

UTCCF 2012 Vision and Personal Statements

In the document below you will find vision statements for each of the executive committee nominees for the 2012 – 2013 year.

Additionally, this year the elections process has included four personal evaluation questions for each candidate to answer, below:

- Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.
- Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.
- Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.
- Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

Please take the time to read each of the nominees' statements to understand who they are and what they see in the life of the community of CCF and in themselves as they prepare for the upcoming year.

We suggest that you also ask these questions of yourselves as you read these statements, for this is a community in which we live, and whose leaders need support from every one of us.

Remember to be in prayer for each candidate and the fellowship at large as we once again pause to reflect on who we are, why we are, and how we are to live in our individual and corporate walks with God, to whom all Glory and Praise belong.

Coram Deo,

Elections Committee, 2012

Due to the large amount of text in this document, we have included a Table of Contents to fast forward you to the statements for each candidate. Just click on the name of candidate below to see their statements.

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Name: Jasmine Gui

Position: Chairperson

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 13+

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Emmanuel English Church Hong Kong

Vision Statement

the rhythms of grace:
rest. work. rest.

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We are taught to work hard, so that we can earn our right to rest.

Rest is seen as a reward, a result, a reaction, to work.

But let us step back for a moment, and ask ourselves the big "why" question,

"why do we work?"

1 Timothy 4:10 says,

"This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe."

If this is why we labor, if this is why we work, then perhaps what is more important than the work, is getting to know the "why" himself.

And so listen – the rhythm of grace sounds like this: rest, work, rest.

This applies on three different levels:

Question of my identity:

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

We rest first, in order to acknowledge that God is our Lord, who has already done everything, is doing everything and will do everything.

We rest in Him because that is how we ourselves are restored. (Isaiah 30:15)

We rest because our purpose is to be conformed to the image of Christ. (Romans 8:29-30)

Our work is a natural outflow, the outpouring, result, reward of resting in God.

Role as a community:

Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

When we rest in God together, we become united as the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

When our identities are centered in Christ, we are free to love and support each other without condemnation. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

Affirmation from the community is not what why we work, but part of the work God has called us to do in each other.

Function in our society:

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

To put things in perspective, imagine two rhythms of grace occurring in our lives:

1.The external rhythm

God calls us to periods of ministry and periods of rest, this is about your calling, and your purpose.

2.The internal rhythm

To be living a Christ-centered life is to rest, work, rest daily.

Essentially, rest, work, rest is like a heartbeat, you need the rhythm to pump life into you, as a child of God.

When the question of our identity is answered, and the support of our community is given, we are empowered to do Christ's work for Christ's glory in the world we live in. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

What could this look like?

Let us encounter Christ through the scriptures.

When we say bible study, some think "yay!" while others think "oh dear..."

So let's try new ways to study the Bible: the living Word is fun, exciting, and worth inscribing onto our heart, for it tells us what to do with our lives!

Let us engage the community into quiet time together

CCF is often a loud place to be, we are a dynamic and active group of people who love to loiter, and be rowdy.

Instead of taking time out of CCF to find peace and quiet, why not look for peace and quiet together? The goal is to not only find rest together, but also BE rest to each other.

So for the next year, as we rest, work and rest together...

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

And be thankful...

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another...

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Colossians 3:15-17)

Personal Evaluation

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

I am an extremely stubborn person; I hold my own ground, and I don't get swayed easily. I am also an extremely critical person, which means I always evaluate the situation at hand, and methodically sort it out into categories before re-piecing it back together. When I critically assess something, be it an idea, a proposal, an event, even a person, I always form an opinion: do I like it or not? Being stubborn as well, means that after this opinion is formulated, it does not get changed easily. For obvious reasons, these are two weaknesses of mine.

The interesting thing about both of them however, is that God has been actively refining me through my vision of rhythms of grace over the past few years as well. When I rest in God, I am relinquishing control, and understanding that because God has done everything, I really don't get very much say. When I rest in God, I learn that all the work I do is really His work, and so, being critical is not the main focus, as much as how I can, through this, become more like Christ. What God is doing, is shifting my point of view, and telling me, 'hey jasmine you know, sometimes it's much better to loosen up, relax your fingers and let it go.'

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

I am persistent, and introspective. If you haven't noticed already, persistent is another word for stubborn, and introspective means self-critical. HOW CAN THIS BE? Well, the truth is, our weaknesses are most likely also our strengths. Or rather, I'd say our strengths are our weaknesses precisely because we are strong in those areas, and God says he wants to use our weaknesses to glorify Himself, so when we get caught up in what we are good at, they become the very things that prevent God from using us. Oh the irony.

Nevertheless, persistence means I don't give up easily. Once I fix my focus, I will get it done. This means I'm reliable, constant, and I won't get sidetracked easily. As an introspective person, I am very self-regulated. I make it a habit to constantly evaluate myself, to understand my emotions, my thoughts, my decisions, and my actions and then formulate an opinion of myself: Am I being who God made me to be? Am I living a life that is glorifying to him? If the answer is no, I will work my way through it till I figure out why, and then see what I can do to change. Having that process built

into my spiritual journey with God has saved me from repeating a lot of mistakes, although I most definitely still struggle a lot. But remember! I'm persistent, so I'll keep at it, until I win the prize for which God called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. =P

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

As a result of not being a people pleaser, I've developed a very creative mind when it comes to teamwork. When you work in a team, there is a collective understanding of one purpose or goal, but many different opinions on how to achieve it. What happens when everyone disagrees, or is not on the same page? What if the opinions are only moderately reconcilable? Well, time to mix and match, and come up with ingenious solutions to restore group dynamics.

At the same time, having served in leadership for quite some time now, I've really learned to listen a lot, and talk very little when it comes to working with others. Because the role of Chair awards me more authority, I have more responsibility to put everyone else before me, to make sure all opinions are heard, and that all members of the team feel engaged, trusted and loved.

An example... I guess you could look for Tim, Terry, Ben or Kelly at CCF to ask them about what it's like for them, working with me at World Vision Campus. If they say bad things, they are lying. If they say good things, there you have it, your example. And I think that's all I have to say for now.

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

I would like to say that I am extremely open toward receiving criticism...but I am not. It takes a lot of effort on my part to receive it graciously. Then again, who likes hearing that they suck? Or that they failed? In light of all this, I am fully aware that I am a flawed and imperfect individual, and criticism gently given, will be criticism gently received.

God has been breaking down defensive barriers in my heart the past two years by directly rebuking me, through scripture, through people and through prayer. It is a hard process to go through, as I constantly have to face the fact that I am a sinner, and that I cannot do anything on my own. Yet the process has also really taught my heart to hold on to the grace and redemption found in Jesus Christ, and because of that, I can and will try my best to listen and accept criticism, when given in love.

More importantly than that, I think that criticism is always another opportunity to begin dialogue. It is not a matter, of just listening to what the other person has to say. In time, whether it be immediately after, or the week after, it is important to go back and address the problem, either "You were right, and I'm working on it, thanks for the advice" or "I've been thinking, let's have a chat about it..." Those are my general methods in dealing with criticism, and thus far, they seem to be adequate. =)

Name: Terry Chan

Position: Vice Chair

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: Logos Baptist Church

Home Church: Logos Baptist Church

Vision Statement

UNITY in a CHRIST centered fellowship with LOVE

Vision Statement: UNITY

God called us to have unity with each other and with HIM that together we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:6

How do we do this? CHRIST

Christ- Centered Community

We are called to be united, however, a community without CHRIST being the center has no difference with any other clubs or groups. Therefore, we must strive towards a Christ-centered community, to be intentional with spiritual conversations and have the same mind and same love aiming towards God.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:2-6

Healing

When you look around, there are many of us who are broken, and oftentimes we hide this brokenness. Therefore, we should strive to be vulnerable and open to one another. At the same time, we should ask God to heal our hearts and to also learn how to forgive those who had hurt you in the past just as God has forgiven us.

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. Mark 11:25

Rest

Oftentimes we try hard and think that WE can do things to fulfill God's plan, but most of the time we are not being patient; we are not listening to what God is trying to tell us and simply not letting God doing his work. Therefore, we should learn to rest in God and patiently listen to what HE wants us to learn in this season.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him... Psalm 37:7

Be still and know that I am your god... Psalm 46:10

There shouldn't be an "I" in unity, oftentimes we are too focused on ourselves, look around and look up (to God). We should have our focus on other people and most importantly focus on CHRIST.

Support

In order to have unity in a fellowship we must support one another; we are also called to keep each other accountable. There are times that we are fed up with things in life; everyone has an inevitable desire to be cared for. By supporting one another, we keep our brothers and sisters accountable and most importantly, guide them back to CHRIST so they may join as one in unity with God.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

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

Thirst

Back to basics, all that has been mentioned is simply what the Bible says. Therefore we must have the desire to go back to the Word and understand simply what the bible is telling us and what God is telling us to do.

My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their[a] flesh. Proverbs 4:20-22

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Source of power? Love

At the end of the days, we are only human, there is only so much our human body and mind that can handle. Therefore, do not rely on our own strength because sometime later you will burn out you will be tired. But look up to God and dive in his unending grace and love, with that source we will never be tired and in there we will find delight and joy in HIM.

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Matthew 22:37-39

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16

God’s Love >> God’s Grace >> Love each other, love your neighbours

Practically applying this to CCF next year

- Form support groups for ministries and small groups by combining some of the groups to one big ministry easier to be supported by committee, and potentially mentoring our next generations.
- Campus fellowship unity event: give the support to other campus fellowship although we have different audience and approach, we have the goal.
- Given UTCCF has a lot of strong individuals (great resources), we should unite the upper years (mainly 3rd and 4th years) and use them as great resources to help the next generation to grow and sustain the fellowship.
- Promoting Ministry and small groups to large group
- Actively support chair committee(inward) and small group ministries (outward)

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11

Personal Evaluation

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

1) I am not particularly good at sharing my personal opinions or feelings towards the people i am not close with. Often, i would bottle up the negative feelings and my speech might potentially become destructive. When feeling that way, i would pray to God and discern what or what not to say because i believe in the power of prayer. Also, i would try to get to know that person so that i would understand where is he or she coming from.

2) When i am in a situation that i need to finish a task, i might fix my focus on getting the task done and come off a little bit harsh even when i do not mean it. That way, i sometimes would unintentionally hurt people. In situations like that, i would reflect upon the reasons i am doing the task and remind myself that working well with people is also part of the task, as says in Ephesians 4:16.

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

1) I am strong at one-on-one individual conversations. I believe everyone has a deeper side in them once you get to know them. By talking to them personally and individually, I would be able to build connections and establish deeper relationships with them. That would in turn develop a much wider and stronger sense of community within the fellowship and progress towards unity in Christ.

2) As I know the person better, I would be able to understand the person's strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, I can utilize their strengths by assigning appropriate tasks to them and at the same time direct them to the people that can relate and help them. Again, this will enhance the sense of community within the fellowship.

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

I have served as social coordinator and treasurer at UT World Vision campus. With a team of 8, I help organize and coordinate monthly programs and events to raise social injustice awareness on campus. I am familiar with working with people. Usually my role on a team consists of handling some backstage work, such as the fundraising donation and financial reports at World Vision; also serving as a reminder of time constraint. Most of the time, I am able to get things done effectively and also encourage the others to do the same. However, as mentioned above, I might be too concentrated to get my point across and offend people. This is something that I have to work on.

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

I realized and was rebuked by my brothers and sisters about my tone and attitude of speaking to others when I have to get things done. I ask some of my close friends to keep me accountable from doing the same thing again. And hope that when I unconsciously do it again that they would remind me and keep me on the right track. I really appreciated what they did for I believe they are speaking the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15. I understand the importance of growth and receiving criticism is an essential part of it. Therefore I would take the criticism with a willing heart to reflect upon myself to seek growth through.

Name: Allen Ho

Position: Vice Chair

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 1-3

Current Church: Summit Community Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

Vision Statement : Let's Do It Together

My Goal: To have a fellowship where we WANT to serve one another out of Love while continuously growing in our own Love for God

After reading 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love", a question arises; why is love so highly regarded in this passage?

Love is extremely essential! Matthew 22:37-40, the **Greatest Commandments** states we MUST:

1) Love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind

2) Love your neighbour as yourself

NOTE: These two points are NOT separated, they come hand-in-hand, so, where do Solitude and Community meet?

1) Solitude – Loving God

- Examine your relationship with God, "Where are you right now with God?" and more importantly "Where do you want to be with God in the future?"
- To know where you want to be with God will determine your commitment to have a relationship with God
- Your identity as a Christian is based on your relationship with God. If you truly love God, trust God and follow His Word, then allow your identity to be in Christ
- I want people to be able to find this relationship, I want them to be able to do self-reflection in order to focus on how to grow stronger with God
- If you understand why God loves all of us and strive for a relationship with God then you will WANT to seek out others to share love to everyone in the world
- I want to see a fellowship where we develop the vertical (with God) and horizontal (with people) relationship hand-in-hand

2) Community – Loving your neighbours

- We come as a community to celebrate Christ, to celebrate the unity God has blessed us within a fellowship
- A community is created so we can share without fear of judgement
- Members of the fellowship should remember their role is to listen and support others
- To do this, I believe you will need to trust that God will provide, you must know that He is there to guide us and nurture us
- Also, God has given each of us spiritual gifts that are to be used for His glory (1 Cor 12:4-6)
- Support each other while creating unity to follow God TOGETHER! (1 Cor 12:12-13, 24-26) reminds us that just like a body, each part is equally essential for the purpose of glorifying God
- Just like you find your identity in Christ when you have a relationship with God, your identity is developed in a community where you share your gifts that God has given to you in order to allow the fellowship to grow together
- As a fellowship, we walk together in our journey as Christians, if one suffers, we all suffer, if one rejoices, we all rejoice in harmony (Romans 12:15)
- I want a fellowship where we can share with each other, and joyfully serve each other

3) Combine (1) and (2)! Let's Do It Together!

- We need time alone with God and time in a fellowship to grow as a Christian
 - To be in a community which shares and encourages others
 - Take what we learned from others back home as we reflect and pray to God to grow individually
 - As we learn from the Word through our own growth, we return to the fellowship to share and support each other once more
 - It is a cycle, we work together to understand the entirety of the Word and continue to grow gradually together in the fellowship and with God
- How does this work?
 - Individually, we must take responsibility in your growth with God
 - Devotions, prayers, and living out the Gospel is something I encourage all of us to do in order to start knowing God
 - Essential to have mentors and friends who can support each other
 - As a fellowship we must try our best to make a community where we can freely share such that we can begin to understand each other
 - To be able to have a relationship with God and the people in our fellowship, we will want to actively serve those who have shared their joys and suffering with us
 - This creates an environment where our fellowship can flourish from each other as we share love with each other

- How we support
 - Incarnational Ministry
 - When you encourage and support people, it is NOT only giving verbal advice to them and pushing them to do it. Do it Together!
 - Just like Jesus who came down from Heaven in order to be on the same level as His disciples in order to walk alongside them as he teaches them, we should follow His example
 - Walk alongside your brothers and sisters when they need the encouragement to achieve their tasks. Do the tasks together. Remember, that in all that you do, trust in God as He will be the one who makes everything work out.

4) Implementation as Vice Chair

- I want to encourage those in the groups to be able to share their goals, joys, and sufferings in order to begin growing relationships
- I want to implement this in the committee, where we begin by sharing our goals in order to start understanding each other, and we grow to be closer in order to be capable of encouraging and supporting each other as our vision to grow with God continues
- Conducting leadership workshops or small group gatherings on a biweekly/monthly basis and accountability groups/partners for the purpose of knowing each other's visions and be able to support and encourage each other when needed
- When we are able to grow in a group that everyone shares a common vision to grow with God and with each other, we become leaders who want to set an example
- This will continue to flourish in this manner as they continuously update other leaders they are working with and also creating a similar environment in their own individual group where they can also share freely
- Will create joint events on many occasions in order to encourage unity

Personal Evaluation

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

1. Lack of sensitivity
 - I need to remember about where the person is coming from when they say their opinions or anything else and respond with these thoughts in mind
 - Matthew 5:22, it is important to be careful of the words I use as it can seem judgemental to others

- example: When I talk, I tend to say some words that are inappropriate. It is at these times, that some people might take offense of what I said yet I won't always notice these situations
- I hope that I am reminded by others if I say anything out of line and continue to realize it myself on a daily basis
- at the same time, I want to be able to understand people sensitivities such that I won't be pushing them to the point of making them feel uncomfortable
- I enjoy talking with people when I can, so it is important for myself that I be careful of what I say and how I treat others in order to be always trying my best to share love with others

2. Knowledge of the bible

- I truly believe I still have a lot to learn about the Word and without this foundation I think it hinders my relationship with God.
- I believe it is important to have a strong foundation in the Word as without it, it becomes difficult to be able to support others in situations revolving spiritual growth.
- I want to commit to devotions, prayer, and knowing the Gospel fully in order to grow as a Christian
- knowing this will help me grow in my relationship with God which I think is lacking as I still need to remind myself to trust God in my times of need and know that He will provide
- as well, I believe I need to commit more time to work with mentors and friends in order to understand God better as they teach me the Word in a clearer fashion rather than always independently learning

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

1. Interpersonal Skills

- I enjoy investing time into anyone that I have the chance to talk to
- I put my best effort into knowing that person as closely as I can each time I chat with them so I can have a stronger relationship as time continues
- at the same time, I enjoy walking alongside people as we support each other's growth
- I enjoy encouraging and supporting those I meet so we can learn from each other (thus I am called all these random nicknames like "feminine father")

2. Willingness to speak up

- when there is a problem which I find to be an issue regarding myself or with those around me, I believe rather than keeping quiet, I like to take action, bring up the problem, and try solving the issue together
- this may cause trouble at times when I haven't fully clarified all the details of the situation, however, once I'm able to get the best grasp of the situation, I like to immediately work on improving the issue
- I also like to recognize the skills that God has given to each of us, I think it is important for everyone to be able to know their own gifts such that they can utilize to the best of their efforts. I like to talk with people in groups or individually in order to freely share with them and encourage each other in order to grow together

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

- I can be stubborn when I am debating over a topic that I believe needs to be addressed
- other than that I enjoy the opportunity to work with anyone in order to get to know them as I work with them.
- I believe it's always more fun to work in a team as each member gives advice and new ideas to one another while focusing on the same goals.
- I also think it's a much better form of growth to have other people walk alongside as you grow as a Christian so I freely share with them and continuously learn from them about the Word
- in all cases where I have difficulty working with people, I believe if both of us are committed to know each other better then we'll be able to work together with ease in the future

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

- I love it! My rule for those who talk to me is to be as blunt as possible, NO NEED FOR SWEET AND NICE WORDS WHEN TALKING TO ME! IF I DID SOMETHING WRONG, PLEASE WHOEVER IS READING THIS, TELL ME SO I CAN LEARN FROM IT!
- I believe there are times where I say things by mistake, and when I notice them, I take effort into reflecting on my own mistakes, however, there are times when I don't notice my actions, and I hope people can teach me at those times
- example: after my sharing in winter retreat, I notice some of the things I said weren't phrased in the best manner, and I have been trying my best to meet out with anyone who can share with me their opinion of what they think in order for me to realize what I need to learn from other people.

Name: Elliott Jun

Position: Male Devotional Leader

Years at CCF: 2

Years as Christian: 1-3

Current Church: Peoples' Church

Home Church: Peoples' Church

Vision Statement

As Disciples of Christ, we are challenged on a daily basis with a simple question, one that has caused us to hesitate and give pause for countless years as we journey with Him. The same question that was posed to Peter by Jesus upon his repentance; "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" Is God your everything? How much do you love God?

A realization that I came to discover about myself as I continue to chase after God; God was not my everything nor did I have the same heart as the disciples to let go, at least not yet, but *I want Him to be*. It is my hope, my vision and my prayer that CCF joins me in discovering how amazing and transforming it is to take hold of discipleship under Jesus as we walk alongside Him through His Word and come to treasure Him above all else. Through all of this, it my hope that we will come to see how God is everything because of what Jesus taught while He walked the Earth and what He did for us on the cross. Through the following means I hope we can move to this vision together:

Know the Word

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.- John 14:6

We have many questions, and God has given us His answer; Jesus. But do we really understand and believe Jesus to be the answer? John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" Jesus is the Living Word, God's law and truth personified in the flesh, but more than that, Jesus says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life to God. Let us, as disciples then study and walk alongside Him in the Gospel and seek to find His answers there through Christ's own actions and words. Not only reading it, but in guarding our hearts with His Word. After all, this is the Good News that God has given us; how can we not be changed and challenged by reading it?

Walk in Love

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. – 2 John 1:6

We are called to do more than just love with "words or tongue" and store it in our minds and hearts but to let it flow forth as love with "actions and truth." (1 John 3:18) We are called to walk in love in accordance to His commands, "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who

loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (John 14:15) There is more to being a disciple than simply understanding His Word; Jesus has called us to act upon His love. Let us encourage one another in prayer and fellowship for Him to act in each of us as we explore the cost of Discipleship and the meaning of living under Grace.

How this vision will play out in CCF

- Encourage reading of His Word (Going through a synoptic Gospel and exploring it together)
 - Whether as a collective fellowship, in small groups, meetings or by yourself
 - Discuss and be open with one another, help each other see more of Him in each other
 - Memorizing and storing His Word in your heart (Topical Memory System)
- Driving more Investing in others
 - Spend time to listen, share and be vulnerable before one another. Share about God’s work in each other’s life; Build each other up in Love, you’re not in this race alone. (investing into IG and SG leaders)
 - Spur one another on in your race towards God, be fruitful and disciple one another through intentional investment
- Pray faithfully and continually; Rely and Trust in Him.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, - 1 Peter 3:15

It is my hope that by this time next year, each of us will joyfully be able to share of how God’s grace reigns within our lives.

Personal Evaluation

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

One of my weaknesses is my reluctance to trust people. Having been through several scenarios where my trust has been betrayed, it is something that I do not give out easily or freely. This becomes a problem when I am attempting to fellowship with people and I am reluctant to trust those around me with the burdens and struggles on my heart. How can I expect others to be open with me, when I so hypocritically withhold so much? It is clear the open communication and vulnerability is necessary before everyone to help grow one another in love, especially more so as I work with committee next year. God has been revealing to me the depths of my pride towards being hurt and the reluctance to share from that. He is slowly breaking down that pride and I am hoping that is shows in the relationships that I’m currently investing in as I learn to be more humble and trusting.

Another weakness of mine that tie in with the first is my tendency to isolate myself during rough times. When things are not going so well in the complex vortex of my emotion and self-state, I tend to retreat into myself and with God. During these times I will most likely disappear from most social responsibilities in my attempts to wrestle with the issues. My isolation is based on my lack of trust in

people and my own reluctance in receiving love. I become self-absorbed and am blind to the love that people try and extend to me. This for one is not healthy to do to begin with, much less in a small group such as committee. God has been addressing this with me and I currently am trusting more in my support group of close friends and forgiving those around me.

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

While I may have knowledge in His Word, as a student who aspires to be in a teaching position someday, I feel that being able to teach and share knowledge is much more important than being a steward of it. While I have my own shortcomings as a person, a gift that I believe God has given me is the ability to teach others whether it be about His Word or other pieces of knowledge that He has gifted me with. It is with this own gift that I hope to be able to share with you the passion that God has given me for His Word and be able to teach CCF so they too are able to share with others. Through journeying with you in your growth I hope to inspire you with my love of the Word so you too may seek after Him all the more.

Alongside teaching is the heart to share what God has blessed me with, with those that are around me. Having had many mentors over the past few years, I've had the pleasure of coming to grow under their guidance and mentorship. I have seen first-hand the fruits of Incarnational ministry and the importance of investing your time into other individuals, so to learn from one another and encourage each other through what God has been doing in your life. It is this same desire to disciple and share of how good God has been that I hope to share with CCF as we come to be much more intentional in investing on one another.

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

I have learned through trial and error, especially in a discipleship group I co lead with Elizabeth over the summer. As a leader and a participant within any group, there is always the acquired understanding of balance between talking too much and talking too little, which is a struggle that I continue to lift up to God. Elizabeth constantly reminded me that I talked too much and that I should be quiet so others could talk. I am sometimes too accommodating to those that I work with in terms of taking up their shares of work and finding it hard for myself to let go and trust them with certain parts of the ministry we both share. When this happens, I can quickly take on too much and be very stubborn about asking for help or seeking any lee way with myself. Beyond that, I try my best to split work fairly across whomever I may work with, and being understanding of circumstances that may arise and supporting those that I work with through it. There are times when I can be very stubborn about how things are done are said and am very reluctant to bend in these instances whether due to a moral principle or wanting it done my way, although God has been teaching me much through my co leaders and groups that I work with a very humbling lesson; His way is always better than yours. But it was a good experience of open communication, compromising certain things and a lot of patience.

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

I am a fairly open person towards constructive criticism as within the English department, one cannot improve their writing without feedback from their peers and teachers. However, that is only

if I understand the criticism to be loving and after the person has sought to understand my situation and myself. If the criteria above aren't felt in my interactions with you as you share with me the criticism on your heart, then I can react very differently towards what you said, whether it be a stoic listening and not doing anything to aggressively defending myself while passively aggressively challenging your position. Despite what CCF may see of me, I am actually quite a sensitive and emotional person and it is here that I provide my example. Many of you have seen me in my lowest points or when I am struggling with something and simply take that as negative parts of my character. While I don't disagree, it is the lack of seeking to understand that hurts most. I hope that as a fellowship we can move forward with one another in love as we seek to move past misunderstandings and seek to understand each other more.

Name: Elizabeth Wong

Position: Female Devotional Leader

Years at CCF: 2

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: Peoples' Church

Home Church: Peoples' Church

Vision Statement

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

It is my hope and prayer to see an individual and corporate response, of greater devotion, to Christ's call of discipleship. A pursuit of Christ with heightened passion and discipline, and one that will be shared, in utter transparency, with other brothers and sisters of Christ.

His call demands daily dedication, and we need to seriously consider whether we meet it. The first part requires a denial of self, as we recognize our need for God's grace and our inability to pursue Him by will or capability alone. Second step is our willingness to take upon whatever He decides to place in our life, full surrender and submission. Third part is to follow His will, which we come to discern through His Word and prayer. All of this derives from receiving His unmerited love and sharing it openly with others. So, I hope to journey with fellow CCF sisters and brothers, in challenging, encouraging and inspiring each other to pursue Christ more deeply, faithfully, and openly.

What would pursuing Christ look like? Those who belong to His Kingdom, are those who "does the will of my Father" (Matt 12:50), in other words, "those who hear God's word and put it into practice" (Luke 8:21). His will? It is an exhaustive list of: loving God and your neighbour (Matt 23:37-38). To expand on these commands means to delve into His Word, and herein would I like to emphasize the importance of studying His word, meditating on it and committing it to heart (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9-11). Still, let all scripture point back to knowing Christ personally (John 5:39-40), as He is the ultimate Truth.

The Word is living and active. We must allow God to work in us, before He works through us (Phil 2:13). As we come to understand His will, we will be propelled to act in and share of His love. We serve, because we love, and we love, because He loved us first (1 John 4:19). May this love of Christ be reflected in our thoughts, words, and actions (1 John 3:18), for we have died in Christ, and so now, we live in Him (2 Tim 2:11; Gal 2:20). If we have accepted the gift of love and grace from Christ, we too, would have experienced the unadulterated liberty of being ourselves. May that freedom translate into more open dialogue of our understanding of Christ and our journeys with Him. I pray that as we continue to seek, understand and love God more, it will further our

understanding of and love for each other.

CCF Context

Take Up His Word

Self

- Prayer
 - Pray continually, with earnest, committing all things to Him (1 Thess 5:16; Phil 4:6-7)
- Daily devotions
 - Spend time with His Word, with expectation and in meditation (1 Tim 3:16; Heb 4:12)
- Memory
 - Hide His Word in your heart (Psalm 119:11)

Community

- Accountability
 - Commit verses to heart corporately; encourage each other with our daily devotions
- Devotionals
 - Email devotionals on a weekly/bi-weekly basis to share what He has revealed to us
- Small Groups
 - Root ourselves in the Gospel; Bible studies in CCF
- Equipping Leaders
 - Invest in IG leaders (greater collaboration with committee)

Live Out His Word

Self / Community

- Shine with His light
 - Within our 'public' and 'private' domains (Matt 5:16; 1 Cor 10:31)
- Sharing
 - Encourage sharing of testimonies/His work evidenced by day/week/month (within large and small groups) (1 Thess 5:11)
 - Be bold in our faith that extends beyond CCF/UT Campus/GTA
- Investment
 - Write encouragement letters/emails/texts; share prayer requests (within IGs)
 - Build upon our relationships with intention (SGs)

Personal Evaluation

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

Pride and Self-Indulgence

1. Gospel

- a. Remind self of God's love, receive His love, and be changed by His love

2. Prayer and Scripture

a. Pray

- b. Commit to heart passages apropos of mentioned weaknesses:

- i. He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30
- ii. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil 2:3-8
- iii. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Gal 5:24
- iv. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Cor 6:19-20
- v. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Heb 12:11

3. Practice

- a. Practice

4. Accountability

- a. Share with sisters and brothers
- b. Have them remind/exhort/rebuke when necessary

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

Understanding and Versatility

1. Understanding

- a. Relate to fellow sisters and brothers as they share their journey/struggles (sympathize, listen, encourage)
- b. What I know of God and can grasp, share with others (CCF and beyond)
- c. Helps in knowing how I can share God's love to them (in ways best understood by them)
 - i. Love languages, personality

2. Versatility

- a. Background (living in different cultures, serving in various contexts) will lend itself well to communicating and working with different people at CCF (committee, IG, one on one)

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

As mentioned above, said strengths have enhanced my team-working abilities.

- delegate according to people's abilities and personalities; keep communication open
- eg. I have worked well with Elliott during our summer discipleship group. We negotiated, compromised and communicated much of our thoughts and feelings during our planning, investing and executing. We had small disagreements, but those were resolved fairly quickly as we sought counsel in Him and His Word.

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

Most often received and applied if I perceive well-meant intentions.

- constructive criticism when it comes to skill-based things are most welcomed
- I prefer "I feel A (emotion) when you B (action)..." format for personal criticisms
 - eg. After I shared some of familial struggles, a friend suggested ways in which I could have demonstrated love more effectively. At first, I took umbrage to his suggestion, perceiving it as a judgement of my inability to love. Upon greater prayer and meditation, I realized that God was trying to tell me to communicate in ways that my family could better understand His love (change form of love). And so, I acted upon it. While my initial reaction to personal criticism (eg. family as opposed to writing) seems obstinate, I trust God will change my heart to see the truth in criticisms, even those unsolicited.
 - a similar situation happened again with a female friend. I less vocal about feeling affronted that time and took her suggestions to heart.

Name: Debbie Lo

Position: Secretary & Treasurer

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 13+

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

God provides us with resources. He entrusts us with freewill: the choice to utilize and allocate these resources as we please. This privilege accompanies the expectation that our choices will be made wisely. However, it is ultimately our unwise choices that made the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ necessary. This should move us to offer not only our resources, but our lives and our freewill back to Him. Practically, making the choice to offer every aspect of ourselves to God is a commitment that requires daily renewal. While this can be fueled by passion, any passion of our own is unsustainable. Having said these things, what I hope and expect to witness in UTCCF is that the dedication of our resources, decisions and lives be made out of obedience. Obedience can be trained by strengthening our personal relationships with God through prayer, with discipline, and by being in community.

Through Prayer

Seeing as our passion, motivation and command over our bodies are prone to failure, I hope that the commitments UTCCF members make will be rooted in God through prayer. Through prayer we can request discernment to make obedient choices; through prayer we may acknowledge our shortcomings and seek repentance upon disobedience.

With Discipline

Obedience is not natural to us. However, with discipline, we can practice the wise use of our resources and overcome the temptation to disobey. I envision UTCCF as a community that enforces the disciplines necessary for its members to be more inclined to live obediently even outside of UTCCF.

In Community

We need to be good stewards of the opportunities God places in our lives, including the potential that community provides. Through UTCCF, God provides us with so many opportunities to grow and strengthen our spiritual well-being. That said I hope that UTCCF members will take advantage of the community as a means to hold each other accountable. In this way, together we can nurture prayerful and disciplined lives that are ready to be obedient to the great plans God has prepared for us beyond graduation.

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age"

~Titus 2:11-12

Implementation

I consider serving as Secretary-Treasurer a potential platform on which to execute the vision above.

- *By deliberately seeking God's intention in prayer*, the priorities and best interest of UTCCF can be represented in decisions involving UTCCF's monetary, administrative, and technological resources.
- *By being transparent* about decisions I can be held accountable and simultaneously encourage the responsible use of our resources.
- *By acting with integrity*, our trust that God will provide can be demonstrated. Furthermore, integrity is a requirement to give due respect external organizations, administration and partners, allowing us to bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ [1].
- *By being involved in small groups and ministries*, not only can a better understanding of the resources UTCCF members require be acquired, but provides opportunity to be active in prayer, discipline and community as outlined above.

God entrusts us with resources. God gives us choice. The cost of discipleship is the loss of choice to allocate resources as we see fit. I seek the privilege of witnessing God work in this capacity and the honour to be in service, attempting to facilitate treatment of UTCCF's resources as God sees fit; to be obedient through prayer, with discipline, and in community.

Personal Evaluation

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

1) Interpersonal

Time is a resource I hold dear and the allocation of my time is a good personal measure of my priorities.

It is not natural for me to prioritize spending time with people as it causes me to feel unproductive. In this way I do not trust that God will be more productive furthering His Kingdom in the time that I have not been productive for my own benefit. Honestly, if it holds that *"to depart and be with Christ is better by far"* if it is not *"necessary [for anyone] that I remain in the body"* (Phil 1:21-22) the fact that my time is not invested in community is an indication that it would have been more productively spent departed with Christ anyway. Being blessed with a PEY position next year, I look forward to be more active in contributions to the community at Treehouse and attending small groups. I hope by practicing these disciplines next year, discernment between school and community priorities will become more well-informed.

2) Biblical foundations

Experiencing the Word does not come without practical side effects. Despite being raised in the church environment and knowing *about* the Word, I must admit that I have only recently begun *experiencing* the Word. The upkeep of this practice is not something I can trust own motivation to perpetuate and it is my intention that prayer, discipline and community as outlined in my vision statement also be applied in this context.

By having the responsibility to exercise the prayerful allocation of quantitative resources such as time and money in UTCCF I yearn to develop a similar methodology and discipline for the distribution of resources in my own life.

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

1) Diligence

- *Decent work habits:* time management, foresight and organization. My work completion is managed by task rather than by time and I make due dates for myself with reasonable safety factors.
- *Disciplined in light of perceived responsibility:* I take my responsibilities really seriously and I am willing to learn to fulfill said responsibilities better. By being in this position, I will learn to take more initiative in my walk with God, hopefully to develop more responsibility for the eternities of others.
- When working in a team such as the UTCCF committee, I encourage other to have foresight in their own work and demand of it when it when it pertains to subsequent work and processing I need to do.

2) Desires Personal Improvement

- To seek improvement requires awareness of weaknesses.
- Reflection as means of assessing the past for the betterment of the future.
- Motivation of desire to improve: Ideally the desire to improve should be motivated by a genuine desire to be more Christ-like or at least a genuine discontentment with my present state. While I can't say that I feel this way, I do know that I *desire* to be more Christ-like and I *desire* to be moved by my discontentment with the present state enough to move to a more future state that pleases God more.
- This desire leads to a willingness to learn which I think is a beneficial attitude to have in the CCF family.

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

Communication

- Mainly for delegation and ensuring continuity within a project
- Impatient when things go overtime or off topic
- Need to see communication as a platform and opportunity for building relationships and fellowship rather than just getting things done

Conflicts

My philosophy for group work and conflict resolution is prevention. By being calm, non-confrontational, and refraining from pettiness I have been spared from ever having to suffer dramatic group conflicts. Unfortunately, these group conflicts may also have been avoided simply because I become apathetic and avoidant if I am under the impression that the concerns I bring up are repeatedly being overlooked.

Example: Despite my vision to form genuine relationships with God, each other, and upper years as a Freezer leader last year, I did not participate in this vision myself. My communication with Allen simply consisted of deciding what to do the following week so that I can send the weekly email. In

fact, instead of meeting up in person, I once suggested praying for the frosh over gchat. On hindsight I regret the missed potential for developing friendship through service.

Having said this, I recognize the state of imperfection I am in entering this position; I am thankful that despite my inadequacies, God has even given me opportunity to share here right now.

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

This is a difficult question for me to answer. In thinking of a response I realized how infrequently I have actually been confronted and criticized for a serious lapse in character—and the reason for this is definitely not because there is nothing to criticize. I am going to start with the example as it is quite relevant:

In high school a good friend yelled at me. I was trying to put something that wasn't particularly relevant to anyone else but me in the past by saying "whatever", forgetting, and trying to move on. My friend completely halted the casual tone of the conversation and told me she was tired of my attitude. She warned me against being avoidant and brushing off of a failure without addressing the cause. On the surface I consider myself my own worst critic, one who can take criticism seriously without being broken by it, and one who loves to learn from her mistakes, but this example reminds me otherwise. It was so abrupt, so impactful, so *true*.

Back to evaluating my openness towards receiving criticism, my mind thinks that I am frustrated with these questions because I have nothing to say. No words formed in my mind as I first read this question. Now I realize it is because there is nothing I *want* to say. The fact that there is only one legitimate example I can remember is telling of how much my avoidance has prevented me from being open to, let alone internalizing, criticism. I am saddened now that I imagine all the opportunities that God must have given me to grow through criticism from others that I must have avoided. I am so thankful to have been forced to consider this question seriously despite my petition and complaints.

Name: Joshua Law

Position: Social Coordinator

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 13+

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

Hand-Eye Coordination: I want to know You! ... and you too!

Participating in the family of CCF has been the most spiritually rewarding experience of my **life**. I'd like to share this with the rest of my family, both old and new.

For the first eight years of my life, I was lovingly brought up in a Christian home, where both my parents encouraged my spiritual walk with God. I was the epitome of sheltered: my parents brought me up in the church, I went to a Christian private school; even my violin teacher was a Christian. I moved down to the States when I was eight, where I experienced a culture shock beyond my imagination. I attended a secular public school in a town that was unfriendly to Christianity; my family found itself church-hopping on a regular basis. I couldn't find myself fitting in with the highly secular nature of my public school, which resulted in my being virtually friendless throughout the eight years I lived in the US. It was only through God that my family and I were able to find solace and endure through this tribulation.

Even when I moved back, I wasn't able to find fellowship in my home church. Similar to my experience in the States, I didn't understand them, nor did they understand me. I craved spiritual food and fellowship, something I'd been missing for nine years. After some prayer and deliberation, I decided that I would pick which university to enter based entirely on how I meshed with the respective CCFs in Campus Challenge. It was here that I first met people in UTCCF; I ended up staying up the entire night talking to UTCCF-ers who were eager to share with me. Instead of feeling satiated, this experience served only to whet my appetite for God.

When I came to UTCCF, I was determined to find a spiritual home that I hadn't been able to find at church for my entire life. Praise God, I found it. I'd like to give others a chance to experience the work that God did in me throughout my time here in UTCCF; I was welcomed with open arms, and I'd like to do the same for others.

After having gone through a bit of burnout and spiritual turmoil this year, I've found how important it is that we realize how impossible it is for us to fully understand our Creator, but that we continue to seek Him regardless. I've come to know that my own hasty judgment has caused me to be blindsided to many things, including seeing how others are being called to serve our Lord, and I've realized that this is something that needs to change for myself.

My personal vision for the next year is based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. We are members of the body of Christ, and I would love to see God working in us to provide an environment where we are encouraged to spur each other on in learning more about our Father, and serving the Godhead in humility. How can the eye comprehend what it is that the hands do? It cannot judge them based on how well they fulfill the eye's own function. We cannot have hand-eye coordination without both the hands and eyes performing their respective tasks. We are called to different tasks, that we may serve the same God.

Come, let us encourage the eyes to understand what the hands are, and what they do, that they may work together to serve Christ! Let the head understand how to work with the feet! We are all different and unique in function; let us seek to understand each other, just as we seek to understand God. Perhaps through knowing His creation, we can begin to understand our Creator just a little bit better.

Personal Evaluation

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

In sharing these three years with CCF, I have found that a gaping weakness of mine stems from what I feel is a duty to do what I can to keep others from falling astray. This often leads to hastiness in judgment, as I will often be keen to spot out what I feel may be heretical or incorrect scripturally. My propensity to judge has caused me to criticize others unfairly at times, and to play the role of a discourager rather than that of an enabler. Through my recent realization that I should be attempting to understand others' motivations, experiences, concerns, and joys, I feel that God has begun in me a good work will indeed carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

My all-or-nothing attitude is another concern; I am often unwilling to act upon something unless I am certain that I can do the job properly without incident. My past three years have been spent trying to grow in God so that He would make me ready to serve in a greater capacity. I've realized that with this attitude, I will never do anything of significance, since I will never attain perfection. I can never hope to do enough for God; this is where His grace and love come into play and make up for my many shortcomings.

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

My weakness is also my strength, although it must be used properly and with appropriate discernment. I have a keen eye for matters that need to be addressed, although I believe that I need to use this gift in a loving manner that encourages and builds people up, as opposed to destructive criticism. This passion to continuously improve is what drives me to persistently look to evaluate my mistakes. In CCF, I'd like to apply this gift in a loving, counseling manner. I am passionate about how I can serve God, and I'm eager for Him to use me and the spiritual gifts He has given me for His glory.

When I undertake projects, I follow them through to the end. God has blessed me with the gift of administration; in working out logistical matters, God has given me patience and insight to see organizational matters through. Through the gift of administration, He has given me tools that I feel are essential in helping to organize CCF's various events and seeking to regulate a comfortable environment for people to seek out God.

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

I cooperated with the committee this year to organize this year's Orientation Dinner. In doing so, as Orientation Dinner Coordinator, I found that communication was an important factor in ensuring that everything went smoothly; as a result, I tried to focus on encouraging open communication. I found that there was some static in working with others when I felt that they were not doing the job that they had volunteered to undertake, as this disrupted the overall stability that I was working to achieve. Nevertheless, we managed to accomplish our main goals throughout the night thanks to God's grace. Through Orientation Dinner, I realized that I worked very well with those who were committed to their tasks at hand, although when a large obstacle came along, it required a lot of effort for me to adapt and inform everyone accordingly.

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

Criticism is a necessary component of growth as a Christian, as well as an exercise in humility. An issue that I find myself continually addressing is that of my own ability. I am aware that God has provided grace for others as well as myself when we fail, although many times I find myself saying, "I could have done so much better! Why didn't I do this? How come I did that?" Genuine self-evaluation is a value that I regard very highly, although I also realize that I have blind spots that I cannot address. To compensate, I pray that God will provide people around me with the insight and lovingness to let me know what I can address and hope to improve or change.

During Orientation Dinner this year, I felt that there were many issues that I could have handled with more grace and patience; during the event debrief with committee, I sought advice on how I

could have ensured that the overall event go more smoothly. In hindsight, I should have sought out the feedback from people I worked with as well, to see how I performed in my capacity as event coordinator.

Servanthood is leadership by example. We cannot hope to help others if we are not acting upon our own words. Although I'm not faultless in this, I do attempt to live out my creed before saying anything, in hopes that my words have more impact when reinforced by action. If there are ways that I can improve so that my message has more impact, I hope that others will feel welcome to approach me with any concerns they may have.

Name: Agnes Lin

Position: Large Group Coordinator

Years at CCF: 2

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

Something that is very unique about our fellowship is that we are one very large dynamic group of individuals. Despite the fact that we are categorized by UTSU as merely just another club, I am very convinced that we are so much more. In fact, we really are not just any club here on campus. We are a lively bunch that is actively seeking God in fellowship through growth with one another. We gather together because God has called us to be united as one body in Christ. We gather for more than just a general interest that we have in common, but because of our active passion for Christ.

Growing as one community has been a salient goal for our fellowship for the past couple years that I have been here, and I would like to extend this goal immensely this next year. With the motivation of God and help from the members, we can drive this fellowship to become a community of one body. However, before attempting to reach such an optimistic goal, sub-goals must be met beforehand.

With approval from committee, I would like to advocate more community building and spiritual growth within our Friday programs through four logistical actions: gender accountability, investment group dynamics, incorporation of small groups, and prayer.

1. Gender accountability will be made possible with the dedication of one large group program once every two months or so to splitting up the males and females to programs led by our Male and Female DLs. It is important to grow with our respective brothers and sisters in Christ. By designating programs to do so, we encourage the community building and spiritual growth within our own genders that our fellowship needs more of.

2. For the next year, a structured randomization of age for Investment Groups would be implemented so to make these groups more dynamic. Age dynamic would not only allow our individuals to grow with peers of different years, but it would also aid with spiritual growth in that it maximizes the likelihood of different spiritual levels within a group.

3. With the several small groups that occur throughout the week, it is tough, as a large group, to keep them accountable for their happenings. Moreover, many of our members are not informed enough of the small groups in general to spark interest for their attendance. With the approval and help of the Vice-Chair, I would like to implement an active role of our small groups to become more

transparent to our large group, whether it is through leading an icebreaker or running an hour long program.

4. Prayer is something that I feel our fellowship is more in need of. With that being said, I would like to revamp our prayer ministry in the time preceding Friday fellowships. With a possible collaboration with worship, I would like to encourage our members to come to attend fellowship earlier so that we may pray for our members, our peers, our campus, and for the rest of the world. This implementation, I hope, would help build intentionality for one another and for prayer in the fellowship.

By advocating these four actions, I feel strongly that our fellowship could grow more spiritually with one another and as a stronger community. To reiterate: the goal is to become united as one body in Christ, which is essential to any fellowship. I would like to encourage the idea of being one through the following verse:

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. –Ephesians 4:3-6

Personal Evaluation

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

Two weaknesses in which I possess include taking on too many priorities simultaneously and becoming extremely emotional when undergoing negative events. The former is a result of my inability to reject multiple requests that need to be done in a short span of time. I consider this a weakness because it inhibits me from giving my full potential to a single task. Rather, I end up doing a terrible job at all the tasks at hand. How I am dealing with this is learning to better prioritize myself through scheduling, as well as evaluating my schedule when my help is requested. The latter weakness may not seem preventable because it is a part of who I am. However, I would consider it so because it prevents me from acceptance of negative events. I have been dealing with this weakness through prayer and by searching for joy in such situations. By doing this, I have been dwelling less on my emotions and focusing more on surrendering myself to God.

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

Strengths in which I possess that I feel would benefit the CCF family would be my sociability and assertiveness. My sociability would contribute to this family because it could aid with helping newcomers feel more welcome, as well as building personal bonds with them. However, this would not only contribute to the newcomers of CCF, but it would also extend to the members of our family. On the other hand, my assertiveness would serve as a larger contributor to the committee. I am a very confrontational person when I feel strongly about a situation. Henceforth, I would be more open with the members of committee, as well as the rest of the fellowship in situations that need to

be addressed. I feel strongly that this would be a benefit for our family because it reduces tension between members and even possible gossip.

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

I love to work in teams because I enjoy observing other people's leadership styles. I am very open to other people's ideas and extremely focused in reaching goals as a group. However, I am also a directive leader, which roughly translates to a person who enjoys situations being under control. I admit that I can be frustrated if others are being irresponsible in upholding their end of the group work, but I have been improving this frustration with confrontation. With that being said, I am very confrontational during group work, which could result in either greater teamwork or tension, depending on the other person's ability to handle confrontation. I have been lately focusing on trying to be more of a supportive leader so that I am not always taking charge as I am used to doing. By being a supportive leader, I would be supporting others in their ideas and helping them execute any plans that need to be made. However, this role would also require assertiveness – for it is a form of support. With that being said, I believe that my teamwork ability would be enhanced by being a supporting leader, as well as being assertive. This is the type of role I intend on taking if I am to serve on committee.

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

In my openness towards others, I aim to also accept openness from others as well. In being confronted with criticism, I am able to take it well as long as it is constructive. In constructive criticism, there is less tension between me and the person I am speaking with. This reduction in tension enables me to really take into consideration what is being said of me and to me. On the other hand, any criticism synonymous to condemnation is more difficult for me to handle. When I feel as though I am being attacked, my defence mechanisms and emotions automatically come into play. This inhibits me from comprehending what is being criticized of me because my mind is too preoccupied with defending myself. With that being said, as long as the criticism is constructive, I take it very well. If not, it will register, but at a slower pace due to my emotional defenses.

Name: Hannah Wong

Position: Outreach Coordinator

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 13+

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

How did we go from the moment when God saw all that He had made, and it was very good (Gen 1:31), to the moment when Queen's Freddie Mercury, half-sobbing, sings, *"Is this the world we devastated, right to the bone? If there's a God in the sky looking down, what can he think of what we've done to the world that he created?"*

Something must have broken when we decided to go our own way, and carved images and idols to worship them (Exodus 20:4).

This world, and we the people, are so broken.

Let us recall what we believe...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning (John 1:1).

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14).

And this Word, Jesus Christ, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and appeared before his followers (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).

It was this Jesus Christ who brought good news to the poor, bound up the broken-hearted, and proclaimed liberty to the captives (Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18).

He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6-7).

He spoke to all, including the least of the least, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

To the Samaritan woman with five husbands, he offered living water. (John 4)

If we believe that Jesus lived his life this way, if the gospel really is about this Jesus Christ who came to redeem and restore the world, then should it not have some consequence on how we live our own lives?

There is a difficulty...

We are weak and easily despair, even as Jesus calls us to take up our crosses and follow Him, to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8), to loose the bonds of wickedness, bring the homeless poor into our houses, cover the naked (Isaiah 58), and be the salt and light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

We are assailed by brokenness – in our lives, in those around us, in the injustices and wickedness built into many of our systems that are far too complex and far too large for us to envision restoring.

How then, shall we live?

Let us remember that the battle is already won. Jesus Christ, the Messiah has already come! So let us not act out of the greatness of our own compassion or wisdom, for God chooses what is foolish in the world to shame the wise (1 Cor 1:27). Let us instead act in joyful obedience and by His love that causes our own cups to overflow.

We must learn to be conscious of where He has placed us – our place in this community, city, world – and be willing to engage and live life with those around us. It will not be so much a method or program that we organize, but the trueness of our *everyday* lives that bears the mark of a Christ-follower.

And if we are to have this “everyday life,” we must seek to know our God – we cannot do our Master’s work if we do not know Him. Pray unceasingly. Love and thirst for His word, impress them on our hearts, talk about them when we sit at home or in class, when we walk along the road, when we lie down, and when we get up. Above all, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Deuteronomy 6, Mark 12:30).

Personal Evaluation

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

Unnecessary persistence

I spend too much time in things that may not have much value other than in the satisfaction of getting it done. Endless late nights leave me tired and drained during the day, and unable to be fully aware and engaged with other’s lives. At times, more important or pressing tasks are pushed aside in favour of finishing smaller things that do not matter at much. All this is a testament to my lack of trust in God working in His own time and in His own way. A passage that continues to challenge me in this is Psalm 127:1-2 – “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grants sleep to those he loves.”

Impatience

I am impatient about everything – how long my food takes to heat up, how long it takes for me to

walk to school (five minutes), how long a conversation takes, how long it takes for me to understand something or for someone else to understand something I am trying to explain (my school friends can attest to this). Above all, I am often impatient with God's plan for me. I try to get what He promised me faster. I am impatient with how He chooses to work through my life if it is something menial, slow, and not as exciting. Not only does this impatience affect my interactions with others (especially those close to me), but I very quickly forget the stillness that is found from sitting in the presence of God and learning His way. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds me that there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.

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

Listening

I love listening to people's stories. And since I am painfully shy (even though I try hard not to show it), I love listening to other people talk. In doing life with people, I need to first know them. Before advice can be given, I need to understand their struggle. And in learning to love each other, I need to submit to others in out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)

Clinging to the Bigger Picture

As a Christ-follower, I am very passionate about being critically aware of the world we live in and the times God has placed us in. This awareness affects the choices we make in our everyday lives. It is my hope that I can share this passion with people through my conversation and by setting an example with my own life of one who is hopelessly broken, but passionate about seeking out how to live a life that will be a blessing and not a burden on the world.

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

I find the challenge of coming together with people and sharing (sometimes very) different ideas very enjoyable. I am generally open to hearing new ideas, but sometimes have difficulty forming opinions or responses right away without first reflecting, so I may or may not say too much during a meeting. It is important to me to build trusting relationships with those that I work together with and to remember that we are doing God's work – so that when plans go awry or one person is unable to pull their weight, my response can be one of love and encouragement. During my time spent on committee last year as female devotional leader, I learned the importance of recognizing the things that are worth pursuing – the moments you stand firm and address something to be changed and the moments you let go of things even when you don't agree, for the sake of maintaining relationships.

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

Criticism is something I fear – because I don't like knowing that I failed or fell short in some way. While I appreciate and am very eager to hear people's responses to how I act and what I do, the struggle is in the heart, to keep from feeling defensive, to be able to listen to the words with love, however out of context or accurate they are. My parents have always been my best critics, openly challenging me to live a life authentic to what I say I believe – and while I have often responded in sullenness, I am grateful that they have taught me the value of not only receiving but also considering the words of others.

