**REPORTS – Quarterly Church Meeting 23rd February 2020**

**Senior Pastor’s Report**

1. Update on Strategic Priorities including Cross Gathering, KidsHope & Connect Groups.
2. Challenges include the budget shortfall and work required for Safe Church Health Check.
3. Prayer needs to remain central.
4. Preaching is currently focussing on Matthew’s gospel.
5. Other miscellaneous updates including church camp, leadership, consultancy ministry & family.

*Matthew 8:19 (NIV) Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”*

As we work through Matthew’s gospel in our preaching we’re coming face-to-face with the wonder of the one who is both our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. And just like the Teacher in the verse above, as God’s people here at Carlingford Baptist Church, we are amongst those who have said we want to follow him. Of course, Jesus responds to the teacher in Matthew 8, and then to the disciple after him who said he wanted to follow him, by making it clear that to follow him is no small matter. It means putting Jesus before all comforts and securities. Following Jesus isn’t an excuse to neglect our family responsibilities, but it does mean putting Jesus first, even before our families. As we look to all that lies ahead of us in 2020, will we allow God to renew our commitment to following Jesus as through his word he refreshes our understanding of the glory and grace of his Son.

Amongst all the busy-ness as things restart at the beginning of the year, I have our **Strategic Priorities for 2019-21** in view. By the time this report is received we will have launched our ‘**Cross Gathering**’, which is what we’re calling our new cross-cultural and cross-generational service (under the cross of Christ!) that has replaced our 10.15am service. We’re calling it a ‘soft’ launch because in many ways the changes are cultural and will develop over time – though there will also be some observable changes to the previous service taking place. This service will be contemporary in style and in English language, but efforts will be made to make it as accessible as possible to those for whom English is not their first language. We’ll look for ways to celebrate and value diversity. We’re hoping it will provide a welcoming community for 2nd generation Mandarin and Korean believers over time, and for those of other cultural backgrounds for whom we don’t have a separate service. We’re also aiming to make people of all ages welcome, and so the theme of welcoming children was highlighted at the launch. We have a Cross Gathering Advisory Team who will meet regularly to evaluate how the service is going, and to gather ideas to help us continue to go forward in the vision we have for this service. For those who may still be unclear about plans, the 8.30am Traditional English language service is continuing, along with the separate Mandarin and Korean services – and as before we will all come together for a Celebration Service on the first Sunday of the month. Whether you are attending the Cross Gathering or not, please pray that God would use it to grow his Kingdom.

In terms of our priorities to pursue greater community engagement and to invest in the next generation, the **KidsHope** mentoring opportunity still lies before us. I have a file with applications from those who are ready and willing to mentor a child at Roselea Primary School, but what is holding us back is we need a co-ordinator. Actually, as I write this there is someone willing to coordinate, but they want someone else to do it with them. I hear great reports about the impact of this ministry in other contexts, and it provides an exciting way forward as SRE faces growing challenges. Please pray that God would raise up the right person / people to coordinate.

As the year progresses, in terms of keeping Discipleship front and centre, it’s also a priority to invest more into our **Connect Groups**. Margy Ridley has been doing an excellent job rounding up our groups and looking ahead to possibilities. If you are not in a Connect Group, please consider how you can make time in your life for the intentional relationship, bible study, prayer and support that a Connect Group can provide. If you are a mature believer, please pray about whether God may be nudging you to step up into leadership of a Connect Group. We need more people who are willing to allow God to speak to them in this way.

In the midst of all this we face significant challenges. Our Treasurer will be reporting about the **budget** and the shortfall we’ve been hearing about in recent months and the leaders will be able to offer our recommendations about the way forward. The **Safe Church Health Check** is an important initiative from the Baptist Association to help churches comply with new legal and insurance requirements, however it is creating a lot of work in the church office and many of you will have experienced the effect of this in some new and more strict paperwork requirements for our ministries. The reality is this is slowing us down in terms of other things we would prefer to be doing, but we understand the broader context that means it’s necessary for safety and for churches to regain community trust. Please assist staff and ministry leaders as we chase up all the necessary requirements.

This brings us to **prayer** and the efforts of the Prayer Team and Elders to help us grow together in our dependence on prayer. Please take advantage of the new opportunities to request prayer and pray together. Dependence on prayer is about depending on God, rather than our own strength or cleverness – and we need him more than anything else if God’s Purpose and Vision for our church are to be realised. Our own private prayer times are critically important, but so too are those times of praying together.

**Preaching** since November has involved wrapping up our series on *Jonah* and then we had quite a few special services in the lead up to Christmas (Thanksgiving Celebration, a message on Consumption, a Quizworx Playtime invitation service, a visit from Baptist World Aid, a Carols and Nativity service as well as Christmas Day itself). Matthew’s gospel has been the main focus from Christmas onwards, and the plan is to take that right through from the birth narrative to the passion narrative at Easter (and even a little beyond that!). Following this will be May Missions Month and Belinda Lakelin (remember Belinda from our church camp in 2018?) is booked in for the Celebration Service to rekindle our passion for evangelism as we remember that mission starts at home.

Keep an ear open for developments in planning for our **Church Camp 2020** and keep the date free on 11-13 September. I continue to take great encouragement from the selfless way our **staff** and **leadership teams** serve and work together. Kim Poon has most definitely hit the ground running with the Business Manager role and I extend my thanks to Gary Dorey who has been generous in his assistance during the transition period. I continue to serve our wider family of churches through the **Consultancy** ministry and am encouraged that Ian Read and David Tan, and now David Choi will benefit from that training this year. The Hales family are doing well and continue to feel thankful for a church community that loves and supports us.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Hales

## **Church Secretary**

Highlights

1. Current membership is 152
2. Recent baptisms –
	* Chevelle Krumins
	* Chau Yuen Teng
	* Man Ti Zhou
3. Meetings of Church Council members and pastors occur monthly, with many of the teams meeting on regular basis as they plan and deliver against their individual mandate.

Dates for the diary

* 29 February – Men’s Breakfast @ 7:30
* 31 May – Quarterly Business Meeting @ 3:00 pm
* 23 August – Annual Church Meeting @ 3:00 pm
* 11 – 13 September – Church Camp

**Mission Team Report**

Open Doors (opendoors.org.au) helps Christians who are persecuted in places where it is dangerous to acknowledge their faith. In May our Church has the opportunity to financially support their work with a project in the volatile Middle East. We will share their stories and pray for the growth of the Kingdom and the safety of our brothers and sisters in Christ for the hope we share.

During May Mission Month we will hear from those serving locally and overseas. During the recent Celebration Service a long, long list was read out of the service which people within our Church bless us and help to grow the Kingdom of God. Mission is so much more than giving a monetary donation.

In keeping with Safe Churches and accountability all organisations that our Church supports are being requested to provide documentation to the Church Office to protect the children in their care.

It is my hope that the Mission Team grows to be representative of the whole Carlingford Church Community. To achieve this I hope to have a voice from both the Mandarin and Korean speaking communities to join our team. Please see myself or your Pastor if God is speaking to your heart about Mission in our Church.

Karen Read

**Children’s Ministry Report**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

* CBC Strategic Priority – Investing in the Next Generation Update – Committee formed.
* Kids Church Program Update – God’s Vision for Creation and Community
* Kid Church Families Morning Tea – Prayer with Children
* Prayer request
* Children’s Ministry thanks and opportunities

 **Investing in the Next Generation** (Children and Youth) is one of CBC’s strategic priorities for 2019-2021. A small committee has been formed with representatives from the Mandarin and Cross Gathering Communities, including parents and leaders. We would love a Korean representative – come see Dan or I if you know someone who would be interested. The Next Generation Committee has had two meetings since December 2019. The purpose of this team is to explore ways the church can invest in the next generation that go beyond what we are currently doing, taking a view towards the future.

At **Kids Church** this term our theme is God’s vision for Creation and Community. Our lessons will take us through the account of creation in Genesis 1, followed by the Israelites time in the wildness, leading into Easter. We are currently using Scripture Union’s *Light Live* material which encourages children to consider their response to God in the light of the lesson’s bible focus.

Our **Kids Church Families Morning Tea** will be held on the 15th March and our topic will be Prayer. It is a fantastic opportunity for families and kids church leaders to work in partnership as we disciple our kids and encourage faith to grow. Many families have appreciated the opportunity to get together and chat, as well as check out some of the discipleship resources that are available. We pray that this will continue to be a helpful and fruitful part of our children and families’ ministry.

We have had a rocky start to the year with weather extremes, and coronavirus concerns which have significantly affected numbers of children and families attending our ministries. **Please join us in praying that God will be at work** – calming fears, assisting people to make the best choices for their families and helping us stay connected.

This year I would like to thank Jan Pittendrigh who has served in Scripture (SRE) for a significant number of years, and Maureen Borrows who stepping into help out in our creche and rostering for the past couple of years. Both are stepping down this year and will be missed. Many people continue to support our children’s ministries through faithful service and prayer. We would love to have some more new recruits – and there are a variety of ways (& times and days!) to get involved including becoming a leader, mentoring a new leader, morning tea, chatting with families (English, Chinese, Korean and more!) admin support, set up and pack away, playing an instrument. Come and have a chat if you think God might be nudging you.

Yours in Christ,

Emma Ridley

Children’s Worker

**Youth & Young Adults**

 “On a mission to seek and disciple the lost in our generation and to play our part in promoting His justice”

In summary:

* A bunch of our young adults spent the summer at Tanilba Bay and Gerringong Beach missions over the break
* In term 4 2019 youth at The Table looked at the idea of “service”
* Over the long weekend the young adults had a planning retreat for the year
* The new youth program for Carlingford High Christian leaders is to be officially re-launched for 2020
* Please pray for new leaders and for those who are reading the Bible with non-Christian friends

Every year a bunch of our young adults go to different coastal locations to help run beach missions. This year was no exception, and all involved have come back with great stories and excitement to share about what happened at both Tanilba Bay and Gerringong. Please feel free to come and ask about it!

In term 4 of 2019, The Table studied the topic of “service”, looking at everything from ways of encouraging to being a part of regular ministries. The term ended with a lunch for youth, leaders and parents, in which the youth helped to cook and serve! Please be praying for ongoing discussions about how the youth can use their gifts to serve within the church. The topic for term 1 2020 is “Scripture” and we will be practicing different ways of hearing the Spirit speak through his word.

Term 4 also saw the trial launch of a new youth program “Beyond”. Beyond is designed as a leadership development program, run in partnership with Carlingford C3 Church, for a small group of committed Christian kids. This went well with a group of about 6 youth and will be launched for 2020 in a more official capacity.

Over the Australia Day long weekend our young adults had their annual planning retreat. This was held at Greater West for Christ’s training centre and was a great time both for connecting and for getting excited about what God will do this year.

Please be praying for our youth and young adult community, particularly for God to continue to provide the leaders we need for our different programs. Please also pray in thanks and in supplication for the various young adults who are reading the Bible with their friends who don’t follow Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Waugh

Youth and Young Adults Pastor

 **Korean Congregation**

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“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Rome 8:28

1. **Worship events for local Korean young adults**
2. **Starting of New bible study project called “Gospel Project”**
3. **Visiting for Care and Relationship On Febraury**
4. **Worship events for local Korean young adults**

We got a worship event on 26th Oct 2019 at CBC. Praise worship team which named “welove” was Main guest in this time. They are very popular praise team in Korean and wanted serve for Australia nest generation who in Korean churches. Over 270 people gathered in this events and promised keep prayer for their Holy life in Jesus.

1. **Starting of New bible study project called “Gospel Project”**

We have a planning to start new bible study program named “Gospel Project”

It made from southern Baptist union in USA and translated Korean version 3years ago. This series deal with key story from Genesis to revelation. It made from children to adults version so we could share idea or discuss about bible story with group in Sunday school age ,youth and young adults ,adults and even in a family.

Really I hope stable settle it to Korean congregation .

1. **Visiting for Care and Relationship On Febraury**

Many people struggle with many life issue in their boundary. Particularly in Depression of economics many people has sad and difficulties. We need more share and pray as a church and Christian community about it but don’t have enough time and opportunity each other. During a month I will visit to my Korean family home then bless, pray and touch for their real issues and heart.

Yours in Christ

Korean Pastor
David Choi

**Mandarin Ministry Report**

Every day they continued 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 favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (ACTS2:46-47）

1. We are thankful for the baptism of Chao Yuen TENG and Manti ZHOU on 24 Nov 2019 and their testimonies.
2. We have changed the format for traditional Christmas Day lunch. By using nativity and carols we have successfully hosted an evangelical Christmas lunch. Many children and adults were involved and there were good feedbacks.
3. The Alpha course completed on 3rd December. The participants received good understanding of the gospel and helpers have been blessed. Another Alpha course has been planned to start in March 2020.
4. The discipleship training course has completed its second phase.
5. The goal of the mandarin ministry for 2020 is to have 80-90 regular worshippers by the end of the year; more brothers and sisters to participate in cell groups and to be more united in the Lord in seeking spiritual growth.
6. All cell groups will be studying the book of Acts this year. Individual devotions will focus on Genesis. Amy will continue to lead the one-year bible reading program. However, each cell group will decide on the biblical book for a more in-depth study for its members.
7. The focus for first half of year 2020 will be to encourage and equip brothers and sisters to share the gospel. We hope everyone in the congregation will be able to lead another person to the Lord.
8. The cell groups will organize a series of activities in 2020. When the opportunity arises, the mandarin cell groups hope to have combined activities with English and Korean cell groups.
9. Mandarin congregation plans to have a combined fellowship lunch with other congregations in June.

Due to the coronavirus, the Chinese Lantern festival evangelistic celebration was cancelled.

Mandarin Pastor
Nick Song
 **Justice**

## PostCode 2020 event, proposed by Sydney Alliance (SA) / Baptist Churches NSW …a community gathering and discussion. CBC to host one potentially.

* Research, and ministry continues to grow around the Godly consumption. Website for this is [www.consumed.org.au](http://www.consumed.org.au)
* To this end, David Starling is preaching on the topic “An alternative witness in Sydney” with a basis in 1 Corinthians. (Sunday 26 April)
* Catalyst are proposing hosting a morning tea style service to help explore ethical consumption, and another service addressing domestic and family violence.
* Let me know if you want to be involved in any of the above ideas. Next meetings 19 March, and 16 April 7.30pm, location TBC.

Hey all,

Please let me know what areas of social justice you’d like our church to explore. Email me! ☺

adrian.p.miller@gmail.com Also let me know if you’d like to get involved for our next meeting…
Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm (Location TBD).

Renee Evans shared with us in November, on her journey discovering God’s call to steward His creation. This creation, as the Paul stresses, is in groaning (Romans 8:22), and our call to rehabilitate earth can look like paying close attention to what goes in our garbage. **Australians throw out 10kg each of E-Waste every year** (TV’s, white goods, phones, etc). A key driver of this is just our pace and patterns of consumption. www.consumed.org.au is a place where Christians are exploring and challenging our tendency to buy, consume, and dispose thoughtlessly.

But, isn’t that just normal life in these days??

…It does **NOT** have to be this way. On 26 April, David Starling (of Morling College) is preaching from 1 Cor on being “an alternative witness” in a culture like 1st century Corinth…where trade and business shaped the way Christians lived – not scripture. How well does Sydney fare?

The initiative **PostCode 2020** …are events to be hosted across Sydney. SA are **proposing hosting a community gathering** in each postcode, and would love CBC to host for our community.
This would be a listening and sharing exercise, exploring questions like… “what are our lived experiences each week? What struggles? What do we care most for?”
This gathering would put into practice our strategic priority to reach our local community. The gathering would take the form of 4-5 people to a table, and be guided discussion / conversation. Results and findings (from each postcode) will help inform action/s going forward in 2020. I believe this would be a beneficial exercise too in ministering outside our church.

Other ideas we’ve considered at our January meeting were hosting two services this year…one in a morning tea format exploring ethical consumption, and the second service to acknowledge and address the topic of domestic and family violence as a church.

Do any of these ideas interest you?? We want to hear from you, and commission you to research and champion some of this!

Adrian Miller

 **Property Report**

 Areas covered:

 a.) Main Church buildings, b) The Centre, c) Admin. Office, d) Manse, e) Associated grounds, Bus. f.) Items of worship – eg, Piano, Organ, Sound system and AV equipment.

1. Maintenance of Buildings, Furnishings, Fittings, Gardens, Car park, and Drainage systems.

2. Provision of new/updating equipment used to promote the church’s vision statement.

3. Capital Works – Proposed property developments:

 Provision of new & modified property, internal & external.

4. Legal matters, new/updates: Work, Health & Safety, Fire Protection, Health Inspections etc.

**1** a.) **The Church Kitchen:**

 Overall the kitchen continues to work well with plenty of use by the various communities.

 **Cleanliness is a major consideration and requires constant attention by all users. Please Note:** The washing machine **must** use the washing powder under sink and the measure (Spoon) amounts and frequency to follow instructions on the machine.

 b) **Sewage Drainage System (Church)**

 The major works required for the upgrade of the underground piping system has been deferred till April School Holidays when the system will be closed down. Timing to be advised in the Sunday CBC NEWS.

 c) **Sewage Drainage System (Manse)**

 **A** blockage was cleared so the family could continue living in the building, (Unfortunately this occurred over the holiday weekend. Fortunately there were other facilities on the church site.)

 A cleanup was very necessary to make everything back to “normal’.

 A quote for rectification work has been requested from the plumbing company. (The decision to rework this major line was taken in consideration with our in-house Arborist confirming we are able to remove the sizeable tree roots, which have to be removed without damage to the tree.)

 d.) **Grounds & Yards Maintenance**

 Throughout the past dry months it has been a challenge to keep the ground areas clean and free from leaves and red dust. Maintenance in general continues with the behind the scenes work done by able volunteers. Our continued thanks to all Property Team members for your continuing time and effort to keep the properties in great order.

 Our Yard team is always looking for more members. Ladies always welcome. Please contact the office or the writer of your interest.

 A new roster is being developed for the coming months.

 e) **Foyer**

The glass doors are being problematical. Refresh compliance is being considered to rectify the situation/s. Particularly the Northern Doors at first.

 Southern units (Play Area) –Hard to open.

 The Northern units are hard to close and have been found open.

 Before any action is taken a meeting is being held to include discussion of the preceding of the problem and the corrective action needed.

 f.) **Electrical Usage.**

 **All users of the properties**

 Please ensure that all lighting and equipment **is** switched off when leaving the premises. POWER
 IS EXPENSIVE.

 All electrical cords are to be certified for use. Each cord shall be “TAGGED” to verify its compliance. This process is a continuing requirement. Please assist when called upon to provide the equipment.

**2** **Technology Upgrades**

The operation continues with recent advice of NBN, WiFi and Internet works have been carried out. The end result, to have communications contact throughout all church buildings.

**3 Capital Works**

 REFRESH project has moved a step closer by receipt of the Development Application (DA) from Parramatta Council.

 A meeting of DAG has been called to go through the details, which require action, by CBC, including funds required and certifications to be forwarded to the council.

 The church shall be kept informed, as information is available.

**4.** a.) **Statutory Compliances**

 Regular inspections for Fire and Health (Pest) inspections continue throughout the year.

 Certification Certificates are displayed in the church foyer.

 **b.) Work Health & Safety**

Actions are now being put into place to ensure that the church and those persons attending the site are aware of requirements i.e. Risk assessments, and other controls to ensure safe

Milton Purkiss

MTL – Property – Mobile 0412 445 137