

CBC QUARTERLY REPORTS – May 2020

Senior Pastor's Report – May 2020

1. Could this time of change be growing us to be more open to change for the gospel?
2. Changing strategies for the Cross Gathering and Sunday Services, keeping our language groups connected, KidsHope, Connect Groups, Pastoral Care & Prayer.
3. Progress in the Safe Church Health Check and our information management system.
4. Preaching continued in Matthew's gospel and we'll commence 'Just For Starters'.
5. Other miscellaneous updates including things we've had to put aside.

Acts 14:26-27 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Recently our English congregation has seen from Acts 15 how huge it was for the early church to come to terms with the wonder of the new thing God was doing, *opening a door of faith to the Gentiles!* Some found it very difficult to accept and essentially tried to require new believers to become Jews – to become like them. We've thought about how important it is that we don't put unnecessary barriers in the way of the gospel. Another challenge here, is to make sure we don't try to resist God when he's doing a new thing. Most of us would acknowledge we need to be agile and flexible if we're going to be effective at reaching people for Jesus into the future, but churches like ours can find change difficult. Lately, however, so much has changed. It's been an incredibly difficult time in many ways for many people, but one big positive is that we've discovered what we already 'knew' – that the church is more than our buildings and programs – it's us 'gathered' under Christ (even if that's online or over the phone!). Maybe God has provided us with a unique opportunity to grow more into an openness to change for the sake of the gospel. Be in prayer that we'll hear God's voice now and as we emerge from this time.

Looking back at my report from February I found it hard to believe how much things *have* changed. This is not the report I thought I'd be writing 3 months later! I can't help thinking of *Proverbs 16:9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps*. Certainly our Strategic Priorities have taken a different shape at least to what we expected.

Going online including for our **Sunday Services** has been a steep learning curve for many of us and I want to thank all those who have stepped up to make it possible. We've loved welcoming **Riverside** into this time. Some of the developments we would have tried in terms of our new **Cross Gathering** have had to be laid aside for now. However in terms of the conviction that we're better when we come together under Christ in our diversity, this time has been both good and bad. On the plus side the new format has allowed us to cater for the different musical preferences that have been a big factor keeping the two English congregations apart. We're seeing people tune in to our services who normally couldn't due to distance or health. Others who wouldn't be willing to walk through the doors of our church physically, are tuning in online to check us out. These are positives worthy of reflection as we consider our future direction. However there have been obvious losses as well. Nothing substitutes for physically gathering. Those who aren't technologically savvy are missing out. It's been harder to bring our different language groups together.

In terms of coming together across our **different language groups**, Celebration Services have been put aside due to the difficulties doing translation for the online context. The pastors are staying closely connected, however, and we're looking for ways to stay connected more broadly if restrictions continue to prevent us gathering physically. Our 'Silly Hats and Cupcakes' zoom afternoon tea was one attempt at this.

You might have thought **KidsHope** would have to wait for the pandemic to pass, but George Gourlay has

stepped up and taken on the coordinator role with Jane Peng. They've done the training and been working hard on processing the paperwork, training the team and re-opening the connection with the school so all is ready when things open up again. Is God calling you into this amazing opportunity to serve our local Roselea Primary school and mentor a young person?

Connect Groups have become incredibly important for mutual support and connection at this time. Margy Ridley has been encouraging our groups in this and many have taken advantage of technologies like Zoom and WhatsApp, even the telephone, to continue in relationship, bible study, prayer and support. We still need leaders going into the future so please pray about whether God is calling you into this vital ministry.

The **Pastoral Care Team** has attempted to keep a close eye on ensuring we're continuing to care for those facing all kinds of challenges, including Di Copelin's list of those who might not be able to connect online so that they will receive regular phone calls.

Prayer together has been interesting at this time. We want to grow more into prayer and our prayer team and Elders are continuing to lead us into this. While we haven't been able to meet together physically, Zoom has made it easier for more people to join together, for example at our Thursday morning prayer meeting. We've also found the informal connecting over zoom for morning tea on Sundays has facilitated more prayer naturally taking place when we break into small groups.

We've been able to make good progress towards the **Safe Church Health Check** at this time, updating, approving and implementing various policies and procedures. We hope to have signed and submitted the statement required for our insurance cover by the time of this meeting, and to have completed the Health Check itself before too long. Thank-you to all those who have patiently assisted in bringing paperwork and practices up to date.

Thank-you also to Kim Poon and Karon Linder, Emma, Dan, Brendan and others who have assisted in improving our **information management system**, updating to a program called 'Breeze'. This current situation highlighted the importance of being on top of this aspect of church life, especially in terms of communications, but it will have long term benefits for our church.

The CBC **FaceBook** page has been more important at this time, with daily updates being posted amongst other things just as one way of staying connected.

Preaching since February has mostly continued to revolve around Matthew's gospel, including over Easter and in May Missions Month with two messages to inspire and equip us into making disciples from Belinda Lakelin. MMM also focused on Acts 15 'faith not religion'. In June we're planning a series on the basics of Christian living called 'Just For Starters.'

Things we've had to put aside include our **Church Camp 2020** (we've postponed our booking to 2021), also for now **Project Refresh**, our many **programs**, and our **building** is closed for use. Our connection to the **Baptist Association** has been invaluable as they've provided clear and helpful guidance as we've navigated restrictions and facilitated pastors connecting to share ideas and support each other more than I've ever seen. Commencing in the 1 day/week **Church Health Role** has been challenging but rewarding at this time. It's been very busy for all our **pastoral and administrative staff** and I thank them all for their willingness to step up and serve in new and creative ways at this time.

Stay tuned for more information about how we can prayerfully seek God's guidance for our future when we eventually emerge from this time. We want God to grow us through this experience to be better at keeping the important things front and centre both individually and as a church.

Grace and peace,
Steve Hales

Secretary Report – 18 May 2020

In this time of many emails and Zoom meetings, there has been a great deal of information disseminated by many individuals and organisations. Our Association is one of those, and I bring you the following news about our Church and events which were to be held in the coming months.

- All planned member meetings, Quarterly Meetings or Annual General Meeting due before 30 June will be cancelled and/or postponed. A separate letter communicating this news is to be released to the Church and distributed via direct email, website and snail mail.
- The Church Council continues to meet and deal with the matters of Church business. Reports prepared by the Ministry Team members and Mission Team Leaders will be distributed via email and snail mail, as is the usual pattern prior to Quarterly Business meetings.

Should you have any questions in relation to these reports, please direct them by email to either myself (ian_read@optusnet.com.au) or the Church Office (office@carlingford-baptist.org).

In turn, we can respond to you and also make the other Church members aware of the question/response outcome.

- I continue to meet with Pastor Steve on a fortnightly basis to be sure that we're attending to the needs of our Church – to this effect, I advise that we plan to:
 - Hold the half yearly Leaders Retreat on 1 August 2020
 - Plan to continue with the running of the Annual Church Meeting on 23 August 2020
 - Hold over to the ACM, the revisions to the Constitution, which I spoke of last month.

It goes without saying, the ability to hold these meetings will be subject to the information and direction we receive from the Association as we continue to wend our way through the Covid – 19 pandemic.

- By now a number of you may be aware Church Council are seeking to appoint an interim Treasurer (until the AGM). On behalf of the Church, I say thank you to Jonathan Maranik and wish Megan and he the very best for their future. This unfortunately includes a move to an out of area location. If you feel this is an area you are called to serve in, please contact Steve Hales or myself promptly, as we're seeking to close nominations by 24 May.
- A final item for this report, is to say thank you to Betty More, for the time and effort she has expended in her role as Church Elder. Naturally, this means that we're seeking to appoint a new Elder at our August meeting. If this is your calling, then can I encourage you to make contact with either Steve or myself.

There will be a need to appoint a selection committee to undertake this task and I will talk more of that in the near future.

Thank you,
Ian

Mission Report

During May Mission month the community has heard during our online services from the Mission groups that Carlingford Baptist Church supports. H.E.L.P. and Samaritan Children's Home (David Halder) in Bangladesh, Power to Change (Shane Hamilton), some of our SRE teachers, Global Interaction (Muana and Villy) in Thailand, Sydney Refugee Team (Caroline and Karl Hochstetter) represented Mission locally and internationally. The Missions Committee chose Open Doors "Hope for the Middle East" to be the project for CBC to get behind as a place of extreme vulnerability for the faithful. At the time of this report I don't have the figures for how close we came to the goal of \$8000.

In time it is desirable that all members of CBC feel that they have representation on the Missions Committee. There is now greater communication across the community with translation of material becoming accessible due to the efforts of our translators. Thank you to those who are involved.

Children's Ministry Report May 2020

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

In Summary:

- Pray for our families.
Next Gen team met in April. Discussed Children's and Youth program adaptations.
- Kids Church Online available on our Website. Conversations with Oliver and Mei! Video aims to provide links across our church.
- Playtime meeting together on Zoom for craft and sing-a-long.
- Boys Brigade closing down and transitioning to Epping Presbyterian when meetings can resume.
Girls Brigade looking at ways to meet online.
- SRE paused. Schools are posting links to online learning through Christian SRE.
- Kids Hope Aus mentoring program – getting organised for when we can return to schools.

I remember sitting down to write the report for February, and asking for prayer about Coronavirus. It seemed a small thing to worry about, even though it was affecting attendance. Now as we've begun to adjust to reality of life with COVID-19, we've had to rethink how each of our ministries function – how we do faith. As we continue to adapt to meet changing restrictions, it is certainly a time to hold onto our faith, as those before us have in difficult times, and notice what God is doing in our church and community. Please be in prayer for our families during this time.

The **Next Gen** team met via zoom in April to discuss what investing in the next generation looks like in the current climate, and to review current adaptations in youth and children's ministry. Discussion included ways to keep young people connected, including them in worship services and checking in with families.

Kids Church has moved online. At the time of writing our new video segment – **Conversations with Oliver and Mei!** (two puppets) has just launched. This short video aims to build connections between our congregations and age groups by sharing a few of the things that are happening around the church. We are also looking at Mandarin translation options. Resources for families are available on the CBC Website (Service pages) and Kids Church Facebook & WhatsApp groups.

Just before Easter we sent out **Easter with Covid-19 Packs** to each family at church. These letterbox deliveries contained craft, prayer and game ideas. These packs were well received by families and we are planning another letterbox drop – **Pentecost with Covid-19**.

Playtime has moved onto Zoom. We have a small number of families who attend each week. We have found that sending out a link to a simple craft activity in advance has helped to give our kids something to do whilst engaging with this 'artificial' medium. We craft together and show each other what we have been making then settle down for a short story and sing-along. We've also been connecting with our families via our Facebook group, messages and our **Easter with Covid-19 Packs**.

Our **Boys Brigade Company** has closed at CBC. The Boys Brigade Team began the process of transitioning the children and families to Epping Presbyterian Boys Brigade (runs on a week night most suitable to our families). Unfortunately the Covid-19 restrictions came into place during this transition process. Garry McPhee and the team at Epping Presbyterian have provided Boys Brigade resources to the families to engage with at this time. I would like to thank Garry and the Boys Brigade team for their commitment to this ministry over many years.

Our **Girls Brigade Company** at CBC is still planning to continue. Whilst meetings are suspended, Rhonda has been keeping in touch with the children and families. The girls have been receiving devotions, craft activities and projects to work on at home. **Special Religious Education** (SRE or Scripture) has also been suspended. We have been advised that it will not resume until all children return to school full-time. Christian SRE is hosting material for families to engage with whilst learning from home, which schools have placed on their websites.

Kids Hope Aus mentoring program has generated much interest at CBC, we've had 9 mentors sign up so far. George Gourlay has stepped up as our Coordinator with assistance from Jane Peng. George has been working hard to attend training and make sure all our mentors have all the safe church requirements met, so that they can get started once we are able to resume school ministries.

Yours in Christ,
Emma Ridley
Children's Ministry Worker

Youth & Young Adults Quarterly Report – May 2020

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

In summary:

- New young adult ministry leaders doing an awesome job keeping Bible studies and worship going through zoom
- The Table Youth has moved online, with weekly videos and zoom meetings and the use of Discord (chat) and Minecraft (game)
- Carlingford High Ministry continues online with a very small group
- Pray for new youth and young adults to hear about the love of Jesus through our community, and energy for our leaders

God's mission never stops. This has certainly been reflected without the youth and young adult community at CBC.

In the wake of lockdown, our young adults have moved onto Zoom, and if anything, only gotten more creative thanks to the leadership of Em Donaldson, Courtney Patten and Adrian Miller. These three have done an awesome job in taking over some of my (Dan's) responsibilities in light of my shift in role. Weekly studies have continued with the most recent series looking at how God can be seen in popular movies and writings. Worship session have also survived through Zoom, with prayer, instrument and singing (by the courageous).

The church's Table Youth has also moved online, lockdown being a great excuse to work out how to make the most of our technological power. Each week a youth leader has been posting up a devotional video on the church website and our normal Sunday 2:30 meetings have continued (even more regularly than in the past, now every week). In the holidays we held a boys vs girls online game tournament – the girls won without breaking a sweat and received a lolly supply drop in the mail. The platform Discord and a server on the game Minecraft have both also been used to promote greater connections. Please be praying for opportunities to invite non-Christian friends, and for the general building of momentum.

Ministry at Carlingford High School in partnership with C3 Church has also continued, if shakily. Weekly Christian lunchtime meetings have resumed (online), each week alternating between input for Christians, and a game week for the Christians to invite friends along. Pray that excitement builds and more kids join in!

Please also continue to pray for our leaders as they manage the constant changes and try to stay energised!

Yours in Christ,
Dan Waugh
Pastor – Youth, Young Adults and the Cross Gathering

Korean pastor report – May 2020

**Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rome8:39**

1. Finished first sermon series James 1-5 during 16 weeks
2. Transfer to online livestreaming service for Covid-19 issue and well set up
3. Challenge to reading the whole NT through Zoom meeting every Mon to Fri in National cabinet,

I finished first my sermon series about James and it spend 16 weeks for deal with whole chapter. At the Meantime, we shared many idea and insight about our practical behaviors as a Christian and common right things in the biblical view.

As we know for the Covid-19 every church had to change the service way and it made some inconveniences of normal. Everything was not easy and painful but we could learn what a good our normal life and service to God. We could remind our real faith and chat with family more than before. Also in terms of relationship and spiritual growth, I challenge to reading the whole New testament during National cabinet and probably it will keep to at least September. Every mon to fri many people gathering in zoom for read the bible and share a short message. Reaction is good and now we go into ACTS the holy spirit movements. Very exciting.

Yours in Christ
David Choi

Mandarin Ministry Report, May 2020

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John1:6-9)

1. Due to Covid-19, the mandarin Sunday worship service has been streamed live online since end of March using Tencent-Meeting App and Youtube. There were regularly 50 attendees and the feedback regarding the worship service was good. Besides the regular Sunday services, we have also conducted Tenebrae and Good Friday Service online.
2. Australian government has introduced social distancing and isolation measures due to the pandemic. Some young adults have to work from home, look after elderly parents and supervise their children's online studies. These have caused issues in some families. Also, there are brothers and sisters who have lost their jobs and elderly people who lack protection equipment. Hence the Mandarin care group has stepped up their efforts to help resolve some of these family issues so that Jesus love continues to flow in CBC spiritual family.
3. Some cell groups conducted bible studies on Tencent Meeting App. The attendance has increased in numbers and regularity than the usual meetings held in a home location. Devotional materials, daily prayer items are still being sent out as usual. Attendees at online prayer meetings on Thursday night usually exceeds 15 persons.

Mandarin Pastor: Tianxiang (Nick) Song

Justice | May | 2020

- We'll have the opportunity to address key topics including engaging Indigenous Australians, ethical consumption, and domestic and family violence, in different services throughout 2020.
- Please email me if you would like to be involved to help shape any of these special services.
- Prayer points for our church partners in Cambodia are noted below

Action / awareness...

In April, our guest speaker David Starling shared with us about thinking "**from now on**" as Christians, moving through an earthly hardship, showcasing God's love. Paul's charge to the church is to be an alternative witness, modeling counter-cultural justice, being a witness in the present condition of the world (which is passing away) that speaks of hope beyond temporary hardship, or temporary pleasure (1 Cor 7:29-31). As though what we buy, isn't ours to keep...not because it's bad, but because we anticipate a world where there is no short-term joy, and no hardship.

Throughout the second half of the year, we'll be seeking to apply this, and explore some of the topics raised at our previous quarterly meeting. Specifically, how we model consumption Godly ways, how we engage with Indigenous Australians, and how we engage with issues of domestic and family violence. What

kind of witness is God calling us to be in these areas of injustice? If you would like to join conversations planning any of these services, please get in touch.

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Prayer...

A health crisis will almost always affect vulnerable communities across the world more so than ours...there is generally a greater susceptibility to taking ill, less access to health support, and often more trying weather conditions. Our church partners, whom we support, in Cambodia are no exception. We'll hear more about how their ministries and their teams are faring over June. In the mean time, BWA have suggested we could pray for them in these ways...

- Pray for **comfort and provision for families** out of work in this season in Cambodia
- Pray for our **partner organisations to build strong ministries and communication** as they **transition online**. These transitions are to meet government standards
- Pray that **God would display His love through those distributing hygiene kits / supplies**. Ask God would strengthen these workers, and showcase His goodness through them. Pray that great, **worldview-challenging conversations** would come from these ministries, between our partners and those they're reaching out to.

(Partners as a reminder are PNKS, Chab Dai, and Peace Bridges...all involved in training and working with Cambodian communities)

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Property Report for Church Meeting dated 20200531

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.) Sewage Drainage System (Church)

The major works required for the upgrade of the underground piping system has been completed.

b.) Sewage Drainage System (Manse)

Rectification work has been completed.

c.) 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 provided for the coming months. Please continue to attend the site on your nominated date/s.

d.) 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. Volunteers if you provide electrical driven items please assist to provide the equipment for tagging. Contact Ken McGill on 0412 467 755.

2 Technology Upgrades

Further upgrades are on hold.

3 Capital Works

A REFRESH project meeting including the leadership team was held to go through the details, which require action by CBC

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 safety.

Milton Purkiss

MTL – Property – 20200506