

UTCCF 2011 Vision Statements

Name: Cedric Tai

Position: Chair

Years at CCF: 3

Years been a Christian: 4-6

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Living Word Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement:

“Sense and Connect”

If I can say one thing about this vision, it is that it comes from God. Honestly!! This is a vision for CCF because I'm beginning to see it unfold. This vision is crazy! It is deep and wide! The best part is: it is very simple to understand, but the implications and the links are immeasurable! Here we go, “Sense and Connect”.

...Let's break it down...

WHY ??? Sense and Connect

To worship God, To give Glory to HIM!! **Why?** He LOVES US, He's THAT AWESOME

.....so where do we start first?

[5] Senses

1. Taste – beginning with mouth watering experiences

- Taste and See that the Lord is good; [Psalm 34:7]
- Infants drink milk, mature ones eat solid food. [Hebrews 5:12-14]
 - It is a call to maturity, to discipleship!
- But whether we see ourselves as an infant or mature, the point is LET'S EAT



2. See – beginning to witness

- Witness God himself
 - That's how Scriptures was written! [2 Peter 1:16-18]
- See where God is working
 - Respond by joining him - applies to hospitality and service
 - Praise him – rejoice and give thanks [1 Thess 5:16-18]



3. Touch – beginning to be tangible

- Touch of Jesus: he touched blind men and healed him [Matt 9:29]
- Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted [Matt 5:4]



- The power of touch (hug): to comfort a brother or sister in sorrow, to support ones in need, potentially heal the sick.

4. Smell – *beginning to permeate*



- As Christ gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering so we too should walk in the way of love. [Eph 5:1-2]
- Likewise, we are to be fragrance of Christ that spreads OUT to the world. [2 Corin 2:15].
 - Practical thought– Guys- shower and deodorant, girls don't spray/apply too much

5. Hear – *beginning to listen*



- Hear o Israel – LORD our God the LORD is one [Deut 6]
- Speak o Lord, for your servant hears – [1 Sam 3:9-10]
- Faith comes from hearing the messagethrough the word about Christ [Rom 10:17]

[3]Connect in 3-D....HOW?

Even when I went about describing the 5 senses, I still could not separate it from the implications and connections. Nonetheless, to elaborate more on Connect....

1. Connect to God

- Who is God? Does He exist? What is He like? Can I know him?
- The mystery has been made known to us! [Ephesians 3:1-6]
- As a result be able to know, experience and enjoy Him more

2. Connect to Others

- Being there (Show Up), Build Bridges (Relate), Being Bilingual (Communicate) – (Gabriel Chan,2011)
- Lend a helping hand, hospitality, spending time in fellowship, accountability, listening
- [Matth 22:39]

3. Connect to Ourselves

- Who am I? What am I? Why am I here? [1 John 3:1]
- My hope is that we may discover more about ourselves through everything we go through in life

The beauty of making connections is that everyone does it differently, but when we come together as a fellowship to share and connect, we can build up and encourage each other in ways that expands our understanding of God/Others/Ourselves. “Now I know in part then I shall know fully” [1 Corin 13:12]

[2] **Practical aspects** – *the real how...*

1. **Discipleship** – *John 15:5-8, Matt 10:38*
 - Through studying scriptures, prayer, investment groups, small groups, mentorships
2. **Evangelism** – *Acts 1:8* – be Christ’s witnesses
 - Personal evangelism, outreach, large groups

This is a vision for CCF, it begins in CCF, and it requires the participation and engagement of all of us. But it doesn’t stay in CCF! Rather, it permeates through our lives as individuals, beyond small groups, beyond the context of CCF, beyond the U of T campus: to the extent that we may be able to influence the world in all our walks of life as image bearers of Christ.

[To Conclude]

My hope and prayer is as that of the apostle Paul for the church of Philippi:

“that our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that [we] may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with fruits of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. [Philippians 1:9-11]”.

As we engage in “Sense and Connect”, we should remember the need for discernment and the purpose of glorifying God and that our overarching goal is that we will, WE MUST

Love in more ways, Love in greater ways, and Love in deeper ways.

Remember the definition of fellowship – ‘we are in this together’

Name: Natasha Sanderson

Position: Vice Chair

Years at CCF: 3

Years been a Christian: 1-3

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement:

Vision: Connecting and Growing together as a family. Seeing everyone with H.U.G. as their vision.

Big Vision (H.U.G.)

Greatest commandment of them all- I believe this is ultimately the one simple vision that we all should have as Christ followers.

1) Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, (Matt. 22:37) (Understand)-

Who is God?

- if we truly know God personally, everything else should come easily because all we do should be a natural outflow of actions and words that are pleasing to Him.
- Encourage people to develop a personal relationship with God through bible study, mentorship, accountability, leadership workshops, and encouragement of personal devotions etc
- Encourage and develop future leaders. Inspire a desire to grow. Older members pass on what they have learned to actively equip younger ones.

2) Love your neighbours as yourself. (Matt 22:39) (Help)- facilitate, support, equip, connect, unify, love

- Love one another because God first loved us (1 John 4:19)
- loving God and loving your neighbours is inseparable
- Uniting together, caring for each other as we grow together as one body. Not just friends, but a big family, with one common Father.
- Actively reaching out and welcoming new individuals into our family and developing authentic relationships. Supporting each other by in-reaching so that we can outreach together.
- Create a warm and open environment for sharing and growth for all individuals in our community.

3) Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and surely i am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt 29:19-20) (Go)- move away from the comfort of our community and spread the good news.

- Be a living testimony to others by living with integrity.

- Faith without deeds is dead (James 2:17). Be Active and live out your faith through serving, mentoring, evangelizing, and bearing good fruits.
- You'll have the support of the whole fellowship as your family.

mix and match the bolded words makes: **H.U.G.**

Specific Vision

More specific to my role as Vice Chair--> zooming in on "H" of H.U.G.

Vice chair is one of the less defined roles, yet it's also a very important support and structural role in the fellowship. My official position's jobs involve supporting the chair, coordinating small groups and ministries, sharing the burden of other committee member, and communicating with alumni.

1) Unity as a Family.

- Connecting together on a deeper level, like a second family, as one body of Christ, all with the same big vision. H.U.G.
- Combining together all parts of the fellowship into one body of Christ, glorifying God and using our spiritual gifts to further His kingdom in CCF and on campus. *"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"* Romans 12:4-6
- Further extending the connection to other fellowships on campus

2) Support and facilitating committee members

- supporting on a deeper level than just picking up tasks. Use my spiritual gift of "mother" to take care of my committee like my family away from home. Try my best to make sure everyone is emotionally, physically, and spiritually healthy.

Implementations

- 5-10 minutes large group sharing time for small groups and ministries so that as a fellowship we can be informed of what's going on outside of large group time, together keeping them accountable and supporting them through prayer. It will also be a good way to let new comers know the happenings outside of large group and for them to get involved.
- Actively participating in weekly meetings and events run by ministry and small groups by rotating through different meetings each week.
- Connect small groups and ministries to the committee as well as the fellowship through proper communication and efforts so that committee can provide the right support and resources needed.
- Actively investing in meeting new individuals during large group by helping with hospitality team and working with Large Group coordinator.

Goal: To see people go H.U.G.

Name: Justin Wong

Position: Secretary-Treasurer

Years at CCF: 3

Years been a Christian: 13+

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement:

As we were made for God, through God, and in the image of God (imago Dei), I hope for myself and this fellowship that we would continue to develop the characteristics and habits of men and women of God's Kingdom - a people who abide in His Word and strive for His purposes, who seek to magnify Him with their every breath.

In the coming year, I hope that we would become better at loving with the love with which we were first loved - that we would practice love into a habit, a "first" nature, something integral to the fabric of our lives.

It is my prayer that we would demonstrate this love:

- in striving to mimic Christ's attitude - in humility doing things with a cheerful heart, desiring to find and follow God's Will
- in the way we serve and support one another - that we take on others' burdens, and that we speak the truth in love
- in maintaining our integrity - a cohesion between our public and private lives - outwardly saying and practicing love, inwardly matching it with our own spiritual disciplines; personally and corporately - both requesting and upholding accountability

Why? So that we as a fellowship may be known as Christ's disciples, our identity verified by our love for one another (John 13:34-35), and that in doing so, Glory may be ascribed to God, by ourselves and by others, as we shine before men (Matt 5:16)

What shall be done, practically?

As secretary-treasurer, I intend to strive toward these goals in:

- diligently attending to the financial and logistical needs of CCF
- training and involving others in the tasks of serving the fellowship regarding logistical and technical matters
- facilitating communication within committee and between fellow leaders in CCF
- being available to leaders to help them serve and fulfill the work set before them
- being regularly in touch with committee members that we may call each other to account and encourage each other, maintaining vision and focus

<Active love: Christ-like attitudes, support, integrity>

Name: Clement Fung

Position: Male Devotional Leader

Years at CCF: 3

Years been a Christian: 4-6

Current Church: Chinese Evangelical Church in Edinburgh

Home Church: Emmanuel English Church (HK)

Vision Statement:

*“All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking and training in righteousness, so that **every man of God will be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**”*

2 Timothy 3:16

As men we are called to be Husbands, Fathers, Brothers, Teachers, Workers and Elders in our fellowships, households and churches. First and foremost we are disciples of Jesus Christ. God has gifted us with his Word (the bible) through which the resources for our training and nurturing into these responsibilities are found. The journey of growth from infancy and ignorance into maturity and responsibility is one I have dedicated my life's effort into. My wish is for all men to adopt this same vision as their own.

Below are four verses summing my recent growth in Christ and, by extension, the growth I envision for all men in UTCCF.

(1) **Growth towards Spiritual Maturity.**

Every believer's journey should be directed towards growth towards maturity in Christ. Specifically, every male should focus their efforts to building themselves and other men towards becoming true 'Men' of God. We cannot be 'boys' anymore. We must become Men to do the work of God.

*“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who **by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.** Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go onto maturity...”*

Hebrews 5:13-14 and 6:1

(2) **Renew our minds in Christ and seek His will.**

God's will for each of us is found in His Word. In order to see and test it we need to constantly seek and train towards a renewing of our minds in Christ Jesus.

*“Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve of what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.**”*

Romans 12:2

(3) **Equip believers to Explain and Defend our faith.**

To equip men with a biblical answer to why we believe in the Bible, Jesus, and God the Father. Defense is the bare minimum. Men are called to become teachers of the Word.

*“But in your heart set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.**”*

1 Peter 3:15

(4) **Make Disciples of Jesus.**

For men to know the teachings, commands, promises and character of God, so that we can disciple, mentor and teach others to do the same.

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**”*

Mathew 28:19-20

Let us all aim for spiritual growth towards maturity in the upcoming year.

Faithfully,

Clement Fung

Name: Elliott Jun

Position: Male Devotional Leader

Years at CCF: 1

Years been a Christian: 1-3

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Vision Statement:

What is the Word of God?

The Bible is much more than words on a page or pages in a book, it is alive and powerful as written in Hebrews 4:12 *"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* The foundations of our spiritual lives are rooted firmly in His Word and only by actively seeking His truth will we be able to draw closer to him. These are God's own love letters to us, in which we are able to catch a mere glimpse of an unimaginable amount of how much He loves us. Through the beauty of Scripture we begin to understand God's characteristics, such as contrasting the wrath of God in the Old Testament to His amazing grace in the New Testament. All His instructions and desires He has for His disciples are made clear in His Word and that His disciples are to be equipped with His word to deepen spiritual lives as demonstrated in verses like 2 Timothy 3: 16 -17, *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* Scripture is our sword and shield that we are to equip to fight against the Devil and remain upright in our race with God. My vision for CCF is to understand how important His Word is in our lives and ignite a passion to seek after Him, guard His words in our heart and live it out in our lives. 1 Peter 2:2-3 *"² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

Read It, Store it, Live it.

How do we do this?

We can begin moving towards this vision by:

- Maintaining weekly Bible studies at CCF Large group to better understand God and His Desires and build each other up through His Word as a fellowship
- Introduction and implementation of a systematic Scripture memory system, known as Topical Memory System, which allows us to encourage each other in storing God's Words in our hearts
- Begin and maintain meeting and drawing closer to God through daily devotionals

- Starting a weekly Bible study small group that digs deeper into His Word and has open discussions
- Spending time each day to pray

“The answers have always been in front of us in His word, we just need to seek them. I am not preaching anything new, just trying to redirect our attention to the importance of His Word in our lives.

Name: Nicole Chow

Position: Female Devotional Leader

Years at CCF: 3

Years been a Christian: 4-6

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31

Vision

Becoming a fellowship that *actively desires God*, through discovering the word, personal relationships, and the community

What God had placed on my heart...

1. Seeing everyone’s yearning for God’s Word [Psalm 42:1-2]
2. Leaders working tightly to foster the growth of our fellowship, as spiritual growth is not solely based on a personal level

Micro: Personal devotional, and scripture reading [Deuteronomy 11:18]

Meso: Sharing with and loving our brothers and sisters [1 John 4:7, Romans 13:8]

Macro: The Great Commission [1 Peter 3:15]

3. A nurturing environment through small groups, DGs, and mentorship [1 Thessalonians 5:11]
4. Guide individuals to break down barriers that hinder them from seeking God
5. Obedience and trust through prayers [Philippians 4:6-7]

Why the above is important...

Ultimately, as a fellowship, we want to become a community that loves, trusts, desires, worships, and glorifies God.

“God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him” John Piper

Focusing on Him should be our foundation. In addition, catering the workings in CCF to the community’s needs is important, as this is *our* fellowship, a collective community of all brothers and sisters.

We shall become a fellowship that walks together and supports one another through the journey of pursuing God.

Together as a community...

- Inspiring and motivating each other to desire God
- Collectively build a nurturing environment
- Praying together

As Female DL...

- Be a sister that others can feel approachable with anything
- Engaging people to bond with one another on a more personal level
- Fostering the growth of sisters to become women of God
- Planting the seed of desire into everyone's heart
- Preparing individuals upon leaving the community

Implementations

- *Scripture memory* – IG setting (to increase accountability and motivation)
- *Women's small group & Discipleship Groups* – a comfortable environment for sisters to gather, share and ask questions
- *Personal Emails* – connecting and following up
- *Prayer Request Cards* – setting aside time to pray for one another, anonymously, in person, or in groups

"For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end." Psalm 48:14

Name: Elizabeth Wong

Position: Female Devotional Leader

Years at CCF: 1

Years been a Christian: 7-9

Current Church: Peoples Church

Home Church: Peoples Church

Vision Statement:

So, what of your heart?

To whom have you devoted yourself? And for what purpose?
Whose heart do you chase after in return for yours?

David did everything God wanted Him to do and it was ultimately God he was trying to please (Acts 13:22). So in this respect, let us emulate David; let us strive to be a (wo)man after God's own heart, because it is our utmost delight to do all things pleasing to Him. For starters, we must first seek after Him with all our hearts (Psalm 119:10). And we can do so, by training our hearts and minds to align with His will, strengthening and maintaining this cause daily by taking to heart and living it out, His Word.

Take up Scripture:

"I have hidden your word in my heart" Psalm 119:11

"Do not let the Book of Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night" Joshua 1:8

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). By being careful of what is kept in the recesses of our hearts and minds, we realize all the more how much we need to depend on God and to be molded by His hands. Such is the importance of taking up scripture. As we are limited by our own comprehension of what is truly good, the Bible, therefore, is useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

Live out Scripture:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" Psalm 119:105

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Ultimately, His word will permeate into our lives if we constantly pray and ruminate on scripture. Our thoughts dictate our actions, and if practiced enough, become our habits, and eventually, define our character. Being constantly reminded of God's multifarious nature, it is not possible to resist His change (Isaiah 55:11). As we continue to think of beautiful things (Philippians 4:8-9), it will become clearer of how we are to glorify God.

Practically, what can we do?

- Read and Remember His Word
 - As a fellowship: within a large group, small group, or one-on-one (Matthew 18:20)
 - As yourself, perhaps with the help of devotional books or commentaries
 - By keeping each other accountable with devotions and scripture memory
 - Topical Memory System (some foundational verses organized to help one 'lock-in' in scripture)
- Pray continually
 - Communication is key in every relationship; this one is no different

- Listen and Love
 - Earnestly seek out brothers and sisters by making opportunities to listen, to share, to encourage, and to love
 - Entrusting each other with our stories, struggles, spiritual walks, within small group or outside of CCF, so that we may grow further in Christ together

So, let us come to His Word, hungry, and leave it, hungrier. Let us ask for more and only be satisfied in Him.

For "the Lord is my portion." Lamentations 3:24

Name: Fiona Tang

Position: Outreach Coordinator

Years at CCF: 3

Years been a Christian: 1-3

Current Church: New Hope Fellowship

Home Church: New Hope Fellowship

Vision Statement:

Have you ever thought of what you're supposed to do with your faith here at U of T? What God wants you to do in your everyday classrooms with the classmates and the professors and even the janitors you see everyday? Do you love, pray, and mourn for the lost souls on our campus?

As children of God, we are blessed to have received Christ as our Lord and Saviour and therefore enjoy eternity with God. But are we going to keep this blessing and good news to ourselves? Jesus tells us explicitly to go and make disciples, to *bring* and *build* God's kingdom on earth (Matthew 28:16). For us at UTCCF, this means we're called to preach the gospel and build God's family **here** at U of T.

Brothers and sisters, this is my vision as your outreach coordinator next year: As God's children at UTCCF we will **go, take a leap of faith** and **share** the gospel to our friends and classmates on campus. And have a **heart** for the lost souls just like Jesus was compassionate about the shepherd-less sheep (Matthew 9:36).

How I will implement my vision:

- To provide training:

- on how to verbalize the gospel well and go preach it
- on how to write their testimonies (which is an effective evangelism tool)
- on how to train other members to take a leap of faith and share the gospel

- To have an outreach small group:

- Bible study - studying topics like the importance/need to evangelise, what is evangelism, God's sovereign choice and grace
- Book study - "Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God"
- Go sharing - encourage weekly/bi-weekly sharing on campus

- In large group setting:

- Investment groups - to have investment groups go to Deeds/Soup Kitchen together
- Hospitality Team - to have members join the hospitality team, to encourage them to meet new people and do follow ups + keep them accountable
- Prayer walks - regular prayer walks around campus

Dear brothers and sisters, we've been blessed with the opportunity to study here at U of T. Let us begin the work NOW.

'You still have an open door here. And until the Lord moves you, you are to bloom right where you are planted' - Fireproof (2008)

Name: Carrie Lu

Position: Large Group Coordinator

Years at CCF: 2

Years been a Christian: 10-12

Current Church: Logos Baptist Church

Home Church: Ottawa Agape Chinese Alliance Church

Vision Statement:

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continue to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:44-47

Vision

We are called to be united as one body in Christ.

UTCCF is a group of dynamic students who come together despite our differences, put away our troubles, praise God and live out His word through His grace.

Because of this, the time we have together should be used to foster interdependence through a support system.

To do this we must create a nurturing environment, be accountable to each other's spiritual walk, and be vulnerable in the fellowship.

Our focus is to be a warm and hospitable Christ-centered community.

Why is community important?

As Christians, we are called to worship God communally as "we, who are many, are one body" (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

When we gather and praise Him in unison, it is pleasing to Him, for He promises that "where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20).

In large group, we are to "enlarge the place of [our] tent, stretch [our] curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen [our] cords, strengthen [our] stakes. For [we] will spread out to the right and to the left" (Isaiah 54: 2-3) to build and strengthen new and existing relationships at UTCCF.

What does it mean to fellowship?

It is to develop intentional community: as a family we are to create a lively and warm environment where everyone with various talents and skills can work and contribute in a large group setting.

As large group coordinator, I will:

- Work cohesively with various ministries, (ex. hospitality ministry) and follow up on new comers;
- Introduce icebreaker games and welcome events in large group;
- Commit to building personal relationships with brothers and sisters.

Above all, I will coordinate weekly large group programs with love and serve the fellowship with the rest of the committee such that we can work together as one in Him.