group, it eventually expanded into 3 different cell groups. Emmanuel Group has around ten brothers and sisters who came from the provinces of Liao Ning, Fujian and Anhui . Although everyone is busy with their work, studies and the needs of everyday lives, they still support the fellowship wholeheartedly.

The main objectives of Emmanuel Group are to share the living testimonies among brothers and sisters, to foster the members and to spread the Gospel. Some of the members made their decision to follow Jesus while in China, and some of them did so in Ireland. Wherever they made their decision, it makes no difference to their passion and their hunger and thirst towards the Words of God.

From the beginning of 2007, we had an overview survey of the Old and the New Testaments. This helped to provide brothers and sisters with a basic and overall understanding of the bible. In doing so we were hoping it would make it easier for them to have a deeper understanding of God's will.

The weekly fellowship has become part of our life over the years. Within the group, we pray for each other, support each other and spur each other on. We have greatly experienced the presence of God among us, and have relied on Him faithfully. I believe that the Emmanuel Group is full of the blessings and guidance of the Lord.

Life Fellowship Group

Deacon Alan Li

The life fellowship group goes through another year in the grace of God. The number of members of the group increases from the steady 11-12 people to 16-18 people. One third of the group are full time working people, two third are students. The meeting style of the group is mainly bible studies, sharing, and family gatherings. This year we attained the following lessons and understandings:

1. For the members of the group to learn to shift from self-centre to others-centre. The ultimate purpose of the fellowship is not for the members, but for thousands of non-believers.

2. Strengthen the driving force and urgency for spreading the Gospel, learning diligently effective ways of sharing the Gospel.
3. Pray for non-believers, pray even more for workers, and pray that God will prepare workers.
4. Looking forward in the coming year that God will double the number of people attending and moreover everyone will be more mature in their spiritual life.

Swords Bible Study Group

Evangelist Gary Tsang

The Swords Bible Study Group can be said to have embarked on a new stage in 2007. The bible study group, which has been established for 5 years and meets weekly at the residence of Brother Wai-Hung Kwok, has expanded from more than 10 people to the current 20 people. Besides an increase in number, we thank God that the heart of seeking Him is steadily growing in brothers and sisters. Not only do we learn about God's words, we are also willing to try to live it out.

There are quite a lot of Chinese people reside in Swords area. The Gospel needs to be spreaded widely. The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of those who believe in Him. Because there are still many Chinese who have not come to know the Lord Jesus, and more pastoral care is needed for brothers and sisters after they accepted Christ, we have started another bible study group in the area of Swords in October 2007. It is held in a different household and at a different time so that brothers and sisters can receive more thorough learning and care.

God's grace never leaves those who love Him. In order to let more people receive the blessings of God, brothers and sisters of both bible study groups work together in unity to continue to learn and serve God.

The groups in Swords are family-based. With open-house gatherings and regular family-based outreach meetings, people can have opportunities to hear the Gospel and receive God's salvation in different environments.

We believe the love of God will continue to attract more people from Swords and its vicinity to come before our Lord Jesus, to revere Him, serve Him and glorify Him.

environment for us which at times was difficult to catch up with them. However, I praise God that His strength is sufficient for us, so that we can continue to press on.

During Christmas we presented a sketch titled "Journey of Life". It was very good. We just had enough time to prepare it and everyone involved enjoyed it very much.

During Easter we had a combined meeting with the Ladies group. Elder Kathy and sister Elsa along with the Teens had a presentation expressing the teenagers' love to their parents. I was very touched to see their involvement and their honesty to write down how they felt which was then projected to the screen as a presentation for their parents to see. It was something different to the usual Easter outreach.

Finally, I just want to share a bit from what I see in the coming years. There has been quite a bit of collaboration between Teens and Youth as more and more of us see the need to move forward as a whole in the work of the young people. As there are more and more young people getting saved both in Teens and Youth, there is a need to capture their growing fire. We will wait upon the Lord and see what His bigger plan is. The coming year will be even more exciting than this one. Praise the Lord.

Worship Team

Deacon Kam-Hay Sin

At the beginning of the year, we already started our preparation for the Easter Retreat. Other than normal practices, we also spent some time on practising the songs for the retreat as this time we arranged many new songs. Throughout the retreat, we ourselves together with the congregation truly enjoyed singing to God and praising Him together. May all glory be to our Heavenly Father.

This year, there were quite a lot of brothers and sisters leaving and joining us. Firstly, after the retreat, Sister Sze Sze and Brother Chi left Ireland and went back to Hong Kong. In July, Sister Joy also left to work in Cork, thus she can't join our practices often. Sister Koey went to England to further her studies in September. Each and every member of us misses them a lot. Although there are many leaving, God is indeed our provider. He cares for our needs. In May, when Ruth and I went back to Hong Kong for holiday, Gary and Ivy helped to organise the practices during our absence. Sister Elsa also took a step of faith

Due to the changes above, the work allocation in the coming year will definitely be tenuous. I pray that God will continue to guide the Publication Team to go through manpower shortage, let us continue to be steadfast and to grow in our ministry by His grace.

Dear brothers and sisters, do not underestimate the power of word. It can spread through every corner of the earth, it can flourish through time, it can also encourage others subtly. Looking forward to 2008, I pray that God will raise more brothers and sisters who have the burden for the Publication Team to join us, working together with the growth of the church to spread God's gospel to everywhere; also hoping our brothers and sisters can pluck up the courage to contribute articles so that we can encourage and support one another through your sharings and experiences.

Teens Club

Deacon David Ng

Another great year has passed. We deeply owe it to our God. He is faithful and just. We are only there to play a part in His ultimate plan. Looking back at 2006/07 and thinking about what has happened in the Teens Club. How God has guided us? First of all to start, we had two helpers added to our team which brings the number to six. Then looking at the numbers of teens attending was about twenty five which is five more than the previous year. They have divided into three groups, namely Tommy's group (English speaking), Maria's and my group (Cantonese speaking) along with a helper in each group. It worked out quite good amongst the leaders and I presumed that the teens all enjoyed it to certain levels. Of course it wasn't possible to make everyone happy but at least the majority found it alright. There were a few attendees that joined us which were not part of Chinese Class. This was a great encouragement.

Since the main theme for 2006/07 was on Christian living as about half of them are Christian, we concentrated on deepening their understanding on how Christians should live. This also means that we, as leaders, have to keep track of ourselves so that we can be good examples. As always, at the beginning of the year we were all excited and having two more pairs of hands greatly encouraged us to spur one another on. However, I must say that working with teenagers is by no means easy, as they are at the stage of lots of changes both in their physical and emotion aspects. It created a more challenging

Working Class Care Group

Deacon Kevin Chiu

Throughout 2007, it has been a joy to have many wonderful and quality fellowships. Members are able to share many laughs and sorrows. I am thankful to the Lord that when new friends start joining the group, they settle in very quickly and are willing to open up themselves. That is certainly the work of the Holy Spirit! A number of brothers and sisters left us in 2007 to return to Hong Kong, I would like to take this opportunity to say that we miss all of you.

The care group continues to support and build up each other through God's Word and His love. We also have dining events and hot pots gatherings. This year, the group started to have gathering not just for the members but for reaching out to other working class people as well. A good example would be Christmas outreach gathering dinner. We have also started to have a 15 minutes worship time since the middle of the year. I thank brother Fai for playing guitar for us and brother Eric for coordinating the rota each week. I also thank sister Mary for bringing many delicious snacks and sweets.

In 2007, we have completed studying the Book of Acts and now studying the Book of Ephesians. The Lord continues to bring inspirations to the group. Though I still tried my best possible effort to prepare the bible study each week, I found the most inspiring messages did not come from my most prepared bible study but from the least prepared ones. Perhaps, God is teaching me to have more of Him and less of me. I give thanks to God for opportunity to co-work with Amy. Not only did we share the care group in turns, we also share our needs and visions. I still remember there were times I was very dry that through praying with her that God renewed my strength.

Looking forward to 2008, we hope to reach out to even more working class people. I pray that, by year end, God will

- (1) double the number of people joining us;
- (2) double the number of leaders;
- (3) magnify our love for others;
- (4) reveal Himself to each of us.

*"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."
(Ephesians 4:16)*

Youth Care Group

Sister Kitty Hui

Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. It's my privilege that I am able to share with you all that we have encountered in our Youth group in the past year.

Firstly, I would like to start off by giving brief information of our youth group. The Youth Care group is led by Deacon Hoi with the help of the newly recruited co-leaders (Amy, Samantha, Alan, Kitty, Kit). This group comprise of brothers and sisters aging between 17- 23 with most of them in their leaving cert years or in their first or second year into college. Meetings are held Tuesdays' night and we have around 15 to 20 attendants. We normally spend 20 minutes on Worship; 45mins on the Word / topical studies and the remaining 30 minutes on sharing and prayer. Gratefully, we had a discipleship-training course at the beginning of the year. Moreover we were giving a crash course of the whole bible by Pastor Chau later on in the year.

By His Grace alone, 2007 was certainly a year which the youth group have many encounters and experiences. The year was marked by a number of breakthroughs with the life of the Youths. It's a great joy to see the life that was once going down hill suddenly, by His power, being lifted... Just like the story of the prodigal son, which I'm sure, everyone is familiar with! Our Father's love for us is so steadfast and faithful indeed!! For the bible says: ***"Never will he leave us. Never will he forsake us."*** (Hebrew 13 : 5)

God has truly blessed us through the last year with many opportunities for us to participate in different events that stirred up our spiritual life and get closer to Him.

During the summer, we had our very **first** joint summer camp between the Antwerp Truth Chinese Church and CGCD in Waterford. We all have witnessed and experienced something "powerful" and "supernatural" during this camp. For me, it was my **first time** sensing the power of the Holy Spirit so greatly. Young people began to be filled with the Holy Spirit, seeing vision and speaking in tongues. The whole scene was certainly a taste of heaven. Praise God also for the decision made by two young people for accepting Him as their Lord and Saviour and receiving eternal life. I was very touched to see them making the decision, as they were receiving the greatest gift of all!! Furthermore, we were all encouraged and inspired by the anointing Word of God shared by Pastor Cliff as our speaker. Apart from learning God's Word,

Publication Team

Sister Tracy Sung

After going through a thriving and hectic 2006, everything seems to have calmed down as the Publication Team stepped into 2007, each member seems to be occupied with own studies, work and family. Nevertheless, we didn't forget our responsibilities and our relationship with one another.

From January 2007 onwards, Elder Kathy Teo shared with us on the topic of serving during our monthly care group meeting, such as "Servants who are clear of their calling to serve", "the motives and dangers of serving", "the collaboration in serving", "the principles of serving", "the joy of serving" etc, enabling us to further understand and comprehend the attitude the servants of the Lord must have. In the care group, we also have time for sharing and praying for one another; once in a while, we arrange some gatherings so that we can enhance the relationship between one another in a comfortable environment.

In terms of work, other than weekly order of service, the largest task is preparing the annual report for the annual general meeting. From collecting reports until publication, it always takes two to three months to complete. Other than that, the Publication Team only published a summer edition with the theme "Walking with the Lord" in 2007. The publication of another edition with the theme "the Holy Spirit", which was scheduled at the end of the year, was postponed to spring 2008 due to lack of articles. On the order of service, we introduced the Through the Bible in One Year Plan and the Memory Verse Challenge in 2007 to help and encourage brothers and sisters to study God's words daily so that each one is rooted in the truth of God.

In terms of human resources, Sister Yie Roei Chee has to stay in Cork for long term due to her work and can only come back to Dublin during the weekend once in a while. At the beginning of March 2008, Sister Kong Wei Nin will leave Dublin to continue her studies back in Malaysia. As a co-worker in the ministry and a sister in Christ, we feel sorry to see her leaving. She shows complete enthusiasm and faithfulness in God's ministry (not only in Publication Team, but in other ministries as well). I am greatly encouraged by her. Here I would like to send her my best wishes, may God's grace and blessings be with her always, also praying that God will use her enthusiasm and devotion mightily so that she can be a vessel pleasing to God.

Kids Club

Deacon Yan-Ki Leung

School term 2006 to 2007 was another year of God's blessing in the Kids Club ministry. The number of children attending the Chinese Class and Kids Club has increased to approximately 110 and more brothers and sisters have committed to help out in different classes. Even though we are lacking in space, but God has provided us with the wisdom to allocate all children appropriately. There are also times when we feel that we are lacking in skills, energy and inspirations, but God once again reminds us that it is not our own talents and strength we should be relying on, but His Spirit and His love, that will lead us on. We only need to commit our lives and do our best for Him, and He will bless us abundantly in all our ways.

The majority of the children are from non-Christian family background. Our goal is to lead them to the one and only true God. Through bible story telling, crafts and games, we help them to develop a better understanding of God and His deeds. We believe that it is essential for us to help the children to understand that God is a God who loves us and who has sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. We believe that the children's lives will be full of abundant blessings if they have Jesus in their lives.

It is truly God's blessing to bring many children to our church. It is an opportunity which God has given us to serve Him. And it is God's grace for these children that they can hear about God and Jesus Christ at an early age. It is also a precious opportunity for our Church to reach out to the local Chinese Community.

We want to pray that God will continue to strengthen us, in the midst of all the business with our families, works and studies. And that God will continue to bless this ministry and may the seeds of the Gospel continue to be sown in the hearts of the little children.

we also put a focus on prayer. Pastor Cliff prayed for each and every one of us, for healing of the broken hearted, for breakthrough, for power and anointing.

After the summer, we all had an excellent fellowship with the Belgium youth. Our relationship with them started a few years ago, when we had our mission trips together. I believe through this Summer Camp our relationship has grown even deeper. Shortly after the camp, we had our very **first time** Hillsong Conference trip together in Amsterdam. Brother Hoi led eight of the youths from Dublin to Belgium where we met up with the Belgium youths again in the Antwerp Truth Chinese Church. It was a two-day program, consisting workshop on the first day and praise and worship on the second night. The theme of the workshop was "*The Heart of Worship*" where the Hillsong members shared their thoughts on worshipping the Lord in their lives. The second day's program was at the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam where 30,000 people worshipping God together. Wow!! It was great to be part of it and to spend time with God and fellow Christians. It's touching to see that God showed up in the hearts of people who attended the workshop and concert!! It's also incredible to see all those people proclaiming God's Glory!

Another remarkable event we had was the annual CGCD Youth Winter Retreat. It was the **first time** to have a combined Teens and Youth. It was also the **first time** for the retreat organisation team (Alan, Kitty, Amy, Samantha) working together in co-ordinating the camp as well as with the big help of Deacon Tommy, brother Kit, sister Man Ting, brother Henry and brother Harris. Although it was difficult enough to organise, we really sensed the unity in God as we all worked together for the glory of God.

*"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."
(Ephesians 4:16)*

In order to support our expenses, we've decided to have our very **first time** Food Fair Fund Raising event that involved both young people able and not able to go to the camp. This fund raising event was different from previous ones where we normally get the help from the "gifted in cooking" housewives in the Ladies Group. This time, all of the food were made and sold by the teens and youths alone. Praise our Lord!! The fund raising was very successful and we raised €815.40. I believe everyone involved gained a sense of satisfaction and learnt a lot from working together in achieving the goal.

Our speaker for the Winter Camp was Pastor Cliff who conducted the theme "*Winning Battles*". Young people have many battles to fight in their life. We

are not talking about physical battles but we are talking about battles to fight for your Holiness in Christian life!! We face many problems, troubles, trials and influenced by people surrounding us. All these can cause a negative impact on our Spiritual life. Too often we have our eyes on everything and everyone else except the One who can solve our problems. Pastor Cliff shared that we must keep our eyes on the Lord if we are to win over any challenge, trouble, or crisis. God's Promise is, ***“Not by might or by power, but by God's Spirit.”*** (Zechariah 4:6) We live the victorious Christian life. Therefore, we must let God's Spirit live through us.

During the camp, Pastor Cliff spent some time to pray for those who need prayers. I was particularly touched to see the teens willingly stepping forward for prayers. Of course, with no surprise God did his mighty works, where four teens come to accept Him as their personal Saviour. Hallelujah!! Additionally, many Teens and Youth were able to sense the touch and comfort of the Holy Spirit for the very **first time**. Many shared about that their relationship with God has become closer during the camp.

Conclusion

After all of these events, what is the main message God wants to bring across to the youths and teens?? For me, the main message is definitely **“Breakthrough”**. God is telling us not be satisfied with our current stage. We need a breakthrough to get to the next higher level. With all of the **“first times”** we have experienced during the year 2007, he is telling us, it's only the beginning and there's more to come in 2008.

In the coming year our focus and goal are:

1. More focus on the Word (especially Old Testament)
2. Worship and Prayer (with pure worship and prayer in care group once every 4 weeks).
3. Keep encountering with the Holy Spirit.
4. Our Goal and hope is that, the Youth will continue to strive for more of God and to grow in Him.

“In the last days, God says: I will pour out of my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams” (Acts 2:17)

Amen!

Please continue to pray for the learning of the students in the Chinese classes and the outreach work of the ministry.

English Class

Deacon Kevin Chiu

While the trend of church resources being stretched among various ministries continues from 2006 to 2007, I am thankful that the Lord provides a number of new teachers that are willing to commit themselves two hours of teaching every Saturday. God has answered our prayer for more teachers whom the church is familiar with and have a good foundation of God's Word.

Seeing His provision of teachers, I trusted that all students are provided by Him as well. Therefore, even though the number of enrolment is no match to our own record level in the past, I am not disappointed because He is El Shaddai. He has a time to everything.

Slightly different from the past, the school not just catered for the need of the non-believers, we also considered the need of our brothers and sisters in Christ who want to learn English. This is especially true as we have more Mandarin speaking people around.

Looking forward to 2008, I am very excited to see how God will unfold His plans on this ministry. In 2007, I have seen God revived some ministries mightily. I believe He is very willing to see all ministries prosper. As the church continues to move forward, I see Christ is building up His body.

Finally, I thank Louise, Joy and Yie-Roei for their commitment in school and in the church.

“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”
(Ephesians 4:16)

Chinese Class

Evangelist Gary Tsang

Ever since the establishment of the church's Chinese Class ministry, there have been more than 120 students and 20 serving teachers. We have witnessed how God uses this ministry to draw many families to the church and to hear the gospel. The church is the body of the Lord Jesus, the house of God; and it is a place where the presence of God is. Our students and the parents are also trustful towards the church; this brings in more and more new students. God's name is to be praised!

We thank God that we can be a bridge of the Gospel, providing opportunity for the children to learn Chinese and at the same time enabling us to know their families.

The Chinese Class ministry not only has outreach work, it is also a platform for brothers and sisters in the church to serve and learn. After brothers and sisters have accepted Christ, we are to live out our faith in our work, studies, and families, showing forth our faith, love, patience, unity, commitment, faithfulness etc. And through our service, we are to learn more about the teachings of God and the values of our faith.

We are not well trained teachers, but knowing Jesus Christ has made us willing to offer our time, energy, and even money to this ministry. Because we know that God loves us, He also loves all those who haven't come to know Him. We love whom God loves. God's grace is sufficient for us; it is made perfect on those who are weak.

Although there is still inadequateness in what the brothers and sisters do, we are learning to depend on God, to follow Him, and to please Him. We have a bunch of God's loving brothers and sisters serving the Chinese Class together. I believe God will surely reward their response to Him and accomplish His own plans.

The Chinese Class also looks into the needs of the Mandarin speaking Chinese. This year we started the Mandarin Class. We believe in the near future the number of students will increase, and there is a need for teachers as well. Due to limited room spaces and manpower, the classrooms and spaces that we can use on Saturdays have already reached the limit. We need to continue to grow and expand, so we must ask for God's guidance. May He receive greater honour!

Ministries

Adult Sunday School

The Cantonese Adult Sunday school has split into 4 groups since last Summer:

1. Cantonese (Amy) : Church History
2. Mandarin (Kathy) : Basic discipleship
3. English (Ken)
4. Under 21's (Mimi)

Cantonese Group

Elder Amy Ng

We have been studying Church History and before September, we had the Old and the New Testaments survey. There are roughly 10-20 attendants. People who come are regular attendees and their hearts of learning have encouraged me greatly. As for myself, since I have to prepare before the class, I have learned a great deal of biblical knowledge and insight during my preparation. It has built up my spirit a lot. I hope that more brothers and sisters will come to the Adult Sunday School, simply because they love to hear and learn God's word.

Under 21's Group

Elder Mimi Kuan

This group has only started in September 2007 to cater for the English speaking youth, transiting from Kids club to brother Ken's English Sunday school. Their age ranges from 11 to 21. Initially, it was attended by 12 people, but now there are only about 5. The first term was taught by myself and deacon Hoi on the topic of "Why you believe what you believe" - Basic Christian beliefs. The next topic will be "The fruit of the Spirit."

English Adult Sunday School**Brother Ken Martin**

Once again it has been an enjoyable and profitable year as we have studied God's Word together. For much of the year we have done an in-depth study of the Old Testament - usually spending a week on each book. As we have gone through the books together, we have found that we wished we could spend more time on each book of the Old Testament. There is so much to learn about God's Word, and much of the Old Testament is neglected by most Christians. I heard or read a statement somewhere this past year that the Old Testament is the "dictionary" for the New Testament - in the Old Testament we find the reasons and background for so much of what goes on and is taught in the New Testament.

In the autumn we started a study of the Old Testament feasts of Israel, looking at their place in Israel's life and worship, as well as their prophetic significance. Along with that we have looked at both the Tabernacle and the Temple, the places where God met with His people in Old Testament times under the old covenant. Jesus (in Matthew 5:17) stated that He did not come to destroy the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfil them. It is because of Jesus that there is no more need for a physical temple, for we are now God's "Temple", indwelt by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19). Jesus, the Lamb of God, became the perfect & final sacrifice, allowing us direct access to God,

During the year we have had about 12 people attending the class, but usually not all at the same time. As usual, there is a lot of coming and going, with some people returning home after several years in Ireland. But there are always new people arriving as well.

We are about to start a short study (1 or 2 months) of Bible geography & history, primarily in preparation for a trip to Israel in February 2008. We will be looking at the history and Bible references relating to the places we will be visiting and seeing. There are eight of us going on this first trip to Israel, and we are all excited about it. Please pray with us and for us - that we would have a safe journey, and that we would learn more about God's Word in this way.

Children's Sunday School**Mrs Ivy Chau**

Kids matter! Every child in the church is important to God. Every one of them needs to have the same opportunity to come to know Jesus as their loving Saviour and personal friend.



It is also for this same purpose and reason that the Children's Church endeavour to introduce children to the experience of church, to introduce Jesus Christ to them and to help them build a strong foundation of faith.

For the Mini Praisers, aged under 5, we believe that it is never too young to start laying the foundation of faith in the lives of these children. Through learning new skills such as colouring, painting, playing with toys, interaction with one another, crafts, listening to Bible stories and songs, the teachers are able to show love and develop relationships with each child and in turn reflecting God's love through them.

For the Happy Praisers, aged 5 to 7, these children love to be active and therefore, their lessons are based on fun games and action-based learning ideas. We hope that they will learn that by being in Christ brings happiness to their lives.

For the Son Seekers, aged 8 to 9, who have a hunger for God's word and love to hear stories. Their lessons would include puzzles, games, pictures to color and worksheets about Old testament stories.

For the Sword Bearers, aged 10-12, their sessions are packed with fun activities, prayer and worship ideas, activities and lessons that challenge them and engage their imaginations.

For us, teachers and helpers in the ministry, we believe that the most exciting and ultimate desire is to see a change in these children as they accept Christ's message of salvation and apply it to their own lives. We pray that God will use us more effective this year as we walk alongside the children in their faith journey, ensuring that they hear God's word, respond and learn how to apply it.

To all the teachers and helpers who are serving in this ministry, Ki, Georgina, Amy, Kitty, Samantha, Ip, Louise, Irene, Yvonne, Lai Leng, Xi Yue, Chen Feng and Susan Reidy, a great thank you !