

# Annual Report

## 2011

**Look**  
*What God Has*  
**Done!**



UNION  
CHURCH  
佑寧堂



UNION CHURCH  
佑寧堂

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Sunday School

**O God, be lifted up higher than the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.**  
**– Psalm 57:5**

## Pastor's Message

By Greg Anderson

Ever so often God grants a church a year to remember that can only be explained by his grace. 2011 was that sort of year. As St. Paul would put it, "God gave the increase." With a bad economy, key long serving leaders stepping down, and staff changes, few predicted that 2011 would turn out to be one of Unions' greatest years.

God gets the glory, but **THANK YOU** to the best **STAFF** I have worked with in thirty years of ministry, new **LAY LEADERS** that raised our game, and a warm and welcoming **CONGREGATION** that exhibited generosity to an astounding level. May the ministry and momentum continue into 2012!

This report is a celebration in text and pictures of a year in the life of Union. Our Heavenly Father sent his Son to save us and his Spirit to empower us to share that great news. Thank you for allowing our Lord to use you to further his work in and through Union Church. Together, let's look what God has done.

Gratefully,

### TRUSTEES

Geoff Lovegrove (Chairman)  
 Rosanna Chan  
 Alan Law  
 Isabel Morrison  
 Henry Ngan  
 John Nicholls  
 Marga Wulfgram-Ip

### DEACONS

Don Kanak (Clerk)  
 Terri Appel  
 Andrew Chua  
 Ewan Copeland  
 Shlivya Dhavale  
 Don Newlon  
 Edward Payne  
 Hugh Williams  
 Mike Witthoft  
 Catriona Woodrow

### COMMITTEE OF MANAGMENT

Steve Nutland (Chairman)  
 Michael Birley (Vice-Chairman)  
 Doug Caldwell (Hon. Treasurer)  
 Jean de Groot (Secretary)  
 Ronnie Cherry  
 Geoffrey Green  
 Guangjie Hopton  
 Janice Johnston  
 Christine Lai  
 Lily Ng McIntyre  
 Joshua Ng  
 Thomas Tang  
 Anson Wang



# Trustees' Review

By Geoff Lovegrove, Chairman

*The Trustees for 2011 were: Mr. Geoff Lovegrove (Chairman), Dr. Rosanna Chan (from March), Mr. Alan Law, Ms. Isabel Morrison, Dr. Henry Ngan, Prof. John Nicholls, and Ms. Marga Wulfgram-Ip.*

As described in the Ordinance, the Trustees are the body corporate of Union Church. The Corporation holds in trust the property of Union Church for the purpose of a church: for the public worship of God; for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the principles and usages of Protestant Christians; for the sole object of spreading the knowledge of Christ; and for the instruction of children and adults; provided always that the Church shall accept as its primary standards the Word of God as witnessed to by the scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments, the Trinitarian Doctrine of the Christian Faith and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The day-to-day function of the Trustees is to oversee the management of investments Union Church is fortunate enough to possess, thanks to the foresight and good management of our predecessors.

The church has two main investment funds: the General Fund and the Three-Quarter Century Fund. There are no restrictions on the use of the former; however, there are on the latter. The

Three-Quarter Century Fund was established shortly after the First World War, about 75 years after the foundation of the Church, and any income or capital can be put only towards specified expenses and outgoings connected with maintenance of the church's ministry. In effect, the Three-Quarter Century Fund is the investment set aside to ensure that we can continue to employ a Minister should we ever be unable to pay our way.

At the end of 2011 the market value of the General Fund was approximately \$12.02M made up of about 55% equities, 36% bonds and 9% cash. The Three-Quarter Century Fund was valued at approximately \$6.84M comprising about 56% equities, 34% bonds and 10% cash. The General and Three-Quarter Century Funds showed losses of about -12.4% and -11.9% (net) respectively; that is, about 1.9% and 1.1% poorer than the benchmark based on the year end split of Hong Kong equities, bonds and cash. The two funds gained about 75% over the past 10 years.

In overseeing the management of the Church's investments during 2011, the Trustees note the following:

- The aim of the church's investments is steady growth and income.
- The funds are managed by HSBC Global Asset Management (Hong

Kong) Limited. During the year the Trustees analysed the fund managers' performance over the past five years and concluded that there is no need to change the status quo at the present time.

- The funds are invested in bonds and reputable companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Trustees saw no reason to change to other forms of investment during the year.
- The Trustees revised the investment guidelines in September from 0-70% in equities to 0-80%; and from 30-100% to 20%-100% in bonds and cash.
- The performance of the General and Three-Quarter Century Funds was considered poor when measured against a benchmark based on the year-end split of investments. HSBC explained that this was due to equities underperforming during the first half of the year (even though they recovered during the second half) and the fact that the number of bonds held in the portfolios is very small compared to the number represented in the Hong Kong bond index.
- The Trustees continue to consider it unwise to make substantial foreign currency-based equity investments with the attendant risk of currency fluctuations. The investments include a small amount of cash in US\$.
- The Trustees aim to ensure that funds

are invested ethically.

The Chater (Union Church) Endowment Fund is an endowment fund that is too small to be managed alongside the General and Three-Quarter Century Funds. Invested in HSBC shares (with a small amount of cash), the Fund was valued at approximately \$76,000 at the end of 2011 showing a loss of about 24% on the year. A payment of \$2,000 was made from the Fund to Committee of Management which, in accordance with the Fund's Deeds, is responsible for the use of any income.

The Trustees continued to address an issue concerning one of the leases from Government under which Union Church owns its site; and, with appropriate professional assistance, brought the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.



Marga Wulfgram (right) in Bawing Village

# Deacons' Review

By Don Kanak, Clerk

*The Deacons for 2011 were: Mr. Don Kanak (Clerk), Mrs. Terri Appel, Mr. Andrew Chua, Mr. Ewan Copeland, Mrs. Shlivya Dhavale, Mr. Don Newlon, Mr. Edward Payne, Mr. Hugh Williams, Mr. Mike Witthoft and Ms. Catriona Woodrow.*

Last May, Simon Ng, passed the baton as Clerk of the Deacon's Court to me. Simon deserves great thanks for his outstanding service as Deacon's Clerk for a number of years, and I appreciated immensely the time he took to help me prepare for assuming the duties as Clerk. During the year we welcomed Ewan Copeland as a new deacon and offered prayers and thanks for the faithful service to Andrew MacGeoch, who elected to take a sabbatical from the Deacons Court to focus on other Kingdom works. It has been a great pleasure serving with them and 8 other active deacons (Terri Appel, Andrew Chua, Shlivya Dhavale, Don Newlon, Edward Payne, Hugh Williams, Mike Witthoft, and Catriona Woodrow), who together with Pastor Greg and Pastor May, meet monthly for prayer, deliberation, and encouragement of each other, and who work with various Union ministries to support our fellow servants in Christ.

The Deacon's Court is charged by the Church Ordinance to be "responsible with the Minister for all matters relating

to the spiritual welfare of the Church".

"Spiritual welfare" is manifested in many ways, some seen and some unseen. I believe that Union's spiritual blessings have been abundant during the past year. With gentle and loving encouragement from Pastor May, Union has a growing vibrant Small Group Ministry, an increasing number of baptisms of both young people and adults, and a steady stream of new members, who have made the commitment to become active in the life of the Church. Our growing Youth Ministry, outstandingly lead by Kristin and Kyle (with the support of Deacon Mike Witthoft) has made Union a magnet for youth and is recognized in the community as an awesome core strength of Union. Union's young adult ministry, with the new Oasis service, offers great potential for fellowship of young Christians and outreach to non-Christians, in a stage of life that can be stressful and baffling without a spiritual anchor and friends who are living in "the light". The *Summer Spiritual Refreshment* series had over 80 enthusiastic participants this year. I could go on, the extraordinary worship music led by Chris Yorks, a committed Prayer Ministry, an enthusiastic and engaged Missions Team which wants to engage the whole congregation to become a "missions-oriented church", and so forth. While statistics cannot tell the

whole story, the growth in the number of people attending worship and the various programs mentioned above are reflective of the power of the Holy Spirit, and of the tremendous talent and dedication of the best team of pastors and staff that I have ever had the privilege of serving with.

As we look forward to the future in faith and seek to extend God's kingdom, there are important matters still on the agenda for the Deacons, the Committee of Management and the Church as a whole. This year, there has been strong co-operation between the Deacon's Court and the Committee Management, and I want to thank Steve Nutland for his efforts in making that possible.

The Joint Meeting of CoM and Deacons remains active in search of an Executive

Pastor to help Union's organization catch up with its growth. That growth, especially noticeable if you are participating at the 11 AM services in the main sanctuary or the U-Café, means that we are now outgrowing our existing church facilities. The discussion about "Building for the Future" began again at the Joint Meeting in November, and there should be an update on the thinking at the AGM.

My hope and prayer is for the support of all members of the congregation, both individually and as a Body, to pray for unity of purpose and commitment to continued spiritual growth of one another, so that Union Church will continue to flourish as a beacon for God's Kingdom in 2012 and beyond.



Deacon's Meeting

# Committee of Management Review

By Steve Nutland, Chairman

*The Committee of Management for 2011 were: Mr. Steve Nutland (Chairman), Mr. Michael Birley (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Doug Caldwell (Hon. Treasurer), Ms. Jean de Groot (Secretary), Mr. Ronnie Cherry, Ms. Geoffrey Green, Ms. Guangjie Hopton, Ms. Janice Johnston, Ms. Christine Lai, Ms. Lily Ng McIntyre, Mr. Joshua Ng, Mr. Thomas Tang and Mr. Anson Wang*

The past 12 months have been another year of blessing and growth for Union Church. We have seen continued increases in attendance, in membership, in small groups, in worship, in youth, in children's ministry, in volunteering and in financial giving. The church building has been used more extensively than ever before! Since starting the midweek Oasis service, we have 5 regular worship services each week. We have seen an increase in the number of weddings and funerals, and of course Men's Fraternity, Alpha, Recovery, Marriage Course and many other wonderful groups and courses all continue to operate fruitfully at Union Church.

With so much growth in so many areas, the major challenge for the CoM remains the management of our facilities, specifically finding the right balance between effective upkeep of our current site and exploration of ways we could make more efficient use of our existing

buildings, while considering other longer term options.

In terms of property improvement this year, the most significant change has been the development of an access point to the "Upper Court", our property adjacent to St. Paul's. This fantastic addition will give us some much needed flexibility in terms of space requirements, particularly on Sunday mornings! We have also overseen improvement to the "Upper Room" to create some valuable office space, and we re-laid the church lawn with a durable and user-friendly artificial surface. A huge thank you to Rosanna Chan and the property committee for all of their dedication and hard work!

In terms of I.T, the church has made some significant steps into the 21st century, but we still have further room for improvement. The upgrading of the AV systems and the new screens in the sanctuary, the lobby and the fellowship hall have all proved very popular and have helped us to improve our communication. We have some great ideas to improve this further in 2012 – watch this space!

Of course the CoM could not operate effectively without our fabulous staff, under the leadership of Pastor Greg. This year we have welcomed several key members to the staff in ministry and administration, and I am convinced we

now have a fantastic team in place. A big thank you to everyone for your efforts this past year and for displaying such a wonderful team spirit!

I would also like to express my thanks to the Deacons and the Trustees with whom we have worked closely on many issues this year. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work beside you all as we try to support the work the Lord is doing at Union Church.

The Committee of Management itself welcomed 11 new members this year. It

is a testament to the dedication and hard work of each member that the CoM was able to operate effectively and efficiently in the past 12 months. Personally, it was a great honor to have served as Chair, and I would like to thank everyone involved for their efforts. As we look forward to welcoming several new members to the committee, it is also time to remember those who are standing down for a well deserved rest! Thank you for your partnership and your commitment! CoM looks forward with anticipation to all that the Lord has in store for us at Union Church, in Hong Kong and beyond!





# Encourage

By May Tsui and Ministry Team Leaders

I often ask visitors, “Where is your emotional home?” as an icebreaker question during our welcome lunches. People usually share the different countries they have resided and the place that captures their heart. And one visitor replied, “Union Church is my emotional home!” This is encouraging. He had worshipped with us for only a month and he felt that Union was a home away from home.

We aim to provide a welcoming and encouraging community where individuals come to know the biblical Jesus; experience the grace of God, and love as Jesus loves.

God is gracious. In 2011, we had 18 adult baptisms and 10 youth baptisms, accepted 27 new members compared to 17 the year before, and the small group enrollment increased from 300 to 340. Through the Pastoral Care/Fellowship Ministry, Small Group



Opportunity Fair



Fellowshipping



Kickoff BBQ Sunday

Ministry, Recovery Courses and Prayer Ministry we reached out, encouraged, and ministered to individuals where they were in their season of life.

**Fellowship/Pastoral Care Ministry** welcomes visitors and helps them integrate into the life of the church. At the beginning of the term in September, we welcomed the congregation with a **Kickoff BBQ Sunday** serving supersize hamburgers and hotdogs. Both adults and

children had a great time reconnecting with each other after a long summer vacation, and the church was ushered into a new term celebrating God’s goodness.

To empower and release people into ministries, an **Opportunity Fair** was also held. Ministry opportunities were introduced, and individuals were encouraged to identify, develop, and use their spiritual gifts.

As food is a great way to foster connectivity and interaction, we eat together often. Monthly **Welcome Lunches** were served after worship



Thanksgiving Lunch

services. Visitors who had joined us for worship in the last months were invited to welcome lunches. Many new friendships were formed as visitors met other visitors and members of the church.

We also had “**Dinner for Eight.**” Families opened their homes for people to meet as a small group of eight in cozy home settings.

At **Easter**, we served hot cross buns and breakfast casseroles to more than 400 people. We have come to be known as a friendly church with food.



Easter

The highlight of the year was the **Thanksgiving Lunch and Dinner.** After the morning services, the lawn was converted to a beautiful ground with a carving station serving turkeys and hams, and a full buffet line serving international foods. The evening service worshippers did not miss out. We

## Encourage

had a delightful sit-down, candlelight Thanksgiving dinner. As we shared table fellowship, we recounted God's blessings and stood in awe of our gracious Lord.

A new initiative this year was an intergenerational overnight **Church Retreat** held in March. About 140 children, youth and adults joined this retreat at Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp in Sai Kung. Guest speaker, Rev. Glenn McDonald, used Luke 14 to inspire us to "Go after Jesus; changing the way we do church." We all left the retreat convicted to be disciples of Jesus to practice "maximum grace and maximum obedience."



Church Retreat

We also organized a **trip to Israel** for the second year where 28 of us attended a three-day Mt. Carmel Convocation in Haifa taught by David Davis and Peter Tsukahira, followed by a tour. It was a powerful trip as we traced the footsteps of Jesus at the shore of Sea of Galilee, to the infamous Via Dolorosa, and onto the prayer walk on the Temple Mount.



Church Retreat

We also worshiped with Arab Christians in both Haifa and the Old City of Jerusalem. It was exciting to learn about the innovative ministry of Cross Media which broadcasts over the internet to the Arab population worldwide. The trip was led by Dennis & Guangjie Hopton and Steve & Hannah Miller. It was an intriguing study of a mix of cultures and faith developments, and we were all challenged and transformed.



Israel Trip

## Encourage

**Small Group Ministry** seeks to encourage and nurture believers to become disciples and disciple-makers. We encourage everyone to join a group, so that everyone is cared for, and no one cares for too many. We have 22 groups with an enrollment of 340 under the leadership of 58 group leaders. This does not account for people in Adult Christian Education, Men's Fraternity, Alpha, choir, praise and worship team, and others who function as small groups by worshipping, loving, learning and serving together.



Israel Trip

Through fellowship and pastoral care, we met people where they were and walked alongside those who were weary physically and/or spiritually. We sent cards, visited people at homes and hospitals, offered prayer, and provided counseling. The Family in Need Committee also offered practical help. It is a joy to see individuals standing back on their feet once again as they experienced the love of God and their church family.



Small Group: Middle-C

During Lent, we had a Small Group Campaign where we listened to the New Testament in 40 days founded by **Faith Comes By Hearing**. Some small groups could not wait for their weekly gatherings and created virtual small groups to share their reflections of daily reading through Facebook. It was a time of growth and renewal.



Faith Comes By Hearing Campaign



## Encourage



Small Group - Red Group

Another highlight of small group ministry was the **Summer Spiritual Refreshment** where individuals were welcomed to gather at church for a meal, teaching, and group discussion. We did John Ortberg's study *Becoming God's Best Version of Me*. A record high number attended this year, the Fellowship Hall was packed with about 100 people each week. Some were regular small group attendees, others came and had a taste of small groups. We learned that the best version of me is not to be the 'me' I



Summer Spiritual Refreshment

think I should be, but to be fully alive inside and growing. Out of the Summer Spiritual Refreshment, new leaders were trained and new small groups formed.

Small group ministry continues to provide coaching to the existing leaders, train new leaders, and launch more groups to meet the needs of the different segment of the congregation.



Young Adult Small Group

**Recovering from Divorce and Separation Course** ran in the spring and autumn this year. Each course runs for seven Thursday evenings and had a total of 20 guests who attended. The course provides individuals who have been or are going through divorce or separation from a long-term relationship with support. Through a series of talks and small group discussions, we equip them to cope with and ultimately move on from trauma that divorce brings to individuals and families. This course meets a growing need that has often been neglected and is also a great way to



3-in-1 small group study

reach out to the Hong Kong community. I would like to thank the team: Michael Birley, Jan Johnston, Anne Sawyer, Marissa Danao and Pearl Chan for their time, input and care.

**Prayer Ministry** team's vision is to see the prayer life of Union Church mature into a natural desired and shared activity, under-girding every aspect of individual and church life. Throughout 2011, we have been encouraged by God's faithfulness through many answers to prayers through the church prayer chain and intercessors network. These faithful servants spend hours on their knees to cover the numerous prayer requests received via emails and written notices from our congregation and friends worldwide.

On Sunday, the prayer ministry team is available as requested to pray before and after services for congregants in need.

## Encourage

We remain convinced that the Holy Spirit desires to work in the lives of our congregation through as we pray for one another.

The Tuesday Morning Prayer Meetings have been faithfully attended by a core team! The monthly prayer meeting is under re-evaluation, as - praise the Lord - many activities are now also taking place on Wednesday evenings in the life of our church family.



Prayer

In the fall, we began Saturday morning prayer sessions for training and extended prayer and listening times with Abba. The first one was very well attended and the Spirit of the Lord blessed us as we interceded for each other, Union Church, the city of Hong Kong and the region. These sessions will be continued throughout 2012, as our church enters a new phase of congregational life.

# Educate

By Ting Guevarra-Small, Kristin Franke and Ministry Team Leaders

*"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." - John 14:21*

Education ministries at Union Church exist to teach God's Word to believers of all ages, from infancy to adulthood. Through Sunday School, Youth ministries, the Library, and Discipleship ministries, God's Word is taught and proclaimed, so that Christ will be glorified in hearts and minds!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It was an eventful 2011 for the Children's Ministry that saw God's truth and love taught in creative ways both in and out of the classroom, forming strong faith foundations for our children.

Our **Sunday School**, made up of thirteen classes every week, provides



Sunday School

quality Christian education to around 140 students between the ages of 2 to 10 years old using the Scripture Union curriculum. Our staff-manned **Crèche** is open during all our morning services



Playgroup

as a comfortable and loving environment for a dozen babies. The **Playgroup** conducts seven sessions each week, reaching out to over 80 toddlers through an adult-accompanied program based on experiential learning that promotes Christian values.

Our children also enjoyed the calorie-filled, fun, **Pancake Party**. We played games, read a story, took a quiz, cooked and did many fun things all about pancakes! In March, the Xtreme Adventures conquered the **Rock Climbing Wall** with more than 20 of our tweens (8 to 10 years old) reaching higher grounds.



As the whole church participated in the 40-day Faith Comes By Hearing campaign, our children had their own program using the audible **Kidz Bible**. In the summer, we had a blast at the **Crocodile Dock VBS**, with over a hundred fearless children, including guests from the Inner City Ministries, shining God's light through songs, skits, crafts, snacks, games, stories and lessons. In October, we opened up the Barnyard for the traditional **Hallelujah Party**, where praise-makers of all ages and costumes came to play games, enjoy snacks, get their face painted and even get tattooed! Several families from our Playgroup joined the fun, too.



Hallelujah Party

# Educate



Musical, "It's A Party"

We had a month-long celebration of Christmas, beginning with the lyrical telling of the Christmas story by around 100 children in the **musical, It's A Party**, which was followed by a super-fun birthday party for Jesus. We also honored our volunteers by presenting gifts prepared by the children on our **Teacher Appreciation Day**. We closed Sunday School for the year with our **Christmas Fair**. The year was packed with much joy and love pouring from the servant hearts of many volunteers and parents who not only ministered to our children but to our staff.

Exciting initiatives by Jane Towns, Jennie Purvis and Faith Cheng, stable leadership from Don Newlon and Jan Johnston, and Chris Yorks stepping up to the plate, steered us through the year and through transitions that welcomed our new team- Elza Wong as Children's Ministry Intern, Judy Hon as Playgroup Leader, and Ting Guevarra-Small as Children's Ministry Director.



## YOUTH MINISTRY



Union Church's U'th Ministries exist to develop lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ who love God with all of their hearts, souls, minds, strengths, and who love their neighbors as themselves. In 2011, we were blessed with a multitude of new adult volunteers who came on Friday nights to share their lives, faith, and love with the students. We were also blessed with an increase of youth attending our regular Friday night programs, many of whom were invited by classmates and friends. In April, 22 students and 6 adults traveled to Bacolod, Philippines with International Care Ministries to serve the poorest of poor through working on house construction and visiting community members. In May, 15 students made commitments of faith through baptism and confirmation on Youth Sunday. Kyle continued to work with and develop the youth worship team, with over 20 students involved



Youth Mission

with the team. U'th Sunday School continued to grow at the 9:30 service, and the class was split in half for the fall. We look forward to 2012 and the way that God will continue to work and move in students' hearts and lives. We invite you to join the exciting journey of faith that our students are upon!



Youth

## LIBRARY MINISTRY

The Library marked its 10th Anniversary in April 2011. It evolved from the humble beginnings of a book table in the 1980s to a book mobile (in loving memory of the late Rev. Dennis L. Rogers) to a library. The ministry team marked this joyous milestone with a celebration bash.

Under God's divine wisdom, each Book of the Month throughout the year focused on this church's themes or world events for each particular month, and they were:

January: *The Principles and Power of Vision*; February: *The Church on its Knees*; March: Personal Bible Study Methods – 12 Ways to Study the Bible on Your Own; April: My Cup Overflows; May: Israel at the Crossroads: Fifty Years and Counting; June: The Life that changed My Day; September: The Five Love Languages of Children; October: Thank God it's Monday; November: Look at what God is Doing; and December: You matter to God



The Library Ministry's Book Club did a study of the book, *Blessings and Curses: the Key to Lasting Change* by John Visser, senior pastor and author. What started out as a book discussion, turned into an in-depth study of the material to be absorbed - one chunk at a time. The author provided his 'unpublished' study questions, and the book club is working on providing feedback as to how the book can relate to the Asian culture. The group has taken time to pore over the questions together with the added biblical references, self-analysis, and applications in life. This book is very rich in content, based on true-life stories of people in USA and Canada and their different coping mechanisms stemming from their childhood experiences; and how healing can take place. It is a must-read for any parent, along with those in the education, medical, parish and counselling professions.



Library

# Evangelise

By Greg Anderson, Chris Yorks and Ministry Team Leaders

Union Church was founded in 1844 to “win men [and women] to faith” and to assemble together “in divine worship.” **Witness** and **worship** remain the key components to the way we work at Union. The witness has been especially effective and the worship divine.

## WITNESS

Union members again sought to be faithful witnesses in Hong Kong, China and indeed throughout the world as they came into contact with those needing Jesus Christ in their lives. We seek to equip people to share their faith wherever God has placed them — be it with family, friends, or colleagues.

Major programs such as Alpha and our Missions Committee are ways that Union more formally shares the Christian faith. You can read about them in the following paragraphs.

How are we doing? The evidence is in, and 2011 was a fantastic year for people to meet Jesus Christ through the faithful members of this congregation.

The small group growth indicates that many found a way to witness by inviting friends to their small group. People being invited into small group came to have a personal relationship with Jesus and obeyed Him by following Him into the

waters of baptism.

The young people really lead the way in witness with the Youth numbers increasing dramatically over the year. Many of the Youth were also baptized or confirmed, showing spiritual growth through attending the Youth meetings. Alpha, Walk to Emmaus, the Marriage Course and Recovery from Divorce and Separation continue to encourage people that having a personal relationship with Jesus is the best way to find grace and peace in their lives.

## ALPHA

In 2011, we started Alpha Courses in April and October once again, and we were very fortunate to have Pastor Chua Wee Hian lead the sessions on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. In all, about 50 guests completed the course this year, and it has been exciting to see lives being changed, new friendships being made, and broken relationships restored through experiencing the Holy Spirit. In particular, it has been very encouraging to note that some guests have gone on to receive baptism, some have started “Alpha in the Workplace” in their offices, while others have started a small group, or become more involved in church activities.



New courses are planned for next year and the most effective way to encourage new guests to attend an Alpha Course is by way of a personal invitation. Moreover, if the host also attends, then the guest is most likely to complete the course.

I would like to thank our Core Team members, group leaders and helpers, taskforce members and church staff who have all contributed so much to the success of Alpha this past year. Finally, we thank God for his faithfulness and give Him the glory for all He has done.



Alpha Weekend in June 2011

# Evangelise

## MISSIONS

Union has a strong heart for Missions and it shows in its giving. More than 6 million dollars was provided by the congregation in support of regional outreach ministry as well as locally here in Hong Kong.



Morgan Jackson of Faith Comes by Hearing visited Union on numerous occasions to share how the Gospel was being presented orally via the “Proclaimer”, allowing people to listen to the Scriptures in their native tongue. Five Proclaimers were provided to General Santos, Philippines in both Cebuano and Tagalog dialects. In the spring of 2011, English language MP3 players were given to all the high school and college graduates enrolled in the Bawing Scholars program.

Dr. Peter Lim of the Outreach Foundation spoke twice this year at Union and shared with us how China is opening up to the Gospel message and how Union might



play a bigger role in the PRC.

The Nutland family really moved forward our ministry involvement in Cambodia raising funds for two orphanages that allowed for roof repairs and new playground equipment for the children. Missions Outreach also provided funding for a new water purification system to be installed, bringing some much needed fresh water, installing new pumps, as well as solar panels to provide essential electricity that powered the water pump and lighting – dramatically improving life at the Phdau Penh orphanage.



Youth Mission

The ministry at Bawing Alliance Evangelical Church in General Santos, Philippines continued to strive forward with the UC congregation sponsoring 63 high school and college students this year. A new ministry was put in motion at Bawing with livelihood projects in

conjunction with Heifer International – Manila where we established 6 quail farms, sent out one tuna fishing boat, and assisted a ladies sewing circle that made high quality purses and tote bags that were offered for sale at Union Church. The ultimate goal of the livelihood projects is to set the Bawing community on the path of self-support.



Bawing

And Union Church people are not just sharing their finances! They are going to serve and share God's love to others face to face. Over 60 different individuals have traveled to Bawing, Philippines over the years and our visits continued in 2011. We also sent teams to Cambodia, China, Mongolia, and Israel.

For Missions Outreach, this was a year of change with our first full year together as merged ministries of Missions and Community Care. Several of the team members of the two ministries went

through an extensive consultation with Asian Charity Services (ACS) to help better develop a UC Missions vision and make the transition more seamless.

2011 saw an increased budget of \$1.9M which was mostly divided evenly between local and international outreach. Ministries directly supported by Missions Outreach included Inner City Ministries (KLN), St. Barnabas (HK), Chun Tok School (HK), Home of Loving Faithfulness (NT), Alpha Course (HK), Youth Outreach (HK), HK Christian Kun Sun Association (prison ministry), Heifer International, Foursquare Children of Promise (Cambodia), Bawing Church (Philippines), International Care Ministries (Philippines), Cebu Children's Shelter (Philippines), International China Concern, SALT (PRC), Outreach Foundation (PRC) and support for several of our missionaries: Rayners (Kazakhstan), Dhavales, Hudsons, and Anna Rees.

Broad support from the congregation was shown for Faith Comes by Hearing, Cross Media internet Arab broadcast media (Israel) and Chung King Ministries in TST. For 2012, we are looking for tremendous growth in working with orphanages in China, Cambodia and the Philippines and making a greater impact on the Muslim community across Asia.

## WORSHIP

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. (Psalm 95:1-2)* And we did! I have much to be thankful for in 2011. It was a year of growth and blessing for Union's music ministries with many new faces and initiatives. Thank you all for your support and inspiration this year!



Chris Yorks - Worship Director

## WORSHIP SERVICES

The **8:30 AM Communion Service** is in its second year and continues to bless a committed group of members and guests who are nourished on a weekly basis. This service is a joy to work with in its weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The **9:30 AM traditional service** goes from strength to strength thanks to Forrest Morr, Janice Lo, and our gifted Choir. Another prosperous year as new members were welcomed with open

arms! The sense of community and commitment is nurtured through the common goals of worship and excellence in music.

The Advent cantata continues to be a highlight with the presentation of *Night of the Father's Love* complete with a beautiful video background this year!



Christmas Cantata

Another Christmas highlight was our first Jazz Carols and Candlelight service on Christmas Eve. It was well-received by a full church complete with a jazzy upright bass.

Our **11:00 AM Contemporary Service** continues to grow and increase with new singers and players. Our worship leaders and team of volunteers have blessed us with new songs and inspiration to boldly worship God. We were pleased with the addition of new television screens to the sanctuary. This was well worth the time and effort involving three months of



Sunday Contemporary Service

loving commitment and labour! Thanks to the AV team, CoM, and maintenance people for making this possible. Our worship experience has been greatly enhanced as a result. We also enjoyed Union's second annual **Children's Christmas Musical, It's A Party!** About 130 children and volunteers were involved to help make this a success for the Glory of God. Thanks to all our musical volunteers at Union. We welcome all to share their time and talent



within our music ministries!

**Music Makers** continues to grow with new children and volunteers! We have fun with all aspects of music and worship. We also learn about music and notation using rhythm instruments, choir chimes, and just about anything else that will bring the joy of music to our children. This includes singing and voice training. You'll be experiencing more of our Music Makers in 2012!



Music Maker

The **U-Café** service meets simultaneously with the 11:00 service in the Fellowship Hall. Lead by a gifted team of musicians and coordinators, the attendance has increased, averaging around 120 people on a Sunday. The

Word of God was presented in the form of new Bibles, a welcome addition! Many thanks to the generous spirit of our members and friends. U-Café would not be possible except for the efforts of volunteers bringing together technical aspects, music, creative design, and the beautiful food and fellowship provided for all who attend. May U-Café continue to thrive in the year ahead.



Worship - U Cafe

The **6:00 PM Evening Service** continues to be led by gifted teams of musicians and worship leaders. It is featured as our contemporary evening service. This service ministers to all ages and walks of life. With an average attendance of 60 people, it is an integral worship service for Union Church. Food and fellowship continue to be important aspects of our 6PM service thanks to the ministry of Pastor May and her team.

We are grateful for all our instrumentalists and singers who share their time and talent to the glory of God. If you sing or play an instrument, we welcome you to join us in 2012!



## OASIS - YOUNG ADULTS

In September 2011, a mid-week program was launched with the mission of connecting young professionals to God's Word and to each other. Oasis thrived as a fellowship through the fall, and had great momentum to start 2012. During the fall, we heard series on "The Grand Essentials," "The Four Loves," and "Life and Calling." Many thanks to Adrian Lai who helped with the original planning and vision for Oasis, and to Joshua Ng and the committee of volunteers that have stepped forward to lead Oasis into 2012.



Oasis

## FILIPINO MINISTRY

This year we baptized 9 new believers, 14 were trained for evangelism; we shared the Gospel with 42. Out of that 42, 2 were Christians (assurance), and 2 did not accept. 7,500 gospel tracts were distributed.

- 3 Praise Team members moved to another Country
- 4 leaders returned to the Philippines
- 1 leader moved to Russia

### Bible Studies:

There were about 50 that attended Bible Studies every 2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday. We finished the Study on 1 Peter: Walk the Talk, 40 Days Faith Comes by Hearing, and How to Handle Money before It Handles You.

### Shelter Ministry: (Ruth's place of residence)

From Monday to Friday, a ministry place is open for those who have off-days during the week for the study of the Word, prayer, counselling, and a place to rest. It is a place of refuge for those members of the Fellowship who have lost their jobs and others who are in need. Usually the stay is 14 days until they find another employer. It is also a place for recovery from sickness. In October, we had a lady with cancer who stayed for two weeks for recovery from her surgery until I helped her home to the Philippines.



Filipino Ministry

Thank God for His provision that she is responding well to the chemotherapy treatment. She and her family now attend the Christian Church in their Subdivision.

### Chinese New Year Conference:

217 attended the 3-day Conference with the theme "Strengthening Our Grip on God". God used a Mother-and-Daughter Team in bringing attendees to a fresh encounter with God. It was a time of "FUN, FOOD and FELLOWSHIP" for all.

## PREACHING

Our Senior Pastor, Greg Anderson, preached most Sundays (36), with Pastor May (8) and Pastor Chua (1). The books of Joshua, Colossians, and Luke were covered. Guest preachers included Morgan Jackson (Faith Comes by Hearing), Earl Palmer (University Presbyterian Seattle), Glen McDonald (Zionsville Presbyterian Indianapolis), Tim Davis (ELIC), Tony Read (Vine), and Michael Lindsay (Gordon College). John Witte, Jr. (Emory University) and Sam Tsang (Hong Kong Baptist Seminary) were both Legge Lecturers and preachers.



Pastor Greg



Pastor May

# Administration

## PROPERTY

**By Rosanna Chan and Property Committee**

The Lord has once again blessed Union with tremendous growth this year. As a result of this growth, there is increased demand on our church premises. We are grateful to the Lord for His provision and protection as we try to meet all these needs. To do this work, the Lord has given us good people, both in the form of volunteer church members as well as outside contractors, who have worked with a loving heart for His church. I do not cease to be amazed at how He has solved very difficult issues in ways that were beyond our imagination so we can save on cost and time.

The most noticeable project this year would be the installation of artificial turf in the old lawn area. It had become obvious that it is almost impossible to maintain viable growing grass in that area with the high traffic during the week and the lack of sunshine. With the new lawn, the area can be used all the time without fencing off for growth as with natural grass.

Another big project was the re-possessing of the playground behind our church and providing access to it. It is equipped with lighting, electrical and water supply. At present, it is being used as a playground for our Youth but there are

plans to put in two temporary marquees to provide much needed classrooms for the Children's Ministry. Investigations into the feasibility and cost for this is underway.

Other smaller improvements include the renovation of the front office to accommodate more staff, the addition of some security measures around the premises and repairing cracks and repainting of the Sanctuary which was carried out after the upgrading of all the A/V equipment. Upgrading of the space next to the Upper Room to create more space is being carried out at the moment.



*New Lawn*

With a property this age, a significant amount is also spent on its maintenance and replacement of old equipment. We have had to replace many of the rattan seats on the pews, replace some old dehumidifiers and heaters as well as part of the Sanctuary air conditioning system. We have had some purchases of new furniture for the expanding of Children's Ministry, extra chairs for Sunday and

meetings as well as some office furniture for increased number of staff.



*Upper Courtyard Tent*

Looking forward, there will be some new challenges, like our drainage system which is over 30 years old. Blockages are occurring more frequently. As several portions of the main sewage drain runs under some parts of the building, it will prove very expensive and disruptive to do a major replacement. Recently we have made some repairs to the more damaged sections. This will hopefully save us from having to do a major replacement. Condition of the exterior walls to the rear of the building is also a concern. Repairs for these two areas could be quite costly.

We look forward to the new challenges of 2012, trusting firmly in His guidance and provisions.

## STEWARDSHIP

**By Thomas Tang and Stewardship Committee**

Union Church continues to amaze with the generosity of its people. During this year's stewardship drive in November, existing pledges increased by a third and a number of new givers added their names to the list. This is particularly heartening not just from a spiritual perspective but also in view of the economic challenges facing several of Hong Kong's business sectors. We thank all those concerned who gave with a generous heart and we give special thanks to Lily Ng, Charles Caldwell and Ken Chiang for their powerful testimonies during stewardship month.





# Human Resources

By Greg Anderson and Human Resources Committee



2011 was the changing of the guard for the Human Resources Committee. After many years of service, Charles Caldwell stepped down and Christine Lai took over, helped by a proactive committee of Deacons and CoM members.

There were a host of staff changes as Union continued to develop and grow its professional ministry team. Jane Towns was a dynamic interim Children's Ministry Head and Jennie Purvis was the Sunday School Coordinator. Faith Cheng worked with Jane to redevelop a Playgroup that exceeded all our expectations. Will Pritchard served as a half-time Missions Director. We thank all of them for their ministry with us and are grateful that all remain active in Union as volunteers. Special thanks goes to Pastor Chua for his ministry with us.

In 2011, God brought some amazing new hires to Union. On the administrative front, Cynthia Fong, in a few months, has shown us the value of having an efficient church manager. She has done a wonderful job of coordinating our outstanding custodial staff: Winnie Yuen, John Tam and Andrew Koo. Josephine Lee, Zarifa Li, and Jessica Mak have joined forces with Cynthia to give an administrative bandwidth, which has enabled the program staff to thrive.

After an extensive search, Ting Guevarra-Small was chosen as our new Children's Ministry Director. She comes from a background in banking and is a recent seminary graduate. She has rebranded the program "Kingdom Kids". Judy Hon joined us as the Director of the Playgroup. Judy has raised the bar even

higher; the parents are thrilled and some families have come to the church through this ministry. Elza Wong, our Children's Ministry intern, has done a wonderful job during the transition of leadership. She has been much more than an intern.

This year Union grew substantially in attendance and budget. The percentage of money going to staff salaries continues to go down, even as our head count grows. The HR committee is most appreciative of the willingness of Chris Yorks to help with Children's Ministry, May Tsui with Playgroup, and Kristin Franke and Kyle Koster to staff the booming Oasis program as well as youth. We are so fortunate to have a fine staff. Take a moment and thank them - even better, volunteer in their ministries.

Special thanks are due to Perry Lam, who volunteered time to "onboard" new staff members and gave tests that helped the staff team understand themselves and their teammates, which has paid amazing dividends in morale boosting. Not every staff has their own executive coach.

We also thank Bianca Tsui, who did three jobs in 2011. Besides being the Executive Assistant to the senior pastor, she served as acting church manager and wedding coordinator. The fact that we now have a Wedding Coordinator, Anita Au, to manage the weddings

with Cynthia, shows what a major ministry this has become. Bonnie Yan has done a magnificent job as Business Administrator. In 2011, she began to provide the support for funerals that Bianca and now Anita do for weddings.

Building on a strong foundation, there are search committees looking for an Executive Pastor and a Missions Director.

The HR Committee exists to support and guide the professional staff as they seek to partner with Union members to do the work God has for us. We are thankful for pastoral, program, administrative, and janitorial staff for their commitment to Christ and to Union.



Perry Lam

# The Union Church Team

By Cynthia Fong and the Union Church staff



NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Senior Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Greg Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping the diverse parts of Union united</li> <li>Head of staff</li> <li>Primary Preacher</li> <li>Represents Union to wider community</li> </ul>
Associate Pastor	The Rev. May Tsui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcomes and integrates visitors into the life of the church</li> <li>Nurtures believers to disciples</li> <li>Provides pastoral care and prayer support.</li> </ul>
Worship Director	Mr. Chris Yorks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designs and coordinates worship services</li> <li>Serves as Worship Leader and support to volunteers</li> <li>Directs children's music and instrumental activities</li> </ul>

NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Ting Guevarra-Small	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for programs for children between 0 to 10 years old</li> </ul>
Creche Manager	Ms. Adele Yip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for the care of babies under two years old on Sundays</li> </ul>
Children Ministry Intern	Miss Elza Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Children's Ministry and Playgroup</li> </ul>
Playgroup Coordinator	Miss Judy Hon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles all matters related to playgroup, from lesson planning to classroom teaching</li> </ul>
Youth Director	Mrs. Kristin Franke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Ministry Programming</li> </ul>
Senior High & Youth Worship Director	Mr. Kyle Koster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High School Youth Programming</li> <li>Youth Worship Band</li> </ul>
Youth Ministry Intern	Miss Lindsey Moosey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relational ministry with youth</li> <li>Assists with Youth Ministry events</li> </ul>
Filipino Ministry	The Rev. Ruth Tablada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor for the Filipino Congregation.</li> <li>Provides counseling, Shelter-Pastoral care, and discipleship</li> </ul>
Church Manager	Ms. Cynthia Fong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church operations supports &amp; supervision</li> <li>Oversees church office administration &amp; event co-ordination</li> </ul>
Executive Assistant	Ms. Bianca Tsui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant to the Senior Pastor</li> </ul>
Business Administrator	Ms. Bonnie Yan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles church accounting matters</li> </ul>
Administrative Assistant	Ms. Josephine Lee Ms. Zarifa Li Ms. Jessica Mak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General administration &amp; church operations support</li> </ul>
Wedding Coordinator	Ms. Anita Au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-ordinates wedding booking &amp; arrangement process</li> <li>Facilitates ceremony arrangement on wedding day</li> </ul>
Janitors	Ms. Winnie Yuen Mr. Andrew Koo Mr. John Tam ( Yau )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take care of the maintenance &amp; cleaning of the church compound</li> <li>Perform &amp; maintain the overall church housekeeping duties</li> </ul>

*The church members would like to take this opportunity to thank the Union Church Team for their diligence and hard work during 2011.*



# The Union Church Family

By Greg Anderson and the Union Church Staff

## 18 ADULT BAPTISMS

1. Bansal, Viveck
2. Chen, Annie
3. Cheung, Benjamin
4. Fong, Cynthia
5. Greilach, Chelsea
6. Lee, Edwina
7. Louey, Silvana
8. Ong, Seng Yeow
9. Or, Samantha
10. Poon, Helen
11. Sham, Fiona
12. Tam, Trevor
13. Tong, Joyce
14. Wong, Lucy
15. Woo, Rick
16. Ye, Rachel
17. Yeung, Michelle
18. Zhang, Shawn



Adult Baptism

## 5 CHILDREN DEDICATIONS

1. Chan, Naomi
2. Huang, Sebastian Kai
3. Jeyarajah, Eliana
4. Peterson, Willa
5. Watt, James

## 5 CONFIRMATIONS

1. Honarvar, Peter
2. Lawson, Grace
3. Tam, Sebastian
4. Van Honk, Samantha
5. Whitehead, John



Children Baptism

## 10 YOUTH BAPTISMS

1. Caldwell, Lewis
2. Chua, Samuel
3. Funabashi, Rina
4. Funabashi, Yuya
5. Lee, Konrad
6. Louie, Tiffany
7. Wan, Hollie
8. Weathington III, Kerry Dale
9. Wong, Sami
10. Wu, Geraldine



Youth Baptism

## 15 CHILDREN BAPTISMS

1. Hickman, Matthew William
2. Jahns, Isabella
3. Jahns, Rafaella
4. Kim, Gabrielle
5. Kim, Joshua
6. Leung, Ethan
7. Leung, Kaden
8. Luxton, Ella
9. McKittrick, Kara Cayce
10. Pomies, Hugo Adam
11. Rea, Aaron
12. Tan, Joy
13. Tan, Yi
14. Van der Walt, Nicolaas
15. Wong, Jaden



Children Baptism

## REGULAR ATTENDEES LEFT HONG KONG

1. Chan, David
2. Curry, Scott, Kiyomi, Sean & Hannah
3. Feinberg, Alex
4. Heap, John & Wendy
5. Louie, Dodo, Juliette, Tiffany & Johnny
6. McCracken, Jonas & Tabetha
7. Peterson, Matthew, Monte, Finn & Willa
8. Pittman, Steve & Lisa
9. Scardino, Robin
10. Sprunger, Andrew
11. Tan, Sin Lei
12. Van der Walt, Heleen, Anri & Nicolas
13. Wan, Kenneth, Anne, Katherine & Audrey
14. Winslow, Jon, Nellie, Chloe, Jack & Kate

## 80 WEDDINGS, 4 ARE MEMBERS

1. Aaron Pan & Priscilla Yee
2. Eric Fung & Crystal Lo
3. King Chau & Cynthia Fong
4. Kenny Pun & Macy Wong

## 27 NEW MEMBERS

1. Chau, King
2. Chiang, Christine
3. Chiang, Kenneth
4. Copeland, Evelyn
5. Copeland, Ewan
6. Hageback, Niklas
7. Harris, Helen
8. Harris, Richard
9. Hertel, Gina
10. Ho, Citrine Pei Jin Ho
11. Kim, Katherine
12. Kim, Steven



Member Induction

13. Liu, Kelvin
14. Lu, Therese
15. Mrozinski, Matthew
16. Pong Hsing, Yen Hua Rita
17. Pong, Kam Keung James
18. Sawyer, Anne
19. Small, Michael
20. Small-Guevarra, Ting
21. Tam, Catherine
22. Teng, Andrew
23. Webb, Christine
24. Webb, David
25. Wong, Catherine
26. Yee, Michael
27. Yung, Marlene

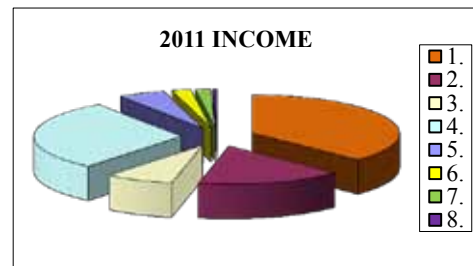


# Treasurer's Report

By Doug Caldwell

Union Church has been blessed financially during 2011 through the generous giving of those who support our church mission and worship God through giving of their time and money. Despite tremendous global and local financial turmoil, giving to Union Church was over 40% higher than 2010 – especially giving through Friends of Hong Kong. Combined with increased utilization of the sanctuary for weddings and funerals, the overall funds flowing to Union Church were 19% higher than planned.

<b>2011 INCOME</b>	<b>Amount (in HK\$)</b>
1. Pledge offerings	5,481,063
2. Weekly offerings	2,356,924
3. General Donations	1,103,233
4. Donations via FOHKC	4,370,425
5. Others - Wedding services, net	761,545
6. Others - Funeral services, net	307,203
7. Others - Playgroup, net	245,824
8. Other income	72,683
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,698,900</b>



Spending was overall lower than planned for much of 2011 as staffing expenses were lower than originally expected. Over the year, the higher-than-expected giving and lower staffing expenses allowed the CoM to commit an additional HKD 500,000 to missions, HKD 1,187,827 to a reserve for potential medium-term building needs, allocate an additional HKD 402,744 to improve the property, and save HKD 1,166,886 for a time when either funds run lower or God calls on Union to give to a specific mission. The additional funds to improve the property included stairs and fencing for the Union land retrieved from St Pauls school, installing artificial grass to make the courtyard more functional, and renovations to the upper annex.

The overall spending of the church for 2011 breaks down as follows:

- Staff expenses (45%)
- Missions/community care (13%)
- Ministries of the church (7%)
- Property (5%)
- Other, including savings (30%)

Normally other spending and savings would not be as large as shown here, but the giving and other income was much higher than expected and the CoM decided to increase the Missions budget to a level that could be reasonably allocated and then save for a time when it is more clear how best to spend or further give the funds to support the mission of Union Church. It is not a normal expectation to have such high savings in a year.

In addition to the giving directly to Union Church, HKD 4,112,347 was given as special offerings or pass-throughs to other ministries. Of these special gifts, the largest were in support of the following Union approved ministries:

Faith Comes by Hearing	HK\$1,019,855
Support for Missionaries	HK\$848,994
Arab Ministry	HK\$549,615
Bawing Scholarship in Philippines	HK\$218,000
Orphanages in Cambodia	HK\$116,050
World Vision – Japan Earthquake	HK\$151,847
World Vision – 30-Hour Famine	HK\$87,097

There was one accounting change that increases the net surplus for 2011 by approximately HKD 200,000 which relates to accrual of the giving to Friends of Hong Kong as income when it is given rather than when it is received by Union Church 1-2 months later.

The CoM always works to balance ministry “in the walls” and “outside the walls” as well as to be good stewards of the funds and property given by former and current members. We want to be responsible to everyone that gives while working to maximize that giving for the glory of our great Lord. It is not always simple as there are more needs than we can clearly meet, but we trust God to help us balance and prioritize the use of funds. We continue to look forward to the expansion of God’s kingdom through the faithful giving of His followers at Union Church.



# A Brief History

By Greg Anderson, David Bunton, Brooke Himsoworth and Geoff Lovergrove

Union Church was founded in 1844 by the Rev. James Legge, a Scottish member of the London Missionary Society. Then known as Union Chapel, the first building was constructed in 1845 on Hollywood Road. An English service was held in the morning and a Chinese service in the afternoon.

Legge served as pastor from 1844-1867 and from 1870-1873. He began translating the Chinese classics into English. His translations are used to this day and still in print. He was a major figure in early Hong Kong and the founder of the very first government school (now called Queens College). The Legge Lectures have been named in memory of James Legge.



*Rev. James Legge*

In 1866, Union Church relocated to a new site on Staunton St. near Hollywood Road and Lyndhurst Terrace. It was called “the handsomest building in the colony.” Dr. Legge returned to the UK in 1873, where he became Oxford’s first professor of Chinese.

In 1890, the church was moved stone by stone to the present Kennedy Road site. Meanwhile the Chinese service became a sister church, Hop Yat, which has produced over 1000 daughter churches. Union’s only daughter church is Kowloon Union (1924).

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during WWII saw the forced closing of Union. The events surrounding its total physical destruction remain a mystery. (The most intriguing thesis is that it was used to rebuild Government House—especially the Japanese tower.)

The survivors began fund-raising and the existing fellowship hall was built in 1949, then used for worship until the sanctuary was finished in 1955. The education annex was built in 1970 and later named after the 1977 death of the Rev. Dennis Rogers, perhaps the most significant 20th century Union pastor.

Since the handover in 1997, Union has changed from a predominately European

expatriate congregation to a church that is 60% Asian. Union has gained a reputation for strong lay leadership and launching new ministries (Alpha, Emmaus) that have greatly blessed the wider community.

Gregory Anderson, arriving in 2007, is Union’s 21st pastor. May Tsui is Union’s 2nd associate pastor; Ruth Tablada is the 2nd pastor to the Filipino fellowship.

Union has gone from a ministry of the London Missionary Society to an independent congregation. Three boards govern the church: The Deacons Court, Committee of Management, and Trustees. A charter member of the Hong Kong Christian Council and active in the Network of International Churches, Union faces the future with a firm sense of its founding charter:

We differ in small matters, we agree in great realities.  
We trust that we are one in Christ Jesus. We all love him  
Who died for us. On the fact of this great unity, our  
Union as a church is based.

-James Legge 1849



*Union Church on Hollywood Road (1845)*



*Union Church on Kennedy Road (2011)*

# Acknowledgment

We praise God for blessing us with:

**Cynthia Fong, Zarifa Li, Bianca Tsui and church staff**, without whom this report would not exist;

**Kristin Franke**, without whom there would be many mistakes in the report;

**Brian Woo**, for artistic brilliance;

**Patrick Wong**, who captures the heart of the church family in his photographs.

We also give grateful appreciation to **all Ministry Team Leaders** for their contributions to this report.

Thank you all.

Jean de Groot  
(Honorary Secretary)





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