



Inauguration of Vancouver Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our Vancouver Church Newsletter!

Over the years, the Church Newsletter prepared by our home church in Hong Kong has been distributed to church members living overseas. Some content has occasionally been translated into English for readers who may not be proficient in the Chinese language.

As expressed by various brothers and sisters in the Vancouver church, there is a general desire to promote better communication among church members and provide timely updates on church affairs. Indeed, the need to create an alternative version of the Newsletter has become increasingly evident – to be more compatible with the local culture and to cater to the younger generation who grows up in a predominantly English-speaking environment.

Thus, after prayerful consideration, it has been resolved to produce this Vancouver edition – with the following features:

- Bilingual (English and Chinese)
- Content may include updates on topics such as latest programs in the Vancouver church; the West 15th renovations, the West 57th new church facility development; testimonies from Vancouver / North American-based, and Hong Kong church members; highlights of sermons or words of encouragement, etc.
- Three issues are planned for each calendar year: February, June, October

We encourage your participation in the Newsletter – share your personal experiences with God or your faith journey through written testimonies, or photos of church activities, and submit them to the newsletter editorial committee or your cell group convenors.

Let us pray for this new venture that it will achieve the objectives that it has set out to accomplish. May the Lord's Name be glorified!

溫哥華會訊創刊

歡迎閱讀教會會訊溫哥華版的第一期！

多年來，香港母會製作會訊後，也會寄送給移居海外的教友，部分內容偶爾會翻譯成英文，以方便不太熟悉中文的讀者。

我們收到溫哥華堂不同教友的意見，大家都希望會訊能夠更有效促進教友間的聯繫，並定時提供教會最新的資訊。的而且確，製作另一版本的會訊以配合溫哥華堂教友的需求越來越大，即內容更符合本地文化，並更能迎合年輕一代以英文為母語讀者的需要。

因此，在經過禱告和考慮之後，我們決定製作這份溫哥華版本的會訊，內容包括以下特點：

- 雙語（英文和中文）
- 內容包括溫哥華堂最新活動的資訊，例如西15街的維修工程、西57街的新教堂發展事項、溫哥華或北美地區和香港各地教友的見證、講道重點分享或互勉的說話等。
- 每年計劃出版三期，分別在2月、6月和10月。

我們鼓勵你一同參與會訊的工作，你可以透過書面見證，分享你與神的個人經歷或你信主的歷程，或分享教會活動的照片，提交給會訊編輯組或你所屬的聯絡組組長。

讓我們一起為這項新事工禱告，願新版本的會訊能夠達到本地教友的期望，榮耀主名！

Development of the English Ministry

The Pentecostal Tabernacle Vancouver has been serving the Cantonese-speaking community for over three decades. However, as the demographics change, there has been a need to develop a new phase of ministry that caters to the English-speaking younger generation and Canadian-raised adults. To meet this need, an English ministry program has been established with a focus on fellowship and ministry for this group.

The introduction of the English service was prompted by the lack of engagement and resulting detachment, disparities in culture, absence of a modern Canadian worship style, and challenges posed by linguistic differences. Above all, it was affirmed by a sense of timely divine guidance.

The English service was initiated by a small group of church members to discuss potential solutions and to reconnect with young members to better understand their needs. The group received God's calling to start the English service initially as a once-a-month Sunday service for a trial period of three months before developing it into a regular weekly Sunday morning service.

The program's mission is to create a new phase of ministry for the mainstream English-speaking young generation and adults, in addition to the longstanding focus of our church on the



Cantonese-speaking community. The goal is to help them see their future in the church, leading to growth in fellowship and ministries.

Throughout the process, the group received ongoing feedback from the young adults. They modified the program to facilitate greater engagement and participation in the worship preparation. This approach ensured that the program was meeting the needs of this specific target group in the church. The establishment of the English service at the Vancouver church is a testimony to the importance of relying on God's guidance and taking corresponding actions to fulfill His calling.



英文事工的發展

溫哥華五旬節堂為廣東話社群服務了三十多年。然而，隨著人口的轉變，我們傳福音的事工需要踏入一個新的階段，迎合以英文為母語的年輕一代以及在加拿大長大的成年人。為了配合此群組的需要，我們成立了英文事工計劃，特別為他們提供團契和事奉的機會。

這個群組在教會內面對著文化差異以及言語不同而引起的障礙，加上缺乏加拿大文化的崇拜模式，導致他們未能投入而逐漸遠離教會活動，而引入英文崇拜就是為了排除這些問題，而最重要的是，我們確信這是神引領我們的正確方向。

英文崇拜是由一小群教友發起，他們著眼於討論可行的解決方案，並重新聯繫年輕的教友以便更了解他們的需要。這個小組得到了上帝的呼召，開始了英文崇拜，由最初只是試行三個月、每月一次的主日崇拜，然後發展成每週一次的主日上午崇拜。

我們教會一直以來將服務對象比較集中在廣東話社群上，而透過這個計劃更可達到另一個新的的事工階段，服務以英文為母語的年輕一代和成年人，而計劃的目標是幫助他們在教會中看到自己的未來，繼而在團契和事奉上有所成長。

在整個過程中，英文崇拜小組不斷收到青年人的意見，他們亦相應改進這項事工的質素和細節，亦使青年人可以在崇拜準備的過程中有更多的投入和參與。透過這個互動的交流，此計劃能夠迎合到教會內這個青年人群組的需要。溫哥華教會英文崇拜的設立是見證著依靠上帝引導的重要，並採取相應行動來履行祂的呼召。



Cantonese Services

(English simultaneous interpretation and livestreaming available during service)

Sunday: 10:30 am; 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 7:00 pm

English Service

Sunday: 10:30 am

粵語崇拜

聚會期間提供英語即時傳譯及網上在線直播

星期日：上午10:30；晚上7:00

星期三：晚上7:00

英語崇拜

星期日：上午10:30



Conceptual Design of the Exterior of W57 New Church Building

Facilities Upgrade and New Building Development

West 15th Avenue Church Renovation

Our beloved church building has served us well, but it is over 30 years old and it is time to modernize its interior to cater for the needs of the diverse age groups within our congregation. The scope of work includes improvement to the entrance lobby, fellowship hall, classrooms, kitchen, and washrooms. Our goal is to create a modern and multifunctional space in order to accommodate various activities and events such as fellowship gatherings, group activities, singspiration, gospel drama, weddings, receptions and banquets, and more.

We have received a lot of feedback from our congregation on what the renovation should encompass, which includes fixing the HVAC system, leak repairs, reconfiguration of storage spaces, disposal of unnecessary items, replacing the flooring, and painting. Other suggestions include a larger kitchen, new washrooms with improved ventilation, flexible layouts with movable partitions in the fellowship hall, well-equipped spaces for parents with babies and young children and for youths, a big-screen TV or projector with a separate audio/sound system in the fellowship hall, new lighting, and new furniture to match the new design and functions.

We value and seriously consider all feedback and suggestions as we move forward with the renovation project. In general, our members seem positive towards the renovation and demonstrate a high sense of ownership of the future of our church. The work is expected to start soon as we are just waiting for the final approval of our building permit application by the City of Vancouver.

We earnestly request your prayer support as we embark on this exciting project to enhance our ministry and outreach. We will keep you updated.

West 57th Avenue New Church Building Development

In addition to the West 15th church renovation, we have concurrently initiated the process of developing a new church building on West 57th Avenue, a new place of worship which will allow us to meet the spiritual needs of both the Cantonese and English-speaking communities in Vancouver as we seek to expand the scope of our community outreach and services.

In order to get the City of Vancouver's building permit to construct a new church in a residential area, there are several levels of very challenging approvals we need to obtain. By sheer providence, we managed to engage a very capable architectural firm and have received the green light of pre-development project approval in just a few months' time.

In the coming weeks, we will collect all the feedback to the architect's proposed preliminary design from our congregation and proceed with the application for the development permit of our new church building.

May God bless this W57 project!



西57街新禮拜堂外觀設計概念圖

教會設施優化與新堂建築發展

西15街禮拜堂翻新事項

我們珍愛的禮拜堂已為我們服務了30多年，現在是時候將教會室內裝修得更現代化，以滿足不同年齡兄弟姐妹的需要。這次翻新工程的範圍包括入口大堂、副堂、課室、廚房和洗手間。我們的目標是創造一個既現代且多功能的空間，以便舉辦各種活動，例如團契聚會、小組活動、詩歌讚美、福音劇場、婚禮、招待會和宴會等。

我們收到很多教友的意見，並納入在翻新計劃中，當中包括維修空調系統、處理漏水問題、重新分配儲物空間、棄置不必要的物品、更換地板和翻新牆壁等。其他建議還包括一個更大的廚房、全新洗手間並設有改良的通風系統、副堂內提供可移動分隔板以便調節活動範圍、提供設備齊全的空間方便照顧嬰兒的父母、小朋友及青少年使用、在副堂內設置大屏幕電視或投影機並附有獨立音響系統、新照明設施，以及與新設計和功能相配的新傢具。

我們非常重視所有的意見和建議，並會在翻新過程中認真考慮。總括而言，教友對今次的翻新工程都持有正面的態度，亦對教會的未來表現出積極同心建構的精神。我們期待工程早日開始，目前正等待溫哥華市政府核准我們建築許可證的申請。

在開始這個令人振奮的工程同時，我們誠懇邀請各位同心代禱支持，以加強我們在教內和外展的工作。我們將再提供翻新工程最新情況。

西57街新禮拜堂建築發展事項

除了西15街禮拜堂的翻新工程外，我們同時亦開始在西57街興建新禮拜堂的計劃，這將會是一個全新的敬拜場所，使我們能滿足溫哥華區內廣東話和英語社群的屬靈需要，並配合我們致力在社區內擴展外展服務的目標。

在住宅區興建一座新禮拜堂，我們需要得到溫哥華市政府的建築許可證，當中涉及到一連串非常複雜的審批程序。藉上帝的帶領，我們成功聘請了一家非常優秀的建築公司，並在短短幾個月內獲得了開發工程的前期批准（Pre-development approval）。

在接下來的幾週內，我們將向大家收集對建築師初步設計圖的意見，並繼續新禮拜堂建築發展許可證申請。

願上帝保守帶領西57街發展事工！



Seriously Revering the Holy Spirit



LAU Tsz Him Arthur (婁子謙)

Self-introduction

My name is LAU Tsz Him, Arthur (婁子謙); I grew up in church. Even so, I was disobedient and unbelieving in heart. While participating in a Hong Kong retreat at age 16, I thought of leaving this church and abandoning this faith when it's time to exercise my independence and free will.

God disciplines those whom He loves. Two days after school had started that September, I was diagnosed with cancer. In the following year, my treatment was completed right before the retreat and I was able to participate. This "coincidence" taught me that I should never drift away from God and His truth.

I attended a revival meeting in 2009 and spoke in tongues briefly while praying. The preacher then talked about the fruit of the Spirit which deeply impressed me. Regrettably, I did not believe that I had been baptized by the Holy Spirit or seek to affirm it; so this spiritual endowment was ignored and remained dormant.

Attitude at the Retreat

I used to talk much about asking God to fill me with the Holy Spirit instead of improving my relationship with Him, for I had long thought that I had not received the Spirit. At the 2022 retreat, however, I loathed my lack of seriousness and so I made three resolutions:

1. Do not compare: I was inclined to compare myself with my peers. Jesus once told Peter, "If I want him (John) to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" (John 21:21-22). So I decided to focus only on my spiritual growth and not to compare or judge.
2. Be serious: having the privilege of being removed from my worldly tasks for three days, I must be serious and listen attentively to what would be shared, take notes and avoid distractions.

3. Share more: In order to share, I must first reflect. I did learn more about God's work in my life as a result.

Receiving the Holy Spirit

On Day 3, I felt stirred to seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit, who promptly told me that He had done so long ago. My heart instantly burst out singing, "Holy Spirit, Flame of God; Revive Me Anew;" and fill me anew He did! I felt remorseful and cried because I had long refused to believe that I had received the Holy Spirit. Then I impulsively wanted to pray again to affirm my Spirit-infilling. However, I was reminded that it was the same unbelief that had me rendering God's grace unrecognized before. Day 3 would usually draw the largest crowd; sharing a testimony then would benefit more people. I didn't want to be held back by my little faith again, so I courageously shared my experience.

Personal Lessons

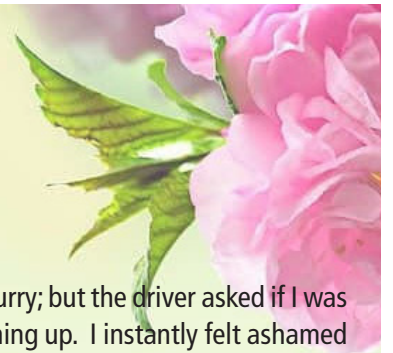
1. Focus on our relationship with God: the infilling of the Holy Spirit would end up useless if we refuse to cooperate and listen to His prompting. One may still lose his faith or wilfully sin years after he has been baptized by the Spirit. Repeatedly sinning and asking to be filled by the Spirit is regarding Him as a convenient life-saver; it is not genuine communion with God.
2. Faith: I used to laugh at the apostle Peter for his lack of faith whenever I read the story of him attempting to walk on water: Why was he so fearful despite his successful initial steps? Now I recognize my own lack of faith.

Conclusion

I want to encourage those who are seeking God's saving and empowering grace that individual testimonies should be regarded as a part of that glorious "cloud of witnesses" instead of a burden. God has a plan for every unique individual. He will teach and lead us in His own way if we seriously seek Him.

Full of Inner Peace and Joy

Cathy Siu (蕭燕凌)



I previously did not understand why Christians were so happy when they talked about their faith; it would be crazy for me to become one. However, God's work is amazing! Now my faith in God gives me a great sense of inner peace. Growing up, I regarded myself strong and self-sufficient; but deep down I was actually nervous and scared. My uncertainties resulted in many sleepless nights.

In 2020, I was engaged once again as the costume designer for Noah's Ark, a Cantonese opera featured in the Hong Kong Arts Festival. Before, I did not seriously attempt to understand this Bible story. This unique performance prompted me to do more research in order to break through the traditional creative boundaries. I came across a testimony by Li Siu Sum (李少芯), the creator of this work. She shared her faith and her experience of overcoming insomnia by praying to God. This scenario kept recurring in my mind...

My boyfriend is a Christian. I asked him about Noah's Ark and he answered with care and patience; yet I still wished to learn more. He later took me to a religious book store where I bought a book on prayer.

The pandemic had just started at around that time. Business was very unstable. My competent assistant had left; a senior staff had cancer; an incompetent supervisor was problematic. I was suffering and could not find an outlet for my grievances. I felt helpless!

On the night I bought the prayer book, I followed its instruction to pray; my burden was lightened. I had never experienced such a deep sense of inner peace and security. I fell sound asleep! Gradually my problems were solved one after another: the colleague with cancer had a successful operation; she even became a Christian. The incompetent supervisor resigned. My company survived. My landlord voluntarily reduced the rent. Despite insufficient business and cash, I prayed to God and miracles happened; my problems were resolved.

I became a believer and have matured much. I attended the Foundation of the Christian Faith course and am grateful to the facilitators. We studied the Cain and Abel story in Genesis. It made me realize how terrible "SIN" is. I became very vigilant about my hidden sins and attentive to every thought that crossed my mind. I learned to be humble when dealing with people and daily matters.

One day, I hopped on a bus in a hurry; but the driver asked if I was aware of the people who were lining up. I instantly felt ashamed and got off the bus to queue up. I felt no anger or uneasiness and wanted to thank God for enabling me to act right. That was an important new beginning, for I would definitely have left the bus in a great rage if I weren't a Christian! God has changed my impulsive and face-saving character.

I thank God for not giving up on a stubborn and ignorant person like me who had deliberately chosen to ignore many opportunities to know Him. I was proud of upsetting my teacher by failing the Bible examination. I had also worked with many Christian organizations and was touched by the sharing of religious matters. However, I teased the Christians about their ignorance and inadequate intellectual prowess. My heart was hardened and my ears were shut. My upbringing had caused me to think that I was very capable and could fight on my own—nothing would be impossible!

I once visited the Philippines and came to the same spot where the Manila hostage crisis occurred some years later. My friend and I got lost and we met a dubious character. Fortunately, a taxi passed by and we were saved. God has always watched over me even though I was oblivious of His mercy.

The challenges at work or in life no longer upset me. Despite occasional moments of weakness, I soon regain God's peace and joy after reading the Bible and praying, and I delight in sharing them.



Cathy Siu (second from left) with friends in Christ in the Hong Kong church

Trusting God Entirely with Peace and Joy

Christina SUE

(蘇鄭麗珍)

I thank God for giving me life and breath today to share the blessings that He has bestowed upon me.

Two years have quickly passed since the COVID-19 pandemic began. I tell others that I have no fear although it doesn't mean that I don't wash my hands or wear a mask. The Bible predicts that all kinds of disasters will occur at the Last Days, such as earthquakes, floods, fires; the pandemic is just one example. My greatest fear is whether God will accept me when I see Him face to face? I often examine myself and firmly believe that God will accept me, and am filled with peace and joy.

In September, 2021, I was told that there was a malignant tumor in my abdomen which would require surgical removal. I entrusted my life entirely to God and felt very peaceful. One doctor said that my tumor this time was more complicated than the previous one. Its closeness to other organs left chemotherapy the only option; but a second doctor deemed it ineffective. Then a third doctor said that removing it together with other affected organs would be very painful and risky. In the end, the surgeons opened me up, took a look, and sew up the incision because the tumor was too closely connected to other organs; so it is still there. Much pain was anticipated, so the doctors prescribed some pain-killers to me. I soon stopped taking them because I felt no more pain. I resumed my church attendance; life has returned to normal. Hardly anyone knows I have cancer.

God's grace is enormous. He has given me many opportunities to get my life in order and shape up spiritually. I don't fear death, but would appreciate your prayers. Thank and praise God! Amen!

Please use this link for access to the original testimonies in Chinese:

欲閱讀三篇見證的中文原文版本，請使用此連結：

<http://www.pentecostal-mission.org/archive/nl202211.pdf>



Upcoming Events 活動預告

Jul

8

Church Picnic

教會旅行

Deas Island Regional Park

Aug

7-12

Revival Meetings 7:00 pm

培靈佈道會 晚上 7:00

Aug

13-17

Retreat

靈修營

Summit Pacific College

Abbotsford, BC

Oct

8

Thanksgiving Lunch and
Testimony Meeting

感恩節午餐和見證會

Service Schedule 崇拜時間

Cantonese Services

(English simultaneous interpretation and livestreaming available during service)

Sunday: 10:30 am; 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 7:00 pm

English Service

Sunday: 10:30 am

粵語崇拜

(聚會期間提供英語即時傳譯及網上在線直播)

星期日：上午 10:30；晚上 7:00

星期三：晚上 7:00

英語崇拜

星期日：上午 10:30

Editorial Committee

編輯組

Pentecostal Tabernacle Vancouver

1531 West 15th Avenue

Vancouver, BC V6K 2K5

Phone: +1 604.732.4470

www.pentecostal-mission.org



For any comments or enquiries,
please send email to:

如有任何意見或查詢，請發電子郵件至：

contact.ptv@pentecostal-mission.org