



中國神學研究院
China Graduate School of Theology



CGST Bulletin

2015
Jan-Mar

■ Vision for China • Mission to the World

Feature

Shine for Jesus:

The Vision and Mission of a Marketplace Christian



Dr Jean Lee

Assistant Professor
of Theological Studies
Associate Dean

If we face ourselves and the world truthfully, it is not difficult to discover a reality: the marketplace we are in is a place that does not know God or is far away from Him – a dark reality. Having realized this, we are not surprised with the oppression, distortion and injustice that often occur in the marketplace. As Christians, we know that all live and act under sin, so the world will only continue to

deteriorate. We Christians are merely sinners who have received God's grace.

John 1:1-4 says, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."* The Creator God chooses to work in a special way. He makes each and every Christian a small spark of light in a dark world by igniting the lives He gives. In this way, when the people of God disperse into different workplaces and professions in society, they will shine like sparks of light, making up the pattern of a beautiful starry night to light up the world.

After all, we are merely weak and incapable persons who need God's grace and mercy. How do we face a world that is increasingly overwhelmed by darkness due to sinfulness

and distortion? How can we gain victory? The only difference between Christians and non-Christians is that we have received salvation from our Lord Jesus, who has overcome the world Himself, enabling all followers to live a victorious life through faith. *"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."* (1 John 5:4). Although the world is a place of darkness, our faithful Lord has not given up on the world and has not given up on you and me, or the people around us.

A Christian's life is salt and light. *"You are the light of the world."* (Matthew 5:14) This is an important analogy because it states clearly that this mission is not just about our behaviour or what we do. When the Word enters someone's life, that entire life is illuminated and will shine on others. This means that being salt and light is not about ministerial activities or events, but a natural manifestation of our life

attributes and character. We are the light placed by God in a world of darkness. This means that each and everyone of us has to unleash our being in Christ where He has sent us into the marketplace, so that the light of our life can be evident before others.

This also reveals a special purpose of God: the manifestation of the light of life is not restricted to us as individuals, because each of us is insignificant. It is only when the entire Christian community, a community who has responded to the call of our Lord with their lives, unleash the light of their lives collectively that the dark sky can be lit up with a beautiful pattern of starry sparks.

Darkness needs light. Today, Christ calls on each Christian who follows Him, that is each and everyone of us, saying: *“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”* (John 20:21) He

has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us as the Immanuel, God with us. Because of this, we should equip ourselves in order to make full use of the opportunities and potentials that the Lord has given us. We need to learn and enrich our knowledge so that we can integrate our faith with our daily life, and to live out our faith in our workplace and other aspects of our lives.

Our school has quite a number of part-time students who work in the marketplace, especially in our Master of Christian Studies programme majoring in Marketplace Theology. They aspire to an in-depth and systematic learning of the Word of God, striving to integrate their faith with their work and profession alongside their studies. They start with basic subjects in biblical studies, dogmatic theology and spiritual formation before moving on to inter-disciplinary subjects that facilitate integration and practice, such as “Christian

Discipleship”, “Ethics in the Workplace”, “Wealth & the Christian Faith”, “Leadership & Management”, “Interpersonal Relationships” etc. Through knowledge, reflection, integration and practice, students continue to reflect on their faith and to practise what they have learnt in response to God’s call to serve Him in the marketplace.

We firmly believe that the marketplace vision and mission is to be realized through the entire church community. This involves life integration by marketplace Christians, paradigm shift of church ministries, the participation of workplace organisations, etc. Through our joint effort and collaboration, a new generation of marketplace disciples will form an army led by the Lord to bring transformation to this generation. 🔥

Interview



An Interview with Dr Jane Mann

Assistant Professor of Counselling Studies

The date July 1, 1997 marks a story about the Return of Sovereignty over Hong Kong and My Return.

Interviewed and Written by
Ms Mimi Tang

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Time, Not a Straight Ruler But a Depth Gauge

Having served in a Chinese church in the States for many years, in August 1989, Rev Josiah Mann returned to Hong Kong with his wife, Jane, to devote to theological education and became the lecturer in Practical Theology in CGST. Jane recalled that their decision at that time was due to the imminent return of sovereignty over Hong Kong to China in 1997. Rev Mann discerned the importance of theological education and wanted to grasp the opportunity to train more pastors to serve churches in Hong Kong and Mainland China. “I know his heart and his ability. At that time our children were still small, so I took a supportive role, yet this is still the decision of our family and our ministry.” Jane immigrated to the States after high school. She accepted Christ and grew

in her faith in the States. After coming back, Jane needed time to adjust, not just to CGST but also to church life. Weekly, she would step out from the CGST dormitory kitchen to eat and chat with students at the canteen to initiate relationship.

Two years later on July 1, Rev Mann passed away. The graduation ceremony that evening was an occasion not just to say goodbye but also to mourn their parting.

“We were at CGST only for one and a half years, a total of three semesters. During that two years, Josiah had to stay in the States for half a year for operation and recuperation,” said Jane. “But depth of the relationship cannot be measured by the time we spent here.” Ties with students and church groups have remained until now. What never stops include greeting cards received on July 1 every year. “They are from Rev Dr Wilson Chow with heart-warming messages. Rev Chow was the CGST President at the time we were there and we did not know each other before then. After those one and a half years, we became good friends and whenever he came to the States, he would visit us.”

Since 2013, there’s no need for Rev Chow to send any greeting cards because “he could see me in Hong Kong”. After being away for 22 years, Jane was back to CGST to teach in Counselling Studies.

Her children were not surprised to learn of mom’s decision to come back. There were many fond childhood memories of CGST. “Apart from knowing a few good friends, including Uncle Wilson (Rev Chow), CGST has a complete and representative meaning in their memories because it was Daddy’s school.” But they quizzically questioned whether their mom, who held a doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology, might have made such a decision due to mid-life crisis!

Afraid of Change, Afraid of No Change, Heart-wrenching Sadness

This doubt still amuses Jane, “It is not easy for me to make the decision, actually it is very difficult. Josiah used to make all the decisions and I just followed. I was a good follower, a good supporter. When Josiah was not around, I wrestled with God on one thing: I was afraid that there would be no more changes in my life because Josiah who made decisions and led me to change was no longer with me. That was a way to express the pain deep in my heart. Some have fears of change, but I have fears of no change. However, caring for three children all these years has trained me to learn to make decisions. To me, this is a change, a big change.”

The training of social worker coupled with the character of resilience have helped Jane a lot in dealing with grief, but it was ultimately

God’s sovereignty and Rev Mann’s influence that were most important to her. When Rev Mann underwent surgical operation in the States, Jane deeply experienced our Lord’s sovereignty. “That operation was very dramatic. Doctors said Josiah could die due to massive loss of blood. But the Lord did not take him that day. Instead He gave us eleven more months. He taught me there and then what sovereignty means.” Rev Mann wrote, “Do not ask ‘why’, ask ‘why not!’” This has remained in Jane’s heart ever since. “How Josiah treated people and how he put his faith in God have influenced me greatly. It is exactly who he is that has attracted me since we started dating. We both know clearly that there would be losses in life, but those are not losses to grumble about, just losses to miss dearly.”

The pain brought about by death affects all regardless of age. That year, the 2-year-old to 6-year-old in the family had diverse ways to mourn their loss according to their different personalities. One day, Jane cut down a tree in front of their house because it was dead. “When my son came back, he was very agitated when he saw the tree that he grew up with had disappeared. ‘You cut it off.....? Why did you not tell me first?’ He had never expressed his loss since daddy’s death. But at that moment, I was moved to realise that I had to learn to read the message which he has already tried his best to express.”

A firm belief coupled with personal concern

The three children have three different personalities. They have distinct ways to express how they miss their mother in this present time. “God has not given you the same mould, but varieties. This is fun!” Jane believed that parent should not compare the children with each other or with kids from other families. “The son of my friend may be telephoning home each day, but mine connects with me differently. Difference does not mean inferior. Our different personalities dictate dissimilar interactional pattern.”

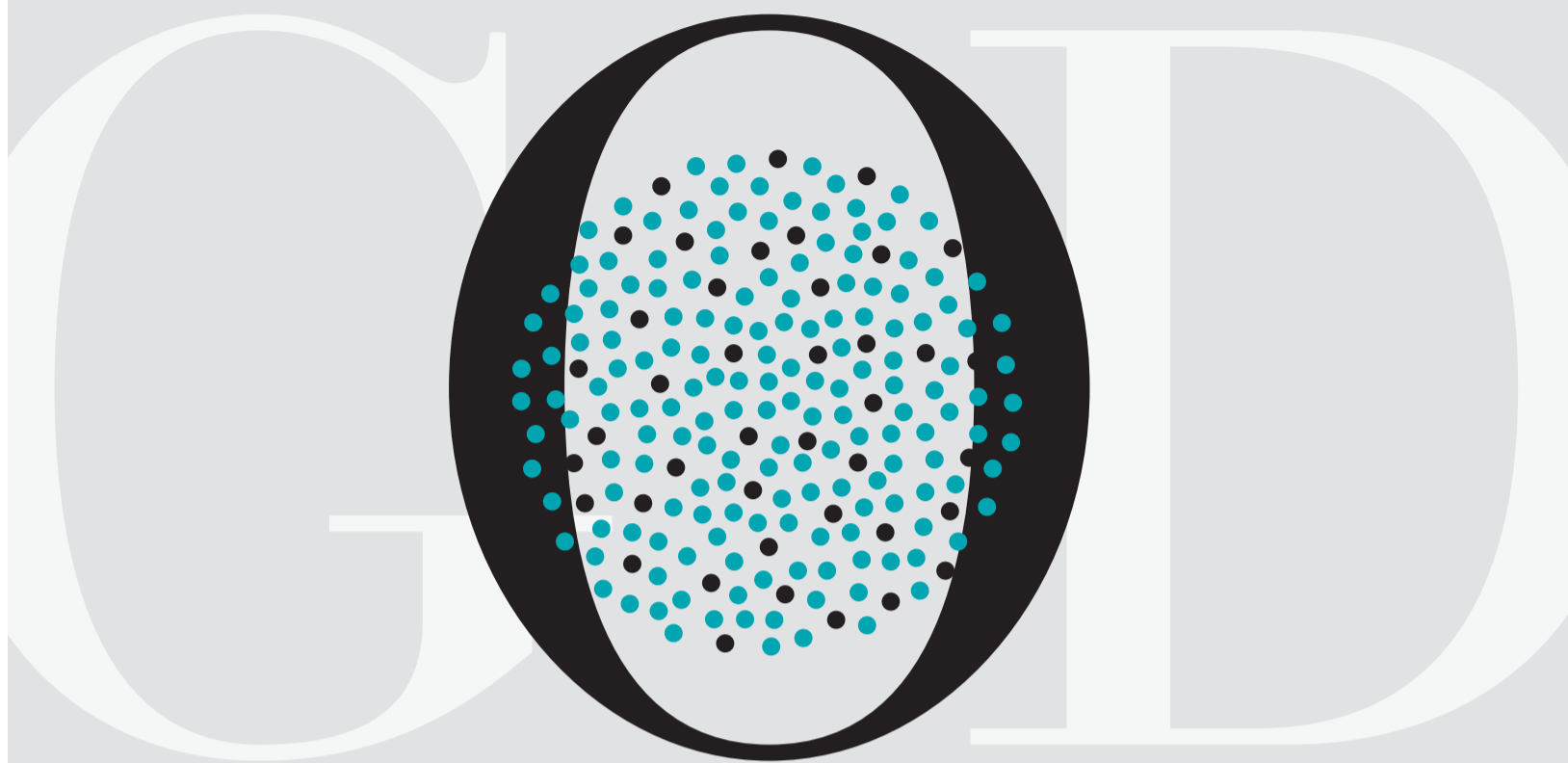
Over the past 20 years, youth ministry has been Jane’s passion and what she has mostly involved. Jane saw how parents often solely owned the responsibility of training their children and blamed themselves for not raising their children properly. Jane believed that in the church community, everyone should shoulder some responsibility for training the children. To put this in practice, there has to be the atmosphere of supporting, encouraging, and affirming the parents. The freedom of allowing others advising you or mentoring your children does not necessarily reflect that you are a bad parent. “Aren’t we parts of the same body? We should not merely pay lip service to this teaching, and then fail to trust others, and compete with each other in reality. But of course, such community life hinges on how parents view themselves and their faith.”



This mutual support also applies to serving and caring of ministry workers in church. Jane’s eldest son is a church youth pastor, but Jane thinks that as a mother, she may not be the best person to minister to her son’s emotional needs. This is because there can be as much relational and growth issues in a pastor’s family, and zealously expressing support and opinions may make it difficult for her son to differentiate between following his idea, desires, will for personal growth or succumbing to his mother’s concern. “So I choose to attend to other pastors’ needs and let others minister to my son. This is just a reflection of my vision of a healthy body life.”

Returning to CGST has not only enabled Jane to continue with Pastor Josiah’s calling, but has also allowed her to use her counselling knowledge to serve the emotional needs of pastors and their families. “They are an ‘under-served’ group, usually not knowing where to turn to for their problems; they may not want to share, or they dare not share.” Usually, a lot of problems, like family relationship, interpersonal issues, or even sex addiction may not be addressed before they venture into full-time serving. While serving, these problems can be triggered anytime affecting their ministry. “They are called to serve the church, so it works better for their own ministry and for their church if they can first resolve their own emotional struggles or family problems.”

From the “Return of Sovereignty” to the “Return to Hong Kong”, from Daddy’s school to Mommy’s school, weaved among these is the belief that the baton has been passed on. The walk has never been alone. Life is like the clouds, togetherness and drifting apart, but what we witness are cumulus clouds speaking of its beauty. 🔥



The Testimony of “God with Us”

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Rev Dr Stephen Lee

President
Lam Ko Kit Tak Professor
of Biblical Studies

Last year September 29, Monday, was a hot day. During the turbulent times of our city, the faculty’s monthly meeting was cancelled and replaced by a special prayer meeting. I left early during the prayer meeting to fly to Taipei to lead a 3-day Bible conference there. I had never left Hong Kong with such a heavy heart.


During the Sunday worship the day before, I prayed for Hong Kong with the congregation before my sermon, and I believed that all the churches in Hong Kong would be doing the same: we prayed fervently before the throne of grace of our Lord for peace for our government and for our city. Who would have known that before midnight the same day, 87 tear gas grenades would have been fired. It would be hard to imagine from the headline photos that the mass rallies did not break a single pane of glass nor hit even one police car. It was even harder to imagine the police, all dressed in anti-riot gears behind mills barrier, using water to help a man clean off pepper-spray from his eyes. The gracious hands of our Lord have always been with Hong Kong.

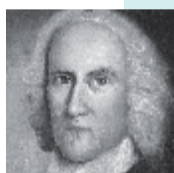
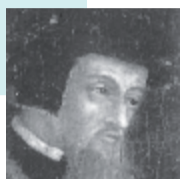
In the dispute regarding universal suffrage, the three Occupy Central leaders include a pastor and a layman, the “Constitutional Development Trio” also include a brother in Christ. Prayer meetings were held amongst

government officials while student groups also had support from churches. Pastors and councillors taking pro-government and pro-democracy stands could still go to the Lord in prayers together after stating their different views. When different groups confronted each other during the street protests, there were Christians on both sides. Members of the Enoch Christian Fellowship could be found among members of the disciplinary force forming human chains. Churches are not political groups holding similar views but have to serve people stretching across a wide political spectrum. Despite of holding different political views amongst our congregation, they all care about our society because we all love Hong Kong, we all love this place that we call home.

The Lausanne Covenant in 1974 reminds evangelical churches that the gospel treats evangelism and social responsibility as equally important. In the past 40 years, churches in Hong Kong have dedicated themselves to evangelism within Hong Kong and overseas, and participated in helping the poor and the building up of social communities from China to the end of the world, revealing fully the grace of God. The cries of young leaders in the past have been passed on. Christians of the next generation face more complicated socio-political agendas. Although they may not

outshine their older generation, they definitely need understanding and acceptance rather than mutual blaming and black mouthing. The democratic spirit rejects the “winner takes all” concept. Respecting and accepting different viewpoints are not only the basic attribute of a civil society, but also the theological emphasis of the apostolic letters in the New Testament. “Asking, praying, petitioning and thanksgiving” for our rulers and “to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” are both the rights and duties of Christians who live out their faith.

When the leaders of the CGST Student Association responded to the many appeals and requests, they not only encouraged the students to think and judge independently, but also to listen carefully to the widely different stands and viewpoints expressed. This has revealed sincere and liberal magnanimity which earn the praise and appreciation of the teachers. What has touched me even more is the unhesitant, quiet giving of the CGST students and alumni, not for the ideology but for protecting the young people they are serving, walking together and supporting them along an unknown path. You have not made any loud noise nor shouted. In this frightened and injured city, you have become a mark and testimony of “God with Us”, “Immanuel”. .



Rev Dr Carver Yu

President Emeritus
Abundant Grace Distinguished
Professor of Theological Studies

Last July, my book *Scaling Higher Grounds: Walking with Great Minds Who Fear the Lord* was published in time for the Hong Kong Book Fair. Although it is just a small book with 160 odd pages, however I must say, I am quite pleased with it. The book uses 5 pious servants of the Lord as examples to illustrate a simple truth: that only when a person is deeply captured by what he believes and surrenders to it, only when he can offer his life for his faith, live for it and die for it, then he can truly live, freely and wonderfully. I point out in the preface to my book, "Shallow faith is a deadly spiritual sickness of many Christians today. Upon becoming a Christian, they linger merely in shallow waters of faith and dare not venture into greater depth; or would only remain at the level of personal experiences instead of scaling higher. As a result, they are lukewarm in the faith, stay comfortably in the early stages of their Christian life even after 10-20 years. Such life in faith can only be boring and frustrating." John Stott put it well, "The church today is

3,000 miles wide but is only an inch deep." Shallow faith is a serious danger faced by the church today.

As I was writing, I have repeatedly asked myself: Can I be as submissive as Calvin, who gave up his aspiration to be a Classics scholar to devote himself to a life of ministry full of hardship and stress, like a loyal sentinel who would not venture off his outpost by even a single step? Or be like Mother Teresa, absolutely trusting and submissive to the church while holding firmly to the vision she got from the Lord and devoting her life to the lowliest communities in Calcutta without regret, identifying with the outcast and the forgotten, so that they could experience the love of Christ. Among these pious servants I wrote about, what stirs my heart is the pious life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. How would a Christian follow Christ when brought face-to-face with the inhumane savageness of the Nazis? When we come to such an impasse, the only way to follow Christ is to carry our own cross. And it is only in so doing that we can truly experience our faith. I can see from these people that the one big driving force in their pious lives is an in-depth knowledge of their faith coupled with a deep reflection of their theology.

While writing, I could not but remembered my spiritual "big brother" Rev Dr Jonathan Chao. To me, he is an example of being "deep in faith, true in living". I dedicated my book to him as a token of my respect and admiration.

Two anniversary dates have given me a chance to reminisce about Rev Chao: CGST's 40th anniversary in 2015 and the 10th anniversary of the death of Rev Chao in 2014.

CGST was established in 1975 with the aim of not just establishing an institution. The vision that brought about CGST was a movement for theological education: a movement for the reformation and renewal of Chinese theological studies aimed at evangelising China and Christianization of Chinese culture. It was the hope that we can develop a mode of theological education that can truly serve the church in

Deep in Faith, True in Living

China. If we look at this from the perspective of a movement, it actually originated in 1965 when Rev Chao was merely a young student studying theology. His ardour for the need of gospel in China led him to run around for this cause. His heart was consumed by the calling he received from the Lord. As from that time, and for a total of 40 years from 1965 to 2004 (the year when he passed away), he devoted his life to this one single cause: to bring about and develop theological education for the Chinese for the sake of more than 1 billion people in China who have never heard of the gospel. Rev Chao gave his all for this unceasingly. His total selfless dedication to theological education has touched me deeply and the recent 30 odd years of my life has been deeply influenced by it.

In the second year of my study at Fuller Theological Seminary 40 years ago, Rev Chao visited the seminary in 1974 and shared his vision with a group of Chinese students. He challenged us to dedicate ourselves to China. Just like that, I was pulled into the founding movement of CGST. During my encounter with Rev Chao over the next 30 years, I could clearly see a living example of a life "deep in faith, true in living" in Rev Chao. Although his interest was in church history, he was also a remarkable and profound theologian in dogmatic theology. His theology was lived out in his total dedication and selfless devotion. He has left us for 10 years now, and I still miss my big brother dearly. 🔥



Rev Dr Jonathan Chao was in CGST early year

The President Office

- **November 3-8, 2014:** President Emeritus Carver Yu lectured at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. On the 11th, he attended the “Chinese Church Ministry Consultation” in Shanghai.
- **November 3-5, 17-19, 2014:** Vice President Luke Cheung conducted lectures at Guangdong Union Theological Seminary.
- **November 11-14, 2014:** President Stephen Lee joined the “Chinese Church Ministry Consultation” and visited Shanghai, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Nanjing and Beijing.
- **November 14-17, 2014:** President Emeritus Yu was the speaker at a seminar held at TAR University College, Kuala Lumpur.
- **November 23, 2014:** President Lee was invited to preach at the Office Dedication Service of Fellowship of Evangelical Students.
- **November 23, 2014:** Vice President Kang Phee Seng attended The Consecration Service and the Thanksgiving Dinner of the Revd Canon Dr Timothy Chi Pei Kwok to the Holy Order of Bishop.
- **December 5, 2014:** President Lee was invited by Evangelical School Development to preach at the revival meeting of its 50th Anniversary Celebration – Joint Carmel School Teacher & Staff Development Day.
- **December 12, 2014:** President Lee was invited to speak at the year-end Thanksgiving Revival Meeting of the Hong Kong Fire Services Christian Fellowship.
- **December 27, 2014 – January 4, 2015:** President Lee was the evening speaker of the 2014 West Coast Chinese Christian Conference in San Francisco between December 27 and 30. “Be Rooted and Built Up in Christ” was the theme of the Conference. From December 31 to January

3, President Lee was invited by the Houston Regional Council of the CGST US Board to visit local Chinese churches in Dallas, Texas. He also gave Public Lectures, spoke at the Vision Sharing Luncheon in Houston, as well as preached at the Sunday service of Southwest Chinese Baptist Church and Ford Bend Community Church.

Faculty Engagements

- The paper of Assistant Professor Dr Annie Pan Ng has been published in *Spiritus*: “Ignatius’ *Spiritual Exercises* and Chinese Women’s Spiritual Formation in the Hong Kong Protestant Evangelical Context.” *Spiritus* 14 (2014): 187-207.
- February 2015: We welcome Ms May Yip joining our Faculty Team as Assistant Professor of Practical Studies. Having graduated from our DipCS program in 1991 and completed a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies at Biola University in 2012, May has mission field service for many years. She served in The Republic of Sudan and The Republic of South Sudan for 17 years primarily involved in language development and translation work, as well as conducted research in intercultural studies.

Theological Training Programs (Putonghua)

The two-week Program was held between January 5 and 17. Vice President Dr Kang Phee Seng preached at the morning chapel service to begin the intensive school term. Three courses were offered: Vice President Luke Cheung and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Dr Esther Xue co-taught “General Epistles”; Principal of the Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Ambrose Seminary Rev Dr Jason Yeung lectured “Church in History (1)”; and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Dr Simon Cheung taught “Bible Study & Hermeneutics”.

Prayer Requests

1. We thank God for providing the School's financial needs in the past year; through churches, brothers and sisters' loving support our ministries can be carried smoothly. Pray that God will give us faith and supply us abundantly for this year.
2. Pray for the new student recruitment in the coming school year, that God will guide those responding to His calling, be equipped and study at CGST.
3. Pray that through the 2015 Apr-Jun TEE programs and 'Word of Life' Bible Study Series students may be richly blessed by His grace.
4. Pray for the newly-elected Alumni Committee Members, that God will give them strength and good health to serve the alumni community in the midst of their tight schedule, so as to sustain the connections among alumni.

General Fund Financial Report
Sep to Dec., 2014

General Fund	USD\$
Donations	1,260,367
Tuition & other income	1,382,100
	2,642,467
Expenditure	(2,299,651)
Surplus	342,816
Deficit from Jan to Aug., 2014	(69,972)
Accumulated Surplus	272,844
2014 Capital Expenditure	(345,403)
Outstanding mortgage loans as at Dec, 2014 : US\$ 2,544,564	

Response

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