

Annual Budget for 2009/2010	\$10,156,000
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Last week's giving	\$140,000
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Apr-Nov 2009 (excluding designated funds)	
Actual income	\$5,650,000
Actual expense	<u>\$5,576,000</u>
Actual cumulative surplus	\$74,000

Christmas Love Offering collected	\$485,000
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Please make checks payable to *Evangelical Community Church Ltd.*
 For US citizens wishing a US tax receipt, please ensure that your check is at least \$100USD (\$800HKD) made out to "Friends of Hong Kong Charities, Inc." with any designations written on the offering envelope (available at the welcome table) - NOT on the check itself.

Elders

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Alex Chu	elder_alex@ecchk.org	Mission & Outreach, Care for Staff, Church Administration
Matthew Chu	elder_matthew@ecchk.org	Prayer, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, ALPHA
Mike Harrison	elder_mike@ecchk.org	Children, Youth, Filipino Ministry
Howard Kang	elder_howard@ecchk.org	Education
Anthony Ma	elder_anthony@ecchk.org	Worship

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THE OUTSIDER

Who's in and Who's out
 in the Biblical Story
 and Why it Matters

Evangelical Community Church

January 3rd, 2010 ♦ 9:30am & 11:15am

Naaman: The Outsider

Bob Jones

January 3rd, 2010

II Kings 5

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

²Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵"By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

⁸When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

¹¹But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

¹⁵Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."

¹⁶The prophet answered, "As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing." And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

¹⁷"If you will not," said Naaman, "please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD. ¹⁸But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this."

¹⁹"Go in peace," Elisha said.

After Naaman had traveled some distance, ²⁰Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, "My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him."

²¹So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. "Is everything all right?" he asked.

²²"Everything is all right," Gehazi answered. "My master sent me to say, 'Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.'"

²³"By all means, take two talents," said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. ²⁴When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left.

²⁵When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?"

"Your servant didn't go anywhere," Gehazi answered.

²⁶But Elisha said to him, "Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves? ²⁷Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever." Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and his skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

Luke 4.24-30

"Truly I tell you," he continued, "prophets are not accepted in their hometowns. ²⁵I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Worship

Nurture

Community

Outreach

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children ages 6-10 will gather in Room 402 for worship before going to the following rooms.

Team Paul will be in Room 610 from December 20th, 2009 to January 10th, 2010
due to renovation at the YMCA.

(ages 0-2)	Team Noah	Room 403-404
(ages 3-4)	Team Miriam	Room 305
(ages 5)	Team Esther	Room 309
(ages 6)	Team Daniel	Room 406
(ages 7-8)	Team Joshua	Room 402
(ages 9-10)	Team Paul	Room 610

HARVESTERS YOUTH MINISTRY

Volunteers Needed

We are thankful for Joy, Sharon, and Shirley to serve the youth, we still need:

- 1 volunteer for Friday Nights Axiom
- 2 volunteers for Sunday School during the first worship service

If God has put this on your heart sign up in the foyer. Contact: Tim Buechsel at tim@ecchk.org

Youth Devotionals For Sale

One of the most important spiritual disciplines in our Christian life is to study God's word. In order to become mature Christians we need to know what God's word says. Our recommendation is for every youth to have Bible reading plan that chooses the passages and helps explain the meaning of the text. Youth devotionals are for sale at the welcome table.

Christmas Break

Friday Night Axiom will be on Christmas Break from December 25th to January 8th.

Sunday School and Sunday Axiom Worship will be on Christmas break from December 27th to January 10th. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Friday Nights Axiom (6:30-9:30pm)

Join us Friday night for messages, worship, dance, drama and a time to hang out at the TST MC.

Sunday School Class (9:30-10:45am)

Come join us every Sunday in the exciting journey of diving deeper into God's Word at the TST MC. There are classes for 11-13yrs old and 14-18yrs old.

Sunday Axiom Worship (11:15am-12:30pm)

AXIOM WORSHIP includes: Creative Worship, Message and Drama.

ECC INTERCHANGE

Life Stages



Talking to Your Kids about Sex and Sexuality

Sunday, January 24th, 11:15am - 12:30pm, Room 610, YMCA

Facilitators: Susie Harrison (younger children), Tim Buechsel (teenagers)

Join us for a discussion about how to talk to your kids about the important topic of sex and sexuality. As parents, we should be prepared (not afraid!) for these conversations.

Under Pressure

Sunday, January 17th, 9:30 - 11:00am, Room 601, YMCA

Facilitators: Judy Leibowitz, Michele Bland

All parents are invited to come and discuss the book *Under Pressure: Rescuing Our Children from the Culture of Hyper-Parenting*. Pre-read the book and come to share your impressions and experiences in this one-off class. Book costs \$100.

"A must-read book for parents, educators and all those concerned with the health and well-being of children." ~Madeline Levine, Ph.D, Clinical psychologist and author of *The Price of Privilege*



Christianity & Culture



Doing God's Business

Alternate Thursdays, January 14th, 28th, February 11th, 25th, March 11th
12:30 - 1:45pm, TST MC, led by Bob Jones and others

This 6-week lunch hour book discussion/seminar explores how faith relates to work, vocation and ministry in the workplace and how satisfying meaning is found. Paul Steven's book *Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace* is a beautifully worthwhile book that will lead you to think about your work and faith in new ways. You're required to buy and read portions of Steven's book.



Faith Foundations



Precept Bible Study: James - What is true faith?

A 15-week study, Sundays, 2:30-5:00pm, Room 610, YMCA

*We will take a break and resume on January 17th, 2010

Worship

Nurture

Community

Outreach

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Where is God in the Crisis?

Saturday, January 16th, 6:30pm, TST MC

Are you in a crisis? Are you suffering under a tension-filled situation, experiencing sleepless nights, emotional fatigue, confusion, anxiety & fear? Michele Jang will be sharing a personal testimony of how God delivered her and her husband during a crisis. Ladies, don't miss out on this opportunity! Please sign up. For more details contact Michelle Pardini (michellepardini@yahoo.com) or Pauline Ng (hipaulineng@gmail.com).

What's So Amazing About Grace

Wednesday mornings, starting November 4th, 10:00am - 12:30pm, TST MC

This 10-week study is based on the book *What's So Amazing About Grace* written by Philip Yancey. Through this study, we will find intimate glimpses of God's life-changing grace. Through candid interviews with real people, via DVD, God's power of forgiveness is illustrated in the most horrible deeds, in loving the unloving, and in redeeming the seemingly irredeemable.

Contact: Veronica Wildhaber at mrswildhaber@hotmail.com

**We will take a break from December 23rd and resume on January 13th, 2010*

The Book of Romans

Friday mornings, 10:00am - 11:30am, TST MC

Come and study Paul's letter to the Romans.

Facilitator: Judith Leibowitz. Contact: Judy Leibowitz at lebomom@hotmail.com

**We will take a break from December 18th and resume on January 15th, 2010*

MEN'S FLIGHT DECK FELLOWSHIP

5-a-side Football

Try to get rid of a few extra turkey kilos after Christmas and New Year? We have the answer for you!

We have at last managed to secure a regular pitch for our weekly football (soccer) games. Every Monday evenings starting January 4th we will be playing between 7pm and 9pm we will be playing at Tung Chau Street Park 5-a-side pitch near Sham Shui Po. All are welcome, bring your friends. If you are not already on the footie email circular, please sign up in the foyer, or contact Andrew Williams at andcom@gmail.com.

FILIPINO MINISTRY

Today's activities:

8:30am Celebrating God's Faithfulness in Prayer with Bessie's Care Group at the Podium

11:30am Prayer Sunday with Care Group of Bessie P.

2:30pm Make-up Classes for Evangelism Training with Fe H.

Upcoming activities:

January 9th Saturday Baking with Wai at Wan Chai MC - 10am

January 10th Message Reflection with Fe H.

Evangelism Training - The Gospel: Faith with Fe H.

Colossians 2.7 Series with Stephen J. & Nora D.

January 17th Exhortation by Luz L.

January 23rd Saturday Baking with Sarah at Wan Chai MC - 10am

January 24th Leadership Training with Peter S.

January 31st Mission Challenge by Peter & Elaine Yoon of New Tribes Mission

GET CONNECTED

Care Groups

A great place to study God's word, reach out, make friends and pray. Please pick up a brochure in the foyer for details. Contact: Michele Bland at michele@ecchk.org

SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Party for Street Sleepers

Have a heart to serve street sleepers in Hong Kong? Join us for a party for 70 street sleepers and new immigrants from China on **Saturday, January 16th at Concordia Lutheran School**, 7 Pui Dak Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon. If you can put together a tray of food and deliver to the school on or before 12:45pm, please contact Jenifer Liu at 2723 4777 or email jenifer@ecchk.org or Sara Lai at foundsara@gmail.com for more information.

Worship

Nurture

Community

Outreach

MISSION & OUTREACH

Outreach Ministry for China Migrant Workers ✨NEW

Friday, January 22nd, 7:00 - 9:00pm, Alliance Bible Seminary City Campus, Wan Chai
One of this year's Christmas Love Offering projects is to help establish community centers among Chinese migrants for the purpose of serving workers and their families. A special awareness workshop will be held at Alliance Bible Seminary City Campus (1/F, Rialto Building, 2 Landale Street, Wan Chai) featuring 14 young men and women who work in migrant communities, accompanied by Rob Penner. Through pictures and words, they will share from direct experience about the migrant situation and needs. Contact Silvester Tam at syttam@gmail.com for more information. Please sign up.
(Note: an offering box will be available for anyone who would like to help cover the costs of the migrant leaders making their trips to Hong Kong)

Mandarin Improvement Class ✨NEW

4 Tuesdays, January 12th, 19th, 26th & February 2nd, 7:00 - 9:00pm, TST MC
Learning Mandarin can be fun. This class is for those who have basic understanding of Mandarin but want to improve pronunciation and word usage. Focus is to prepare you for mission trips to China. Please sign up.
Instructor: Donald Chen
Contact: Silvester Tam (syttam@gmail.com).

Weekly Prayer Requests ✨NEW

- Pray for the members of the Mission & Outreach Committee (MOC)
- Praise God for the protection of each short term mission trip in 2009
- Praise God for the money raised for the Christmas Love Offering
- Pray for the MOC plan for the coming year
- Pray for the upcoming mission workshop in January
- Pray for cultivating the hearts of The Great Commission at ECC – “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...” (Matthew 28:19)



JAN-FEB TEACHING SERIES: “THE OUTSIDER”

This teaching series explores the role of ‘the outsider’ as a theme that runs throughout the Bible. We often think (correctly) that the Biblical story of God’s exclusive covenant is with ‘the insider’—Israel, from whom comes an exclusive Jewish Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth. However, this ‘one people’, ‘one Saviour’ and ‘one way’ is shocking to a culture of ‘many ways to God’. Yet we discover that this God who elects and chooses one, is for the good and sake of the many. We will look at some of the Biblical figures such as Naaman, Esau, Rahab, and Ruth in the Old Testament and ‘the woman at the well’ and Joseph of Arimathea in the New Testament, to discover their role and relationship as ‘outsiders’.

This series is for those of us who struggle with this ‘exclusiveness’ of God, or who feel that they themselves are ‘outsiders’ to the experience of God or of a real relationship with Him; or for those of us who consider themselves ‘insiders’ and may have forgotten God’s commitment to ‘the outsiders’.

If you wish someone to pray for you this morning, members of the prayer team are available to pray for you in confidence and in faith. After the benediction, the prayer team will stand near the green banner to the left of the stage.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ~Jesus



Welcome Slip

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Nos: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Mobile) _____

Email Address: _____

Comments? Questions? Prayer requests?

Are you looking for a home church? Yes No

If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved with ECC, please circle your interest(s) from the following list:

Care Group	Adult Classes	Welcome Team	Sound & PowerPoint	Worship Team
Men's Ministry	Women's Ministry	Youth Ministry	Children's Ministry	Prayer Ministry
Filipino Ministry	Mission & Outreach	Others: _____		

**Please leave this slip at the welcome table in the foyer. Thank you!*