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北美華人播道會聯會通訊

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Table of Contents 目錄

Christmas Sharing
The Perfect Christmas Gift..... 1
2024 Annual Conference
Report.....3
Pastor and Spouse Retreat.....3
Welcome Bridges Community
Church.....4
Welcome New Board Members..5
2025 Budget.....6

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The Perfect Christmas Gift



“Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!” 2 Corinthians 9:15 (ESV)

Rev. Lorne Trudgian, ANACEFC Board Member, Canadian Ministry

A stressful dilemma we all face at this time of the year is the search for “the perfect Christmas gift.” For some, especially with OCD (lol), this search is so frustrating it spoils the season. Sometimes it is the cause of each of us having so much that it is hard to find that elusive gift. The sad reality is this annual problem is here and likely will never go away. But I would like you to consider three gifts we can all appreciate and that are especially important and timely in their giving.

The Perfect Gift of course, is God’s greatest gift to humanity, given over 2,000 years ago, in the Person of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said, *“Thanks be to God for His unspeakable (indescribable) gift”* (2 Corinthians 9:15). This gift is perfect because Jesus is the only One who could and who did pay the payment for our sin because we could not pay it ourselves. This gift is perfect because Jesus is the only One who truly satisfies the longing of our heart (John 14:6). And this gift is perfect because the greatest of sinners can be forgiven and redeemed by accepting this gift of God’s Son (2 Timothy 1:15). But God’s perfect gift to us at Christmas did not come cheaply. Jesus did not come to Earth just for the opportunity to become one of us. He came with a purpose - to show us what God is like. He came that *“we might have life and life more abundantly”* and enjoy every day for the rest of our lives (John 10:10). Jesus came to bring joy. There is no need to keep searching. This perfect gift has already been given to us in Bethlehem’s manger Christmas Day. The perfect Christmas gift is Jesus. *(Continued on Next Page)*

The Personal Gift I must give to God is myself. Romans 12:1-2 instructs me to give my body to Him realizing I do not belong to myself anymore when I become a Christian. Instead, I belong to Him (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Jesus paid the ultimate price (His life) to purchase me. I no longer make my own way, do my own thing, or live like I please. The giving of this personal gift, my life to Christ is “reasonable” and the will of God that I give it. The perfect gift, the personal gift,

The Priceless Gift we can give to all those we meet is the Good News of the Gospel. We all have close family and friends who have never had the Gospel explained to them so they could understand it and make a conscious decision for Jesus. Ever been lost? When one is lost, a GPS to safety is priceless! Let us not hold the life saving message “*Jesus Christ came into the world that we might live through Him*” to ourselves. Share it openly and freely. Those closest to us will not hear the Good News without us sharing it (Romans 10:14-15)!

See Jesus Christ as the Perfect Gift, receive Jesus with thanks as the Perfect Gift, and share Christ the Perfect Gift with others who need the perfect gift too.

Let’s put a stop this year to fruitless attempts at Christmas shopping in search of that “perfect gift.” Our biggest motivation in search of the perfect gift are the words when our loved one or friend opens our gift and says, “Oh, that’s just what I wanted.” God is looking down on us again this year waiting to hear those very same words, that very same response from us in His giving of His Son Jesus as His perfect present.

It’s been said that a gift must meet three criteria for it to be considered “perfect.” Number one, the gift should reflect the one who gives it. Number two, the gift should reflect knowledge of the one who receives it (knowledge of their needs, desires, tastes, and so forth). Number three, the gift should be of a nature and quality that will hold its value as time goes on. The gift of Jesus meets all three criteria for being a perfect gift. Jesus Christ is the perfect Christmas gift! The most important feature of the perfect gift is it must be unwrapped. Isn’t it good news that we can open that perfect gift any time? All that remains is for you this Christmas is to take Jesus out of the wrapping and invite him into your life. “But to all who did receive Him (Jesus), who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

Jesus the perfect and inexpressible gift may not be what our sinful world wants today, but He is what we need! Christmas truly is the celebration of God’s perfect gift of Jesus to you and me!

Merry CHRISTmas!





2024 ANACEFC Annual Conference Report
 (Rev. Lorne Trudgian, Board Member, Canadian Ministry)
 (September 25-27 – Vancouver Chinese EFC, Vancouver, B.C.)



Theme: *“Passing the Torch: Empowering Your Timothy”* (2 Timothy)
Guest Speaker: *Rev. Bill Taylor, Executive Director, Evangelical Free Church of Canada*
Workshop Speakers: *Rev. Philip Leung and Pastor Philip Yung*

Sessions: Rev. Taylor spoke at four sessions on our Conference theme teaching the second letter of the Apostle Paul to Timothy: Session 1: “Empower your Timothy by Building their Faith” (Chapter 1), “Empower your Timothy by Building their Focus” (Chapter 2), “empower your Timothy by Building their Foundation for Ministry” (Chapter 3), and Session 4: “Empowering your Timothy by Building a Fullsome Ministry” (Chapter 4). Key principles: Like Paul we pass the ministry torch by building a faith that is shared, shameless, and shaped. As we hand off the ministry torch we need to prepare our Timothy to have laser focus on the mission, Master, and message. We need to build a firm foundation so they recognize anti-Christian faith, authentic faith, and anchored faith. We need to prepare them to embrace the full call of God to proclaim the Word, persevere, and minister to people.

Rev. Leung shared the challenges facing the first generation leaders passing the torch to the next generation. Pastor Yung lead discussion from the second generation point of view from a panel of pastors and leaders.

Attendees: 45 delegates from 20+ ANACEFC churches.

Three Scholarship recipients were introduced. Bridges Community Church, Fremont, CA was adopted as a new ANACEFC member church. Our 2024 church survey identified four top needs: teaching & discipleship training, social awareness, preaching, and spiritual disciplines. Two BOD members were re-elected, and two additional BOD members were added. Our 2025 budget was approved (with a 10% increase).

“In a Spirit of Giving”

Traditionally, this season of Christmas has a reputation as a “season of giving.” God gave His Son to be our Saviour. As a ANACEFC Board of Directors we kindly ask, “Could your ANACEFC church prayerfully consider giving a financial gift to ANACEFC this year?” As you plan your 2025 church budget, could you remember us? Sadly last year, only 21 of 44 ANACEFC churches contributed to ANACEFC on a regular basis. Please remember ANACEFC in your Christmas giving. Thank you.

2025 Conference: October 1-3

Host Church: First EFC, Brooklyn, N.Y.C.

Guest Speaker: Rev./Dr. Caleb T.C. Huang, China Evangelical Seminary and Senior Pastor

Topic: TBD



Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

2025 Pastor and Spouse Retreat

Dates: 5/27 ~ 5/29

Speakers:

Rev. Dora Wang (劉秀嫻), Ph D

Joyce Chen (陳頌慈), Th M

Location:

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

700 N. Sunnyside Avenue Sierra Madre, CA 91024

歡迎橋梁社區教會語事工及國語事工加入北美華人播道會聯會

Welcome to the Bridge Community Church Cantonese Ministry and Mandarin Ministry for joining the ANACEFC

橋梁社區教會位於加州 Fremont，是一個跨族裔的多元教會，包括粵語、失聰、菲律賓、普通話及印度 Telugu 語。教會的使命是建立關係的橋樑，一起追求跟隨耶穌的精彩人生。

Bridge Community Church, located in Fremont, California, is a multiethnic and multicultural church that includes Cantonese, Deaf, Filipino, Mandarin, and Indian Telugu-speaking communities. The church's mission is “*Bridging relationships to pursue the life adventure of following Jesus together.*”.



粵語事工 (Cantonese Ministry)

Bassy Lee 李佩詩傳道

我們的使命：建立橋樑，經歷神恩。

橋樑教會廣東部是由幾位被神所感召的帶職信徒牧養和帶領，講道和事工的運作也是由這幾位弟兄姊妹輪流負責。我們與一般中文教會不同的就是我們在這多元文化及不同種族的教會一同宣揚和分享基督的福音，實踐愛神愛鄰舍的教導。

Our Mission: To build bridges and experience God's grace.

The Cantonese Ministry of Bridge Church is shepherded and led by several bi-vocational believers called by God. Preaching and ministry operations are also carried out in rotation by these brothers and sisters. What sets us apart from typical Chinese churches is our commitment to proclaiming and sharing the Gospel of Christ within a multicultural and multiethnic community, practicing the teachings of loving God and loving our neighbors.

國語事工 (Mandarin Ministry)

Chii Yang 楊啟瑜傳道

使命：建造橋樑的關係，一起追求跟隨耶穌的精彩人生

核心價值

多元文化：慶賀彼此不同的背景，持守在基督裡的合一

豐盛家庭：裝備人生各階段的人，與耶穌和與家人更親近。

影響社區：愛我們的鄰舍，從周圍到世界各地。

激勵內容：以恩典和真理彼此鼓勵，以致生命得更新。

刻意冒險：即使不舒適，仍然選擇信靠神的帶領。

Mission: To build bridges of relationships and pursue the exciting journey of following Jesus together.

Core Values:

1. **Multicultural Diversity:** Celebrating our different backgrounds while maintaining unity in Christ.
2. **Thriving Families:** Equipping people at every stage of life to grow closer to Jesus and their families.
3. **Community Impact:** Loving our neighbors, from those nearby to people across the globe.
4. **Inspiring Content:** Encouraging one another with grace and truth to experience life transformation.
5. **Intentional Risk-Taking:** Trusting in God's guidance, even when it feels uncomfortable.

New Board Director

Priscilla Yeung

I'm grateful to serve as a board member with ANACEFC, and excited for the opportunities ahead as we work together for God's kingdom.

I came to know Christ at 16, and my faith has been the foundation of my life ever since. Growing up in a Christian home, my mom encouraged me and my siblings to learn piano, which led me to serve on worship teams and develop a passion for using music to honor God.

I'm an active member of Grace Evangelical Free Church in Richmond, BC, Canada, serving in children's ministry, as a deacon, and in the worship department. These roles allow me to serve others and grow closer to God.

At home, I'm blessed with a wonderful husband Ben Yeung, three children, and two grandchildren who inspire me daily. I look forward to this journey of faith and service with all of you!

我很感恩能以董事會成員的身份在北美華人播道會聯會 (ANACEFC) 中服事，也對我們共同為神的國度努力的未來機會感到興奮。

我在 16 歲時認識了基督，信仰從那時起就成為我生命的基石。成長於一個基督徒家庭，我的母親鼓勵我和我的兄弟姐妹學習鋼琴，這使我開始在敬拜團服事，並培養了用音樂榮耀神的熱情。

我目前是加拿大卑詩省列治文恩典播道會的積極成員，參與兒童事工、執事團以及敬拜部門的服事。這些角色不僅讓我能夠服事他人，也幫助我更加親近神。

在家中，我很蒙福，有一位美好的丈夫 Ben Yeung、三個孩子和兩個每天激勵我的孫子孫女。我期待著與大家一起踏上這段信仰和服事的旅程！

Returning Board Director

Rev. Paul Yang 楊朝輝 牧師

Pastor Yang has served at the Evangelical Free Church of Walnut for nearly 25 years. In 2000, he began as an intern at the church, and in 2004, he responded to God's calling to serve as an Assistant Pastor and later as an Associate Pastor for the Mandarin Ministry. Since 2023, he has been serving as the church's Senior Pastor. He has also previously served as the Chairperson of the ANACEFC.

Pastor Yang and his wife, Sister Ling Chen, have been blessed by God and united in Christ for over 25 years. They have a daughter, Angela, and a son, Christopher.

楊牧師在羅省東區播道會的事奉有近 25 年的時間。2000 年他在東播作實習生，2004 年蒙神呼召，開始擔任國語部的助理牧師和副牧師，從 2023 年開始，他擔任教會的主任牧師。之前也曾任北美播道會聯會主席。楊牧師與師母陳玲蒙神祝福，在主內結合 25 多年，並育有一女一子，Angela 和 Christopher。

2025 Approved Budget (in USD)

| | | Amount |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| I. CHURCH PLANTING | | 18,000.00 |
| II. MINISTRIES & PROJECTS SUPPORT | | |
| a. Dorcas Ministry | 6,000.00 | |
| b. Itinerant Pastoral Program | 3,000.00 | |
| c. Liaison Officer | 2,500.00 | |
| d. Hub Center(s) | 2,000.00 | |
| e. Pastors & Spouses Retreat Sponsorship | 5,000.00 | |
| f. Church Visitations and Care | 13,000.00 | |
| g. Training (Discipleship, Leadership ...) | 3,000.00 | |
| | 34,500.00 | 34,500.00 |
| III. SEMINARIAN FUNDS | | |
| a. CESNA Scholarship | 10,000.00 | |
| b. Others | 10,000.00 | |
| | 20,000.00 | 20,000.00 |
| IV. CONFERENCES | | |
| a. Spring Mini-conference | 1,500.00 | |
| b. P.A.C.E. Conference (Pastors & Spouses Retreat) | 5,000.00 | |
| c. Annual Conference | 6,000.00 | |
| | 12,500.00 | 12,500.00 |
| V. BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL & MEETINGS | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| VI. OTHER EXPENDITURES | | |
| a. Operations: | | |
| <i>Zoom Annual Subscription</i> | 200.00 | |
| <i>Turbify Annual Renewal</i> | 60.00 | |
| <i>Website Domain Subscription</i> | 300.00 | |
| | 560.00 | |
| b. Administrative charges: | | |
| EFCC Ministry Allocation Fees (7%) | 910.00 | |
| Bank Charges | 15.00 | |
| Periodic Report Filing | 25.00 | |
| IRS tax form filing | 40.00 | |
| Mailing or Postage | 100.00 | |
| | 1,090.00 | |
| c. Office supplies | 50.00 | |
| d. Miscellaneous | 300.00 | |
| | | 2,000.00 |
| VII. CONTINGENCIES | | 10,000.00 |
| TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET | | 112,000.00 |

Budget of 2025 will be increased \$9,500.00 (10% increase)