



Evangelical  
Community  
Church

# Annual Report 2020 / 2021



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# REFLECTION

**Ngai Fong, Elders Board Chairman**

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” Psalms 107:1

The year 2019 was a challenging time locally because of the social unrest. The Year 2020 was extremely difficult both locally and abroad because of the pandemic. “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:” Ecclesiastes 3:1

This is a season. This season will eventually pass. God is sovereign and His will be done as He pleases. Let us all submit to the sovereignty of the Lord and find refuge in Him only. “..... And God is faithful; he will not let you be tested beyond what you can bear. But when you are tested, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

The pandemic has brought to mind two things that I am thankful for. First, I thank God for giving human beings wisdom to invent technology which allows people to meet virtually. I wish to take this opportunity to thank our technical team volunteers who make our online gatherings possible. Out of this, an IT task force was set up to help provide technical solutions for other facets of ECC outside of our Sunday services. Second, I thank God for reminding us that human beings are created to be relational. Though we need to cultivate our spiritual sagehood, there is something missing when we are unable to meet face to face. I believe we all long for unhindered physical gatherings after the pandemic ends.

The ministry leaders have been working very hard to continue their work within the constraints of the pandemic. Nevertheless, we need to admit that we have slowed down our work in advancing God’s kingdom on earth because of the pandemic as well as the coming changes of senior leadership. Pastor Dave and Fenella will have finished their respective terms as our Senior Pastor and Director of Operations respectively at the end of June. I will be taking a long leave to go to Singapore from early March to spend some time with my family.

Yet, I believe God’s work never ceases. The Pastoral Search Committee has completed the first round of interviews for potential candidates. Fenella’s successor has been identified and will assume duties soon. We are actively praying and seeking to recruit more volunteers to serve in different leadership positions. We are confident that God will provide according to His will and timing.

Looking ahead, we want to continue to focus on our theme: how we can draw people closer to God. One of those ways is by reaching out to our neighbours and bringing non-believers into the Kingdom of God. ECC has a tradition of supporting overseas missionaries but lacks the drive for local evangelism. With the changing profile of ECC from a primarily expatriate community to a community with majority of local Chinese, the Elders Board has considered that it is time to focus on reaching out to the local population besides supporting overseas missions.

ECC has three ministry locations in TST: the YMCA Hall for Sunday services, the Hankow Ministry Centre and the Metropole Church Office. In 2016 when we were relocating our Church Office from Wan Chai to TST, the idea of One Home, co-locating all three venues into one place first came to my mind. The then Elders Board has been waiting for God's calling and guidance. In May 2019, a similar idea was suggested by a Deacon and supported by some members at the Leaders' retreat. The Elders Board has not come to a conclusion but agreed to set up a project committee to look into the feasibility. While the social unrest and pandemic has slowed down the work of the committee, they diligently continued the process while seeking God's will. During the last couple of committee discussions, the purpose of having One Home to cultivate informal fellowship and thus enhancing cohesiveness of the church community has evolved into serving as a base to evangelize to the neighbourhood. Let us pray as one body to seek God's guidance while the committee continues to do the necessary preparations. I believe God will close the door if it is not His will or no one can close the door if it is indeed His will.

### ***Elders Board***

*Ngai Fong, Chairman*

*Alex Kun, Secretary*

*Dave Magee, Senior Pastor*

*Pak Loh, Associate Pastor*

# ADULT EDUCATION

2020 has been a challenging and exceptional year for Adult Education at ECC as we face the global pandemic. The Business As Mission Conference is cancelled, some Adult Sunday School teachers cannot fly back to Hong Kong as scheduled.

Yet, we learned that God is faithful, and Bible study is not limited in a classroom. By God's grace, we are able to conduct Adult Sunday School in different teaching and learning modes. 70% of classes are held online through Zoom, YouTube and home study while 30% of classes are held at our Ministry Center and the YMCA.



We are thankful that 16 students received outstanding attendance awards for over 70% percent attendance in summer 2020. Average attendance in the last school year is 19. Though average attendance of online classes has dropped to 14, we are glad that we still received 6 new enrolments this year.

Despite the unpredicted circumstances, we are grateful to have Andrew Mole, Chris Rozendaal, Elder Ngai Fong, Jack Leibowitz, Jenifer Liu, Pastor Pak Loh and Pastor Mark Swallow who served faithfully in teaching on-site and online classes. May we all be nurtured and grown through the study of His Word no matter how hard the situation is.

**Classes offered April 2020 – March 2021**

<b>Dates</b>		<b>Books of the Bible</b>	<b>Facilitators</b>
2020	April	Psalm	Pastor Pak Loh
	May	Job	Pastor Mark Swallow
	May-June	Proverbs	Elder Ngai Fong
	June	Ecclesiastes	Jenifer Liu
	September	Song of Songs	Elder Ngai Fong
	September-October	Isaiah	Chris Rozendaal
	October-November	Jeremiah & Lamentations	Jack Leibowitz
	November-December	Ezekiel	Andrew Mole
2021	January	Daniel	Jenifer Liu
		Hosea	Pastor Mark Swallow
	February	Joel & Obadiah	Chris Rozendaal
		Amos & Jonah	Jenifer Liu
	March	Micah	Jenifer Liu
		Nahum	Elder Ngai Fong
Habakkuk		Chris Rozendaal	



**Elder In-charge**

*Elder Ngai Fong*

**Ministry Staff**

*Jenifer Liu*

*Ministry Support Associate (part-time)*

# CHILDREN'S



**“In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.” Proverbs 16:9**

In 2020, the world was brought to a standstill. The plague, as we know it, brought a lot of changes and it has disrupted the normal-daily-routine of people's lives. The church and its ministries were not exempted from these changes. We too have come to accept what the world calls now as the “new normal”. Though the Children's Ministry had planned out its programs and activities for the whole year of 2020, things have to be shifted to a new direction because of the social gathering restrictions which limited our movement in implementing things to happen. Despite this discouraging situation, GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL! We cling to the hope that though things aren't going according to plan, the Lord establishes our steps in doing what is best for His ministry.

# MINISTRY

## CANCELLED PROGRAMS

Since the restriction to gather went on for months, it resulted in us canceling most of our activities.

1. **Summer Takeover** – STO is a yearly intergenerational project which is an avenue for different ministries to get acquainted with the children and the ministry itself.
2. **Christmas Collaboration** – This program is for our children and their families to invite their FDH for a special event hosted along with our Filipino Ministry. The goal is to increase the evangelistic opportunity for both ministries.
3. **Teacher's Appreciation Lunch** – This is an annual activity to show our gratitude to our regular volunteers at the Children's Ministry. In place of the fellowship, we have extended our appreciation to our volunteers by giving them our DIY teacher's card with our simple token of appreciation inside.
4. **Children & Family Outreach** – This program aims to let the children and their families gain outreach experiences and express our care for the elderly in the community. This activity was done quarterly in the previous years, but because of the unrest and the plague, this has been put to a halt.
5. **Prayer Event** – This activity is to cultivate and strengthen the prayer practice of children, family, and volunteers.

# And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Mark 9:23



## APRIL SSOL AND BEYOND!

It has always been the ministry’s goal to draw children closer to God and encourages them to live out their faith together with their families. One challenge the plague caused is for us to rethink how to do Sunday school to reach the children while at home and hope that they will continue to learn more about God and the Gospel despite not coming together in-person. Equipping does not stop when we are faced with adversaries, but instead, it is a challenge for us to take and face with FAITH that GOD is with us in every circumstance. The world may have been brought to a standstill, but God’s work continues.

The Children’s Ministry remained consistent in equipping the children through our SSOL Program (Sunday School On-Line) via Zoom. SSOL started in April for Team Timothy (ages 11-12) with 11 kids in attendance. As the class was getting bigger with more kids joining us each Sunday, two more classes were added to the schedule by mid-April to cater to kids from Team Paul (ages 9-10) and Team Joshua (ages 7-8).



**"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." - 1 Corinthians 15:58**

**SSOL Teachers**

We are grateful for the Teachers who have given their extra effort to learn how to use Zoom for SSOL. It was a bit tricky at first, but they made it through. We started with four teachers testing every possible way we can incorporate other things to make the class more interactive and fun for the children. In time, we have about seven (7) teachers and three (3) assistant teachers altogether in 2020.



**SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED!**



An article on children's ministry wrote that Crafts are not merely time-fillers but are an important role in Christian Education. In doing crafts, "it allows the children to show their God-given creativity, enhances children's ability to think, help children listen and follow directions...". Also, crafts in Sunday School help the children to express themselves and makes the class fun and better. Having said that, we have decided to send out craft-kits and other stationery materials to the children's home. With the help of our Teachers preparing their lesson in advance, we can send out the craft ahead of time before their scheduled day to teach. Though we have faced some delays in the past and some return-to-sender moments, we eventually got around and have been successfully sending materials to the children. In addition to the craft-kits and stationaries, we have also sent out two volumes of "Our Daily Bread 30-day Kid's Devotional".

## Teacher's Appreciation



Our simple token to our Teacher volunteers to show our heartfelt appreciation for all their hard work and being part of the Children's Ministry for the year 2020.

**"May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb." - Deuteronomy 32:2**

## Mother's Day

**"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a WOMAN who FEARS THE LORD is to be praised." Proverbs 31:30**

Our first ever snail-mail was sent to the children's home and our first activity for the year. Our Teachers came up with a way for the children to make their surprise DIY cards for Mother's Day. The craft was sent to the kid's home a week before and did the craft during their SSOL class. Parents were informed not to open the envelope and it was only opened during SSOL class. As part of the surprise on Mother's day, the kids also made a video greeting shown during the Live Worship.



# Father's Day

“Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.” Proverbs 14:26

One of the pivotal roles of a man in this life is to be a father. We know that it is not an easy task as they are called upon to lead and be the protector of the family. But the greatest task of a godly father is to be a great example of Christ's love not only to his wife but also towards his children. The scripture views a godly father to be strong in the faith, and bring the children up knowing right from wrong (1 Timothy 3:2-5).



To honor the fathers, the Children's Ministry has come up with a memento where the children can express their love for their dads. A week before Father's Day, the children prepared their surprise video message to their Dads and was shown at YMCA during worship service. In addition to that, we were blessed to have been able to go back to Sunday School Onsite which made the day even more special. The children, with the help of their teachers at the MC, prepared their DIY memento, writing five or more things they know of and love about their Dads. This allowed them not only to simply give a gift but to express what they feel about their Dads.

## KIDS WORSHIP

### “From The lips of children... You have established praise...” Psalm 8:2

We are always thankful for the times that we were able to come together face-to-face. The kids would excitedly cheer when we announce that we will be meeting in-person the next Sunday. We asked what they love about meeting face-to-face, A kid answered, “The teacher can’t mute me anymore”. The children are always eager to physically meet again. Together with the teachers, the students were encouraged to lead worship for the Sundays we met on-site. It is always a joy to see children praising God and using their gifts and talents for the Lord.



## IN ALL THINGS - GIVE THANKS!

During the time that we were able to meet in-person, the ministry remained consistent in doing activities as normal. The Children's Ministry prepared a Movie Day for the kids on November 1st. This gave them a chance to mingle and catch-up with friends in the church.



# THANKSGIVING

On November 15, we were blessed to have been able to gather once again. The church celebrated “Thanksgiving” together at YMCA. The children showed their gift in participating in the worship service through singing. They started the praise and worship with two wonderful songs “Sing Shout Clap” and an action song “There’s power in the Blood” with the congregation singing along.

Altogether, there were thirty-three (33) children who participated that morning. Also, they were able to join the “Community prayer” for the first time. Together they prayed for others, Hong Kong and the world.



## SHARING GOD'S LOVE

**“... we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” 1 John 4:16**

Every year for the past few years, the Children’s Ministry has collaborated with the “Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association”. The association helps reconcile prisoners and rehabilitates people through sharing the gospel of Christ. This project was challenging, but with the help of the children, the youth, and with the cooperation of the parents we were able to collect seventy (70) Christmas cards altogether.



The Children’s Ministry designed a Christmas card that the children can color in and write their greetings, bible scriptures, or words of encouragement in a way that they can share God’s love to the inmates. In preparing the cards, the children were guided and parents were reminded of some specific instructions. We pray, though simple as it may seem, the Christmas Cards brought the

joy and the spirit of Christmas demonstrating God’s love through His son Jesus Christ and in faith that this gesture brought them peace and hope, comfort and joy in the wonderful season of Christmas.



## PROGRESS & PLANS

**Without consultation, plans are frustrated,  
but with many counselors they succeed.— Proverbs 15:22**

With so many uncertainties, planning for the future is necessary with a little flexibility on the side for unprecedented changes. The ministry is more productive and God-honoring when it is thoughtfully and thoroughly planned out. The Children's Ministry is blessed to have the counsel of Elder Alex Kun, Deacon Kevin, and the Committee Helen Lee, Easter Liu, Nonette Tsang, Cherry Chan, and two new members of the committee who joined us this year, Annabelle Hui and Catherine So.



## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES 2021 - 2022

**“Commit your work to the Lord,  
and your plans will be established.” Proverbs 16:3**

1. **Teacher's Retreat** - This is a new program for the ministry. The goal is to continue the process of learning for volunteers. The retreat will give positive teaching elements and help them to be an effective discipler in a changing world. *Planned Date: March 2020*
2. **Summer Takeover** - *Planned Date: July - August 2021*
3. **Christmas Collaboration** - *Planned Date: December 2021*
4. **Children & Family Outreach** - *Planned Date: April or September 2021*

### **Other Activities:**

1. Mother's Day
2. Father's Day
3. Prayer Event
4. Sunday School Christmas Party

Though 2021 will still be unpredictable and the possibility of completing these projects might be slim, we are ready to take whatever this year brings and commit everything to God's will. After all, He is in Control!

## MOVING UP

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Another huge transition happened in the Children’s Ministry this year was the “Moving-up” of eleven (11) students from Team Timothy to Youth Ministry in August 2020.



“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” - Matthew 19:14



### Children Ministry Committee

Kelvin Chan (Deacon)  
Annabelle Hui, Catherine So, Cherry Chan,  
Easter Liu, Helen Lee, Nonette Tsang

### Ministry Staff

Rebecca Pesquera  
Ministry Support Coordinator

# *Filipino Ministry 2020*

Looking back to the year 2020, what an awesome GOD in a very challenging year! We think we wouldn't change a thing because the Lord used and still using the situation in many ways to show His mercy and grace! Faith and adaptability to the 'new normal' were the key factors to survive the pandemic.

The Lord showed us that fellowship should not only be limited within the four walls of a ministry center. God provided us outdoor venues to hold fellowship meetings, such as public parks, mountains for hikers, and seashores to fellowship with the sisters. The internet has played a significant role, too!

We were able to conduct leadership training, Bible Study, and prayer meetings using Zoom and FB Classroom! The options are numerous. The phenomenal scarcity of facemask and sanitizers led us to become a channel of blessings. The facemask itself became a springboard to share the Gospel.



We praise God for allowing us to hold four big events last year, namely:

- 1) **July 1 Free Medical Clinic at Hankow MC** was canceled, instead, the group went out for an **BBQ Outdoor Evangelism and Fellowship** in Tai Po. 55 people came; some were new-comers, unchurched friends, and sisters who stopped attending the Saturday group who joined us, sort of, reunion. The Gospel was presented by using the Gospel beads. **A lady prayed to receive Jesus as her Lord and Savior.** The rest of the afternoon, some went biking, and the others went for sight seeing!



- 2) **Prayer Retreat at Waterfront and Garden Park in Tai Po.** We praise God for allowing us to hold it at a public park. There were a few glitzes regarding venue and transportation, but God has provided for the group! Focus on Him. We were praying for the names and attributes of God. It was a culmination of the prayer and study about the Names and Attributes of God, receiving a fresh vision of God.



3) **Christmas Programs** Despite the pandemic, we thought that we would push through with the plan. Once again, the Christmas collaboration with CM did not fall thru in compliance with the health protocol. But having said that, God has allowed **a beautiful display of generosity from the church family** for the Gift-giving Drive, which was in collaboration with MOC. **We praise God for generous people! Amen.** We were all anxious, both excited and nervous, for Christmas Day! There was no Filipino style Christmas celebration at the MC, but God allowed us to ‘give out’ gifts to Filipinos and



4) **CNY 2020 Indoor Retreat**, we canceled the indoor activities; instead, we switched to outdoor activities. We went out in the neighborhood to give out red envelopes and facemasks. This is to give awareness that there is a church in the area. CNY became an extended Sabbath to our sisters, and it was a few days of nurturing friendship among us, which included a prayer walk in the city, a walk by a lake and an easy hike to enjoy God’s creation! **We are blessed by the Lord!**



Indonesians



**Lessons learned from 2020.** Uncertainties brought by the pandemic allowed us to rethink, wait, submit, pray more, and depend more on God! The list goes on! But it's proven to us that in the midst of uncertainties, God remains unchanged and faithful. He is sovereign! God is in control!

At the beginning of the year, we knew that the weekend fellowship meetings would be different! **We learned** to obey even when it meant no indoor face-face fellowship gathering for everybody. Everybody must adjust to the "new normal"— **face to face with no food, no indoor fellowship for a few months!**

The outdoor fellowship was also limited and later on prohibited. We did not feel like losing any of the sisters but only missing everyone's laughter, intimacy, and sisterhood spirit. Having said that, there were numerous occasions when God allowed us to come together!

**We learned to seize the day!** We went to reach out to people! We went out for friendship day biking and hiking. We were able to celebrate Singlehood, Mother's and Father's day, ministered in music, too!

In January we started a **Prayer Walk (PW)** around the Tsim Sha Tsui area. We walk two by twos on Sunday mornings! The Lord has shown us that it's high time to connect intentionally with our **neighbors** — the Iglesia ni Kristo religious cult! They deny the deity of Christ although their group carries Christ's name. We also started PW in the Central area! As we pass by the Filipinos spending their day on the streets, under an edifice, or in any corner, **we ask God to help us see the people with an eye of compassion just like how Jesus would see them — with compassion!**



# *We are grateful to GOD!*

We are grateful to God for our volunteers: FM Committee, Small Group leaders, song leaders, communion prep team/stewards, greeters/ushers, teachers and trainers, and the hospitality who pack-away stuff after church service.

We bid farewell to four faithful sisters, Bea, Bessie, Matet and Elaine, who went back home for-good!

We also thank God for ECC for allowing us to do a fundraiser for the victims of Typhoon Vamco in the Philippines.



**Victims in the Philippines**

### Relief Goods Drive

November 29 – December 6

**WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.**

1. Summer clothes
  - a. T-shirts
  - b. Short/long pants
  - c. Ladies' tops
2. Footwears: flip-flops, shoes
3. Beddings: blankets, mosquito nets, pillows
4. Undergarments
5. Toiletries: bar soaps; toothpastes; toothbrush
6. Washing detergents

The poster includes small images of flooded areas and damaged buildings.



*Bible Study and  
Prayer in Small  
Group*



# Great is Thy faithfulness oh God!



**Looking forward,** we desire to focus on God's Attributes and Character. In doing so, we envision that

⇒ God will transform the Filipino ministry into a praying and worshipping group. We will not forsake gathering and encouraging one another in the unity of the church.

⇒ Older believers will mentor young believers.

⇒ All 60 members to become "fishers" always intentional in inviting a lot of people. "He who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30b NKJV) And more importantly, to train others to become trainers to share the Gospel.

⇒ Members will have the heart to reach out to our **NEIGHBORS**—members of Iglesia ni Kristo religious sect, around Tsim Sha Tsui in terms of evangelism.

⇒ Every member will serve God by using her/his spiritual gifts, especially during on-site fellowship meetings.

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### **MATTHEW 28:16-20**

The Lord has shown us the field is ready for harvest. We will not fether because the Holy Spirit will lead us to share the Gospel. **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and**

#### **Filipino Ministry Committee**

*Tim Del Rosario (Deacon)  
Aida Evangelista, Lynn Cajayon, Marie Jaluag  
and Patricia Del Rosario*

#### **Ministry Staff**

*Ellen Ibarra  
Pastoral Care Associate for Filipino  
Ministry*

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

## *Missions & Outreach Committee (“MOC”)*

“Oh sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples!  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.” – Psalm 96:1-4

This year has been an unusual one for the MOC. We are deeply sad for the loss of lives across our globe and for the devastating effects on people's lives and livelihood during this pandemic. At the same time, we are grateful for our world leaders and those people still working at great risk to their health (including some of our Mission Partners!) to look after those affected by COVID-19. Above all else, we are very hopeful that we will come out of this with greater connection, inspiration, innovation, love and consideration for people and communities around us.

With the change of pace and way of life in the past year, we refocused our efforts from Short Term Mission (“STM”) Trips and hosting in-house Alpha courses to other efforts that do not require travelling and large-scale gatherings. We continued our Elderly Outreach activities, remote teaching of English and evangelism through the Bible League International (“BLI”) programme and the Christmas Cards collaboration with Children’s Ministry for inmates through our Ministry Partner Kun Sun. In addition, the ECC Mongolia STM team also raised funds to support the COVID response efforts in Mongolia.

Most importantly, we also have an update from our home grown missionary, Artos. She was called to translate God’s word into the heart language of a minority group in Asia, and it has been a year since she has entered the mission field.

## Elderly Outreach

Having to live alone in the midst of a pandemic at an old age could mean much isolation and loneliness. By the grace of God, we managed to organize, jointly with the Ellen Li Elderly Community Centre, a small scale visit to about 15 households in a public estate in Fanling during mid-autumn festival. A care package was distributed to each household by the six volunteers recruited. It was heartwarming that our visit brought them some festivity and brighten them up. Some of them, having expected our arrival for the whole day, were overjoyed to have us talking to them, caring for their physical and spiritual needs and offering our prayers to them.

We pray that there will be more opportunities in the future to further deepen our relationship with these elderly friends and also their faith in Christ! May God prepare His workers to reap these harvest on this field.



## Fundraising for Mongolia

Due to travel restrictions, we were not able to travel to Mongolia to visit our Mission Partner, Flourishing Future (“FF”). Many of you would have heard of FF as we have been sending a Short Term Missions (‘STM’) team over to Mongolia every year to partner with them for over 10 years! But even though we couldn’t visit them this year, the team still raised more than 40,000 HKD to support their Education Programme and COVID response ministries.

FF has been visiting families during COVID to bring them much needed provisions as many families in Ulaanbaatar has been heavily impacted by the pandemic. During the Summer Holidays, FF also hosted an Education Programme to assist the children living in poverty, especially those with difficulty accessing remote learning, to catch up with schooling. FF’s COVID response is still continuing, so please partner with us to pray for FF as they continue to support families in their community. Also, please pray that FF can continue to raise sufficient funds to fill the increasing need to care for their neighbours. God-willing, we wish to be there in person to work alongside our friends in FF again in 2021!



## Missions Month

During the month of October, we continued ECC's tradition to focus on God's Mission. Pastor Pak preached two sermons about "God's Heart to the Nations" and "God's chosen race: our nature and mandate" to remind us of our identity and God's character. Therefore, we have a role to play in God's Mission for His church, and for the world.

In addition, we were honoured to be able to invite Wycliffe Bible Translators ("WBT") to run a workshop for us on the ministry of Member Care. WBT has had decades of experience supporting teams in the mission field and is also the agency that our missionary, Artos, is being sent from. Member Care is something new for ECC as we have not had home grown missionaries in the past. But we are privileged that we can walk alongside WBT on this journey.

The final event of the Mission Month was a Panel Discussion held among Missional Influencers from CCCOWE International, Operation Mobilisation Hong Kong, and Yan Fook Theological Seminary to discuss the topic of Missions Mobilization and Missional Discipleship. It was a great reminder that missions is something that needs to be integrated with our lifelong discipleship.

## ARTOS | An Atypical Year of Atypical Grace

### First Year: Laying Foundations

This February marks one year since my arrival on the field. Last year, I left home during a tumultuous period in the life of our city and arrived at the host country on the brink of a nationwide lockdown due to COVID. Perhaps the start of this chapter was atypical in many ways. But one might also say that God's grace is atypical when considered with human logic, because God does not distribute packaged portions of grace in a 1:1 transaction, but He pours forth His goodness abundantly – in an infinite variety of ways – so that His perfect will may prevail.



Daily language class has provided a consistent rhythm for my first year on the field. Learning one-on-one with language tutors has allowed me to not only delve more deeply into cultural topics through conversation, but to do so through building personal relationships with them.



### Coming Soon...

In March, I will finish my first language studies and proceed to learn a new language, \*Li. Li is the language of a prominent people group and is used as a regional common language between different people groups. Aside from facilitating communication with other people groups (which will be useful when running workshops or consulting with related projects), acquiring proficiency in Li is an important steppingstone for the following year, when I will start learning \*Oro, the language of the people group that I hope to support in language development and translation in the near future.

In two or three months, I will move up to live in the city where our training centre is located. With two more languages to learn and many lives and relationships to invest in, may God's atypically abundant grace go before us in the days, months, and years to come, so that together we may worship Him in spirit and in truth.

## **BLI English Teaching**

MOC started partnering with Bible League International doing a Bible-based Literacy program in 2019. We used its materials for teaching English and evangelizing to a group of staff and nurses at a dental clinic in Kwai Chung. With our available network and the convenience of zoom video conferencing, we have also facilitated 6 other zoom classes for students and Christian workers in China on weeknights by the church volunteer teachers. Soon after that, we realized there was a need for recruiting more teachers, so ECC hosted a training class for some members of our congregation in November 2020. We are now heading to run a new class for the ex-inmates in mid-March.

## **MOC Next Steps**

We are excited about what God has in store for the MOC and ECC in 2021. Through months of prayer and planning, the team felt the need to refocus on training and equipping the MOC as well as the ECC congregation on the heart for missions. Please partner with us to pray for the following:

- The Holy Spirit's empowerment to drive everyday missions in the lives of our congregation member
- Missions awareness education through the Perspectives curriculum in 2021
- Stronger mutual partnership with our Missions Partners through increased engagement and collaboration by the MOC and the ECC congregation
- Deeper love for our Missions Partners and their mission field

Thank you for walking with us as we pray and grow in the lifelong journey of missional discipleship.

### **Missions & Outreach Committee**

*Alvin Ng, Chandar Li, Dennis Chiu, Hannah Tai, Yewa Fong*

### **Ministry Staff**

Pak Loh, Associate Pastor

# SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY

In 2020, many small groups planned activities were affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We had planned to hold Small Group Fairs, social outings and a local service project but this did not happen due to the ongoing health precautions to keep social distancing.

Besides, since small groups thrive on in-person gatherings to nurture each other through God's word and enjoy fellowship together, the ongoing situation seriously challenged the growth of the ministry and hindered the traditional ways of supporting our brothers and sisters in group meetings at a home or in the Ministry Centre.

## **Stay Connected**

This caused us to question ourselves on whether the Small Group Ministry is about training, programmes and socializing events, and what the Lord's purpose was in this ministry? Shouldn't our purpose be about forming Christ like communities that encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)?

For this we are very grateful we still had around 10 active small groups who did not give up and arranged to meet, mostly over Zoom. Some groups adapted better and were able to meet weekly or biweekly to maintain their fellowship. Other groups were impacted more especially for those brothers and sisters who thrive from a personal interaction, rather than an on online presence. Nevertheless, all groups shared in common the practicing of loving one another as commanded by Jesus (John 13:34).

## List of ECC Small Groups

Day	Time	Location	Group	Demographics
Sunday	2:00pm	Hung Hom	Hunghom	Couples with young to preteen children
	3:00pm	Hankow MC	Agape	Bible loving adults
Tuesday	8:00pm	Metropole MC	Underground Tacos	Single & married young adults
Wednesday	10:00am	Hankow MC	Women's Bible Study	Multi-generational group of women committed to Bible study
Thursday	7:30pm	Tseung Kwan O	Lohas Park	Neighbors from the Tseung Kwan O area
	7:30pm	Hankow MC	Olympic	Mixed age group of singles and married professionals
Friday	7:30pm	Hankow MC	Young Professional/ TGIF	Young professionals
	8:00pm	Metropole MC	Men's Gathering	Multi-generational group of men gather for Bible study and fellowship
Saturday	2:00pm	Shatin/ Taiwan	NTE (N.T. East)	Family-based group with children
	5:00pm	Hankow MC	Intergeneration Group	Multi-generational group of families with children
	6:30pm	West Kowloon	Sorrento Group	Singles, couples, and families



Zoom home group session -  
Hunghom



Zoom home group session -  
NTE

As two are better than one, we tried a few creative ideas to facilitate our small group leaders to overcome the new challenges together:

- A **'Buddy' system** to have small group leaders to connect with another leader to nurture each other and build relationships as well as support prayer needs. This helped connect group leaders closer and although it is in the early stages, it is encouraging to the leaders. It reminds us to continue to be creative, seeking new ideas and engaging new members of the body of Christ to bond and serve together.
- **Zoom sessions for small group leaders** - while the use of Zoom has exploded at home for work and other meetings leading many brothers & sisters to have "Zoom fatigue", this did stop the ministry from holding a couple of sessions for small group leaders to connect and greet each other online. The online sessions gave the groups a chance to meet virtually, understand each other's well being and pray for each other's needs.
- **Personal interaction** - since meetings have been limited to 4 and more recently to 2 persons in the past year, it was still possible to have 1:1 meetings in person or chat with brothers or sisters on the phone rather than having online Zoom or FaceTime meetings, which could be quite exhaustive. This gave an opportunity to connect in a more personal way and concentrate on personal needs and prayer.

No matter the challenges, throughout the year we thank God for imparting us with His hope and to our Pastors and other leaders who kept striving under difficult circumstances. They set a shining example to us not to give up, not to lose sight of our eternal goals and emboldened us to find opportunities to overcome these serious challenges. We are also reminded of Paul's encouraging words from Philippians 3:14, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



Zoom Small Group  
Leaders session

### Recovering from Loss and Grief

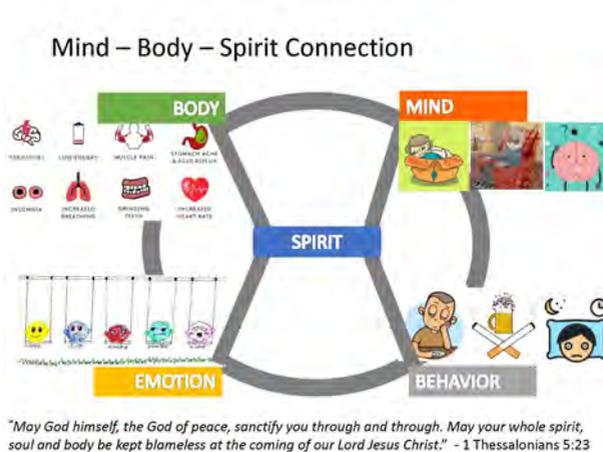
We realized many people were struggling lately and therefore arranged 2 workshops on “Trusting God in Times of Uncertainty” on 5 and 12 December 2020 with an aim to look after our own physical, emotional and spiritual health as well as seeking ways to help others.

The first workshop helped us to look back in the past 18 months. The facilitators pointed out that many of us were overwhelmed with loss and grief but were unable to recognize it. They further gave us practical ways to deal with stress and achieve total wellbeing for our minds, bodies and spirits. The session ended with a role play between the facilitators and revealed more on how to deal with financial and job losses, family disputes and emigration dilemma.



The second workshop equipped us on caring people with loss and grief. The facilitator provided basic skills for comforting the emotional sufferings including active listening and empathy. Scriptures were also shared on how to comfort the spiritual sufferings. Participants were then allowed to practice what they learnt as they split into smaller groups.

All in all, the workshops were held online and therefore not as effective as we had planned. Both the number of participants and the level of participation were impacted. But for those who participated, one thing we learnt is that too many people around us are suffering and need to be cared for. Perhaps, caring them through the small groups is the perfect solution.



### **Wellbeing for Mind, Body and Spirit**

**(extracted from workshop on Dec 5, 2020)**

## Looking Ahead

We don't know how 2021 will pan out but we know 2 things for sure. First, the benefits of joining a small group are far beyond coming together to socialize or study the Bible. Many who joined can testify how they treasure their relationships in their small groups and how the small groups have helped them to grow together and be matured in Christ. Perhaps, this is particular in need in the times of uncertainty. So don't wait to get plugged into a small group to gain this spiritual nutrient. Come approach one of our committee members and we would try to plug you into our men's, women's, young, family or intergenerational groups.

Second, as a ministry we would keep planning activities to try to facilitate the needs of our small groups. Let's be prayerful that we could be more fruitful in 2021. We hope we could learn from the experience of the 2 workshops last year to arrange better training. We also hope the pandemic would subside some time this year for us to catch the window to have some in-person events. Most of all, we hope after 2021 we would have more brothers and sisters benefiting from their small group experience.

“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.” (Psalm 130:5)

When journeying through these uncharted territories, we may require new ways of ministering. We may need new small group leaders and new committee members as always. But one thing that always stands is the word of our 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)

### **Small Group Committee**

*Previn Wan (Deacon)*

*Alison Lam, Fenella Chu, Jackson Cheng*

### **Ministry Staff**

*Pak Loh, Associate Pastor*

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

*To the choirmaster: according to Muth-labben. A Psalm of David.*

***I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.***

*Psalm 9:1-2*

Looking back through the year 2020, no one could have predicted or imagined that the Covid-19 pandemic would last this long. Here in 2021, we continue by God's grace to navigate through the challenges the pandemic presents.

Easter of 2020 was a quiet affair as we were still in the early stages of the pandemic in April. In spite of that we still continued to have our Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday services at the Hankow Ministry Centre while livestreaming on Facebook Live. The choir was able to virtually come together to give a performance entitled "The Lord Is Risen Today".

Come the end of May, we were able to have in-person service at the YMCA, up until the third wave hit in mid-July. We continued to host our Sunday services online up till the start of October, where again we went back to the YMCA for in-person worship. November 15 was a particularly special Sunday as we hosted our Thanksgiving service, a combination of our normal yearly church outing and thanksgiving worship night. It was a Sunday that included involvement by the Children's, Youth and Filipino ministries, as well a time of community prayer, where we were able to pray as a church body together for each other, the church and the world. A special thanks to Bill Cheung for sharing a word of thanksgiving and encouragement.

Unfortunately, quite soon after that, the fourth wave of covid-19 hit, and we were forced to move our Sunday services back online. With that our usual Christmas plans ended up being quite muted. However, we were still grateful to be able to celebrate Advent over the four Sundays leading up to a Christmas Day online service.

We are thankful over the past year for these speakers who have blessed us with the sharing of God's word:

Chris Rozendaal

Ngai Fong

Jonathan Webster

Mark Swallow

Joseph Mok

We are grateful for the support of all our worship ministry volunteers during this time with the uncertainty of the pandemic. We started early this year streaming from a single iPad, and now over time have built a robust streaming rig that integrates well with our current YMCA setup. Starting in the latter half of the year as we have held our services online, we have expanded our livestreaming from just Facebook Live to YouTube Live, and have switched from hosting the livestream live from the Hankow Ministry Centre to pre-recording our whole service through the week, in order to provide a seamless worship service online.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we continue to look for creative ways that we can encourage and serve the church and those around us. We will look to continue to revise and improve our YMCA livestream setup so that those who are unable to join us for in-person services will still be able to have a good worship experience online. Worship ministry is always looking for volunteers, whether it is in the worship team, the sound & production team, ushering, or the choir. We are thankful that we were still able to worship in spite of the pandemic, and we look forward expectantly to what is in store for the new year.



**Elder In-charge**

Dave Magee, Senior Pastor

**Ministry Staff**

Greg Ng, Worship Associate



# YOUTH MINISTRY

2020 was a year of change, struggles, transition, and hope for the ECC Youth Ministry. We finally made it through with God's blessings. While transitioning into a new team was a challenge, we thank God for His faithfulness as He brought our team together. Despite the boundaries and barriers the past year has brought, we also thank God for the tools He has given us in the midst of it. And of course, we also thank God for His protection throughout the pandemic and how we were able to learn more about our social lives and our relationships with our family.

At the beginning of the year, the Youth Ministry team consisted of Chris Kwong (the previous Youth Coordinator and Youth Ministry Deacon), Billy Cheng, Kelly Yeung, and Dylan Branson. Before the COVID-19 Pandemic began, the Youth Ministry team met on Sunday mornings for Sunday school and Friday nights for youth fellowship. The rotating Sunday school teachers included Chris, Billy, and Dylan, with Kelly helping to facilitate discussion groups. Friday night fellowships were led by Chris and Kelly.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Youth Ministry was put on hiatus from January – April due to the government restrictions for meeting in large groups. The Youth Ministry followed the guidelines of the Education Bureau, so when schools were suspended, in-person youth ministry was also suspended. As everyone was trying to adjust to the “new normal”, it took several months before Zoom meetings were established. During the initial wave of COVID-19, Chris continued to send weekly Bible studies and readings to the youth through the youth WhatsApp group.

During this time, Chris Kwong stepped down from his role as the Youth Coordinator and the Deacon of Youth Ministry for personal reasons. Kelly took up the task of updating the youth through their WhatsApp group. Pastor Pak Loh began to meet with Billy, Kelly, and Dylan to talk about what it would look like to move forward with the youth ministry and informed them that Sheila Chan would be joining the team upon her return from Brazil. When Sheila returned, Pastor Pak established the “Youth Ministry Support Group” to plan and reboot the Youth Ministry.



## Youth Ministry Friday Fellowship

Our Friday night fellowship meetings began in October and were conducted through Zoom on the second Friday of the month. We had fun playing online games together and sharing different topics in every fellowship.

Plans were made for the first in-person meeting in December, but due to the government restrictions this was not possible. We still held a special Christmas meeting online. Although it has been difficult in managing the session online, we have worked to keep a heart of fellowship no matter what because God gave us this heart in His love. We want to build and nurture a Christ-centered community in the Youth Ministry as we walk together in the journey of faith, prayer, and communion.



## Final Thoughts

We hope to resume our physical gatherings when the government regulations permit us to again. We understand that our youth are currently at the age where they can be heavily influenced by external forces – especially during the recent events in Hong Kong. We hope and pray that through Youth Ministry, their values and beliefs can hold strong as they are empowered with the Armor of God.

We emphasize that the Youth Ministry Support Group is there to grow and learn together, and our aim is to make the youth feel at home and to have peace. May God continue to open each of our hearts so that we can be stronger together.

We are thankful to the students and parents for their ongoing commitment and trust in the Youth Ministry. We ask for continued prayer for growth, trust, and guidance in the ministry and also our Church.

## Struggles, Challenges and Prayer Points

- The COVID-19 Pandemic halted in-person meetings and was a reason that some youth stopped attending the youth group.
- The transition of leadership in the ministry is needed of continuous guidance of God.
- It is far more difficult to build relationships with the youth online than it is in person.
- Large social activities were put on hold few times (e.g., retreats, bowling, etc.), and when plans were made to engage the youth in these types of activities, the government restrictions were put back in place.
- Continuous improvement with the youth parents' connection.



### Youth Ministry Support Team

*Dylan Branson, Nathan Wong, Kelly Yeung, Shelia Chan*

### Ministry Staff

*Pak Loh, Associate Pastor*

# PASTORAL CARE

## Baptism

We praise God for His sovereign will to His people here in ECC. Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, the Lord enabled us to hold at least one baptismal ceremony last May 31, 2020. There were three people who were baptized, namely Nelita Tse, Liza Napuli, and Andrew Yu. Pastor Dave officiated both the ceremony and water baptism.

In the fall, we held a baptismal class where six people attended it. Four of them decided to be baptized supposedly last December but the baptism ceremony has to be canceled in compliance with the city's health protocols.

We are waiting for brighter days in the months to come but we can only hope in God, that we will be able to hold another baptism ceremony before the fiscal year ends. Let us uphold our baptism candidates-in-waiting so that they may grow in the knowledge of God.



## Child Dedication

We missed the Child Dedication service this year, again, in compliance with the health protocols.

Let us pray for the family who are so eager and excited to have their child/baby dedicated to Lord, to joyously wait for the perfect time.



## Membership

In January, for the first time in ECC history, we held an online membership class! There were six people who came. They have been serving the Lord in our church in various capacities.

We welcome our new members, namely: Rhodalyn Bunag, James Dylan Branson, Sheila Chan, Winny Chan, Jennifer Loh, and Marsh Pudsoc. At least, four members have left Hong Kong and had relocated overseas.



## Prayer Ministry

Having Pastor Pak on board, we are blessed to inform everyone that the Prayer Ministry is now part of the Pastoral Care Ministry. We hope to mobilize more members to pray and join prayer meetings. Whether it is on Wednesday evenings or in their respective small groups, prayer is a discipline that we need to cultivate.

This is the will of the Lord, Isaiah 56:7 ESV, *“these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES.”*



## Visitation and Care network



As the pandemic brings the "new normal" of social distancing to church ministry as a reality, we must be creative in reaching out to those brothers and sisters in need of support and encouragement. Besides the regular personal messaging and caring by the small group ministry, a small visitation team was formed by Pastor Pak and 2 volunteers which seeks to visit some church members whenever the given setting is appropriate.

Also, a care network for some church members was informally set up to support them and share information with the prayer requests.

We believe that ECC will continue to grow and strengthen this area in order to give adequate care to the church members.

## Memorial Service

For the first time in many years, we held a memorial service at the Hankow Ministry Center. We celebrated the life and faith of our dear brother, George Ma. The Alpha Team headed by Chandar Li, attended the service and offered a special song number.



We were so blessed by a good number of people who came to pay homage to our brother. The ladies from the Wednesday Bible study group also came to give support to Amy Chang, mother of George, who is a regular member of the group. The service was officiated by Pastor Pak.



Looking ahead, we envision to witness more brethren taking another step in their Christian journey to publicly declare their faith, thus, become committed to growing and serving God with us here in ECC.

### Elder In-charge

Dave Magee, Senior Pastor

### Ministry Staff

Ellen Ibarra, Pastoral Care Associate

# OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

The year 2020 was challenging. We have experienced the social movement since the summer of 2019. Then, COVID-19 has been widely spread in Hong Kong, even around the world. The daily life was no longer the same. In facing the shutdowns and rapid changes of the government regulations, people are confused and in fear. Being faithful, God has taken away our worries, emotions, and burdens. He fills us with His joy and peace.

With the social gathering restrictions, nearly half of our Sunday Worships were on-line (total 24 weeks) in 2020. Even when we were allowed to hold physical worship service, we had to exercise social distancing by limiting the number of seats in the worship hall. We had also taken a list of precautionary measures to prevent the spreading of the virus including everyone to wear a mask at all time in the worship hall, no food and drink, and to stay home for those who are having flu symptoms. We are grateful that our congregation was cooperative to observe all the measures to bring us a safe worship environment.



Social gathering restrictions did not stop us to love and to serve. Staff, ministry leaders, and volunteers took advantage of various online tools, Skype or Zoom, to schedule classes, activities, or catch ups. Without meeting physically did not prevent our interactions on the personal basis to connect with brothers and sisters.

In order to support the government recommendation, the church office has been exercising work from home (WFH) on Monday and Wednesday. Although there were many restrictions, hurdles, and inconveniences, by the grace of God, we were able to hold our EGM and Church Chat on November 1, 2020 to vote on the resolution of business and received the updates from the Elder Board. On the other hand, the annual Church Outing and the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch were cancelled. Although we missed the fun and bonding time, we greatly appreciate the faithful services from our volunteers in the pandemic time. We prayerfully wish to meet in person in the near future to unite again.

Staff transitions continued with Cora Chan, Pastoral Care Coordinator, departed in December 2020. We prayed that God will continue to bless her steps when she is turning to a new page in her life. Later of the year, Loretta Tsang, Office and Operations Manager, will leave us to pursue another opportunity. We wish all the best in her future endeavors. Pastor Dave, Senior Pastor, announced his departure by calling to another fieldwork from God. Fenella Chu, Director of Operations, will be stepping down from the staff team and start a new stage of life in June. Though it is sad to say good-bye, we are encouraged to see brothers and sisters in Christ are moving to their new chapters with God's grace and blessings!

Personnel changes will happen in the Administration Committee as well. Charles Goh, Deacon, Jane Hui, and Helen Lee will be stepping down from the committee to serve in other areas. We exceedingly appreciate their dedication and professional advice in all these years. At the same time, we have new additions, Charles Liu, John Tan and Jason Shing. God's grace is sufficient and timely to bring another group of servants to serve at ECC.

The year of 2020 is a test to our faith. We trust God will provide and His love endures forever.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight”. (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV)

**Administration Committee**

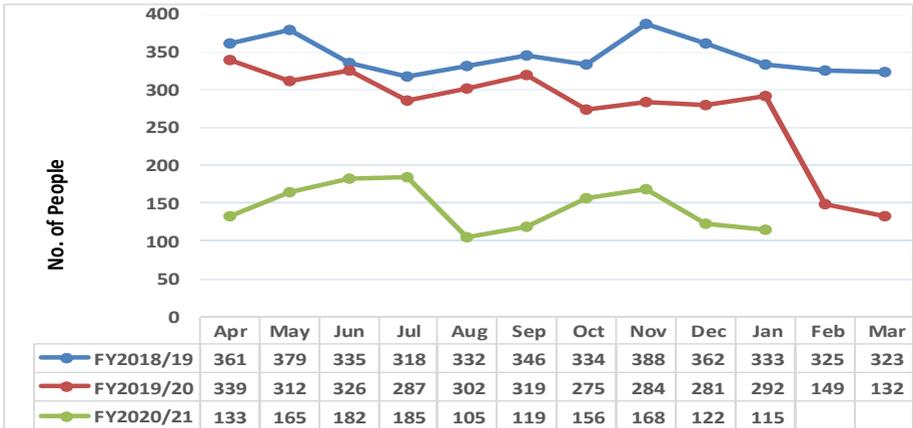
*Charles Goh (Deacon)  
Charles Liu, Helen Lee, Jane Hui, Jason Shing,  
John Tan*

**Ministry Staff**

*Fenella Chu, Director of Operations*

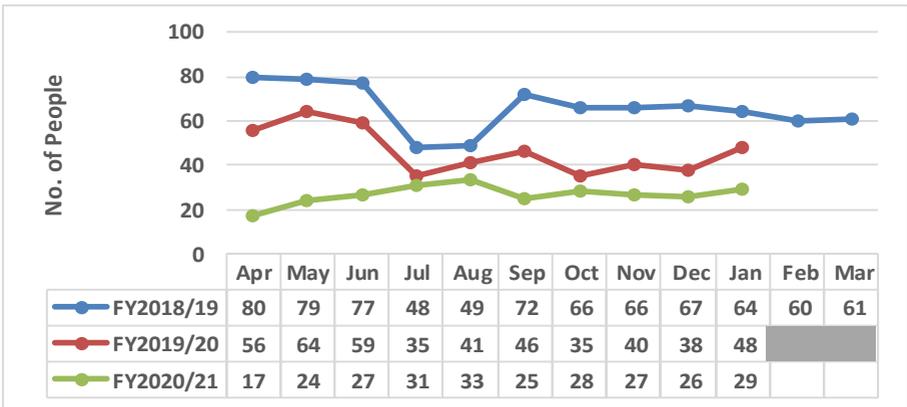
Please refer to the following charts for details regarding our average monthly attendance at Sunday worship services.

### Average Sunday Worship Attendance at YMCA



- Apr, Aug, Sep, Dec & Jan are based on online attendance.
- May, Jun, Jul, Oct & Nov are based on physical service attendance at YMCA.

### Average Children Sunday School Attendance



- FY2019/20, Children Sunday School was suspended in Feb & Mar.
- Apr, Aug, Sep, Dec & Jan are based on online attendance.
- Jun, Jul & Oct are based both attendance in Hankow and online.
- May & Nov include only physical attendance in Hankow.



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