



**North
Point
Alliance
Church**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Arnold Chow
Pastors: Rev. Stera Chan (stera@npac.org.hk)
Lawrence Choy (lawrencechoy@npac.org.hk)

NPAC Education Centre: 2/F Phase 2, Maximall, 233 Electric Road,
North Point, Hong Kong. Tel: (852) 2807-5200
EM website: www.npacem.org; email: em@npac.org.hk
EM Youth Ministry website: www.npacemyouth.com
EM Facebook & Instagram page: “NPAC English Ministry”

Family Sunday - Worship Order

Prelude

Call to Worship – Jude 24-25

*To him who is able to keep you from stumbling
and to present you before his glorious presence
without fault and with great joy –*

*to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.*

Songs of Praise

Corporate Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Reading – Luke 10:38-42

Sermon – What is better?

Response Song

Offertory Prayer

Child Dedication

Welcome & Family News

Monthly Bible Verse – Luke 8:38b-39

*But Jesus sent him away, saying,
“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.”
So the man went away and told all over town
how much Jesus had done for him.*

Doxology & Benediction

Postlude

Speaker:	Rev. Stera Chan	Chairperson:	Joseph Trinh
Praise Leader:	Joseph Trinh & Fri Team	Scripture Reader:	Carman Chan
Pianist:	Lilian Chow	PowerPoint:	Claire Liao
Welcome Team:	David Wong, Matthew Kam, Jason Lam, Abeline Quebatay		
Offering Counters:	Veronica Tamondong, Samuel So		
Sound System:	Amanda Chan, Bono Lee, Clarence Fok		

For Live broadcast, please [click here](#) or search “NPAC English Service” on YouTube (recording available until Tue).

For onsite meeting guidelines and prevention measures, [click here](#).

For worship service arrangements in extreme weather, [click here](#) for details.

Regroup, Adjust, Entrust and Walk in Partnership

By Rev Arnold Chow

Last month, the Alliance Bible Seminary organized a conference on “Molding the Future of Hong Kong Churches.” I had the opportunity to offer my observations and suggestions on the issue of “Temporary Shortage of Church Leaders under the Emigration Wave in Hong Kong.” I would also like to share them with the NPAC family here.

In Hong Kong churches, the emigration wave has led to a drop in attendance and an outflow of those who serve, and the NPAC family is no exception. Before the pandemic, more than 6,000 attended our worship services. When normalcy is resumed after the pandemic, there are only over 4,000 who attend on-site worship services (with a count of more than 5,000 a week for online worship services). The strength of NPAC’s pastoral team has also dropped from over 60 four years ago to over 50 at present (including those who have retired or left their ministry roles). Still, there is no need for us to wallow in self-pity.

Universal phenomenon: In fact, overseas churches also face the issue of temporary shortage of leaders after the pandemic. Their surveys found that on top of the drop in attendance in on-site worship services, the number of those who serve voluntarily has also dropped significantly. So even after church reopening, those who serve have not fully returned to church or to their serving roles. Meanwhile, pastors do not know where to find new blood to serve.

Likewise for voluntary services outside the church. The pandemic has led to the community’s increased need for services by non-profit organizations. Compared to the time before the pandemic, however, the number of voluntary workers has dwindled and it is increasingly difficult to recruit new workers. The problem of “outflow” is not confined to Hong Kong or Hong Kong churches. It is a universal problem after the pandemic.

Regroup, reorganize: In such new horizons, Hong Kong churches need to review whether they would continue with their current decision-making processes. To a certain extent, the shock we experienced these few years reflects our health situation or where our weak points are. In the smooth old days, the church responded to different needs with more and more ministries and varied activities, and the pandemic did the hard braking for the church. The church must discern what are indispensable. We must know why the church exists, and for what unique mission we will move forward.

After the pandemic, the church cannot resume normalcy without thinking. If the church can reaffirm the original mission we received, simplify and streamline, regroup and strengthen so as to have clear workflow and direction, I trust that congregants who remain in Hong Kong will be able to continue to commit themselves.

Adjust, entrust: Hong Kong churches experience a temporary shortage of leaders partly because no one would serve as leaders. It can also be interpreted as there are people but none is yet suitable. Yet, the church cannot simply wait for “suitable” candidates to appear. Rather, we should groom the new generation that is still in Hong Kong and adjust the ministry roles to “suit” them.

The church should not be merely filling vacancies but we should make adjustments in various aspects in accordance with the characteristics of the new generation. Through frank exchanges, we will be able to hear from the new generation their fears, imaginations, expectations and aspirations for the future of the church. After all, “the temporary leader shortage” is a question of “to trust or not to trust.” As long as we can trust that the younger generation also loves this church family and be quick to listen to each other and slow to criticize, it is possible for us to make the journey together.

In the post-pandemic new horizons, the church is faced with many uncertainties. Amidst all the changes, may the church be steadfast in its mission and be faithful to Christ the Lord at all times!

(This is an excerpt from the paper published for the conference on “Molding the Future of Hong Kong Churches 2023” by the Alliance Bible Seminary.)

Read the article online: <https://npacem.org/ps20230514/>

Family News

1. Regular meetings

- **Gatekeepers** (secondary school): Fri, 7:30-9:30pm, Rm 219

<u>May 19</u> Topical: Clubbing	<u>26</u> No meeting
<u>Jun 2</u> Treasure Room	<u>9</u> Bible Study
- **Peacemakers** (uni students & above): Fri, 8-10pm, Rms 217-8

<u>May 19</u> Prayer Walk	<u>26</u> No meeting
<u>Jun 2</u> Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount	<u>9</u> Prayer Meeting
- **Tentmakers** (young working adults): Sat, 5-6:30pm, Rms 217-8

<u>May 27</u> Bible Study: God’s Mercy	<u>Jun 10</u> Retreat: Renewal
--	--------------------------------
- **Joint Adult Fellowship:** No meeting on Sun May 14 (TODAY); Love Feast on Sun Jun 11, details to be confirmed
- **Couples Fellowship:** Book Study: Growing Old Gracefully (Chapter 12-14); Sun May 28, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children’s Room: Rm 219
- **Women’s Fellowship:** The Gospel of John: Jesus’ Words of Life; Sun May 28, 1:30-3pm, Rm 215
- **EM Prayer Meeting:** Sun morning, 8:30-9am, Rm 204 (Today changed to 9:45-10:15am)
- **Children’s Program:** For children aged 3-10 during English worship service; CP2: Rm 219; CP3: Rm 211 (No Children Children’s Program Today)

2. Other meetings

- **Sunday School Teachers Monthly Prayer Meetings:** Sun Jun 4, after worship service
- **Thailand Mission Team pre-trip meeting:** Sun Jun 4, 1-3pm; Rms 217-8

3. Family Sunday (Sun May 14 TODAY): There will NOT be Sunday School and Children’s Program. Families are encouraged to worship together today.

4. EM Child Dedication (during worship service on Sun May 14 TODAY): Give thanks to God that James Chan and Karita Kan will dedicate Elianna, Venice Cheng will dedicate Aerin, and Paul Wong and Rachel Lee will dedicate Mila to God! Come witness, pray for and celebrate the child dedication with the families!

5. **EM Youth Summer Camp “I’m Lovin’ Him”:** Join us for the 2-day-0-night summer day camp at church. All youth (secondary school students & those starting secondary school in Aug/Sep 2023) are welcome! *Dates:* Fri Jul 14 & Sat Jul 15 *Program:* Praise, devotion, Bible study, topical, prayers, games, crafts etc.) *To apply:* [Click here for registration](#) by Fri Jun 30. Enquiries: em_youth@npac.org.hk
6. **Dr. Gordon Smith Parents’ Seminar “Christian higher education for our children”:** Sat May 20, 2-4pm at Main Church (no live broadcast); *Language:* English with Cantonese interpretation. No registration is needed. *Enquiries:* Rev. James Hon (2909 9700).
7. **Men’s Meeting Recruitment:** If you have been joining the English worship service or EM’s fellowships and want to receive information and materials about EM Men’s ministry/meeting details, please sign up here: https://npacem.org/smm_signup/
8. **Evangelistic Meeting for Seniors “Oh no! I’ve lost my walking stick” (「弊家伙，拐杖唔見左！」):** Invite your unbelieving senior family members to join (Aged 65 and above). *Speaker:* Rev. Sylvia Kwok. *Testimony:* Comma Chan (founder of “Theatre in The Dark”); *Date & Time:* Sat Jun 3, 2:30-4pm. *Venue:* Main Church. *Language:* Cantonese. *Enquiries:* Pastor Tim Yuen (2909 9700). (Details: Chinese Bulletin p.6).

Prayer Corner

What are the needs of your non-believing families and friends? Come to the Prayer Corner and share with the Prayer Corner members. We have also prepared some special Bible verse bookmarks for you to share with your friends and families. Let’s pray together for their salvation.

Tithe & Offering

Tithe & offering will be collected in the red offering bags at the end of the worship service at the entrance of the worship hall. Charity offering (every 4th Sun) will be collected in the green bag. Please prayerfully prepare beforehand. For details, please visit: <https://npacem.org/titheandoffering/>

Prayer Items

1. **United Kingdom:** A country that used to be used by God to spread Christianity hundreds of years ago. Today secularism is growing and some have lost their faith. *Pray* that Christians will stay strong in their faith and proclaim the truth. *Pray* that Christian immigrants will bring a spiritual impact neighbors. *Ask* God to revive the church.
2. **Our Parents and Family:** *Give thanks* for our parents. *Pray* that all of us will learn to love and honor our parents. *Pray* for families in which relationships are difficult. *Pray* for parents who feel the pressure of parenting their children while caring for their elderly parents at the same time. *Pray* that we will be witnesses in the family. *Ask* God to help us invite our unbelieving parents to the Sat Jun 3 evangelistic meeting.
3. **Our Life with Christ:** *Pray* that we all spend time with Jesus and learn from His teaching. *Pray* for our hearts to be touched by His grace and shaped by His truth. *Pray* that our relationship with Jesus is always the source of our strength, joy, and fragrance.

Next Sun May 21: *Guest Speaker:* Rev. Gordon Smith (“Our Refuge in Uncertain Times”, Psalm 46); *Chairperson:* Moses Chen; *Praise Leader:* Moses Chen & Team; *Pianist:* Minnie Ho; *Scripture Reader:* Jason Choi; *Welcome Team:* Fenny Wong, Uno Tai, Faith Trinh, Ailene Almodiente; *Offering Counter:* Heidi Kan, Vincy Ng; *PowerPoint:* Claudia Chan.