

Name: Arnold Lan

Position: Social Coordinator

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 4-6

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Vision Statement

I have never loved CCF as a whole, as an institution or structure, but I have definitely loved the people in CCF. My passion is for people and establishing intentional relationships with other people. I hope that through social events I will be able to encourage intentional and meaningful relationships with one another first by being loved by God and then loving God. Over these past three years I have taken so much out of CCF and given back so little. I went and left as I pleased as I had truly taken CCF for granted. Although I always knew serving at CCF was a lot of hard work, I truly witnessed a glimpse of how difficult it was when I had the privilege of mentoring Kevin Dam at Winter Retreat. The amount of hours and prayer we dedicated into preparing Bible Study made me realize how much work my IG leaders Lawrence Sham and Hannah Wong put into Bible study every single week and how lightly I took serving at CCF. Though I was convicted of my poor attitude towards CCF, at the same time I realized that sometimes manuscript Bible study style just was not for everyone every week. I do not deny at all the power of the Living Word as I got to experience with Kevin during our prep sessions as well as at retreat, but I do recognize that perhaps people's attitudes towards the Word will change if they could enjoy the learning style. God's Word is living whether we want it to be or not and it simply depends on our own attitude towards the Scriptures, yet I recognize that manuscript study is not for everybody. I have two visions, and one of them stems from what I just explained. With manuscript study style weekly large group meetings, the structure becomes "Fridays are for the believers and seekers who are genuinely interested in learning the Word, but social events are for everyone else!" I know that is not the intention at all, but it just seems a little bit that way due to the turnout. I want all of us to encounter God through everything, and instead of having a distinction between "regular" CCF where we come together to learn about God's word and then "special" CCF where we have some form of event that is fun for everyone, I want every part of CCF to be about God. I want to change the way social events function, in the sense that I don't want to call our events a "Christian event" simply through inserting prayer and a set of worship songs. I realize that some events are for introductory purposes such as Frosh BBQ, but instead of the frosh coming to meet us, I want them to come to meet God through us. For Grad Dinner, instead of a dinner just to send off the grads, I want to create an environment where they can encounter God through the family they've blessed (not to say these events have not been that way, but I just want to switch the focus). The second part of my vision is an extension of the first part, in which I want to make CCF a family for those who feel lonely, unwelcomed, unloved, and/or have a general disdain towards CCF. By changing the focus of social events as just one part of CCF to focus on encountering God rather

than plainly having fun, I hope that those who find it harder to fit in can fit in because all of our focus will be on God rather than on ourselves and having fun with one another.

Personal Evaluation

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

- One of my biggest weaknesses is my pride. God is helping me address my pride by constantly humbling me for it says that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. And whenever I depend upon my own strength, God humbles me in various creative ways and show me that I am very incompetent on my own. Whenever I get credit for anything I know I am undeserving so I redirect it to God instead.
- Another weakness of mine is administration. My administration skills are weak as I am disorganized and lack priorities at times. I am addressing this weakness through humbling myself to ask others for help. Often in the past when it's hard for me to organize something I still try to carry the weight on my own refusing to ask for help due to my own pride, but now as I have learned about the importance of carrying one another burdens, I am able to ask others for help.

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

- I am passionate, especially for people. The social coordinator is responsible for facilitating an environment where fellowship is more interactive and enjoyable and I believe I can definitely facilitate intentional relationships through example. I absolutely love intentional relationships and I put a lot of myself into my friendships. I feel that intentional and meaningful relationships that are centered around Christ will make this family a comfortable place for everyone, not just those who are active or "well known".
- I am extremely outgoing and I can talk to just about anybody. As long as people are willing to have a conversation with me, I can talk to them for hours. God can use me to expand His kingdom even through the smallest conversations because it makes people feel welcomed and it can also establish long term relationships and build people up in the fellowship. God can also use me to encourage people in their daily walks.

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

I absolutely love working with others and I definitely prefer group work over individual work. I believe that as a group of broken sinners, we have many flaws and in a team we are able to pick each other up as well as support one another in the areas that we are weak in while encouraging each other to grow in areas that need work. I can work well with others because I am easygoing and although I have ideas I will never overstep my boundaries or enforce my ideas.

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

When I receive praise I always give it to God because that's what I was taught to do. People always give praise regarding performances, but I know that these gifts and talents are not mine so the glory is never mine. Criticism is a different story as it's hard for me to receive criticism due to my pride, but it is something I'm working on. Especially during nomination time I received a lot of criticism and even though it was hard for me to hear I know they were true. Recently taking criticism has been easier because I learnt to live according to God's word rather than my feelings, and that lesson has helped me a lot.