

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.
Romans 12:4-8

Introduction of English Ministry Leadership for 2010

This issue, we will be introducing the leaders involved in English Ministry for the coming year. God has blessed TCBC in many ways over the years. Regardless of our efforts, He continues to work in big ways and the equally significant small ways in our church, in our community and around the world. The individuals below have felt the burden and calling to serve in leadership. Being such a big, busy church, there are always so many spiritual and physical needs. We pray (and we ask that you pray along with us) for wisdom, vision, and perseverance as we seek God's will, together as a community.

Each person was asked to share about their involvement with English Ministry, how they first came to TCBC, their hopes for the coming year, and their favourite pastimes. Thanks for sharing!

Pastoral Staff and Deacon Representative



**Reverend Timothy Tam,
Senior Pastor**



Deacon Anthony Hui

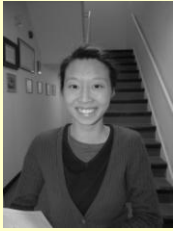


Reverend Frank Byrne, Interim English Pastor

First of all the invitation came at a time when I thought that my public ministry was over. Second I have always enjoyed the Toronto Chinese Baptist Church. Over the years their support and encouragement of Jane and I in our ministry in Asia has inspired us and now we have the opportunity to express our thanks to them. Third, I really felt that God opened a door for Jane and I to serve him here in the heart of the city with TCBC.

I can't remember exactly when I first came to TCBC but it was probably in the winter of 1976/1977 when I was asked to speak on missions. We were on a short furlough from Indonesia at the time.

In the summer it is gardening at home & swimming at the cottage. During the winter it is reading and watching mysteries on TV with Jane.



Esther Tiet, Children's Ministry Assistant

I enjoy working and serving children and seeing them grow both physically and spiritually. I grew up in this church as a toddler and came because of my parents (typical) =) I hope the church can come to see how important the children's ministry is not just with the people directly involved but the church as a whole to serve and teach them so that they can grow closer to God.

Read....preferably outside at a park when it's nice and warm.

English Leadership



Sam Wong, English Ministry Chair / English Department on Exec Board

In 2010, I'm serving as EMC Chair. After a 12 year sabbatical, it was time to return to the Executive Board! Seriously, I think English Ministry as a whole has matured significantly over the last few years and my role is to be the formal bridge between English Ministry and the rest of the church. This year, I hope that TCBC as a whole will better appreciate the unique nature of each congregation and through our diversity grow stronger in Christ. I first came to TCBC as a child and vaguely remember the non-Chinese congregation that owned the building before us. In my spare time, I lose fake money on my portfolio at "Wall Street Survivor".



James Wu, Vice Chair (Administrative/running meetings)

There was a need and it was something new that I knew I could help out with. First came to TCBC when I was at UT. Hopes for a good year. Reading and learning.



Bobby Lau, Vice Chair (Finance/Treasurer)



Norman Tang, Vice-Chair Communications

I've been involved mainly with the monthly newsletter.

I became involved with this role hoping to communicate all that's happening in our congregation and church more effectively and openly.

My parents brought me to TCBC when I was around seven years old. I mainly attended Sunday school until I started university after which I began attending morning service as well. It was during first year university that I accepted Christ (Sunday School was instrumental as well as CCF). I enjoy eating and sleeping and have a weakness for chocolate. I like trying to play hockey, and enjoy playing badminton.



Mandy Ma, Secretary

I serve as the secretary in the English ministry. A reason for why I've decided to serve in this area this year is to be a more active part of the body of Christ. I first came to TCBC when I was four years old. My hopes for this coming year is that TCBC will be a place of refuge rather than hostility, to be closer to what God called the church to be. Come to think about it...I don't really have any spare time. God has kept me pretty occupied in life.



Will Jin, English Ministry past Chair, Liaison Committee



Ming Wong, Liaison Committee

I actually considered stepping down from this position due to my commitment in other areas of ministry. I decided to continue because I feel that it is important for me to have something which is not too time demanding but allows me opportunity to be in touch with EMC.

I came to TCBC with my family when I was a teenager. I grew up and am living in the immediate community around TCBC, I hope we can serve and reach out to the community around TCBC. Reading and fixing broken things.



Simon Pan, Liaison Committee

Trying my best to foster changes necessary.

I was literally married into TCBC, I married Elizabeth and started attending TCBC in 1988.

Expectation: Transformation and Reconciliation.

Watching soccer, tasting wine, listening to Bach, collecting and reading theological books and cooking for my spouse. (I can actually do all these things simultaneously)



Claudia Li Tang, Liaison Committee, Prayer Coordinator

I am the prayer coordinator for the English Ministry which includes compiling prayer requests for the Tuesday teleconference prayer meetings. I am also part of the Liaison Committee. This year I will be focusing more in liaising the Youth Sunday School teachers and counselors.

In grade 10, a classmate of mine invited me to TCBC. Since then I started attending Sunday School regularly, accepted Christ at the Teen's Conference and was baptized in 1992. My hope is to enable closer communion with God and each other through prayer. I believe when we collectively seek Him first, God will show us the way and unite us in Christ Jesus. I love doing yoga & pilates and once in a while I like to try new recipes :-)



Ron Eng, Adult Sunday School Coordinator

To give some direction to the adult Sunday School area

I first came to TCBC while I was dating my wife and that was in 1990. In the coming year I hope we will find the new Pastor and to have a continuing curriculum for the Adult Sunday School

My favorite hobby is reading and in my spare time I play with my computer.



Steve Sam, Worship Ministry



Jasmine Ng-Yu, Fellowship/Small Group Coordinator

I believe in this ministry. I don't know how much joy Christian living could be without growing together with brothers and sisters in Christ.

A friend's brother from Vancouver brought me to TCBC when I started university at U of T. In this coming year, my hope is that brothers and sisters in the English congregation will continue to spur each other on, despite all the transitions we are going through.

I wish I could say I had any meaningful hobbies, but I generally spend my spare time watching chinese soaps!



Alicia Chin, Student Ministry, including FAST (Feed A Student TCBC)

I am interested in hospitality ministries, organizational issues and solutions, and youth work (not to equate students with teens). FAST is a natural fit for this, and to really put this into overall context, that is why I am interested in Student Ministries as a whole.

I first came to TCBC in 1984, after coming to Toronto to attend UT (yeah Pharmies!) I have considered TCBC my home church since transferring my membership in the eighties (from the Baptist church I grew up in). I love that the Baptist denomination is democratic, and that the strength of each local church is based on the overall understanding, respect and involvement of its congregants, not just putting everything on its formal leadership.

Our hopes for Student Ministries in the coming year (as in all years) will be that TCBC can offer relevant points of connection for the students worshipping with us, as well as to foster experiences which would encourage continued attendance and participation at a church in the long-run (whether at TCBC or elsewhere as their calling and careers lead them). FAST continues to evolve for both students and our gracious TCBC hosts. Thankfully, many students also regularly attend Sunday school. Although there is no English-speaking student fellowship group at TCBC (since most students attending our services go to on-campus groups), there has been a request to provide mentors from local churches, and a few people from TCBC have responded to that call- next step will be for our training and accountability before we get linked to students who might want this kind of relationship. Forward thinking, it would be great to organize a 2-3 year discipleship program specifically for students, including something unique for post-grads. Other than that, TCBC continues to support our students through short-term mission prayer and financial aid, use of church for special events, and hopefully being a home-church while they are here for as long or short as that may be. Indeed, we are especially thankful for those students who have taken time to be active congregants at TCBC by contributing their personalities and skills to helping other students feel welcome, attending and teaching classes, leading us all in meaningful worship, and too numerous to list behind the scenes involvement. My favourite hobbies include shopping, baking, seeing the evolution of English-ministry in Chinese churches.



Eva Chan, Personnel Committee

I'm serving because I want to help take care of our church staff and find the right pastors for our congregation.

My biggest hope for the coming year is that God sends the English pastor he has in mind for us.

In my spare time, I read and write short stories, and socialize on the internet.



Davin Yu, BJJ (Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu) Sports Outreach Coordinator

I have a passion to learn and teach BJJ; more importantly I feel called to use this sport to generate genuine friendship, trust, and fellowship with people within and with-out the church setting.

My Aunt and Uncle took me here, and when I became involved with UTCCF, TCBC became a home to me. What are your hopes for the coming year? It's going to be an amazing year for our BJJ sports ministry. Our numbers are solid, and the relationships forged are something that cannot be described in words—something about martial arts brings out authentic and down-to-earth closeness with the group.

I enjoy cooking, eating, and I play my X-box whenever I can.