

Annual Report

Chinese & Australian Baptist Church - West Ryde

Acting Senior Pastor's Sharing 2024

– Rev Man Hong Leung

The year 2023-2024 can be described as a year of returning to normalcy, as after the COVID-19 pandemic, the church's ministries gradually returned to their regular tracks, and many gatherings switched back to in-person meetings. Live streaming arrangements are no longer necessary. Over the past one or two years, the church has also experienced some changes. In terms of personnel, at the beginning of 2023, an English pastor's contract was not renewed. In July, the interim pastor Rev. Paul was recruited, and in October, Rev. Au officially retired. At the beginning of 2024, the interim pastor Pastor Zhang came onboard to oversee the Mandarin ministry. Thus, the church now has seven pastors responsible for four congregations and five worship services. The church is still looking for a senior pastor to lead the team and expand God's kingdom.

In terms of ministries, the English congregation was allocated into two worship services at the end of 2022, and it has been eighteen months since then. Based on participation numbers, there hasn't been much difference between last year and this year, with E915 having about 70-80 people and Harvest having about 60-70 people. Currently, the pastors and leaders of the two worship services are working on how to adjust the structure to better support the two services.

The Cantonese congregation C11 has been at its new location, Marsden High School, for almost two years. The ministries have adapted well, and some new ministries have been launched, such as children's basketball training classes and a new wave of ministries for Hong Kong immigrants. The worship attendance hovers between 150-180. Facing the Meadowbank community, the C11 still has a lot of room for development. The church hopes to mobilise the brothers and

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Vol. 2023/2024

sisters of the C11 to reach out more to the community, serve young families, and foster the growth of believers.

As for the Cantonese morning congregation C915, there is an upward trend in the number of participants in physical worship after the pandemic, with about 100-120 people currently attending worship services. Given the limited capacity of the community hall, the C915 is still seeking a feasible method to accommodate more worshippers. One consideration is to start a new worship service during the week so that some morning congregation members can attend the weekday service, freeing up some space for newcomers.

For the Mandarin congregation, the number of physical worship participants was initially below pre-pandemic levels, but with the addition of new pastor, the stabilisation of the pandemic, and the enthusiastic invitations from the serving personnel, the number of worship participants has recently increased significantly, with over 70 attendees each week in recent months.

Regarding outreach work, over the years, there have been outreach activities at the West Ryde Hall from Monday to Friday. Monday is Golden Age Group, Tuesday is Mainly Music children's ministry, Wednesday is Ping Pong ministry and Women's Hub, Thursday is Leisure Centre, and Friday is the Craft Class. In the past, outreach services were mainly conducted in Cantonese. The situation has become more diverse in recent years. Mainly Music and Women's Hub aim to attract families from diverse ethnic backgrounds. In fact, we have seen many families of different ethnicities participating in Mainly Music, which is encouraging.

Facing the aging population, the church also shows signs of aging. According to the 2021 NCLS report, our church's average age is 47, compared to Australia's average age of 39 in the 2021 census, our aging situation is more serious. C915's average age is currently 67. In view of this, the church's Golden Age ministry and Leisure Centre are constantly evolving and developing other activities like, Senior Choir, Golden Age Ping Pong ministry, Walking Group, and Tai Chi class to attract retirees. In July this year, our church also let CTCA to use our West Ryde Hall to offer Golden Age training courses, hoping to continue developing senior ministries, not only attracting seniors to the church but also nurturing their commitment to the church.

Over the past few years, some church members have participated in the service of delivering meals to the homeless, and the church has supported part of their expenses through the Benevolent Fund. This year, some English congregation members have also entered into the community, collaborating with the Salvation Army to visit public housing residents, prepare meals, and chat with residents, hoping to connect with the community through this.

Additionally, street evangelism, which was halted for four years due to the pandemic, has resumed this year. The first collaboration with the Amazing Grace Worship Music Ministry took place on the second Sunday afternoon of May in Eastwood. Thank God, the first outreach had over forty participants, including brothers and sisters from all four congregations, marking a good start. We hope to witness for the Lord in Eastwood once a month.

Over the past two years, the church's theme has been "Bringing Hope," encouraging brothers and sisters to bring hope to their families, communities, and the world. On the other hand, we transform hope into services of Hospitality, Outreach, Prayer, and Encouragement, bringing encouragement, the gospel, and hope to those around us. Undeniably, in the past two years, the church's work has been more significant in the first two areas (Hospitality and Outreach), while Prayer and Encouragement still need improvement.

In fact, as the acting senior pastor, my primary goal has always been to build a pastoral team that can support and complement each other, filling the gaps in the team according to their gifts. Over the past few years, the pastoral team has been relatively unstable and somewhat passive. However, in the past one or two years, the cohesion of the pastoral team has strengthened, and everyone is willing to complement each other, which is a phenomenon. Of course, I must admit that we still have much room for improvement, and this remains my primary goal for the future.

At this juncture, I would like to share the church's vision with everyone again. It may be that it is too long, so everyone forgets it, or because it is too long, everyone is too lazy to pay attention. But in fact, when we look closely, you will find that it is a beautiful picture.

Imagine:

There is a church where believers live passionately for Jesus every day.

There is a church that constantly nurtures the next generation to know and live out the truth of the Lord (discipleship).

There is a church that transcends racial barriers, integrates different cultures, and preaches the gospel to all nations (missions).

There is a church that brings reconciliation, heals broken hearts, and gives hope to the hopeless (fellowship).

There is a church that is vibrant and constantly reaches out, sharing the good news (outreach).

There is a community that is a spiritual family embracing everyone, sharing love feasts, laughter, learning together, and loving one another.

May we all, by the grace of the Lord, add this piece to the puzzle and present a beautiful picture to our Heavenly Father.

Chairperson Report
- Vincent Chung

Thanks to the Lord who has given me the opportunity to serve Him in the past 4 years as the role of the Chairperson for the church. These 4 years were really tough due to the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdown, public health regulations, resulting with associated impact on the church and connection among brothers and sisters. Moreover, there were a lot of difference in opinion regarding various church matters in the past 4 years, including the search of the senior pastor after our previous senior pastor Rev. Lau has left, the appointment of a multi-cultural ministry worker, the relocation of Marsden High School, the English Congregation plan in starting a new missional service, the contract renewal of the English pastor, etc. However, it was still a very blessed experience to serve our Lord and His church, together with all the pastors and other ministry colleagues and Team representatives in the church council, as I learned a lot to rely on God and serve together with other brothers & sisters being involved in all these ministries, even though there were so many challenges due to many unforeseen situations. Jesus said in Mark 10:45: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” This has always been the ministry vision and the reminder for my serving heart to serve our Lord and His church.

Throughout the past year, the church council had planned, discussed, decided and organised a number of church wide ministries:

- Church Consultancy Review:** Due to the challenges with various church matters, the church council has decided to engage the Baptist Association Church Gen1K Church Health Consultancy team to assist with an objective review of the church structure, constitution, pastoral review and contract renewal process. Rev. Tim Burns and his team has been engaged and progressed with the review for our church. The scope and objectives of the review was focused on:

<u>Relational/Communications</u>	<u>Spiritual</u>	<u>Structural</u>
Church Ministry Structure		
Role of Pastors and Leaders		
Pastors Contract Model and Pastoral Reviews		
Church Constitution and Voting Process		

Rev. Tim Burns and Rev. Grae McWhirter have spent many hours of interviews and meetup with the pastoral team and leaders on this review, as well as their effort in organizing a church wide survey to gather the feedback from brothers and sisters. They have shared a detailed report on the findings and recommendation, which has been presented to the church council and church members via various forums and leaders retreat. The report was accepted by church members at the 2024 May Members meeting, with the church council and pastoral team taking ownership with the recommended actions to move forward.

- **Church Vision:** As per one of the recommended actions from the church consultancy review, it was advised that the church should revisit its vision and that in doing so considers the comments in the consultancy report including obtaining external help with the review. As part of this action, the pastoral team has already started working on revisiting the vision and will be sharing the vision further with the church council and leaders.
- **Appointment of new pastors and reappointment of existing pastors:**
 - The permanent appointment of Pastor Philip Fong as Cantonese Pastor of the church, and his accreditation as Reverend;
 - The permanent appointment of Rev. Man Hong Leung as Cantonese Pastor and Acting Senior Pastor;
 - The reappointment of Rev. Gloria Fu as Mandarin Pastor;
 - The appointment of Pastor Dharsh as English Pastor;
 - The appointment of Pastor Frank Zhang as Interim Mandarin Pastor
- **Changes to Personnel Policies due to Fixed Term Contracts Regulations:** Due to the fixed term contract regulation changes in December 2023, and the recommendation from the Baptist Association Church Consultancy Review, the church council has implemented the required changes to our Personnel policies for Pastors and Administrative Officers. These changes were presented to members for members endorsement in February 2024. From now onwards, all the upcoming renewals for our pastors will be permanent, and we have completed this renewal to permanent contract for Rev. Philip Fong and Rev. Man Hong Leung, with Rev. Mok's contract coming up later this year and the renewal to permanent contracts for Rev. Fu and Pastor Dharsh next year.
- **Support the English Congregation with the establishment of Harvest and E915:** In December 2022 the English congregation has decided to establish a new service in West Ryde Hall named Harvest, to focus on their missional and outreach ministries in West Ryde. There were a lot of support provided by the Church Council and the pastoral team, and brothers & sisters from other congregations with this transition. Thanks to the Lord the 2 English services are now stabilised with opportunities to grow and outreach in both the West Ryde and Meadowbank communities.
- **Leaders Retreat 2024:** On 24th February 2024 the church council organized a church leaders retreat, with all the church pastors and leaders gathered together to worship the Lord, and invited the Principal of Morling College Rev. Tim MacBride to speak to us on God's word to encourage our leaders in their ministries. It was a fruitful day spiritually for all pastors and leaders, and promoted more collaboration and communication for leaders across various congregations.
- **Senior Pastor Search Committee:** Since our previous senior pastor Rev. Lawrence Lau has left, a senior pastor search committee was established to start preparing for the search for the next senior pastor for our church. The pastoral search committee had assisted to establish the job description for the new senior pastor, with endorsement by the church council. The team had also consulted with various other senior pastors and the Baptist Association on the process, and then advertised the position, as well as assessing the candidates who applied for the role for recommendation to the church council and the whole church.



Looking ahead, the church council and the pastoral team will continue to focus on leading all congregation teams to move forward with the high priority church wide initiatives as recommended by the Baptist Association Church Consultancy Team:

- Continue to pray for and search for a Senior Pastor
- Revisit the Church Vision
- Plan for a Service of Reconciliation & Healing
- Engage a specialist in Culturally & Linguistically Diverse second-generation ministry in Australia to help it resolve tensions that are evident between those of first and second generations
- Review the church's ministry structure to ensure that is serving the church's mission, values, and vision
- Review the role and composition of the Church Council
- Adopt the model for pastoral review by the Baptist Association's Church Health Team
- Revise the Church Constitution & By-Laws

As I finished with my 4 years serving term, thanks to the Lord he has called our brother Steven Ke to be elected as the next Chairperson for the church, and continue to carry these initiatives forward. Please continue to pray for the pastors and leaders, the vision, love and unity for our church, and in the coming year the General Administration Team and the Church Council will continue to serve our Lord in moving forward with these initiatives. May the Lord continue to bless us – His church, His will and Vision for the church, and His ministries in the coming year!



C915 Annual Report

- Harry Lai (C915 Team Representative)

We thank the Lord for his guidance for the last twenty years. Cantonese Morning Service (C915) was started on 1 July 2004 which was independent from the Bilingual Service (Mandarin and Cantonese, was established on 1 November 2001). Over the last twenty years, C915 has been following the Lord's lead and graces, with the congregants growing from the 30s to 150s (might be more, as some came and left). While we were experiencing and witnessing the congregation's growth, we were also facing many challenges, particularly in the last two years. We went through the COVID pandemic from March 2020 to December 2022, and we came to worship physically (parallel with providing livestream service) in West Ryde Community Hall (WRCH) gradually after the pandemic. We thank God that more and more brothers and sisters were coming to attend the physical worship and as a result, at one stage, it was overflowing in some instances. In addition, the church has decided to keep C915 at WRCH rather than use West Ryde Hall. Furthermore, according to the survey results, the average age in C915 is over 67 years old, but all C915 brothers and sisters have a godly heart to serve. Many brothers and sisters came to the WRCH very early every Sunday morning to set up including cleaning the chairs, connecting worship equipment to the external WIFI, and also conducting an online livestream worship service.

Nevertheless, we still can count many thanksgivings, particularly, praise the Lord that there were a total of 4 brothers and sisters being baptised over the last two years. In addition, we have full team members over the last two years plus other non-official members who have been serving in different ministries for many years. Thanks to the Lord having established a great team in C915 - the two team representatives (Harry Lai and Alex Ng), worship leader (Peter Leung), Family & Caring leader (Glendy Li), Education leader (Ken Ho), Leisure group (Esther Ngai), Golden Age group (Jeremy Sham) and the newly elected worship leader Stephen Ho. We also thank the brothers and sisters who have been serving in different ministries wholeheartedly and some of them have been serving in the same ministry for years. This is a great congregation, a great team, with great successes. Looking back to the two years of ministries, again, it was a year full of grace and challenges. Below are some of their achievements and main activities in the past two years.

Worship Ministry:

- Using a QR code instead of a barcode for Elvanto check-in.
- Continuing to provide YouTube live streaming. It allows brothers and sisters who are overseas to attend our service and serve those brothers and sisters who are staying in aged care facilities to worship in real-time.
- Serving the worship service by encouraging a full life group to serve in all roles – chair, lead songs, set up, ushers, power point and sound systems, morning tea, and pack up.
- We especially thank brother Peter Leung for his long service in worship ministry. He started as an unofficial worship team member 9 years ago and has consecutively been serving in this ministry for the last 9 years unofficially and officially.

Figure 1: Worshiper and offering trend by Sunday, C915, Jan 2023 – Jun 2024

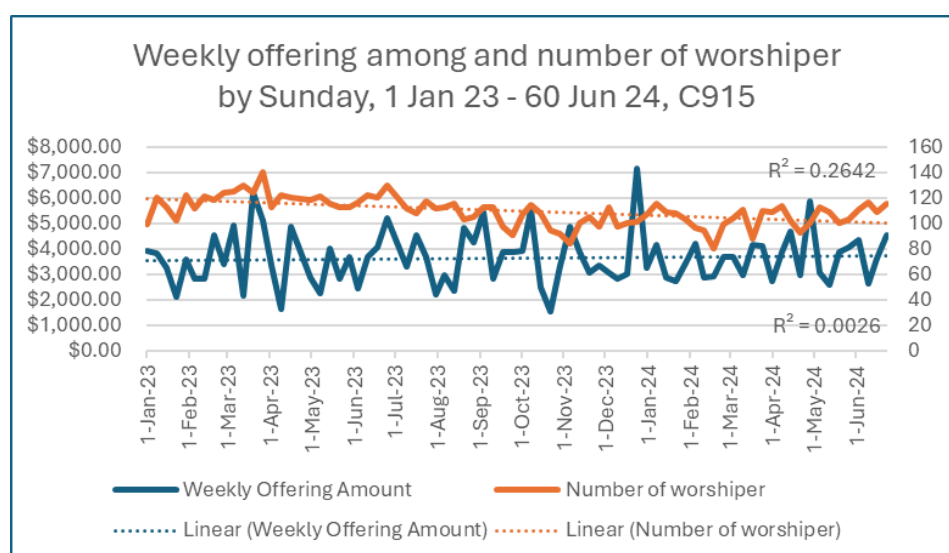


Figure 1 showed the worshiper and offering trend from 1 Jan 2023 to 30 Jun 2024. Firstly the number of worshiper were stable $R^2=0.003$ and the weekly offering was also stable $R^2=0.3$ (very minor dropped in offering amount). The average worshiper waws 112 per week and the average weekly offering is \$33.3. This was slightly below the church wide average at \$41.9 per week. This reason for this was due to the fact that C915 is an old age congregation and many of the worshippers are retiree or not employing.

Life Groups:

- Promoting all life groups to practice HOPE and encouraging all life groups to connect by using the Church Base period each month. Brothers and sisters are very much enjoying this section.
- Continuing encourages newcomers to join life groups. Currently, C915 has a total of 8 groups.
- Scheduling 30 minutes each month for all life group leaders to share and build relationships.
- Having retreats for all life group leaders.

Caring Groups:

- Establishing 9 caring groups across the congregation with a total of 60 members to care for brothers and sisters.
- Establishing an initiative to reinforce the caring ministry. A special initiative group has been established and functioning.

Welcoming Team:

- Establishing a welcoming team composite of 8 members since mid-2023.

Newcomers:

- Increasing newcomers over the last two years. A total of 117 newcomers have joined the C915 service. Amongst these newcomers, 18 of them have joined a life group or caring group.
- Holding regular welcoming tea for all newcomers.

Education Ministry:

- Over the years, brothers and sisters studied the four books: Timothy 1&2, Book of Ezra, Leviticus, and Peter 1&2. All books were taught by brothers and sisters.
- Recently, it has been shown that Sunday School attendance is deteriorating (30% attendance compared with 60% in the past).
- Thanks to all the teachers in serving this ministry. Particularly, thanks to Brother Ken Ho for his hard work over the last four years. He has stepped down as an official education team member from Jul 2024. Thanks to the Lord brother Ken will continue to serve in this ministry as an unofficial education team member.

Golden Age Group:

- Golden Age Group was established in 2010 to cater to those who are retired or age 50+ by providing various physical, social & spiritual activities to help them achieve meaningful and blessed lives.
- The main event is generally held on the 2nd Monday of the month, consisting of seminars, workshops, or talks on various subjects. There are also Scriptures Shared by one of the committee members during the event.
- There are also other activities such as Ping Pong Group, Tai Chi Group, Walking Group, and Singing Group on other days of the week and other Mondays.
- The average number of participants in the main Golden Age Event was 46, with the maximum number of attendances of 61 during Aug 2023 and Dec 2023.
- The Walking Group has an activity on the 4th Monday of the month. On average there are 25 participants, and the highest number is 34.

Leisure Group:

- The Leisure Group was established in 1996 in CABC-Thornleigh and became independent in the year 2000 in CABC-West Ryde. The Leisure Group aimed to care for and nurse the old age group in addition to evangelic the gospel to similar older people.
- The gathering is held on every Thursday morning from 8:30 to noon. Activities include a Tai-chi class, various healthy exercises, morning tea, and a short talk by pastors. From time to time, special speakers are invited to come and talk about specific topics or specific performances like musical events or dances that interest the elders.
- Recently, a Leisure Choir was established and they perform. In addition, there was one person baptized in 2024 and also this person has been practicing in the Choir.
- We thank Sister Esther Ngai who has been serving in the ministry for the last 30 years. We also thank Maurice Ng for taking over some of the duties over the last couple of years.

C11 Important milestones 2023-2024

- Rev. Joshua Mok

- Our own Rev Philip Fong has been ordained and became our first permanent pastor! Rev Mok has finished his duties as acting senior pastor as well as feeling refreshed after his sabbatical.
- Our congregation has fully settled in Marsden High School in Meadowbank. Not only do we have lunch every Sunday together, but we also have basketball program afterwards to fully utilize the facilities for outreach.
- This year is about Hope. We have promoted H.O.P.E. in Life Group. It has been great to see life groups extending their horizon by witnessing together, including visiting age-care centre and provide meal to homeless etc.
- Life groups have continually been encouraged to grow and do life together. We see new groups forming, especially within the new migrants from HK. There is also a renewed interest in discipleship within the more mature life groups.
- Our faithful team representatives Terrence and Andics has stepped down after their four-year term. Simon Tam has stepped in as the new c11 team representative



Thanksgiving:

- That we have a very big place for worship every Sunday. May God give us a heart to worship Him wholeheartedly every week, and also invite others to worship him.
- Increase number of participants around 20% in our congregation, mainly new Hong Kong young families. Some of them come to know Christ after joining our church.
- Thanks God, we have 15 brother and sisters to join CABC membership.
- C11 brothers and sisters participate, support and serve English congregation.
- We see an increase participation in the local outreach from c11, including Eastwood outreach, Easter fair, organise CABC-WR café to Hong Kong newcomers.
- In autumn 2024, Family and Caring have organised C11 picnic, around 60 participants where we see warm fellowship amongst our congregants.

Prayer for the future:

- With the church consultancy report out, we pray for unity amongst our church. C11 is committed to being the peacemaker of this church.
- We pray that God will continue raise up more leaders to serve in different areas of the church that are in need. This includes Worship, Christian Education and Outreach.
- We pray for opportunities and the heart to bring the gospel to many places, including young worker ministry, reaching out to new migrants, local community and also potential university ministry.

English Congregation Report

- Pastor Dharshana Aseervatham

Harvest

Harvest has had a difficult and turbulent year, with the sudden departure of our beloved pastor, Pastor Robert Robayna, a decision that our service did not expect. The loss of our pastor had big emotional and spiritual ramifications that can still be felt to this day in our community. We also have had multiple families and members that have been part of our CABC church for many years move to other churches.

But by the grace of God, Harvest has been able to continue its transition into a missional minded community under the guidance of Rev Paul Gravitas later in the year. We focused on having Sunday Worship as a time to centre our service on the gospel, with the aim of sending its members out into the community equipped. Our mission statement became: "Harvest seeks to be a God-honouring diverse community that is innovative, accessible and missional for the sake of reaching the unchurched and fostering effective discipleship."

Page 11

I am reminded of 2 Corinthians 12:9, where Jesus says to the apostle Paul "...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". God raised new leaders to serve in ministry areas such as our welcoming team, coffee cart, Grow and service leading. God had allowed us to reach the local community, running events such as the Good Friday Market, Spring Fair, Easter Fair, Granny Smith and the Trivia Night. Reverend Paul had regular meetings with our Harvest Core Team, leading our service towards a more missional community. Evangelistic training was organised and provided by Reverend Paul. Our university ministry, Grow, continued to connect with the wider church community through Link-Up lunches with older Christians and Grow Youth students were encouraged to serve in Harvest such as in AV. Members lead children talk for the combined anniversary service. Harvest members have started to regularly organise dinners with the community with the collaboration of the Salvation Army. Our welcoming team had organised Newcomer Morning Tea sessions, with 43 newcomers attending Harvest in 2023 and 7 remaining as regular attendees. Harvest was able to celebrate with 4 of our attendees publicly declaring their faith during the 29th of October Baptism service. This year saw other significant life milestones in the lives of our members including the birth of Anastasia as well as the wedding of Samuel and Yvonne.

At the time of writing, we are back in a situation where Harvest has become without a service pastor again. Although it may appear that our circumstances have not changed, through reflection, I am encouraged to see that God continues to work in our service in spite of our weaknesses. And so, the natural response for our service is to hold our hands out to God in Hope and to trust that He is gracious, that He is sufficient and that He is Powerful.



E915

It has been a great encouragement to see E915 thrive over the last 12 months. This time last year, we were only scrambling to find resources to maintain an English morning service at Marsden high school. Over the last 12 months, we have seen God's blessing in this community through the provision of many loving and servant hearted brothers and sisters and pastors within the English Congregation. We have also experienced much encouragement from those from other congregations in how they have served in church.

Through many hours of prayer and discussion, we were able to articulate the focus and identity of E915 going forward:

“We are an intergenerational service that loves Jesus and shares the gospel with the local community”

With the following short to medium term goals:

- Everyone serving one another
- Building relationship across age groups
- Building relationships within small groups
- Build relationship with local community

Over the past year, we have seen early fruits of this in the tertiary aged group lead service, teenagers lead services and the children focused/lead services that have been welcomed by many. We have seen people of all ages, from highschoolers to retirees, contributing to the service and fellowship over the last 9-12 months.

In the coming years, we pray for the Holy Spirit to move in the heart of all E915 members to grow in love and service to one another. We also pray for opportunities to make our love and presence known in the local community and we look forward to partnering with local Christians to share God's love to those who do not yet know Him.



General English (Pastoral)

The last 12 months have been a time of great encouragement, faith and resilience from both Harvest and E915 (2 service which make up the English Congregation). After a tumultuous initial period, by the grace of God, and the prayers, care and encouragement of many with both English Congregation and the wider church; both services are thriving. Each has its own roster, areas of focus and goals which they are striving towards with the support of service and ministry leaders; and the wider pastoral team. Most persons who identify as English Congregation are settled in one of the 2 services and it has been a real encouragement to note high attendance rates at both E915 and Harvest, and also the number of people who are serving at services, wider church based ministries or roles of leadership.

In the last year we've had all roles in English Leadership filled, with almost equal representation from both services - a true indication of the unity despite diversity which English has held. There have been opportunities for training and conferences; something which we look to build up on. Together as E915 and Harvest, we have had a record uptake of 11 membership applications in the last year or so, 5 baptism candidates last year, and at least 6 candidates for the 2024 Baptism - all across both services. There are plans for a children's dedication service in late 2024. As we journey through this consultancy process, English Cong is using this time to reflect on the future of our church, and the be collaborative partners alongside the other services to prepare for positive change and direction into the future.

A big note of acknowledgement needs to be noted for Rev. Paul Gravitis who served within an interim capacity during a period of transition. He came at a difficult time to support and pastorally lead Harvest during a difficult time period. His efforts have made an impact, and have enabled a lot of things to occur for the betterment of English at this time, and as a whole congregation we are grateful for all he did, and the experience and insight which our congregation was blessed by. While there is a level of uncertainty for the future of English in terms of pastoral support, we are confident in the Lord's leading and provision for this congregation, and the wider church.

Mandarin Congregation Annual Report

- Rev. Gloria Fu

We are grateful to God, who generously bestows abundant blessings upon everyone, for the many unexpected graces given to Mandarin Congregation.

We give thanks that in July of last year, we had our first representative with a Mandarin-speaking background. This July, we welcomed our second representative. For nearly a decade, the Mandarin Congregation had lacked a representative, so this represents a significant breakthrough, with individuals willing to serve as bridges between the Mandarin Congregation and the church.

Last July, we also had Worship, Christian Education, and Outreach team members. This July, we added a Family and Care team member. This signifies the growing strength of our service team.

We thank God that in mid-February this year, Pastor Frank Zhang became the church's interim pastor, primarily assisting with Mandarin Congregation ministries. As Pastor Frank had previously served on the Christian Education team member for the Mandarin Congregation, he quickly became familiar with and engaged in church operations. Pastor Frank has been diligently involved in teaching, preaching, Sunday school, sharing Daily Living Water, caring for life groups, visiting and caring for members, and outreach.

Besides regular life group meetings, the Mandarin Congregation also held seasonal fellowships last year, such as the Mid-Autumn Festival celebration and Thanksgiving celebration. We also utilized Christmas to hold a Christmas Sunday service, followed by lunch, attracting new friends and the families of our brothers and sisters who have not yet believed, to celebrate the joyous news of Jesus' birth together.

When the church resumed Eastwood outreach activities, over ten members of the Mandarin Congregation participated in monthly tract distribution evangelism activities. It is heartening to see the increasing connection between the Mandarin Congregation and the church!

Life groups, Daily Living Water, and Sunday school (including seekers' and believers' classes) are our channels for discipling. In the past, we have invited various teachers to share on diverse topics, such as the Crusades and the differences between Islam and Christianity, providing our brothers and sisters with a deeper understanding of church history.

We look forward to seeing the brothers and sisters of the Mandarin Congregation being systematically equipped and edified in their faith, gaining more wisdom and ability to share the gospel with those in the community who have not yet heard it.

