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## PASTOR TUNG MUSES:

With the One New English Congregation (ONEC) coming closer to reality, people have asked one or more of these questions and I'd like to answer them

### 1. *What Is the ONEC?*

Starting from March 2012, the former Young Adult congregation and the former English Adult congregation will become one new congregation, the English congregation. As one congregation, we will worship together every Sunday, develop relationships with people making up the whole congregation, learn to serve together, pray for each other, learn from one another, and have one leadership team. Preaching will be shared among the pastors making up the English-speaking ministry. We also want to clarify what the ONEC does NOT mean. What ONEC does NOT mean is that there is only one single fellowship group for everyone or that one congregation is being absorbed into the other. Instead, current fellowship groups are maintained and new fellowships are encouraged to develop. It might appear that the Young Adult congregation is being "absorbed" because they will be moving their worship space from the Chapel to the Sanctuary. But this is for space reasons only. If the Chapel was larger and can accommodate both groups, we could have moved the ONEC worship service there.

This also does NOT mean the teens will be worshipping with the ONEC every Sunday. We will keep the youth service separate, except for the once-a-month Communion and occasional special combined worship services. Some of the teens are in middle school and we feel having them with ONEC every Sunday will be hard for them.

### 2. *Why Are We Making This Change?*

In my mind it comes down to one question: "What does God want us to do as His church?"

And when we consider this question, we think about biblical issues of unity, mentoring, training the future generation of church leaders, developing relationships between the older and younger generations, experiencing a fuller concept of the church, learning from one another, supporting and encouraging one another. We feel that these are better accomplished by being together as one new congregation than two separate congregations.

Yes, there are age differences and some cultural differences, but the two congregations speak the same language, were either born in the US or spent their formative years in the US, so we feel that age and cultural issues can be dealt with given all the other benefits that we can gain. In sum, we need one another. We can benefit from one another. We can give to one another and we can serve together to reach our large and diverse community.

### 3. *What Changes Should People Expect?*

One is that worship will have a more blended style than before. We are developing a worship style that will not be exactly the same as each group have experienced before, but yet it will not be so different that it is unrecognizable. You will see some things added, some things subtracted, and some things remaining the same. So, there will be some adjustments required. The other immediate change is that there will be more people in the worship service. With more people, each of us needs to be intentional in meeting new people and developing relationships with them. To this end, we encourage you to stay around after worship to chat with one new person each Sunday, and in time you will get to know more people. The ONEC leadership is also facilitating quarterly cross-fellowship meetings between small groups and cell groups. There are other changes that we will encounter as we go along, but we are confident that God will help us to adjust to them and learn to savor them. We ask you for your prayers.

ONE  
NEW

ENGLISH  
CONGREGATION  
(ONEC):

*What it is*

*What it is not*

*Why ONEC*

*What can I expect*

REFLECTIONS ON  
WOMEN’S RETREAT



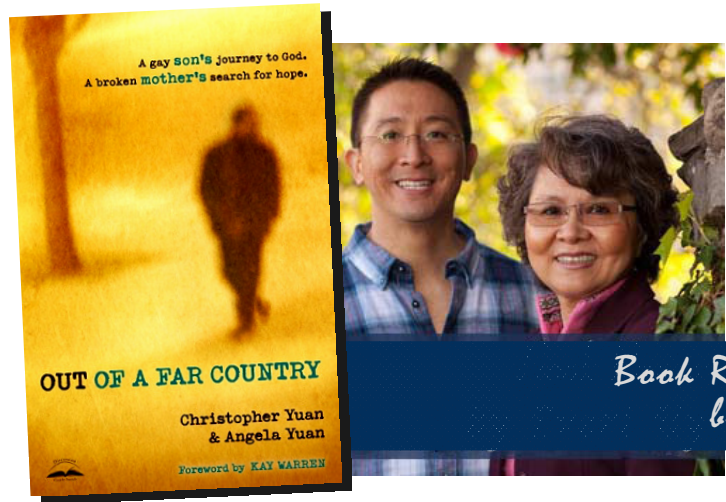
I was very touched and inspired by Amber's testimony of forgiveness. Compared to her experience, my hurt was rather insignificant yet I was struggling with forgiving. At the retreat, my heart was opened by her reminder that Christ is the perfect example of forgiveness when He died on the cross for us and that it is through Him that we are able to forgive those who have done us wrong. I prayed for God to work in me to forgive and over time, have found peace from letting go and forgiving.

God further spoke to me through a cell group discussion recently. We were discussing a similar topic, focusing on Timothy Keller's book on "The Reason for God" and also looking at the Rwanda experience. I was again very touched by the Christian concept of forgiveness and healing.

By Yin-Fun Lum

[Editor's note: The speaker for the Women's Retreat is Amber Anderson, who advises the women's ministry at Bridgeway Community Church — Isabel Lee, our Minister of Women's Ministries, heard her on Christian radio and invited Amber to share her compelling testimony.]

Christopher Yuan Outreach Event  
— Book Review and Reflections



Book Review  
by Evert Uy

Like many in our church, I attended the Christopher Yuan Outreach Event in August 2011. I was curious about Christopher's sharing about his journey to God. After listening to his testimony on how Christopher turn from homosexuality and drug dealing to being a Christian, I bought an autographed book.

The book is interesting in that it goes back and forth between the viewpoints of Christopher and his mother Angela. In the early chapters, you see Angela being transformed from a suicidal mother stuck in a loveless marriage to a mother with a renewed life and purpose after she finds God. She is able to bring her husband to Christ and then focuses her attention on Christopher.

Christopher, on the other hand, changes from a clean-cut dental student to a glamorous and popular drug dealer. His life is filled with heaps of money, exciting parties, multiple sexual partners, and little responsibility. Christopher has everything the world has to offer. All of these change when he is arrested, convicted, and taken to jail. His money, friends, and freedom are quickly stripped away.

In the background, you see Angela consistently and fervently praying for Christopher. Her persistence is admirable, and the love she has for her son is evident, despite all of his shortcomings. Only she and her husband stand by and visit Christopher while he is incarcerated. Slowly, slowly, Christopher's heart is transformed. He turns from his old ways and answers God's call to be holy. Not only does Angela rejoice in the salvation of her son, but heaven rejoices over the one sinner who has repented.

Reflections on Christopher Yuan's talk by a CBCM church member

Firstly, I appreciate our church's willingness to bring the discussion of homosexuality to the forefront by inviting Christopher Yuan, a gay born-again Christian, to talk to us. This topic is very prevalent; we encounter it in our workplaces, our children's schools, and even within our own body of Christ. Christopher Yuan's talk was very eye-opening and gave me a new perspective on homosexuality. He is a humble and honest servant of God, demonstrated in his candid life-changing conversion testimony and answers offered in the concluding Q&A session. Even though I have always known I was a sinner, I used to think I was a "better" sinner than those who committed the act of homosexuality. After listening to Christopher and discussing this topic with a pastor friend, I have come to realize that homosexuality is a sin, but it is no better or worse than the many other sins we commit. Our ungodly thoughts are just as displeasing to God as the act of homosexuality is, and both require God's forgiveness. God came to the world to die for all sinners as we have all fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We need to draw upon God's grace and unconditional love to embrace, accept and point homosexuals to God, the only One who can change the heart of a sinner.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”  
Luke 15:20

Kenneth Hom  
ABC Minister for the new generation



What better way to get to know a new face than some randomly generated questions?

Q:What are some of your hobbies?

A: Eating, Eating and Eating.... no not really, but eating, cooking, reading, sports, and hiking.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote?

A: From the scripture - "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 and "Get busy living or get busy dying" by Andy Dufrene, "Shawshank Redemption."

Q: Why did you want to come work as a pastor/choose the pastoral lifestyle?

A: Not to sound cliché but, I had to follow God's call on my life. But also because I know of the need for ABC pastors, but it is really the first one.

Q: There are the good and bad parts of each job. What are your favorite parts of your job as a pastor?

A: Watching God work in the lives of people and being a part of that. The greatest thing is explaining a biblical truth to someone, watch it take root in the life of a person and then watch it transform him/her. It's amazing!

Q: How about the stressful parts of your job as a pastor?

A: Yup, lots of that, especially right before I preach. I'm an introvert and don't like public speaking so right before I get up there, I'm very stressed. Yet somehow God manages to calm me down.

Q: Here is a random question: Do you prefer Apple or Windows?

A: Either! No true preference.

Q: Do you have a vision for the church/ the way you see the church is heading down?

A: I am still working on that. This is not a question that I feel I can answer, at least not yet.

Q: Are there any dreams and aspirations you still would like to fulfill?

A: Travel to specific places. I'd like to go to Rome, Jerusalem, and China at some point. I've never been to any of those places. I'd like to have a family at some point. I'd also like to do another missions trip. Oh and have one of my sports teams win a championship, it's been 18 years since that has happened.

by Nicole Huang and Jabez Tan

We want to thank Kenneth for taking the time to share a bit more about himself to us. Fellow CBCMers, let us warmly welcome our new English Minister and should you see Kenneth around, don't forget to introduce yourself and get to know him!

Kenneth Hom recently joined CBCM staff as the new English Minister. Born and raised in New York City, Kenneth is a third generation American-born Chinese (ABC). Kenneth grew up in a non-Christian home, had never gone to church as a child, and was never exposed to the gospel in any way until much later. Growing up, he simply believed that if you were good and did good deeds, you would go to heaven. After some rough patches towards the end of his sophomore year at Carnegie Mellon University, he finally accepted Christ when a believer came alongside and told him about the gospel. Hearing the words "free," "forgiven," and "unconditional love" really captured his heart, leading to his commitment to Christ. After graduating from Carnegie Mellon University and working for a good number of years, Kenneth felt God calling him to go into full-time ministry. Before going into full-time ministry however, Kenneth talked about it with his parents. He feared that his parents would be a hurdle for his decision to go into full-time ministry. To his surprise and delight, his parents were very supportive of his decision. In 2003, Kenneth went to seminary and graduated in 2006. In 2008, he accepted a call to be the English Pastor at the Chinese Christian Church of Baltimore, and served there for 3 and a half years before coming to our church.



# TEENS WINTER RETREAT and “FAMILIES”

*By Jessica Leung and Galene Wong*



Worship practice for Praise Rally (photo by Judie Kuo)



Spur notes, a tradition at the retreat (photo by Judie Kuo)

On the night of January 20, 2012, junior and senior high students eagerly gathered at Skycroft Conference Center in northern Maryland for the annual Winter Retreat. Every winter, students look forward to a relaxing weekend away from home where they have the opportunity to spend time with counselors and friends, meet new people, and challenge their faith through messages and workshops. Despite the freezing cold weather and the snowfall Friday night, students and counselors alike warmed their hearts with fellowship in Christ.

Senior Esther Park was excited to attend CBCM Winter Retreat for the first time. Especially since Esther is not a member of teens group, she was pleasantly surprised to find the CBCM youth group community friendly and welcoming. She found speaker Mark Tao's messages on abandoning conformation to the world (Romans 12:2) both engaging and applicable and the workshops interesting and helpful. Esther also enjoyed bonding with her "family," but little did she know these families are a new addition to teens group.

This past fall, Youth Director Clement Wen bade farewell to grade and gender based small groups, and introduced "families," hoping to encourage stronger relationships between teens of different ages and social groups. Unlike small groups, these families encompass a wider range of grade levels and involve both genders. To foster unity, the Winter Retreat committee decided to continue the families throughout retreat, instead of the randomized small groups of years before. Novel but effective, the family groups succeeded in building camaraderie among teens during the retreat, though Esther regrets not being able to get to know her family more.

Esther also found comfort in "spur notes," a much anticipated tradition of Winter Retreat. Led by hospitality officers Andrea Auyeung and Rebecca Lee, a team of dedicated artists tailored individual, handmade envelopes for each teen and counselor and ingeniously hung these up on a wall so that participants could drop encouraging notes to each other. Esther was especially touched that teens she did not even know took the time to write to her.

Like those in the past, this Winter Retreat outreached to both members and non-members of teens group, and encouraged students to seek a stronger relationship with the Lord.

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**EXALTING JESUS CHRIST**  
**EDIFYING THE BELIEVERS**  
**EVANGELIZING THE WORLD**