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"What you do is your history, what you set in motion is your legacy."

Leonard Sweet

Scripture describes the church using organic metaphors—a body, a flock, a family, and a tree. Each image suggests life and growth.

In 1985, we planted a simple seed: RHCCC was to be "a church for the unchurched." What began as a ministry to Hong Kong immigrants has grown into something far more expansive than we could have imagined. Like a tree extending its branches, we grew naturally–first in Cantonese, then adding English ministry in 1992 as our children grew up, and Mandarin ministry in 1998 as new immigrants arrived.

Our story isn't just about what we've done-it's about where God has placed us to do it. In Scripture, location is never





accidental. Just as Abraham was called to a specific land and Esther was positioned "for such a time as this," our location in Toronto is divine strategy.

Consider Toronto today: It is a city where 190 languages are spoken; where 250 ethnicities are represented and where half the population is made up of visible minorities. It is also a city where there is a great need for the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel.

This reality shaped our 2020+ expanded vision:

"We exist to build up the whole person to bless the whole world."

We desire to build up our people toward full maturity so they can bless our city and beyond. Like all living things, when they are healthy and whole, they grow and reproduce. If we consider a church as a tree, what kind of tree is RHCCC? Many people might see us as a BIG tree with a lot of fruit! But perhaps God is asking us to consider another way of seeing our church. Maybe we should see ourselves as **an orchard**. An orchard is formed when the seeds of one tree spread to other areas and grow up to be little trees – to bear even more fruit.

What's the value of an orchard? It covers more land! Our vision is to saturate the city with the love and mercy of Jesus so that every person has repeated opportunities to see, hear, experience, and respond to the gospel. This is a season when we will BEGIN to see God unlocking the potential of the local church to a greater extent than ever before.

We pursue this vision by helping our people understand and live out the five biblical purposes based on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission:

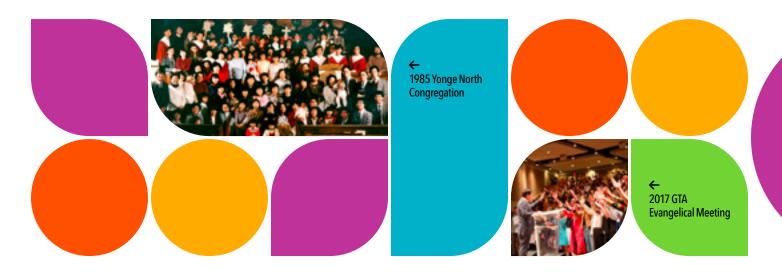
- Centering life around God (Worship)
- Connecting with believers (Fellowship)
- Cultivating spiritual maturity (Discipleship)
- Contributing through service (Ministry)
- Carrying God's message (Mission)

As you journey through these devotions, you'll explore the intersection of destiny and legacy—where God's calling meets our faithful response.

Just as God positioned our church in Toronto with purpose, He has positioned you within Toronto with purpose. These devotions will help you discover your part in this greater story.

Rev. Dr. Ho-Ming J. Tsui Lead Pastor





Foreword

Recalling 40 Years of Blessings From Our Lord

Psalm 67

All our opportunities are ahead of us, but the lessons to be learned are in the past. Recalling the "past" is the foundation for welcoming the "future".

If we can Recall Thoughtfully God's patience with us over the years and the mission He has entrusted to us...

If we are determined to Recall Thankfully God's provision and protection at every moment and name them... If we will decide to Recall Trustfully God's continued presence, promises and powerful support... we will surely see new opportunities, receive new blessings, and be better able to fulfill our gospel mission:

"so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. 4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity, and guide the nations of the earth." (Psalm 67:2,4)

What are we to Recall specifically, first on our own life and then the life of our church?







1987 Yonge North Congregation

1990 Phase I Construction



Recall God's Blessings

"The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything." (Deuteronomy 2:7)

Recall the Miracles

"Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." (Deuteronomy 4:9)

Recall The Tests and **Disciplines**

"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." (Deuteronomy 8:2)

Recall The Lessons

"Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the Lord your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; ... But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the Lord has done." (Deuteronomy 11:2,4)

Recall The Leaders that had shaped us to be Christ-like

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:7-8)

The destiny of your life and the destiny of our church depend on whether you are willing to Recall the past and Resolve to possess the future God is ready to bless you.

> Rev. Dr. Sam Chan Founding Pastor



Purpose Driven Healthy Church



1992 Come & See Jesus Campaign



2018 Reasonable Faith Seminar with Dr William Lane Craig



Foreword

Dedication to Serve God with a Team Spirit

Exodus 17:8-13 recounts an old incident in the story of the Israelites, yet the dynamic in this story remains anew after many centuries. Moses was the top leader whose helpers were Aaron and Hur working side-by-side with him. As he held up the staff of God, he prayed and exercised the authority of God. But when Moses felt tired, his hands dropped and so he no longer held the authority of God to intercede for the operations going

on below. Only when Aaron and Hur assisted him did failure turn to victory.

On the other hand, Joshua - another leader under Moses - led his frontline workers to fight against the warriors of the Amalek. Moses wasn't doing the fighting, but Joshua was. Just like our present-day administration structure and titles, Moses was the First and Joshua was the Second. It is interesting that the First did his job, and the









2018
Children Choir
Christmas Carol



← 2019 Toronto
Purpose Driven
One Day Conference



2022 Summer Fun Day

Second succeeded. Alternatively, if the First failed, the Second would fail also. It takes teamwork to make the whole operation successful.

In our day, many think they can be the First while only few would like to be Second. The Second place just doesn't seem valuable. However, in God's Kingdom, all are valuable in His eyes, including Moses and Joshua.

We are all different parts of one body working together (Romans 12:3-8). We are to be good stewards of this body (1 Peter 4:10). Whether we are strong or weak, we can contribute to this body (1 Corinthians 12:4-31). Jesus in John 12:24b taught that we can be fruitful only when we die to our self. John the Baptist also testified to this principle when he said: "He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less." (John 3:30)

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our thoughts and behaviors which he teaches us through the Word so that our actions may reflect that of Joshua, Paul, Peter, and John the Baptist. May we live to make His Name great and succeed in glorifying God in all that we do. Amen.

Rev. Simon Wong

Senior Associate Pastor (1985-2012)

40th Anniversary: Planting Hope, Always

The Lord has blessed RHCCC for the past 40 years! At RHCCC we continue to learn what it means to be a generous and gracious community of faith. The 40 Days Campaign is neither an event on our calendar, nor a program. It is a Spiritual movement, Awakening and Revival. It is a Spiritual movement in which by faith we ask the Lord to come and take us to the next level - the level our lives are called to be at. It is about getting back to fulfilling the purpose that the Lord has originally set for His church - the Kingdom Plan.

We invite you to experience the transformative power of community as we cultivate a deeper connection with God and each other. As we journey together through these 40 days, we'll discover the joy of sharing the Good News with our neighbours as we bless our community by living out our faith and sharing it with those around us.

We thank God for the opportunity to connect with you and share this journey of hope within these pages!

4 Initiatives to Bless the Community

During this campaign, we urge you and your small group to participate in one or two of the initiatives below. These are small steps that RHCCC can take to contribute to our community.

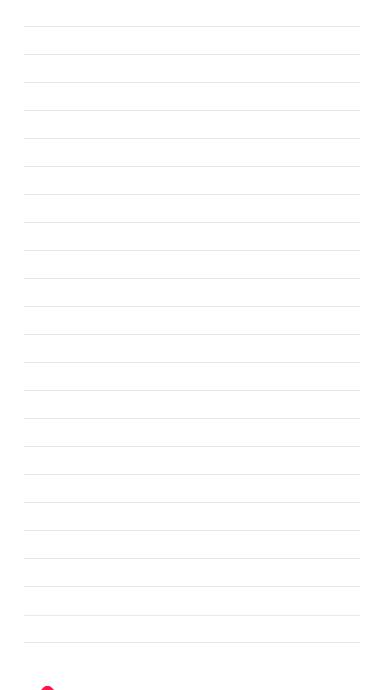
It is an opportunity to BLESS our city. It is not just about the gifts. We are to Pray for and Bless those who receive these gifts.

It is an opportunity to Stretch Ourselves. We learn not to think about ourselves first. We learn to make sacrifices. We learn to love when we are uncomfortable and inconvenienced. We learn to put aside our own agenda.

It is an opportunity for us to Trust in God. Trust in His provision and His lessons in making these offerings in terms of money and materials.

It is an opportunity for Something More. RHCCC participation is part of the bigger picture. We propose a list of blessings to crawl, walk, and run in 2025 and onwards. Participants are encouraged to take a small step based on their passion and ability. Each participant will not be alone in these challenges. Ask your small group to join together.

To learn more and gain access to our 40 Days Campaign and its related content, please visit our website at: **rhccc.ca/40th.**





Planting Hope, Always

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Isaiah 49:6 ESV



Hope is as essential to our spiritual life as water is to a garden. Yet like tender plants facing harsh weather, our hope can wither under challenging circumstances. In today's reflection, we'll explore why we lose hope, how God restores it, and how He expands our vision beyond what we could imagine.

In Scripture, we find five common reasons why God's people lost hope:

1. Indifferent Response: When we share God's message and meet apathy, our enthusiasm can fade.

"Their ears are closed so they cannot hear." (Jeremiah 6:10)

2. No Visible Fruit: Sometimes we labor faithfully but see no immediate results.

"I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is no cluster of grapes to eat, none of the early figs that I crave." (Micah 7:1)

3. Opposition: Facing resistance and hostility can drain our hope and courage.

"Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head." (Psalm 69:4)

4. Failure: When our efforts seem to fall short. disappointment can overwhelm us.

"My days have passed, my plans are shattered." (Job 17:11)

5. Discouragement: Even the most faithful servants experience seasons of spiritual exhaustion.

"I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all." (Isaiah 49:4)

God's Response: A Masterclass in Hope from Isaiah 49

1. Remember Your Calling: God reminds us that our service isn't a random assignment but a divine calling from before birth.

"The Lord called me from the womb..." (Isaiah 49:1)

2. Embrace Your Unique Design: God has specifically equipped you for your mission. Your gifts, experiences, and even struggles are part of His design.

"He made my mouth like a sharp sword..." (Isaiah 49:2)



3. Focus on God's Glory: Our ultimate purpose isn't success as the world defines it, but to reveal God's glory.

"You are my servant... in whom I will be glorified." (Isaiah 49:3)

4. Acknowledge the Struggle: God doesn't dismiss our discouragement but meets us in it.

"I have labored in vain..." (Isaiah 49:4-5)

5. Receive a Bigger Vision: When we feel our work is too small or ineffective, God expands our vision!

"It is too light a thing..." (Isaiah 49:6)

Consider the transformation of vision in our context. We started with a specific focus – reaching one community or generation. But today, God is expanding that initial vision. RHCCC is reaching new communities, and generations to become a church that reflects the makeup of our city.

Y Reflection

- 1. Examine Your Hope Level: Which of the five hope draining factors are you currently facing?
- 2. Return to Your Calling: Reflect on how God called you to serve Him. Write down specific moments when you felt His clear direction.
- 3. Look for the Bigger Picture: Where might God be expanding your vision? What opportunities are at your doorstep that you hadn't considered before?

Take time today to write down your original vision for serving God. Then, prayerfully consider: What bigger vision might God be showing you? What new communities or opportunities are within your reach that you haven't noticed before? What new dream might God be giving to RHCCC? Remember: God often uses our moments of greatest discouragement as launching pads for greater vision. When you feel your work is too small or ineffective, listen carefully -God might be preparing to expand your horizon of hope.

Y Prayer

Lord, when our hope withers, remind us of our calling. When our vision shrinks, expand our perspective. Help us see beyond our immediate circumstances to Your greater purpose. Like Isaiah, may we move from discouragement to a bigger vision of Your work in the world. Give us eyes to see the opportunities You're placing before us, and courage to step into them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Purpose-Driven Community Here WE are to live out God's purposes

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10

Devotional

Richmond Hill Christian Community Church has long been known as a church whose mission has included helping others learn what it means to live a Purpose-Driven Life in Christ. However, we should never forget that we are not just individual followers of Christ, but also those saved to be a purposeful community together.

In the letter to the Ephesian church, the apostle Paul reminds his recipients of their communal identity. In the same way, he reminds us today that Christ is the foundation of our identity. Whether Jew or gentile, Cantonesespeaking, Mandarin-speaking, English-speaking or whatever ethnicity, culture or preference – we are called to unity in Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul reminds us, especially in the 2nd chapter of Ephesians, that God saved us from sin to be a community with a specific purpose. There is no doubt that each of us have our own giftings and calling in life, yet in so much of the New Testament writings, Paul urges us as a community. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

During this 40th anniversary, let us not forget that God not only saved each of us individually, but He saved us for a purpose together. To do the good works as a community we could not do as individuals. Part of our identity as a Purpose-Driven Community is to continually seek God's direction together in prayer and discernment, so we can do the good works He has prepared in advance for us to do!

Unity, not uniformity: Ephesians 4:11 reminds us of the different roles each person can play in the church. We should not raise up one role or gifting over another. To do the "good work" God has planned for us to do, we should learn to recognize how each person has a role to play in the Kingdom. Unity does not mean we are all the same, but it means we each contribute uniquely while humbly learning to submit to one another under the lordship of Christ.

Live out the Purposes in Community: Many at RHCCC know of our commitment to the 5 Purposes: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Mission. Many of us do live out these purposes individually, but prayerfully consider today what it means to live these out with godly purposes alongside other brothers and sisters.

Let us not become weary in doing good: If we're honest, doing good works all the time can become wearisome to even the best of us. There's a temptation to stop doing good to others simply because we get tired, or maybe we even think we're doing good but have a "Saviour Complex". Let us remember to hold fast to Christ, He first loved us. That should be the foundation of how we can lovingly do good to others.

Reflection

Consider your own life and community: What has been the hardest part about being in this church community? What has been the best memory in community? What are the "good works" you are looking forward to doing together at RHCCC?

May we continue to strive to be the community and family that Jesus died and rose again for us to be. Let us learn to love sacrificially and do good to one another.

Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of community and that you have blessed us with your family. Honestly speaking, we do not always get along with everybody, even those in your church family. But we pray for a deeper understanding of your word and a deeper understanding of your grace, so we can be ministers of grace and love to others around us. Lord, we ask that you continue to form us, and remind us that we are your handiwork, created to be a Purpose-Driven Community under the Lordship of Christ. Bless us to be a blessing to many others, for your Kingdom's sake. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.









Worship and the Willingness to Surrender

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

► Matthew 16:24

Y Devotional

As we celebrate 40 years of God's faithfulness to RHCCC, we pause to reflect on what it means to truly follow Jesus. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus calls us to a life of surrender – an invitation that promises a blessed adventure yet also an unwavering commitment. To follow Him, we are asked to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and submit to His leading. This isn't merely about sacrifice for sacrifice's sake; it's an invitation to trust and lay down our plans, desires, and ambitions in exchange for a life entirely devoted to Christ.

True worship is not just about the songs we sing or the prayers we offer; it is the daily decision to lay down our lives and submit everything we are - our hearts, minds, souls, and our bodies - to God. Worship involves the willingness to surrender control and trust in God's providence and plan. When we bring all of who we are to God in worship, we embody the very surrender Jesus speaks of in this passage. It's a reminder that discipleship is not just about belief but about action, a wholehearted offering of ourselves. It calls us to remember that Jesus, too, fully surrendered his life to the Father.

As we commemorate this special milestone in the life of our church, let us reflect on how we can grow deeper in our surrender to Christ. How might God call you to take up your cross this season? What areas of your life - your time, gifts, and resources - must be offered in worshipful surrender? Our 40 years as a church have been marked by God's provision and grace. As we look ahead, may we con ourselves to continue following in obedience and worship.



Y Reflection

Take a moment to consider what "taking up your cross" means for you. Is there an area in your life that you've held back from God? How can you use that area as an act of worship and surrender to Him?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for creating us to be your disciples. Teach us what it means to truly follow You, to surrender our lives daily in worship, and to trust You with every part of who we are. Help us take up our cross with joy and humility, knowing that You will lead us into a deeper relationship with You. As a church, may we continue to be a community of worshipers willing to surrender all for the sake of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ook ahead may we commit	
ng Christ, laying down our lives	

Gathered and Scattered

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20



As we worship together, we are reminded that the Gospel is central to who we are, both as individuals and as an RHCCC community. Worship is not limited to when we gather in this building; it extends beyond and into every aspect of our lives. We gather in God's presence to remember and celebrate His faithfulness. Then, we are called to scatter into the world and live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. To love God and to love others. To share the Gospel, bring people into the family of God, and be discipled through the Word.

When we gather, we are reminded of our unity in the body of Christ. In our worship, we proclaim the greatness of God, lift each other up in prayer, and align our hearts with His mission. But worship is not just what we do when we are together; it is also the fuel for how we live when we are sent out. Jesus calls us to "go" -to scatter into our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities, reflecting His love and truth to a world that needs it.



This rhythm of gathering and scattering is at the heart of our church's mission. For 40 years, we have gathered to worship, and we have scattered to serve. As we look to the future, we are reminded that our worship of God propels us outward, to be His hands and feet in a world longing for hope.

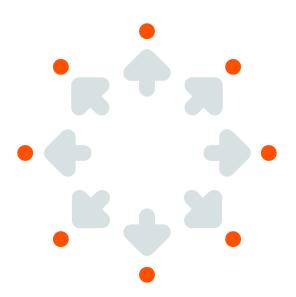
Reflection

How does my time in gathered worship fuel the way I live when I am scattered into my daily life?

Where is God calling me to "go" and share His love with others, both near and far?

Y Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we're truly grateful for 40 wonderful years of Your faithfulness to our church family. May our hearts come together in joyful praise and surrender as we worship. And as we venture out into the world, please guide us to carry Your light and truth wherever we may go. Empower us with Your Spirit to embrace the Great Commission and live in a way that beautifully reflects Your love. We seek Your guidance and strength as we joyfully continue to serve You and make disciples in the years ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen.



The Hope we have in Christ

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

Y Devotional

As we celebrate our church's 40th anniversary, we are reminded of the endless ways God has shown his favour and faithfulness. His sustaining grace has carried us through trials and triumphs, and this grace gives us hope for the future. Our hope is not rooted in circumstances or our efforts but in God's promises, fulfilled through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 11:1 beautifully reminds us that hope is so much more than just wishful thinking – it's a confident expectation rooted in God's steadfast character. Our faith, built on the comforting truth of God's Word, lays a sturdy foundation for our hope. Even when the future feels a bit uncertain, we can hold on to our sure hope, grounded in Christ, who has already gifted us with salvation and victory!

In the last 40 years, we see the evidence of God's work through lives changed, communities transformed, and the gospel proclaimed. Yet, the story of RHCCC is not over. There is more to come and more that God wants to do through us and in us. Our hope pushes us forward, believing that God's hand already prepares what we cannot yet see. Today is an invitation to be part of this journey. May God give us the confidence to move forward with faith!

Reflection

Take a moment to really reflect on your unique journey of faith. How has God shown His faithfulness in your life? Are there any areas where you might want to rekindle that spark of hope, trusting that God is at work even when things seem unclear? Think about how our wonderful church community has been a beacon of hope for many and consider how you can get involved in sharing that hope with others in the future.

Prayer

Gracious Father, You have been our hope, our rock, and our sustainer. As we celebrate, may we also look forward with confidence, trusting in Your plans for the future. Help us to remain anchored in the hope we have in Christ, and may our faith inspire others to find their hope in You as well. Use us, Lord, to shine Your light and share Your love in the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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What Exactly is Fellowship?

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

△ 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

(ii) Devotional

"Love... is not self-seeking." Paul teaches the Corinthian churches that love is not about seeking for one's own benefits. Love is not focusing on one's own comfort. It is not centering on one's own convenience.

Similarly, Romans 12:10 says, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Paul stresses that we are to honor one another and give preference to one another.

Moreover, Paul stresses in Philippians 2:4 that, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

The above verses stretch our limited view on church fellowship.

Fellowship is not for the sake of fellowship. As we share our brotherly love to another person, there will be fellowship. Fellowship consists of the call to be missional. That is, to reach out to other non-believers, pre-Christians, seekers, and believers. In Acts 2, the seed of small groups began to sprout into a biblical community. "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47)

At times our small group may become cliquey when it becomes an exclusive group over time.

It is by His grace that RHCCC has stretched itself to embrace newcomers in our groups. In 2023, English welcomed 118 newcomers; Mandarin welcomed 513 newcomers; Cantonese welcomed 189 newcomers (mainly new immigrants in Toronto); Young Life Development received 300 children and 135 youths. It is through the hard work and 'heart' work of our existing RHCCC family members that have brought newcomers to worship services, outreach events, and fellowship networks. Let us continue to be God's faithful ambassadors.



Reflection

Give thanks to your existing small group members. Each of them is precious in the Lord's eyes. Your group's challenge is to continue loving one another more deeply through serving & honouring each other above yourself. Would you feel comfortable to invite an unchurched person into your group? Why or why not? Respond in prayer for how you can be welcoming others into your group during these next 40 days.

††† Prayer

Lord, please forgive us when we think more highly of ourselves than we ought, and when we seek to bear fruit apart from being intimately connected with and living in You and feeding on Your Word. Please forgive us when we are so inwardly focused that we become a clique and are not open to the foreigner & outcast like those our Lord Jesus loves. Please help us to decrease, so You can increase in our lives. Help us to not seek great things for ourselves, but to consider and care for others better than ourselves. Instead of us humans trying to be god, help us look to the only God who became human, our Lord Jesus Christ who came in the flesh, to make Himself nothing by being the greatest slave of us all! Please help us by your Spirit to love others as You have loved us, by washing each other's feet. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Called to Belong to a Spiritual Family

"'The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him."

Genesis 2:18

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

(ii) Devotional

Responding to the Great Commandments and Great Commission, churches use all sorts of plans and strategies to bring in seekers and build up their members. One of the ways is through small groups. Churches use all sorts of names for small groups - DNA, cell group, geo groups, life groups, home groups, etc. Nevertheless, they all agree that small groups are the means to an end - not an end in and of themselves.

Small groups exist as a means for seekers and members to belong to a faith community. Through the interactions among group members, it is to help them become more like Jesus in all areas of their lives.

We are called to belong to a biblical community. It is deeply reflected in the nature of God. The triune God is a community. God is in a community of three persons in one the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who exist in a perfect unity. As His created beings, we are called to be in a community with one another.

Genesis 2:18 states that "it is not good for a man to be alone." This passage is often used to point to marriage. But it also points to our human need to connect to others and belong to a community of faith.

In Jesus' ministry, he called twelve disciples to be his core discipleship group. They were not intended to be Jesus' crew or ministry assistants. Jesus intentionally poured himself into loving and teaching his disciples. He shepherded his disciples and pointed them to live in the centre of God's will. This was Jesus' first small group on earth.



Jesus called his disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 18:19-20) Jesus' discipleship group was commissioned to launch more small groups, communities, and churches to share the Good News.

English is composed of 28 small groups with 265 members; including the Vantage ministry for university to young working adults, as well as family, mature adult, and intergenerational small groups.

Cantonese is composed of 149 small groups with 2,527 members; grouped according to their life stage and work nature: such as Nexis (high schoolers), Daniel, Paul, Worker (career) Noah, Andrew, Jordan, Matthew, Joseph (families), Esther (sisters), Samuel, Jeremiah, Life Transformation Groups (middle age), John, and Caleb (seniors).

Mandarin is composed of 58 small groups with 877 members; grouped according to their geographic areas such as Central South, Central North, North, West, South, East, Barrie zones.

Young Life Development Ministry is composed of 14 BASIC small groups with 80 members (grades 7-9), 8 AGAPE small groups with 110 members (grades 10-12), 21 children small groups with 282 members, and Kids Discover (grades 3-5).

ton Reflection

What is the vision and mission of your small group? How does your group align with RHCCC vision and mission?

What does an 'open' chair mean to you and your small group? Please pray for the unchurched in your social group and how you will connect or reconnect them to the faith community.

iii Prayer

Lord, please help us follow Jesus' model of developing relationships and living life with those in smaller groups. Help us learn from our Triune God who is relational and created us also to be in relationship with one another. In the name of the Father, Son & Spirit. Amen.

Why Join Small Groups?



"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer...All the believers were together and had everything in common... Every day they continued to meet together... They broke bread in their homes and ate together... and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Acts 2:42, 44, 46-47

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ."

Acts 5:42 LSB

(i) Devotional

You will begin to really feel like part of God's family.

Most people who have been a part of a group say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that develop. You'll discover that your needs and problems are not that unique - we are all in the same boat. It helps to know that others are facing the same difficulties or have lived through them and learned spiritual lessons in the process.

You will understand the Bible better in a small group.

In a small group setting, you can ask questions, participate in a discussion of the text, and hear others share insights and illustrations of the truth you are trying to grasp. The Bible must be applied to your own personal situations and that happens best in small groups.

Prayer will become more meaningful to you.

Many people are hesitant to pray in front of others, especially in a large church. In a small group of 6 to 12, you will learn to participate in prayer by having a conversation together with God. No one is pressured to pray, but as you become comfortable, you'll be able to pray sentence prayers and join in. You will learn to pray in a personalized way within a small group.

You will be able to handle stress and pressure better.

Small groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change, and stress. You'll have a sense of stability and security knowing there are people who really care for you and are committed to standing with you.

You will have a natural way to share Christ with friends, relatives, and work associates.

In a small group, seekers can ask questions and express honest doubts without feeling "put on the spot". When your friends see the love and warmth and honesty of your group, it will make them more receptive to the Good News. As you welcome newcomers to the group, you will be stretched to be a more and more generous person.

You will develop leadership skills you never knew you had!

As you share and participate in a relaxed small group setting, you'll discover your confidence and self-esteem rising. This will help you at work, at church, and in every other relationship

(i) Reflection

What are the qualities that should be lived out in an authentic biblical community?

What kind of commitments do you need to make in order to grow as a group?

iji Prayer

Thank you Father, that You declared it is good for humans not to be alone. Thank you for helping us grow communities where we can be devoted to Your teaching by feeding on Your Holy Word as we are also nourished by bread You provide. Thank you for teaching us to pray "Give US today our daily bread", showing us how you intended for us to learn how to pray together as Your body. In the name of the Father, Son & Spirit we pray, Amen.

"One Another" Fellowship & Missional groups

Select 4 or 5 of the below Bible verses to read together:

"Be at peace with one another..." (Mark 9:50)

"Love one another as Christ loves you..." (John 13:34)

"Be devoted to one another...honor one another..." (Romans 12:10)

"Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)

"Stop passing judgment on one another..." (Romans 14:13)

"Accept one another..." (Romans 15:7)

"Instruct one another..." (Romans 15:14)

"Greet one another..." (Romans 16:16)

"Serve one another..." (Galatians 5:13)

"Carry each other's burden..." (Galatians 6:2)

"Be patient, bearing with one another in love..." (Ephesians 4:2)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another...forgive each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)

"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs..." (Ephesians 5:19)

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ..." (Ephesians 5:21)

"In humility consider others better than yourselves..." (Philippians 2:3)

"Teach one another..." (Colossians 3:16)

"Encourage each other..." (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

"Build each other up..." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

"Spur one another on toward love and good deeds... (Hebrews 10:24)

"Do not slander one another..." (James 4:11)

"Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)

"Confess your sins to each other...pray for one another..." (James 5:16)

"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." (1 Peter 5:5)

(i) Devotional

As you go these select verses in the New Testament, it will help give you a picture of what it means to live in an



authentic biblical community and how we should treat one another. Small groups are called to journey together in every area of their lives. They will learn and grow together in these 5 purposes:

Worship: Our groups will encourage and exhort each other. They will remind each other to put God as their centre of their lives.

Belong: Our spiritual family will not only pray for, but they will pray with each other. They will care for each other as they journey together.

Grow: Each group will hear, read, live out and share God's Word together.

Serve: Groups will be hospitable to each other and look out for serving opportunities to serve in church ministry.

Pray: Small groups will constantly pray for the needs in the mission field. Each member will nurture a heart to care for what is happening in their community and learn to identify what is breaking the heart of God. Leaders will mobilize the group to serve in such areas of need.

In 2002, RHCCC officially launched the 40 Days of Purpose Driven Life (PDL) campaign. Pastors and Deacons were sent to a PDL conference that helped us develop ministries in these 5 purposes: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and mission. We strive to acknowledge God as the centre of our lives. Our hope is to see every church member learn to serve as our Lord Jesus served.

(i) Reflection

How can these 40 days rejuvenate your spiritual family?

Ask our Lord for some ways that your group can experience breakthrough.

iii Prayer

Lord, You are the triune God of relationship, in & of Yourself. Yet you invite us to participate in Your Oneness, so that we can love one another as You love us. Help us to genuinely love & serve one another from the heart. Please help us be devoted to one another by valuing others above our own interests. Help us confess our sins and pray for each other, so that we may be healed. In the Name of the Father, Son & Spirit, Amen.

Accountability Covenantal Groups

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Hebrews 3:13

(ii) Devotional

Faith that is genuine is incarnational. Its interactions are through and with others. It is also affirmed through its sharing, learning, inquiring, and celebrating with fellow believers.

As humans, we tend to think we are self-sufficient. We think we can live out this life without God's intervention. But God does not call us to live life alone. He intends to call us into a faith community and intentionally provides and prepares us to grow our faith in this spiritual family.

Accountability refers to the communal reaching of a common goal and agreement. In the Christian perspective, it involves journeying and growing together according to His will and His way. In this way, accountability helps us realize that we are vulnerable beings. We are to look to our Creator and our peers for help and support. It is only then that we can truly focus on His mission and live out His commandments.

At RHCCC, small groups are used as a platform to embrace believers and seekers to belong to a church family. We encourage our small group leaders not to simply run their groups. They are accountable to their coaches and pastors who invite them to do pre-study, receive training, and by regularly joining in huddles together. Through such gatherings, they learn to shepherd each other, grow in the Word together, and minister to each other.

This is why at RHCCC we encourage each member to go through the Essentials - 4 primer courses that gives you a roadmap of what it means to belong to a spiritual family and what steps can be taken to journey together with others as disciples of Christ. We believe that a healthy family has common beliefs, purposes, and commitment. That is why we want to share with you what we believe and where we're going.

(i) Reflection

How do you see accountability toward each other in small group?

How would you encourage your small group and carry each other's burdens?

iii Prayer

Lord, thank you for extravagantly carrying our burdens by taking the fullness of our sins upon Yourself when we did not deserve it. For us who believe this, help us to encourage each other daily so that none of us may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Help us also learn how to gently restore those who are caught in sin while watching ourselves so that we will not also be tempted. Help us to carry each other's burdens so that we fulfill the law of Christ. In His name we pray, Amen.





WE	
FELLOWSH	IP
TO nurture	
OUR HOPE	



Grow in God's Word

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night."

► Psalm 1:1-2

Devotional

While in the Old Testament this "law of the Lord" refers mainly to the Ten Commandments or the first five books of the Old Testament known as the Pentateuch, it can also broadly refer to the entire revelation of truth in the Word of God, revealed in Jesus Christ. The psalmist reflects that those who learn to delight in the instructions, teachings and words of God found in Scripture are truly blessed. In other words, the primary way in which God speaks and reveals His will to us today is through the teachings and words of wisdom that we find in the Bible.

Our relationship with the Word of God should not be one fueled by fear or duty, but rather by love, devotion, and obedience. When we spend time reading, studying, and applying the Word to our lives, we are ultimately shaped by it because through it we come to truly understand who God is and who He has called us to be.

This is a big part of what it means to take intentional steps each day in our spiritual journeys to walk with God and live our lives according to His Word rather than the world. If we are not regularly spending time in the Word, we are prone to be misguided by the ways and teachings of the society we live in. So let us continue striving to know what it means to delight in God's Word daily and realize how it nourishes our spiritual lives in the same way that physical food nourishes our physical bodies.



Reflection

Can you think of an individual in your life who has displayed a genuine love for God's Word and spends regular time in it? How do you observe God's Word shaping who they are and the way they live their life?

What is one way that you and your small group can continue learning or challenging each other to grow in your study and application of God's Word in your life?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us Your Word so that we may have the opportunity to grow and mature in our spiritual lives. Teach us to hunger for its teachings and drink deep of its wisdom each day so that we as Jesus' disciples may know the joys of walking in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour, Amen.

Glow with God's Love Worship God with the Community of Believers



"This is what the Lord says: 'You say about this place, "It is a desolate waste, without people or animals." Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither people nor animals, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying,

"Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever."

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,' says the Lord."

■ Jeremiah 33:10-11

Devotional

Have you ever thought that when you are worshipping you are glowing?

In the Old Testament, the phrase "God's love endures forever" (NIV) appears a total of 41 times, 5 times in Chronicles, 35 times in Psalms, and 1 time in Jeremiah. From the perspective of the Jewish scriptures, this phrase does not appear in the Pentateuch, but appears intensively in the Writings (including Chronicles and Psalms) and once in the Prophets. Why does this phrase only appear in Jeremiah amongst the Prophets? Why is it mentioned in the context of future restored worship?

God's everlasting love is the foundation of our praise. It also makes us glow in our worship in multiple ways:

- 1. The Brilliance of Confession: God is worthy of praise. Can this confession be spoken with ease? This begs two further questions. First, what kind of worldview do we embrace to explain our present experience? Second, how solid is our Bible reading habit and our experience of walking with God?
- 2. The Radiance of Hope: Even though our Heavenly Father's promise is yet to be fulfilled, it will come true. It's not easy to wait! What is the character of God that is mentioned in this passage? God's goodness and faithfulness will never change. We can come to Him with confidence.

3. The Radiance of Thanksgiving: The destruction of nations and families is due to God's discipline (Jeremiah 33:5,8). How can we be grateful for being a slave to the invaders? Let's look at Jeremiah 33:10,13. What are the characteristics of God's discipline concerning limit and duration? Let's also look at Psalms 103:9 and 136:23. What is God's character? He does not rebuke for a long time, nor is He angry forever. He remembers us when we are down. We can trust such a God with His shaping of us.

Reflection

- 1. During worship, are you paying attention? What is distracting you? Why?
- 2. In the face of adversity and confusion, will you persevere and still worship? What does confession, hope, and thanksgiving mean to you during worship?
- 3. In addition to Sunday worship, different aspects of life are also worship! When we leave church after service, we are sent to shine the gospel to different corners of the world. How will you live out your trust, hope, and gratitude in your family, campus, workplace and different circles?

Prayer

Our loving Heavenly Father, thank you for your precious Bible. Help us, whether in favor or in defiance, to cherish the opportunity to worship, to sing and praise you, to listen to the teachings that come from you, and to be a blessing to others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Give with Generosity

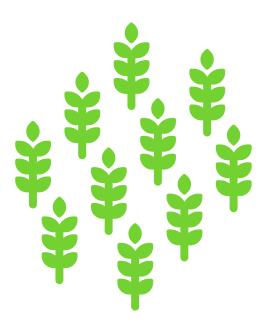
"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written,

'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"

2 Corinthians 9:6-11, 15 ESV



Devotional

It is without a doubt that over the last 40 years of our church, God has allowed RHCCC to grow and learn what it means to practice generosity with those in and around our church community. However, we must recognize that this would not have been possible if God himself had not first displayed this generosity to us! We have been blessed to witness how God's grace, love, and generosity has been poured out in abundance over our community and has nourished us in countless ways.

We must recognize that everything that we have is a gift from God and that God expects us to make most of the things He has given us whether it be through our lives, health, finances, friends, or family. Does it mean that we should give all these things away without restriction or paying second thought to ourselves? Of course not! God does, however, expect that we be joyful givers (2 Cor. 9:7).

Giving, after all, strengthens our faith because it challenges us to trust God with the results in how our giving will affect both the lives of others and ourselves. Faith is often compared to as a muscle in our body. Like our muscles, we need to regularly exercise them to keep them healthy and strong. Faith, then, is like a muscle that needs to be regularly exercised. By regularly exercising faith, we learn to put our priorities in the best place - in God - and we realize that trusting God with everything that we have is the best and most joy-giving use of our time, energy, and resources.

Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on how you or your group have been stewards of the gifts that God has given you. Are there ways you would like to improve or challenge yourself in your faith in God?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for all the ways you have blessed RHCCC so abundantly in these past 40 years. We anticipate the ways in which we will witness you continually bless our church in the years to come. We pray for wisdom as we strive to reflect Your generosity in how we steward what you have given us so that we may experience the abundant joy that comes from putting our faith in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Groan in the Spirit through Prayer Pray for Others and the World



"Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis."

Colossians 4:12-13

Devotional

These two verses reflect Epaphras' prayerful life, which is a worthy example to us:

- 1. Epaphras is a person of prayer. There is no doubt about it. How is our prayer life? How are we cultivating a habit of praying regularly and looking to God?
- 2. Epaphras is a person of prayer who prays for others. What do we usually pray about? How do we engage with others' prayer needs in our prayers? As wide as our hearts are, so should be our prayers.
- 3. Epaphras is a man of prayer who prays for others with all his effort. How attentive are we to the prayer needs of others? How much effort do we exert?
- 4. Epaphras is a man of prayer who prays for others with all his effort and a clear direction for the spiritual growth of others. In addition to praying for the needs of others, can we go an extra mile to pray for their relationship with God and spiritual growth?
- 5. Epaphras is a man of prayer who prays for others with all his effort and a clear direction for the spiritual growth of others and a willingness to go an extra mile. When we pray for others, what's next for us? How would we follow up with them?
- 6. From prayer to intercession, to intercession with all effort, to clear direction, and to walking an extra mile. In addition to taking initiative, it challenges us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, to be attentive to others, and to perceive their needs.

Reflection

From the prayer life of Epaphras, can we identify:

- 1. Any crawl, walk and run elements to a healthy prayer life?
- 2. Any role models? How can we put it into practice?
- 3. Any reminders? So that we can more effectively encourage and train others to become prayer warriors?

2 Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us an opportunity to pray so that we can pour out our hearts. Father, guide us so that we will not only pray for ourselves, but also for those around us, for our community, for our country, and for different corners of the world so that the benefits of the gospel may be shared. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Live by Example

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:19-25

Devotional

While it is important for us to read and study God's Word regularly, it is equally as important that we live out what we are learning from it in our everyday lives. This is where meditation - a devotional practice that seeks to know, love, and experience God better with the help of the Holy Spirit - plays a key role. When we spend time in God's Word, it is essential that we take the time to meditate on how the Holy Spirit is seeking to transform our lives through the Word. After all, the reason we understand the truth of the gospel and its impact in our lives is because the Holy Spirit has revealed it to us. This cannot be done by human intellect or strength alone. So let us be warned that if we ignore or rush by this practice, we miss the opportunity to hear God speaking to us as well as a chance for our lives to be powerfully transformed!

Having personal access to God means we can have an intimate relationship with the living God (10:22), we have an opportunity to grow in our faith (10:23), we can inspire and cheer one another on as believers (10:24), and we can worship God together (10:25). Therefore, since Jesus Christ, through his life, death and resurrection, has given us full assurance that we can boldly and confidently approach the presence of God, let us hold fast to this faith we profess and live as God has called us to live.

Reflection

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that time is limited because the day of Jesus' return can be sooner than we think! What is one step you can take today to practically live out the faith that you profess in Jesus Christ? How can you encourage a fellow believer to hold fast to their faith today?

🚨 Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you because through your life, death, and resurrection, we have this opportunity to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father. May we not take this blessing for granted but lean into this life that you have called us to live. We ask that you continue to teach us as the family of God at RHCCC to be the church you have called us to be. Lead us in Your wisdom. Give us grace to set a good example for seekers and younger believers. And may all that we do glorify Your Name. Amen.





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Know your Role & Gifts Discover your S.H.A.P.E.

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Romans 12:4-8



Paul provides a profound metaphor for understanding our roles within the Body of Christ. Just as the human body has many parts, each with a distinct function, so too does the Church comprise individuals with unique gifts and roles. This passage invites us to reflect on our own place within this spiritual body and how we can faithfully fulfill our Godgiven roles.

Paul begins by reminding us of the unity we share in Christ. Though we are many, we form one body. This unity is not about uniformity; rather, it celebrates diversity within a unified purpose. Each member belongs to all the others, signifying an interconnectedness where each person's contribution is vital for the health and function of the whole body. This challenges us to appreciate and respect the different gifts and roles others bring, fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual support.



Paul's practical advice to use these gifts effectively is a call to action. This passage challenges us to identify and cultivate our spiritual gifts. Sometimes, we may feel inadequate or unsure of our place within the body. However, as we seek God through prayer, study His Word, and engage in community, He reveals our unique contributions. Encouragement from fellow believers and the guidance of the Holy Spirit help us to grow in confidence and effectiveness.

In practice, this means looking for opportunities to serve in ways that align with our gifts. It involves being proactive in our churches and communities, offering what we have with a willing and joyful heart. It also means supporting others in their ministries, recognizing that together we can accomplish much more than we can alone.

Reflection

It is by His grace we have witnessed 581 brothers & sisters discover their S.H.A.P.E. (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences) through our Essentials 3: Serve Primer. How can we continue to grow and support each other in discovering and using our unique S.H.A.P.E to serve God and our community effectively?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the unique gifts You have given to each of us. Help us to understand our roles within Your body and to use our gifts faithfully and joyfully. May we support and encourage one another, working together to build up Your Church. Guide us by Your Spirit to serve in ways that glorify You and reflect Your love to the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Serve and be Served Mobilize volunteers to serve

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Galatians 5:13

Devotional

This passage offers a profound insight into the nature of Christian freedom and its implications for our relationships with one another. Paul reminds us that our freedom in Christ is not an opportunity for self-indulgence but a call to serve one another with humility and love.

Serving one another is a practical outworking of this freedom. To "serve" means to act with a mindset that prioritizes the needs and well-being of others above our own. It is a commitment to looking beyond ourselves and our preferences to genuinely meet the needs of those around us. This service is not begrudging or driven by obligation but is a voluntary act of love. Serving one another creates a cycle of support and care that strengthens the bonds with the community. This mutual dependence reflects the interconnectedness of the body of Christ, where every member plays a crucial role.

Humility is the key attitude Paul emphasizes. Humility involves recognizing that we are all equally in need of God's grace and that our service is an expression of His love, not a means of self-glorification. Humble service means putting aside personal ambitions and recognizing the value and worth of others. It calls us to serve without seeking recognition or reward, understanding that true greatness in God's kingdom is found in selfless acts of love. On the other hand, acknowledge that you have needs and allow others to meet them. Just as Jesus allowed His disciples to wash His feet, we should be willing to let others serve us.

Love is the motivating force behind this service. It is love that transforms our actions from mere duty into meaningful expressions of care and compassion. This love is patient, kind, and unselfish, seeking the best for others and reflecting the heart of Christ. On the other hand, remember that being served by others reflects God's love. Let these acts of service remind you of God's provision and faithfulness.

As we reflect on this verse, we are challenged to examine how we use our freedom. Are we using it to serve ourselves or to serve others? Are we allowing our freedom in Christ to inspire acts of love and kindness, or are we falling into the trap of self-centered living?

Reflection

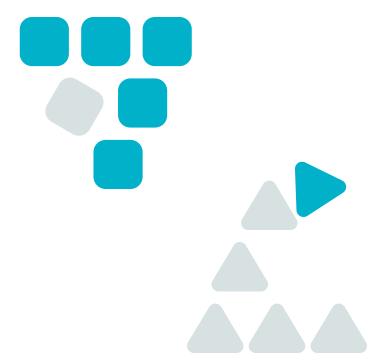
How can we as a church community practically implement and encourage a culture of serving one another with humility and love in light of our freedom in Christ?

How can we as a church community become more open and willing to receive help from others, recognizing that allowing ourselves to be served is a vital aspect of fostering deeper relationships and mutual support in Christ?

Consider visiting our church's WeServe platform to discover available serving opportunities at RHCCC!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the freedom we have in Christ. Help us to use this freedom not for our own indulgence but to serve one another in humility and love. Teach us to put others before ourselves and to reflect Your love in all that we do. Empower us by Your Spirit to live out this calling daily and to build up Your body through acts of selfless service. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Know & Embrace Your Limitations Cultivate the serving heart

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 12:9-10



Paul shares a profound revelation about the relationship between human weakness and divine strength. The context of this passage is Paul's "thorn in the flesh" - a persistent problem or suffering that he had pleaded with God to remove. God's response to Paul was not to take away his suffering but to reveal a deeper truth: His grace is sufficient, and His power is perfected in weakness.

Understanding Weakness: Paul's experience teaches us that our limitations and struggles are not barriers to God's work but opportunities for His power to be displayed. Weakness, in this context, refers to our personal shortcomings, struggles, and vulnerabilities. These are not issues to be ashamed of but realities that, when faced with faith, become the canvas on which God's grace and power are vividly portrayed.

Boasting in Weakness: Paul's reaction to this revelation is countercultural. Instead of hiding or resenting his weaknesses, he boasts about them. This boasting is not a celebration of failure but a declaration of how God's strength is made perfect through our imperfections. By embracing our weaknesses, we allow God's power to shine through us, demonstrating that it is His work, not ours, that achieves great things.

Delighting in Difficulties: Paul's delight in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties might seem strange, but it reflects a deep trust in God's sovereignty. By viewing these challenges as opportunities for God's power to be revealed, Paul shifts his focus from his own abilities to God's strength. This perspective transforms our struggles into instruments of spiritual growth and opportunities to experience God's sustaining grace.



In our own lives, we may be facing various strugglesphysical, emotional, or relational. Rather than viewing these as obstacles, we can see them as stages where God's grace and power can be most effectively demonstrated. This shift in perspective encourages us to rely on God more fully, to be open about our weaknesses, and to invite His strength into our lives.

When you know your limitations, how can you shift your perspective on personal weaknesses and challenges to see them as opportunities for God's power to be revealed and His grace to be experienced more deeply in your life?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the assurance that Your grace is sufficient, and Your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us embrace our limitations and struggles as opportunities for Your strength to be revealed. Teach us to boast in our weaknesses and to delight in the difficulties that draw us closer to You. May we experience Your grace in new and profound ways, and may Your power be evident in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Appreciation Celebrate God's faithfulness

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

I 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3



Paul, along with Silas and Timothy, expresses profound gratitude for the believers in Thessalonica. This passage is a beautiful reminder of the power of faith, love, and hope in the life of a believer and in the community of faith.

Firstly, Paul speaks of thankfulness. He is consistently grateful to God for the Thessalonian Christians, showing us the importance of appreciating one another in our faith communities. How often do we take the time to thank God for the people around us who are laboring in faith? This thankfulness should extend into our daily prayers, where we uplift and encourage one another before the throne of grace.

Paul's remembrance of the Thessalonians is not just about their presence but about their actions: their work, labor, and endurance. These three qualities are grounded in the core virtues of Christianity: faith, love, and hope.

Work produced by faith: The Thessalonians' actions stem from their faith in God. Genuine faith is not passive; it produces good works. James 2:26 reminds us that "faith without deeds is dead." Our faith should inspire us to act, to serve, and to minister to others, reflecting the transformative power of Christ in our lives.

Labor prompted by love: The labor mentioned here implies effort and toil. It is the kind of labor that goes beyond mere duty and is driven by love. Love is the greatest commandment, as Jesus taught in Matthew 22:37-39. When we love God and our neighbours, our service becomes a labor of love, marked by compassion, sacrifice, and genuine care for others.

Endurance inspired by hope: Endurance, or steadfastness, is fueled by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. This hope is not wishful thinking but a confident expectation of what God has promised. It is the anchor of our souls (Hebrews 6:19). In times of trial and hardship, it is this hope that sustains us, encouraging us to persevere and remain faithful.



Reflection

In reflecting on these verses, consider your own life and community. Are your actions a testament to your faith? Is your service motivated by love? Do you endure through challenges with hope in Christ?

Let us strive to embody these virtues, continually thanking God for one another, and praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ. May our faith produce good works, our love inspire tireless labor, and our hope in Jesus Christ sustain us through all things.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of community and for the faith, love, and hope that binds us together. Help us to live out our faith through our actions, to labor in love, and to endure with hope. May we continually lift each other up in prayer, giving thanks for the ways You are working in and through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Everyone is Called to Minister Equip committed members to be ministers

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

► 1 Peter 2:9

Devotional

This verse from Peter's first epistle is a powerful reminder of our identity and purpose as followers of Christ. In just a few words, it encapsulates profound truths about who we are in Christ and what we are called to do.

Chosen People: Firstly, Peter tells us that we are a "chosen people." This choice is not based on our merits or accomplishments but solely on God's grace and love. Being chosen by God gives us a sense of belonging and purpose. In a world where many struggle with identity and worth, knowing that we are chosen by God provides deep reassurance. It's a call to embrace our identity in Christ and to live confidently in the knowledge that we are dearly loved and valued by our Creator.

Royal Priesthood: The term "royal priesthood" is particularly striking. In the Old Testament, priests had special access to God and the privilege of serving Him directly. Peter now extends this honour to all believers. As a royal priesthood, we are called to serve God and others, to intercede in prayer, and to be channels of God's blessings to the world. This priestly role is not reserved for a select few; it's a calling for all who follow Christ. We are to live in a way that reflects our royal status, serving with humility, compassion, and dedication.

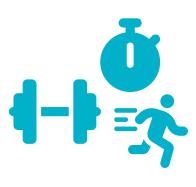
Holy Nation: Peter also describes us as a "holy nation." Holiness means being set apart for God's purposes. Our lives are to be distinct from the world, marked by righteousness, integrity, and love. Being a holy nation means that our collective identity as the Church should reflect the character of God. Our actions, words, and attitudes should point others to the holiness and goodness of our Lord.

God's Special Possession: Finally, Peter reminds us that we are "God's special possession." This imagery suggests a treasured, priceless belonging. God delights in us and holds us close to His heart. As His special possession, we are called to live in a way that honours and glorifies Him. Our lives should be a testament to His grace, mercy, and love.

Our Purpose: Peter concludes by clarifying our purpose: "that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." We are to be witnesses of God's transformative power, proclaiming His praises and sharing the story of how He has brought us from darkness into light. Our lives should be living testimonies of God's redeeming love and the hope we have in Christ.

Reflection

As you reflect on this verse, consider the implications of each aspect of your identity in Christ. How does knowing that you are chosen, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession influence the way you live? Are there areas in your life where you need to embrace these truths more fully? Take time to thank God for calling you out of darkness and into His wonderful light, and ask Him to help you live in a way that declares His praises to those around you.



Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for choosing me, for calling me into Your royal priesthood, and for making me a part of Your holy nation. Help me to live out my identity in You, serving others and reflecting Your holiness. May my life be a testimony of Your love and grace, and may I continually declare Your praises. Thank You for calling me out of darkness into Your wonderful light. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Know Our Life Mission

"For you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

Ы John 17:18

Devotional

This verse reminds us of the important mission God gave to Jesus, which He now shares with us. This isn't just a casual calling; it's a divine task that shapes our lives and guides our choices. To understand our life mission, we need to realize that we're sent into the world with purpose just like Christ was.

God has created each of us for a specific purpose – to build a deep relationship with Him, to live in a way that reflects Christ's character, and to fulfill His plans on earth. From the moment we were born, God had a mission for us, thoughtfully designed long before we took our first breath. Recognizing this brings comfort and clarity as we navigate our everyday lives.

Three Key Aspects of Our Life Mission

Understanding Our Shared Calling: God calls all Christians to spread the Gospel, love others, and serve those in need. This foundational mission connects us to a broader community of believers who share the same goals. As we demonstrate Christ's love and compassion, we fulfill this calling in our own unique ways-whether at home, work, or in our neighbourhoods.

Recognizing Our Unique Design: While we all share a common mission, God has also uniquely equipped each of us with specific talents, experiences, and passions. Reflecting on our individual gifts helps us see the unique contributions we can make. It's important to ask ourselves: How has God prepared me to fulfill His mission? Embracing our individuality allows us to serve authentically, making our impact even greater.

Preparation for Eternity: Life on earth is a training ground for eternity. Every moment, decision, and act of service helps build a legacy that goes beyond our time here. When we realize that our life mission is not just about now but also about our eternal purpose, it changes our perspective. It encourages us to invest our time and resources into what truly matters-relationships, faith, and acts of kindness.

Reflection

As you meditate on this verse, consider how it applies to your own life mission. Are you living with a sense of purpose, or do you feel lost in the daily routine? Reflect on the ways you can better align your daily actions with the mission God has set for you.

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, let's take a moment to honour the journey we've shared. Each milestone represents the collective work God has done in and through us, reminding us of our ongoing mission. This celebration is a chance to reflect on how our community has grown and how we can continue to support one another in fulfilling God's purposes.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the amazing mission You have given us. Help us recognize our identity in You and embrace the purpose for which we were created. Guide us as we work to fulfill our calling. May our lives reflect Your love and grace, and may we be courageous in pursuing the unique missions You've set before us. As we prepare for eternity, let our actions today bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Know Our PEACE Plan



"...Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Mark 16:15

Devotional

Spreading the Gospel is at the heart of our mission as believers. Jesus calls us to go out into the world and share the good news, empowering everyday people to achieve incredible things through the Holy Spirit. This is the essence of our PEACE Plan-an approach that aligns closely with Jesus' teachings and example.

The RHCCC PEACE strategy highlights five key areas that help us live out Jesus' mission in our daily lives:

Plant Churches that Promote Reconciliation: How can we encourage reconciliation in our communities? This might mean reaching out to those we've had conflicts with, bringing together diverse groups, or simply showing kindness to our neighbours. Every effort to bring others to Jesus is a way to live out Christ's command.

Equip Servant Leaders: Jesus modeled servant leadership throughout His life. At RHCCC, we encourage and train members who are dedicated to serving others to take on leadership roles in church programs, outreach initiatives, or community service projects through fellowships and small groups.

Assist the Poor: Helping those in need is a vital part of living out our faith. At RHCCC, we actively partner with churches and ethnic groups to support the poor in the community through our local and global peace projects. These initiatives focus on meeting immediate needs and demonstrating Christ's love in practical ways.

Care for the Sick: Caring for the sick is a practical way to show Christ's love. This could involve visiting someone in the hospital and senior homes, providing meals for a neighbour recovering from illness, or supporting local health initiatives.

Educate the Next Generation: Investing in our youth's education is vital for ensuring the Gospel's message continues to thrive. We can contribute to building up the next generation by volunteering to teach Sunday school, mentoring young people in the Young Life Development (YLD) ministry, and engaging in various other activities. Each of these efforts not only nurtures their faith but

also equips them to share the message of Christ in their own lives. Together, we can empower them to carry this important message forward.

Living as a PEACE Person

To fully embrace this mission, we need to shift our thinking in several important ways:

From Self-Centeredness to God-Centeredness: Instead of focusing just on our own needs, we need to prioritize God's purposes for our lives.

From Local to Global: Our mission goes beyond our immediate surroundings. We are called to think globally and understand our role in the larger body of Christ.

From Temporal Values to Eternal Values: We should focus on what lasts for eternity rather than what is temporary.

From Security to Service: True security comes not from what we own, but from our willingness to serve others and trust God to meet our needs.

From Comfort to Sacrifice: A life of sacrifice reflects the heart of Jesus. We are called to step out of our comfort zones for the sake of others.

Reflection

As we think about these points, let's evaluate our lives and the impact we have on our communities. Are we truly reflecting the PEACE principles? How can we more actively live out our mission to share the good news and serve others?

During our 40th anniversary, let's celebrate not just our past, but also our future. Consider how far we've come and how much more we can accomplish together by living out the PEACE Plan.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us to be messengers of Your peace in the world. Help us to live out our mission by promoting reconciliation, equipping leaders, assisting the poor, caring for the sick, and educating the next generation. May we shift our focus from ourselves to Your purposes, and may our lives reflect the love of Christ in everything we do. As we celebrate our milestones, inspire us to continue this journey with renewed passion and commitment. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Love Your Neighbours

"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

Mark 5:19 AMP

Devotional

In Mark 5:19, Jesus encourages us to share our personal stories of His mercy and grace. This command invites us to examine our relationships and the influence we have in our immediate circles. Just like fishing requires patience and strategy, introducing people to Christ is about nurturing relationships, not chasing them down.

We all have a "fishing pond" – our circle of influence that includes family, friends, coworkers, and even familiar faces we see regularly. God expects us to care for those we already know. When considering where to start sharing God's story, think about the people closest to you. They may be the most open to hearing your testimony.

Building Bridges of Friendship

To reach out effectively, we need to think about how to improve our relationships. What small steps can you take to connect better with your neighbours or coworkers? Start by engaging in casual conversations, showing genuine interest in their lives, and being available to support them. Building friendships lays the groundwork for meaningful discussions about faith.

Influence Mapping

Take a moment to think about your daily interactions. Who do you see regularly? This could include coworkers, neighbours, or people at your local café or supermarket. Make a list of these individuals and consider how you might positively influence them. Mapping your "influence" helps you identify opportunities to share God's love.

A Plan for Sharing Your Faith: Prayer-Care-Share

Prayer: Start by praying for those in your circle. Ask God to open their hearts and give you the right opportunities to share His message.

Care: Show you care through acts of kindness. Whether it's helping someone in need, inviting them to an event, or just being a good listener, these gestures build trust and friendship.



Share: When the moment is right, share your faith story. Talk about how God has made a difference in your life and invite them to explore faith through church activities or personal conversations.

Church at Home: The Mission Base

The concept of "Church at Home" reminds us that RHCCC isn't just a building; it's the people gathered together. Your home can be a Mission Base for those around you, creating a welcoming space where connections to Christ can grow.

Church at Home Roadmap:



The Sidewalk: This is your common area where you can meet your neighbours. Start by greeting them and striking up light conversations. Action: Make it a point to stop and connect when you see them.



The Front Yard: Use this inviting space to deepen your relationship. Action: Invite your neighbours to a church event or a casual gathering at your home.



The Backyard: This friendly space allows for more personal conversations. Action: Invite neighbours for a meal or afternoon tea, creating a relaxed environment to talk about life and faith.



The Kitchen: This intimate space is perfect for deeper discussions about Jesus. Action: Consider inviting them to Alpha Course, evangelism meeting or small group where you can explore faith together.

Reflection

As you reflect on these ideas, think about how you can actively love your neighbours and introduce them to Christ. Are there specific relationships you want to nurture? How can you use the Prayer-Care-Share strategy in your daily life? By focusing on these steps, you can build meaningful connections and share the love of Jesus in practical ways.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the relationships we have. Help us to see our neighbours through Your eyes and love them as You do. Give us courage to share our faith stories and always be ready to pray, care, and share with those around us. Guide us in building bridges of friendship and making our homes places of connection and mission. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessed to be a Blessing

"For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy."

► 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

P Devotional

In this passage, Paul, along with his fellow workers, expresses deep joy and hope for the believers in Thessalonica. Their lives and faith are a testament to the work God is doing through them. This reminds us about the significance of using our lives to bless others, especially in sharing the Good News of God's kindness and love.

Life gains its true value when we dedicate it to fulfilling the mission assigned to us by Jesus. This mission involves spreading the message of hope and love to those around us and blessing others through initiatives like the PEACE Plan. As we look at our lives, we should ask ourselves: Who will be in heaven because of us? Who have we influenced positively through our actions and words?

Investing in relationships that lead people to Christ is the best use of our time and resources. Our joy comes from seeing others connect with God, and that joy is multiplied as we witness their growth in faith. This is not just about personal achievements; it's about being part of something greater-an eternal impact in the lives of those around us.

Participating in RHCCC's Peace Plan

At RHCCC, we have numerous opportunities to engage in local and global peace efforts. Ask yourself: How can I participate? One simple step is to "Stop for the One." This means being intentional about sharing your story with someone who needs to hear it. Sign up for Personal Peace Training to learn how to share your faith effectively and lead others to Christ.

You can also serve in RHCCC's local projects aimed at blessing different ethnic groups in our community. If you're feeling called, consider stepping out of your comfort zone to serve globally.

No matter your stage in life – whether you're just starting in your faith journey or you're a seasoned believer - there are ways to engage in our peace plan and be a blessing to others.

Reflection

Think about your influence. Who are the people in your life that you touch daily? This might include coworkers, friends, or even people you see regularly at the supermarket. Consider how you can share your faith with them. Reflect on how your actions can align with God's calling to bless others. What small steps can you take to show kindness and love?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the opportunity to be a blessing to others. Help us to recognize the impact we can have in the lives of those around us. May we be bold in sharing our stories and committed to serving others as You have called us to do. Guide us as we engage in the RHCCC Peace Plan and help us to bring hope and love to everyone we meet. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Everyone on Mission The Orchard Vision

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

Acts 20:24

Devotional

In this verse, Paul expresses a deep dedication to completing his mission: sharing the gospel of God's grace. This serves as a reminder for us all that our lives hold true value when we dedicate them to God's purpose. As we reflect on the past 40 years of blessings at RHCCC, we are called to remember our roots and to renew our love for Jesus. This is a time to count our blessings, recognize how far we've come, celebrate our shared journey, and recommit ourselves to living on mission.

Growing an orchard is about "building up the whole person to reach the whole world". Just as a healthy orchard produces abundant fruit, our lives should bear witness to the transformative power of God. This means loving and affirming one another, striving to become more like Jesus, and taking responsibility to serve our community.

Mission Purpose: Bearing Fruit Abundantly

Our mission is clear: we are called to bear fruit abundantly. This means living an abundant life, not just for us, but for those around us. The 3R framework guides us in this mission:

Reproduce Disciples: We are tasked with making disciples who, in turn, can share their faith with others.

Restore the City: Our actions should aim to bring healing and hope to our communities.

Reach the World: We must also think globally, connecting with others beyond our immediate surroundings.



My Next Steps: Be a Blessing

Stop for the One - Identify someone in your life who needs to hear your story of God's grace and love. Participating in the "Disciples on Mission" Training through our RHCCC Learn platform which will equip us with the tools to be effective witnesses.

Learn to Prayer Walk Your Neighbourhood - Gather 2-3 people to join you in a prayer walk around your neighbourhood. This is a chance to intercede for those who may not know Christ and to seek God's guidance on how best to serve your community.

Serve with Local PEACE - Get involved with local PEACE initiatives through our WeServe platform.

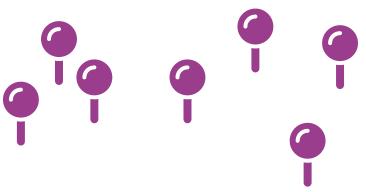
Serve with Global PEACE - Explore the different places and passions where RHCCC is focused. Let the mission pastors know how they can help get you connected.

Reflection

As we celebrate 40 years of God's faithfulness, reflect on how you can be part of this mission. Who in your life can you influence for Christ? How can you actively participate in RHCCC's PEACE plan to bless others? No matter where you are on your spiritual journey - crawling, walking, or running you could make a difference.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the incredible gift of life and for the mission You have entrusted to us. We are grateful for 40 years of Your providence, protection, and guidance. Help us to live with purpose, recognizing the true value of our lives when we dedicate them to Your work. May we continue to bear abundant fruit, make disciples, restore our communities, and share Your message of grace with the world. Empower us to be a blessing to others as we move forward in faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.





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