

Vision Statement

Name: Joshua Wang

Position: Chair (2010 - 2011)

Church: Scarborough Chinese Alliance Church / New Hope Fellowship

Years: 18 (Christian), 5 (CCF)

Vision: *Take Hold!*

Taking Hold of Eternal Life & Forging Love's Cutting Edge

Key Verse:

"But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:11-12

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Why?

We are called to take hold of eternal life, but very often, we take hold of this present life.

The essence of Christianity is to know God and make Him known. (Matthew 22:37-40)

- Knowing God: dedicated Bible study, reading, and meditation, and prayer.
 - How are you doing in your pursuit of God?
- Making Him known: to Christians and non-Christians, in our love, actions, and words.
 - How are you doing in loving others as yourself?

Why develop the *Cutting Edge*?

- So that we have the "**missional edge**" (Ooi, 2009), individually, and as a body of Christ, always being ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15)
- In spurring each other on and encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:19-25)
- To run the race set before us, with perseverance, being **laser focused** on the joy set before us through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:1-3)

How do we develop the *Cutting Edge*?

- By exposing ourselves to an incredibly ***sharp sword***: God's Word (Hebrews 4:12)
- By growing in community, challenging each other, praying for each other, encouraging one another, loving one another, ... ***sharpening one another*** (Proverbs 27:17)

Applying the Vision

Relationships

- Relationship with God: Prayer and the Bible. Partnering with Bible Study leaders to facilitate solid spiritual growth and equipping CCFers with the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- Relationship with one another: Investment groups, discipleship groups (1-on-1, 1-n, small group settings), mentorship, subcommittees, small group leader accountability.

Unity:

- Committee and CCF leadership – unity in vision / purpose, regular review of leaders' visions and goals, accountability.
- Unity of CCF, U of T, and local campuses. Partnering together to develop ***the cutting edge*** of the Gospel

Leadership Training:

- Learning to become better followers of Jesus Christ, together

Epilogue

So, what is the cutting edge? What do you tell people? What's the message? The message hasn't changed and it's this:

Tell the world that Jesus lives. Tell the world that He died for them. Tell the world that He lives again. (Hillsong)

Jesus Christ really loves you... a lot!

Vision Statement

Michael Li – Vice Chair
Toronto Chinese Baptist Church
Years at CCF: 4
Years as a Christian: 13+

Vision: Intentional Community

Intentional community involves deliberately building up Christian friendship in the fellowship by supporting each other spiritually and logistically for the purpose of bearing witness to God's redemptive love to those on campus.

Why is intentionality so important?

UTCCF is located at a crossroads in our lives as university students. It is during this time that many of us learn, mature, and grow in character. As a Christian fellowship on campus, we are in a very specific setting so it is essential to define the scope of our ministry. In order to be relevant, we must address issues that students frequently face during and after their university experience. Without such specific focus, it will be difficult to fulfill the fellowship's purpose to a meaningful degree and provide the underlying support to build up internal community.

Since our fellowship consists of individuals at different stages of experience with CCF, there is a perpetual need for intentional connection. For newcomers, integration into community is important. This has led to initiatives like the hospitality ministry and the Freezer frosh group. Next, those who have taken up service positions should have the deliberate support of the fellowship and committee as part of the discipleship process so they may be encouraged in their work (1 Thess. 5:12-13). Finally, UTCCF should make a concerted effort to maintain a connection with alumni so they can remain involved and contribute to our campus ministry.

Points of Intentional Connection

Integration

- Integrating new individuals into the CCF community
- Allocating older members to act as resources for younger members

Support

- Sharing the task of serving at CCF so individuals in service are not overburdened
- Addressing specific issues that university students struggle with
- Intentionally develop potential leaders for service roles through discipleship. Most of us will spend around four years at U of T so every

four years, there is a complete turnover in CCF membership and leadership. It is therefore important to convey what we have learned to equip others in the fellowship (Colossians 3:16).

Alumni Connection

- Develop the formal infrastructure for UTCCF alumni to connect to the fellowship corporately through periodic updates and special events
- Coordinate with alumni to find out how they can contribute to the fellowship

How is this relevant to the Vice Chair?

The vice-chair position is very much an infrastructure support role. As vice-chair I would be responsible for assisting the Chairperson, coordinating small groups, and maintaining accountability with small group leaders. We are all called to look after the welfare of our brothers and sisters at CCF. The vice chair is merely the one who does so in an official capacity.

As such, the steps taken to achieve the aforementioned goals would involve:

- Meetings with leaders at least twice a semester to hear their concerns, discover where they need help, and find ways to offer assistance
- Encouraging older members to take initiative in discipling others
- Coordinating with the alumni network initiative to increase the number of alumni contacts and explore ways to maintain connection

Name: Justin Wong
Position: Male Devotional Leader
Studying: Engineering Science; entering 3rd year
Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church
Years as Christian: 13 *Years at CCF:* 2
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How is it that we live, and go about our day to day lives?
How can we live, if we do not know who we are, for whom and for why we breathe?

I want to see us, as individuals and as a community, growing in the likeness of Christ, becoming ever truer reflections of the One in whom we are made.

- For us to know God, to know in what He delights and what He abhors. [Jer 9:23-24]
- In knowing God, then for us to *know* - understand who we are.
- And for all of this to take effect in our lives...

And how can this come to pass?

- We need to continue to delve into the Word. For this to become a passion and a habit, that we recognize its importance and not forget it. Scripture, "God-breathed, useful for teaching and rebuking..."[2 Tim 3:16-17] is one key way in which we can learn about God; Father, Son, and Spirit.
- We need to make a habit of prayer. To spend time listening to God, seeking His will, not our own, to submit ourselves and be obedient, willing to change as His hand works.
- We also need to actively practice encouraging and challenging each other, spurring each other on [Heb 10:24], for it to become a way of life amongst us that life is shared (accountability), and that the younger are nurtured (mentorship)

Practically, what would we be doing?

- As we have done before, regular study of the Word.
- Together, memorize a passage of scripture, hiding God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him.
- Take regular time out of our meetings to pray, individually or in small groups.
- Encourage and challenge each other through our investment groups.

For what keeps the trees of the earth sturdy in their place? What allows ships to rest safely on the sea? What makes the iceberg such a fearsome object of the ocean?

The answer is what lies beneath, at their foundations. We can do nothing, if we are not anchored to God through His Word and through prayer. I pray and hope that we would have our hearts and minds rooted in the right place. Amidst all the events we will face in life, now and in the future, all that is truly constant is God. If we fix ourselves to anything, anyone, other than Him, we shall be blown away in a moment's notice.

Be anchored. Know who you are. Live it out.

Name: Hannah Wong
Position: Female devotional leader
Studying: Engineering, going into 2nd year
Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church
Years as a Christian: 13+ **Years in CCF:** 1
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Why do we follow God? Why do we praise, serve, love, and give our all to Him? These are lifelong questions that people will ask us. These are questions that we will spend our lives answering.

I have an answer, an answer that I have yet to use. I want to reach a point where when someone asks me why I serve God, I can answer, “*How can I not?*”
How can we not?

What will it take for us to be able to answer in such a way?

This is my vision for CCF – simply that we, the members of CCF, might truly **know our Maker**. That we might know Him to such a degree that when asked why we love and serve Him, we can answer “*How can we not?*”

And how do we truly know God?

This Sunday school song sums it up: *Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so*. I see CCF as a place where we might deepen our knowledge of God through the **study of His Word**. From Deuteronomy 11:18 we read, “*Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*” Once we have known God, once we have fixed His Word in our hearts, everything else will fall into place with the natural grace of one caught up in the grip of God’s love. If we are rooted in the Word of God, then loving each other, serving one another, and **building community** within and beyond the fellowship cannot help but follow. If our foundation is in the Word of God, we will remain faithful, even as we enter life after university and face a new set of difficulties and challenges.

So how might love and thirst for the Living Word be nurtured?

The Word is *living*, and at its source is our Maker. The Word can be made alive in our hearts through so many different ways. Studying the Bible in different ways and through various means is consequently important as we strain to listen to God’s voice. As we study the Bible together, I also uphold the importance of the Word’s presence in our everyday lives. As written in Matthew 4:4, “*Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*”

Whether it is by encouraging daily devotionals from specific books, or making Bible passages available to be read daily, I will strive to work towards seeing us all fix the Word into our hearts.

And how is a loving community built?

Asking how to build a loving community is similar to asking how to make people love each other. Perhaps the real question is how we might *learn* to love each other and so build a loving community. I see this “learning to love” carried out

most prominently through making chances and opportunities to love each other, whether it is by fellowship through events or spending time with one another. As female devotional leader, serving the needs of the women of CCF is especially important, whether it is simply by talking and building personal relationships or by creating specific opportunities, such as small group or mentorship.

We are on a journey, a lifelong discovery of our Maker. CCF is only a small portion of this journey. But even so, I see CCF as a place that will lead us to set our sight on the eternal, rooted in the Word of God, and building each other up in love. And the better we know our Maker, the nearer we will draw to the day we can worship and love Him and cry out to the world, "How can we not worship and love Him? God is great and God is good. *How can we not?*"

Name: Ernie Tam
Position: Secretary- Treasurer
Studying: Commerce, going into 4th year
Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church
Years as Christian: 12, **Years at CCF:** 3
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Vision

"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be **good servants** of God's various gifts of grace...Anyone who serves should serve with the strength God gives so that in everything God will be praised through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4: 10-11

I envision CCF to become a fellowship where members will...

1. Continue to connect and develop personal and spiritual relationships with each other through learning and serving one another as we continue to build up the body of Christ.
2. Become a faithful servant of Him through deepening their relationship with him in prayer and exercising discipline in stewardship for the purpose of glorifying Christ.

Why is this important?

- Through the continual learning and serving of one another (*Romans 12:4-8*), and by developing personal and spiritual relationships, we will be able to truly unify each part within the body of Christ (*Ephesians 4:11-13*), so that we may support each other for the purpose of living out the name of Jesus Christ (*Colossians 3:17*).
- Our gifts of grace will be unveiled as we continue to seek him wholeheartedly and through the act of discipline in the stewardship of our blessings (*Matthew 25:29*), we can be better shaped as his faithful servant (*1 Peter 4:10-11*).

How this can be achieved

The conceptual framework of our ultimate goal is simply Jesus. As Secretary-Treasurer, I will be able to serve CCF with a focus on the logistical aspect of the operations within the fellowship. It is my intention that as a committee we are able to provide a platform in the support of various small groups, ministries and large groups events so that the fellowship can concentrate with their continuing walk with Christ.

Some Practical solutions:

- *Budgeting & Planning:* Through imposing a framework that emphasize on the importance of monetary and logistical factors, we will able to practice the stewardship that God calls for his faithful servant.
- *Unifying the fellowship:* To continue to work with committee members in providing opportunities for members to connect with one another whether it is through sharing of their experiences or assisting in their serving within the different ministries and small/large group events.
- *Accountability:* establishing a relationship of accountability across each member, as well as between committee members and the rest of the fellowship so that we may support and remind each other what our vision is about; for the living out in the image of Christ.

FAITH + SOCIAL JUSTICE

Name: Crystal Tong

Position: Outreach Coordinator

Ready to challenge our faith and burst our ignorant bubble?

Ready to wake up from our pleasant dreams and live out the dream that God has planned for us?

Ready to explore our faith and open up our eyes and hearts to the things unseen?

Ready or not. God has bigger plans for us. Our commitment as disciples of Christ is to live our lives in such a way that the bystanders of this world can catch a glimpse of God's character, which is love, justice and mercy, through our words, actions and behavior.

"So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

God so loved the world that he has given his one and only son to heal the brokenness of our world. For it is time for us to rethink what it means to show the world this agape love that is beyond a human being's capacity to love without God's presence. For it is time for us to think big, for us to step out of our comfort zones, and care for the people who are at arm's length.

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Here, God has given us this opportunity to question our faith and truly think about what it means to be the salt and light on our campus. Are we merely trying to maintain and survive as a student rather than living out God's calling? Are we merely self-centered individuals who only aspire to further our own interests rather than God's pursuit?

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Vision

- To challenge our faith and seek to understand what it means to be a true ambassador of Christ towards action on social justice.

Initiative

- Change and stir up people's heart for social justice
- Raise awareness on campus through creative activism
- Explore our faith and how it relates to injustices and poverty

Goals

- **Discipleship**- to prepare Christian students for life after university who will go on and influence and shed light to those around them and play an active role in God's mission.

Outreach

- **Unity**- unite Christians on campus to work towards one vision- that is to glorify God on campus.
- **Non-believers**- ministering to students on campus who are passionate about social justice.
- **Witness**- Faith in action. Make known to students on campus God's love, justice and mercy.

Implementation

- Weekly bible study from the study guide "The Hole in Our Gospel" provided by the World Vision Activism Network. "This book challenges Christians to expand their personal and transforming faith into a public and transforming relationship with the poor"- Richard Stearns
- Partnering with World Vision Campus and other Christian Fellowships to organize social justice events on campus.

Name: Ian Lee

Position: Social Coordinator

Vision Statement

This is my vision for the upcoming year of 2010:

My vision is for the organic growth of UTCCF as a family, where we may grow together spiritually through accountability and mentorship.

What would I like to see happen

- The intentional and driven initiative to step up to lead
- The growth of relationships within the whole of CCF –
 - Across age groups – the facilitation of older brothers and sisters as mentors
 - Within age groups both for frosh and seniors

Why now?

- The past year, CCF has been blessed by a talented and proactive frosh along with others with the willingness to serve, whose next steps in spiritual growth may include involvement in leadership roles
- With its current size, it will be difficult to effectively connect with one another, especially in the presence of newcomers.

Implementation

- Conscious attitude of relational encouragement – for myself and for all of CCF
- Creating opportunities that will spark a passion to serve
- Invitations to informal gatherings outside of CCF
- Include newcomers in gatherings outside formal CCF
- Coordination with Vice-Chair to facilitate accountability relationships within small groups
- Hospitality team
 - Welcome workshops
 - Care packages
- Encouraging mentorship
 - Inside CCF – within investment groups
 - Outside CCF

Vision Statement

Name: Serene Wong

Position: Large Group Coordinator

Over the years, despite the turnover rate of students coming and leaving, God has blessed UTCCF with its increasing growth of members. Large group meetings have moved from different locations on campus in order to accommodate the high attendance numbers. During my two years of attending UTCCF, I have noticed as members in the fellowship increase, the intimacy between members decreases. People are hesitant to share their brokenness with each other and become comfortable with their own cliques. Thus, my vision for next year is based on the theme of unity.

Throughout this year, God has taught me a lot about the importance of my family in Christ. Even though my immediate family is halfway across the world, He has provided me with mentors and friends that I can count on in any situation. Also from leading hospitality this year, God has shown me the need for people to be welcomed into and to be a part of the community of CCF and to be able to serve each other in ways that require us to put each other before ourselves.

As Large Group Coordinator, my main responsibility will be coordinating the weekly large group programs for the school year. The actions I will be implementing include:

1. Ensuring that the vision for UTCCF is implemented in weekly large group meetings.
2. Encourage the development of accountability partners, mentorship roles and family groups in investment groups to build friendship and to encourage and support one another.
3. Introduce icebreakers and introductions of newcomers and current members at the beginning of large group to promote a welcoming environment.
4. Follow up on newcomers who attend CCF throughout the year, through methods such as follow up personalized emails to sign up for the mailing list, social and outreach events, ensuring they are connected to the fellowship and continue to attend.

To conclude, I hope to see CCF as a fellowship where members are able connect on a personal and spiritual level. I hope to see the fellowship as a united body in Christ where there are no boundaries or constraints separating members.

“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.” (Romans 12:4-5)