

# English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on [www.tcbc.on.ca](http://www.tcbc.on.ca)

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*  
Romans 12:4-8

## Introduction of English Ministry Leadership for 2009

This issue, we will be introducing the leaders involved in English Ministry for the coming year. God has blessed TCBC in many ways over the years. Regardless of our efforts, He continues to work in big ways and the equally significant small ways in our church, in our community and around the world. The individuals below have felt the burden and calling to serve in leadership. Being such a big, busy church, there are always so many spiritual and physical needs. We pray (and we ask that you pray along with us) for wisdom, vision, and perseverance as we seek God's will, together as a community.

Each person was asked to share about their involvement with English Ministry, how they first came to TCBC, their hopes for the coming year, and their favourite pastimes. Thanks for sharing!

### Pastoral Staff and Deacon Representative



Reverend Timothy Tam,  
Senior Pastor



Pastor Tanya Krahn



Deacon Anthony Hui

### English Leadership



Will Jin, English Ministry Chair / English Department on Exec Board

Some reasons why I decided to serve this year is that I realized that it is a privilege to serve God and to work with so many of our members who care deeply for the ministries that are "happening" around us. I learned last year that God does not need my help or my "gifts" to serve Him, but that it is His grace that allows me to participate in the lives that are impacted by the English Ministry. I consider myself very fortunate to be working with such faithful believers.

I came in 1991, after graduating from University (you can do the math if you don't know my age). God spent a couple of years to break down my excuses for not listening to His Word. It was through the friends and fellowship at TCBC that brought me to my acceptance of Christianity.

This year will be a transition year for TCBC and I hope that I will be able to help out with many of the changes needed to build up the Kingdom. We have to face many realities and challenges, which can only be answered through God's will. My hope is that we are praying for God's call, listening to God's call and then (with His Spirit) doing His call.

Hobbies are an important part of life. It's a gift that we receive. Those who know me, know that I'm very lucky to have a family that supports my hobbies. I greatly enjoy the time with my wife Kim as she opens the world of arts for my limited world view. In my spare time, I manage my kid's sports careers. Keon is an aspiring goalie. Mattan is currently experimenting with gymnastics and downhill skiing.



### **Bill Fong, Vice Chair - Administrative (i.e., gopher for Will)**

I wanted to have input into our congregational goals and vision and to help shepherd those who are in need in the English congregation.

I was introduced by a friend. My hope is to improve communication and increase openness in our congregation, and to provide a more accessible outlet to allow our brothers and sisters to serve and to be nurtured in our church. My hobbies include music collection, playing with my son and loving my wife, Cindy.



### **Toby Chang, Vice-Chair**

I have been involved with leading the worship ministry the last few years. My approach to serving at TCBC has been to be involved in areas where there is a need, but also where my skills (gifts) align. The need for my involvement in the worship ministry is less now as the responsibilities have been transitioned to a newly formed leadership team. Thus, by involvement in EMC for 2009 is still being shaped given the evolving needs of the group.

I "grew up" in the church as my parents have attended since my dad's university days. My hopes for the coming year are that the EM, and the church, will grow in their understanding of what leadership means, and the leadership needs of the church - that the existing overseeing groups will evolve their mandates and structure to meet these needs. In my spare time, I enjoy playing ice hockey and watching PVR'd TV with Clara.

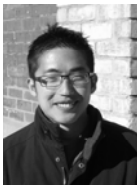


### **Norman Tang, Vice-Chair Communications**

I've been involved mainly with the monthly newsletter, and most recently announcements after service each week.

I became involved with this role hoping to communicate all that's happening in our congregation and church more effectively and openly. In this way, hopefully we can work together more effectively in seeking God's will and carrying it out. Of course, there is so much more we can do to communicate, and what we've done so far are just baby steps. We welcome new ideas for the newsletter and other ways of getting updates out.

My parents brought me to TCBC when I was around seven years old (or so I thought - I recently found out that I was dedicated as an infant at TCBC). I mainly attended Sunday school until I started university after which I began attending morning service as well. It was during first year university that I accepted Christ (Sunday School was instrumental as well as CCF). I enjoy eating and sleeping and have a weakness for chocolate. I like trying to play hockey, and enjoy playing badminton.



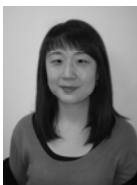
### **James Wu, Secretary**

The reason I wanted to serve in this area this year was to play a more active role at TCBC and put my faith into action.

When I first attended UT, I needed to go to a church, so I came to TCBC. I like to read, cook, eat and watch the Vancouver Canucks



### **Bobby Lau, Treasurer**



### **Jasmine Yu, Small Group/Fellowship Coordinator**

I was a "product" of the CCF ministry, so being a part of a small group or fellowship has always been very important to me. I believe we would be a healthier church if every TCBC member found acceptance and support from a close-knit group of brothers and sisters, and were able to learn and grow together. Hence, I decided to serve in this area and I pray that God will bless this ministry.

A friend from Vancouver, who came to Toronto a couple of years before me, brought me to TCBC. One of my hopes for the coming year is that we could all step out of our comfort zones a little, open our eyes to see the needs at our church, and learn to care for each other. It is also my hope that God would send a suitable English pastor to us this year.

I am a pretty boring person and I especially don't like to do anything active. Currently, Ivan and I are taking vocal lessons (doesn't mean I can sing yet!). I also enjoy going for bubble tea with a small group of close friends to chit-chat and be silly.



**Alicia Chin, Student Ministry, including FAST (Feed A Student TCBC)**

I am interested in hospitality ministries, organizational issues and solutions, and youth work (not to equate students with teens). FAST is a natural fit for this, and to really put this into overall context, that is why I am interested in Student Ministries as a whole.

I first came to TCBC in 1984, after coming to Toronto to attend UT (yeah Pharmies!) I have considered TCBC my home church since transferring my membership in the eighties (from the Baptist church I grew up in). I love that the Baptist denomination is democratic, and that the strength of each local church is based on the overall understanding, respect and involvement of its congregants, not just putting everything on its formal leadership.

Our hopes for Student Ministries in the coming year (as in all years) will be that TCBC can offer relevant points of connection for the students worshipping with us, as well as to foster experiences which would encourage continued attendance and participation at a church in the long-run (whether at TCBC or elsewhere as their calling and careers lead them). FAST continues to evolve for both students and our gracious TCBC hosts. Thankfully, many students also regularly attend Sunday school. Although there is no English-speaking student fellowship group at TCBC (since most students attending our services go to on-campus groups), there has been a request to provide mentors from local churches, and a few people from TCBC have responded to that call- next step will be for our training and accountability before we get linked to students who might want this kind of relationship. Forward thinking, it would be great to organize a 2-3 year discipleship program specifically for students, including something unique for post-grads. Other than that, TCBC continues to support our students through short-term mission prayer and financial aid, use of church for special events, and hopefully being a home-church while they are here for as long or short as that may be. Indeed, we are especially thankful for those students who have taken time to be active congregants at TCBC by contributing their personalities and skills to helping other students feel welcome, attending and teaching classes, leading us all in meaningful worship, and too numerous to list behind the scenes involvement. My favourite hobbies include shopping, baking, seeing the evolution of English-ministry in Chinese churches.



**Ron Eng, Adult Sunday School Coordinator.**

After extensive discussions, Pastor Nolan Lee felt the adult Sunday School needed direction and I believe I can give it some direction.

I started coming to TCBC while I was courting my wife and joined TCBC in 1995. In the coming year I hope that the church can find a new English pastor and that there will be renewed interest in studying God's word. My favourite hobby is reading and in my spare time I like to watch TV (a little too much).



**Eva Chan, Personnel Committee**

I serve on the Personnel Committee and the English Minister Search Committee, and I act as a liaison between the Personnel Committee and the EMC.

The main reason I joined the Personnel Committee, and by default the search committee, was that there was a need and I felt it was my duty to help out. These older established committees need involvement from the younger English side, not just our criticism.

My hope for the coming year is for God to reveal what kind of English minister TCBC needs and to bring that person to us. I'm on the internet a lot. It's part hobby, part social interaction. Amazingly, I have never met an axe murderer.



**Sun-Ching Lui, Prayer Coordinator.**

The reason why I decided to serve in this area this year was from the experience I had with YCCF. It was through sharing and praying with fellow brothers and sisters where I experience a sense of genuine love and caring for each other. I am longing and wanting to find the passion with God and the church through prayer which I myself am learning and seeking.

I started coming to TCBC with my relatives when I was eight years old when I immigrated from Hong Kong with my family and was baptize at Christmas in 2001. Its been quite a journey here at TCBC for the past 20 years, where I have experienced all the possible emotions I can think of. To this day, God has challenged me to grow spiritually and lovingly with the church and the people God has place in my life.

My hope in the coming year is that people will take their next step (whatever that might be) with their relationship with God and not stick in their own comfortable ways. Praying is a gift we have with God and a discipline I strongly believe we need in our daily walk with God, which many of us take for granted.

In my spare time, I enjoy playing on my Macbook, cooking, shopping, watching Chinese/Korean soaps, movies, making jewelry and playing with my dog!



**Sam Wong, Liaison Subcommittee**

I chair a new EMC subcommittee, the "Liaison Subcommittee". The subcommittee's purpose is to liaise with the rest of the church on issues that are of relevance to EM (English-speaking ministry). First and foremost we try to gauge and guide the spiritual direction of the English congregation in coordination with the pastors and deacons. Ming is working with the pastors on pulpit planning, and in 2009 we hope to align topics more with the Christian calendar (Advent, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc). Claudia leads our prayer initiatives. We also track and raise various issues such as processes and theology surrounding benediction, sermon feedback, ordination and re-baptism. Finally, we try to support our pastors and deacons in the various activities they do. I am involved in these areas because it is important to provide an EM perspective to any church issues that affect EM.

I first came to TCBC as a child with my parents. I remember children's Sunday School in what is now the Mandarin chapel upstairs. There was a stage (where the current stage is) with railings and that made for great monkey bars! My hope for 2009 is that more people will become more Christ-like through all the activities we do at TCBC.

In my spare time I make random edits on Wikipedia.



**Claudia Li Tang, Liaison Subcommittee/Worship-Prayer Coordinator**

I am the prayer coordinator for the English Ministry which includes compiling prayer requests for the Tuesday teleconference prayer meetings, the weekly prayers items in the bulletin and congregational prayers during Sunday service.

2 Chronicles 7:14 pretty much summarizes the reason why I want to serve in this area. God said: "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

In grade 10, a classmate of mine invited me to TCBC. Since then I started attending Sunday School regularly, accepted Christ at the Teen's Conference and was baptized in 1992. My hope for the coming year is to enable closer communion with God and each other through prayer. I truly believe when we collectively seek Him first, God will show us the way and unite us in Christ Jesus.

I love doing yoga & pilates and once in a while I like to try new recipes :-)



**Ming Wong, Liaison Subcommittee**

There isn't a specific reason that leads me to serve in this position. I kind of stumbled into it because of the needs that arose in the English Congregation after Pastor Nolan's departure.

I came to TCBC as a teen when my family immigrated to Canada 30+ years ago. I grew up in the Chinatown neighbourhood, and am still living in the same neighbourhood with my wife, Ruth, and our four children. Throughout the past many years in TCBC I have seen the church grow in the dimension of width - we have grown in numbers and many daughter and grand-daughter churches have sprung up all over the GTA. My hope for TCBC in the coming years is that we will grow in the dimension of depth.

I hope we can reach deeper into our immediate community, touching the lives of those who are hidden by the barriers erected by our cultures and our social positions and statuses. These are enormous barriers that cannot be broken down without us also continuingly growing deeper in the love of God and the love of each other. And this is what I also hope for - that we will grow in love.

I spend a lot my spare time fixing broken things. I have an obsession in fixing broken things.