Name: Lawrence Sham

Position: Outreach Coordinator

Years at CCF: 4

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

"Reach Up, Reach Out"

For a moment, think about the communities that you are a part of. Here are a few that are common to us all:

- CCF We see other CCFers every Friday and on other days as well
- Local communities We see people in school and around the city.
- Global communities We hear stories on the news of people every day.

These communities are listed in an order such that they gradually grow larger in scale. At the heart of CCF is God. Starting with God at the focal point, we begin to branch out to those in CCF and then furthermore beyond CCF. To sum up this theme in one phrase, it would be "Reach Up, Reach Out".

Reach Up

Begin with our relationship with God. God is always reaching out to us with His unconditional love. 1 John 4:19 says "We love because he first loved us". Having a good relationship with God is correlated to having a good relationship with other people. If we make ourselves readily open to God's love, it creates a trickledown effect where God's love is so overflowing. It can't help but pour out of us and into the lives of others.

How do we do this?

In loving and caring for other people, we must not forget our spiritual walk. Through the Scripture, we can equip and prepare ourselves for the interactions that we have with other people. We must remember that our actions stem from the Gospel. Application from Bible study is often easily overlooked, yet it is so essential to outreach. Through prayer can we open our ears to God and hear what He has to say. We can also lay down our burdens to Him. Communication is important in any relationship including with God.

Reach out

Reach out to those around us. Outreach is more than just holding large events. It exists on a smaller scale with the people close to us. When we reach out, we can start with those in CCF and in church.

Barriers created to hide ourselves from fellow Christians would be broken. Beyond the walls of CCF is an entire city and campus waiting for us to evangelize to them.

How do we do this?

Remember God's grace that He has so generously given to us. 1 John 4:21 says "And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother". Therefore, let us work towards building phileo love with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We can do this by creating an environment that is supportive and loving to others in the fellowship. Additionally, plenty of opportunities abound for us to evangelize outside of CCF. Many organizations on campus and around the city exist to reach out to those in need and to preach the Gospel. Even something as simple as a conversation with our non-Christian friends is an opportunity that should not be overlooked.

We all have a different calling from God. Some are called to be missionaries while others are called to serve in the communities that they have grown up in. Wherever God is leading you, I invite you to explore this pursuit of how God wants us to do His works and impact our communities.

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

I am naturally a quiet person. It is not inherently bad to be quiet. However, my expressiveness in a large group setting. This would make living out my vision more difficult. This can be difficult for someone whose personality is introverted. Regardless, this is something that I am trying to break out of. I would like to reach out as much as I can to the community in CCF and outside of CCF. I need to learn to speak up when it is necessary.

Placing unnecessary expectations on myself. When I fail to accomplish something or perceive that I have failed to accomplish something, I easily get down on myself. Failure can push me to improve beyond my limits. This helps me to grow. However, if I see a failure solely as incompetence in myself, then I fall into the danger of self worthlessness. To avoid this trap, it is important that I remind myself that I am not serving to satisfy other people's expectations or to satisfy my own pride, but rather that I am striving to God's expectations to satisfy Him.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

I am the type of person who likes to listen. In most of my conversations, I listen more than I speak. I think this is because I like to hear what other people have to say and to understand the perspective of where other people are coming from. Hearing what other people have to say allows me to better understand other people, their perspectives, how they feel and their approach to things. This is

beneficial in my one on one and small group interactions with other people as it allows me to develop deeper relationships with individuals. I'd love to invest my time into CCF by getting to know the members more deeply. Additionally, listening makes doing group work much easier.

I am driven to improve myself. If I can identify a weakness in myself or a mistake that I have made in the past, I always try to correct it. I always try to improve myself in the things that I do. This ranges from everything in my life such as work, school, athletics and most importantly my walk with God. With this constant pursuit and desire to improve, I hope that it will encourage others to push hard in their pursuit of God.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

I love to work in teams for the obvious benefits it brings. It is refreshing to bounce new perspectives and ideas off of each other. We all have our strengths and weaknesses. By being a part of a group, our weaknesses are made up for by the other members of the group. This uniqueness among individuals is something that I value. A lot more can be accomplished by a group compared to an individual. However, there are occasional times when conflicts arise among group members. Whether I am part of the conflict or not, I'd listen to the other person and try to understand their reasoning. Then we can discuss the matter to see if a compromise can be reached. In any case, I want to avoid conflict and firstly try to find a solution that would make everyone happy. As mentioned in another section, I like to listen to others and I think that this helps when I work with other people.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

I try to take criticism as receptively as possible. When criticism comes my way, I reflect back on the situation and think about it from the other person's perspective. Then I think about it from my perspective. This usually consists of thinking of ways that I can make improvements and if possible, whether there is anything that I need to change so that I can please God. Regardless of whether I take the advice or not, there is always room for me to improve and I see criticism as a stepping stone to do this. That is not to say that I am perfect in taking criticism. Sometimes I am held back by my own pride. If I perceive the criticism to be delivered harshly or in the form of a personal attack, I might not react as receptively as I'd like to react. It takes a discernment to recognize when someone wants to help you and humility to accept this help. I think that it is an ongoing process where God is slowly building me up in these two traits.