



Reverend's Intro

2019 10-12

Inheritance of love - Pastor Yan Shi

It is often my pleasure to seek out churches and old things in unfamiliar city streets. Sometimes, carved columns and wall murals can be found in courtyards. Occasionally, you can find very attractive old things in the relocated shantytown ... staring at the time ravaged monuments and the traditional patterns on these old objects, exuding its ancient and mysterious beauty, they are seemingly telling silently old memories from the distant past. However, some stories happened so long ago, it's not possible to fully understand what was its actual history?

My hometown is in the northeast of China, the land of the historic Manchu. My memory recalls since childhood that Christian churches are rare here, However, it is gratifying to note that with the growth of China's economy over the years, urban culture has been slowly unearthed. Some of the history is infiltrated by the grace of the love of Jesus Christ and the imprint of Christian civilization is clearly preserved through the Christian churches that remain in the city.



Dr Dugald **Rev Rose**

It was a Manchurian territory in 1882. The weak and corrupt "Great Qing Dynasty" was struggling to meet the challenges of the already industrialized powers. At that time, the "Sino-French" and "Sino-Japanese" wars had not yet begun. Bandits in Northeast China were rampant, ruthless and endless. The gospel of Christ was not known to ordinary people. At this time, the Scottish Dr. Dugald Christie and Rev. John Rose accepted the invitation of the Presbyterian Church to come to the Northeast China as missionaries. That was the beginning of a difficult period. The cold weather in Manchuria, the differences in language and culture, the incomprehension and alienation of the local people, plus the risk of the working environment made the gospel work really difficult. However [I can do all things by the one who strengthens me.] (Philippians 4:13)

After the initial long wait and prayers, Dr. Dugald founded the "Moukden Clinic", which provide medicine and free medical treatments; and he had treated thousands of people personally, bringing them "light" and "hope". Over the next 20 years, gospel work slowly opened up. Dr. Dugald and Rev. John Rose established medical schools, churches, and seminaries in Moukden. Rev. John Rose also translated the Bible into Korean and became the "Morrison" of Korea.



Moukden Hospital

After the Sino-Japanese War of 1894, the British Presbyterians shifted their work focus from Shandong to Northeast China, and successively established the "Feng Astronomical Academy" (pre Qingdao University of Science and Technology), "Faculty of Arts and Sciences", "Medical School", and "Theological Seminary". These became prestigious higher education institutions set up by the church matching those of " Peking University ", " Nanking University ", " Qi Lu ", and " Fu-dan ". In 1904, the "Japanese-Russian War" broke out in Liaoning, and Dr Dugald's "Moukden Medical College" treated a large number of wounded, including Chinese, Russians and Japanese. Yuan Shikai, the governor of Zhili at the time, sent a letter of thanks for this, praising him as "a messenger of peace." In 1910, Moukden was infected with pneumonic plague. Dr Dugald served as the chief commander of Moukden's fight against the plague. His missionary, Arthur Jackson, who had just arrived in Moukden for only half a year, came to the front line of the fight against plague. Unfortunately, he died of the illness serving our Lord.

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[Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds..] (John 12:24)

Manchester Alliance Mandarin Fellowship { MAMF }

Give thanks to God! For his mysterious guidance! Although in the past three months, MAMF has lost 60% of its serving brothers and sisters, He has brought to us several new brothers and sisters. Every year, July to September time is full of farewell feelings. But of course we are very happy to see the students successfully completing their studies too.

(Figure 1).



Figure 1

In the past, during the summer vacation, we would experience drop in numbers in all our gatherings. However this summer, God has led a lot of new brothers and sisters to us.

Stepping into September, the Welcome events began. Praise the Lord! 2500 leaflets were printed and we smoothly distributed them all. With the Lord's grace, we had distributed about 2000 leaflets before our first Welcoming event. We had 61 new students at our first event, exceeding our expectations. The serving brothers and sisters willingly cut their dinner portions. We were very excited to see so many students from mainland China. (Figure 2) We give thanks that more than twenty students came more than once to our three Welcoming events. (Figure 3)

This year has been different to the past as over 80% of the new students are from mainland China. The October Welcoming Camp is approaching and we have 30 applicants registered already. We pray that we can get to

know these new students during camp. We ask God to guide us in this important gospel ministry.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Leeds Alliance Church { LAC }

On July 15th, Rev. Cheung Chai Ming officially started serving in Leeds Alliance family, which is a new page for Leeds Alliance Church and brothers & sisters in our journey of growth together.

Thanks to our Lord! This summer's Bible Day camp had 15 children participants, amongst half of whom were not frequent church friends. In the Summer Bible Day camp, we share the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus with the children and told them about the Gospel.

On the last day of the day camp, there was a parents seminar. We invited from MAMF brother Peter (Senior Educational Psychologist) and his wife Doris to lead the seminar "Child Behavior Analysis (Home Edition)". Many parents have responded very well, and they hope that the church will hold more educational seminars.

This year, Leeds Alliance hosted two Language Welcoming gatherings for university students who came to learn English during the summer vacation. The number of participants was not large, only eight (all were informed about the gathering through distributed leaflets). After the Welcoming party, they brought their classmates to our weekly Bible study class.



Bible Day Camp sharing



Peter and Doris leading the seminar



Thanks to our Lord, the church had a Mid-Autumn Gospel gathering and dinner on September 15th, where brothers and sisters and non-believers all shared and socialised with each other. Each person brought a dish of food so that we can all try each others culinary skills.

Manchester Alliance Church {MAC}

In the summer of this year, MAC organized a series of activities. In addition to the youth camp and children's day camp, since last year, we have organized a short term mission team to go to East London Alliance Church to assist with their children's day camp. Thank God for leading this year's short term mission. The participating team members served together and complemented each other. Everyone had a profound experience. Although there were 8 members this year, to lead 30 lively children to complete the four-day activities, was really physically demanding and required extra grace from God.

This year, two students from the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong came to MAC for their internship. In addition to our own theological student, three of them participated in full-time pastoral work. Although they were here for training, they also helped in the church organized summer activities, including: preparation for short missions, serving as preachers in youth camps, etc. Thank you all for your hard work.



Seminar on Alliance Mission

At the end of August, I was honored to have Rev. Yao Tian Shou in Manchester to give a lecture on the Alliance Mission with content including: the history, belief traditions, and institutional structure of the Mission. The aim is to give us a wider and deeper understanding of our religious sect. More than 30 brothers and sisters attended the day.

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Short term mission at ELAC



Pastoral staff interns & Rev Chiu's family



Student Welcoming event

East London Alliance Church {ELAC}

Stepping into July, members of the East Alliance Church, were busy preparing for the children's day camp in August. For this reason, throughout July, all members of the East Alliance Church visited relatives and friends, nearby restaurants and takeaways, and distributed leaflets to encourage overseas Chinese parents and children to participate in the second "Children's Day Camp". As a result, thirty children aged 4-12 participated. This year's "Children's Day Camp" includes Rev Chiu from the Manchester Alliance Church, leading his family of four, two members from MAC and two internship students to support them. In addition, we had missionary Mabel from Brighton Alliance church and helpers from East Alliance Church all working together. As a result, the four-day children's day camp went smoothly with good results. Many children committed on the last day to trust the Lord Jesus as their Savior.



In addition to the "Children's Day Camp", in early August, East Alliance Church organized a church summer outing at the "Crystal Palace Park" with more than 60 parents and children participating. During the period of July-September, East Alliance Church tried to explore and visit more than 80 overseas Chinese who work in "nail arts and beauty" in the nearby urban area of Peckham, to show that the church cares about them. As Rev. Pang and his wife returned to Hong Kong in late September to report on their duties, the church organized a number of "Leadership Absence"

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South London Alliance Church {SLAC}

Entering into July is the mood for summer vacation, but South Alliance Church is in full swing, facing the challenge of college students' work. Over several sessions, students were guided on how to cope with English exams; more than ten people attended and they all passed the exams. Everyone was ecstatic! This was followed by outdoor friendship activities. We successively visited Cambridge, Bristol, Bath, and Oxford and other university towns, building friendship with these college students. Now we are planning a gospel camp in December.

At the end of July, there was a retreat for leaders over two days and one night. More than ten people attended. There were moments of quietness and closeness to God and time for all to connect and enjoy a barbecue feast! Of course, there were plenty of discussions about the direction of the church.

Dr. Milton Wan's evangelistic gathering titled "Is a man transformed from an ape?" attracted many friends who have never been to the church before. They responded enthusiastically and asked the speakers from different angles which established good communication with each other and open the door of evangelism.

Rev. Yiu Tian Shou preached for many hours at South Alliance Church, from noon to night, about the history and heritage of the Evangelical Association. Brothers' and sisters' eyes lit up and said "Wow, our Alliance Church community is fantastic!" Stepping into September, the new college semester begins. The South Alliance Church has started a tutorial class for middle school students. There are currently six children participating. This is one of the outreach programs. At the same time, a juvenile group has also been officially established. Ten young people are currently in the group.



Alliance history seminar



Leaders Retreat



Tutorial class



Evangelistic gathering BBQ

Brighton Alliance Church {BAC}

Thanks to the Lord, on September 8th this year, Brighton Alliance Church successfully completed the second annual general meeting since joining the Alliance Union. As many students have not yet returned to the UK, the attendance was not large, but all agendas were successfully passed. Brothers and sisters also understand the direction and financial needs of the church for next year, so that they can support and cooperate in all aspects and together learn the lessons of faith and growth.



Bible study group

In September we had the opportunity to distribute leaflets to new Chinese students at the Orientation Days at two Brighton universities, Sussex University and Brighton University. During the Orientation Day this year, there were not many Chinese to be seen. However, we are very grateful that Philip and Mabel have joined as members of the pastoral team as Rev Pang is a voluntary pastor at Sussex university. This gives them the opportunity to contact students in the university from mainland China and Hong Kong studying in the UK.

The Cantonese Bible Study Group and the Mandarin Bible Study Group completed a Bible study of Abraham in September. Brothers and sisters had in-depth sharing and learning. Coincidentally, two Hong Kong missionaries were in the UK for work experience and were able to join our group. The Cantonese Bible Study Group began to take place at an elderly believer's home. Not only were we able to share in a relaxing atmosphere, it was also filled with warmth and love.

At the end of August, Brighton Alliance Church had its first baptism.

Six brothers and sisters witnessed the Lord by the sea. Since joining the Alliance Union, Brighton Alliance Church held its first baptism on the 24th August. This was a very special baptism. We performed the baptism on Brighton's famous Pebble Beach. There were four young people and two elderly participating in the baptism. The elderly had baptism by affusion, while the younger people had baptism by immersion. I believe their feeling was very special and memorable. The Lord prepared for us the warmest and most sunny day of the week, and many brothers, sisters, and friends came to observe the ceremony. May the brothers and sisters who are baptized continue to grow in the Lord



Baptism on the beach

Know a little more



Connect will introduce one by one fellow co workers and his/her family to you. Through these introductions we hope to promote mutual understanding within the Alliance family and to connect with each other in our God's love. This issue is **Pong Chi Lin**.

There are countless gratitudes in my heart , which I offer to my heavenly Lord.

I witness how beautiful it is to spread the grace of the Lord, I'm so grateful for your constant support.

Time flies. I have been the Union's part-time secretary for three years this November. At the time Rev. Lau asked me if I was interested in the position, I had stopped working for about half a year. My two children, Mar- and Stephanie, had left home which meant I didn't have to spend time taking care of them. After twenty plus years of working in stressful and challenging jobs, I had finally retired. Freed from the feeling of lack of time for many years, I really enjoyed my freedom and leisure. So at first, I turned down the work. But God had his plan. When I finally accepted, my heart calmed and I knew that this was the way God wants me to take.



I moved to live in UK at the age of ten. I left my parents to live with my sister's family. My husband Perkins came to the UK to study A Level.

is a dentist and I graduated from electrical and electronics engineering. Our works rarely gives us contact with the Chinese community, but we thought it was important to give our children the opportunity to learn Chinese. Therefore, almost 15 years ago, we brought our children to MAC for the Chinese Language class and accepted our Lord here. Perkins and I are really blessed. We accompanied each other on our journey to find God, were baptized together joining the Manchester Alliance family, for which we are very grateful.



Our children, Martin and Stephanie, now both work and live in London. Martin works for a digital bank and Stephanie is a trainee lawyer. During their time at MAC, spiritual seeds were planted in their hearts. We pray that one day they would sprout and grow. (Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you and your family will be saved." The Lord is faithful and we will pray for this.



My work in the Union is very wide ranging, from general administration to finance and bookkeeping. In retrospect, my previous work experience has made me adapt rather quickly. I believe that my previous trials were prepared by the Lord for my present ministry, which is the grace of the Lord. Despite being familiar with many things at work, there are still many new challenges. For example, my lack of experience in claiming Gift Aid refund and working visa applications. In the past two years, by virtue of God's grace, using this blunt instrument, a total of five priests and pastors have successfully come to serve in the Alliance family from abroad, working together to expand the kingdom of God. Hallelujah!

"It is impossible in man, but in God everything is possible." (Matthew 19:26)

I remember when I first started working at CACU, I knew very little about the Union, and I found this to be common among many brothers and sisters. I hope that through "Connect", brothers and sisters from different churches in the Union can make acquaintances and have better communication & relations; to be linked together, to encourage and support each other in serving our Lord.

I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to serve. May the Lord continues to guide and teach me. (Colossians 3: 23-24)"Whatever you do, do it from your heart, as if it were done to the Lord, not to others You serve the Lord Christ "



Union Moments



With twenty participants from different corners of the country, the retreat had many different activities, including hymns, worship, prayer, sharing and games.

Our guest speaker Rev Yiu Tim Sau used the message from Jud:20-21 to give guidance and encouragement; just like the twilight morning bell, awakening the sleeping spirits. Coupled with his vivid and humorous sermons were his rich personal experiences, leaving each participant spiritually filled to the brim.

Communications with Christians of a similar age is always easier as everyone's background is very similar. In the camp, from listening to others' sharing of their experiences to knowing more about serving God and the Bible, I have opened up my horizons. Also, some participants in the camp were non-Christians, reminding me of myself of the time when I was not a Christian. All in all, this was an unforgettable experience. The sermons in the camp made me reflect on my previous harsh attitude towards students in my teaching years. Now I will think more from the perspective of students, patiently listen to the difficulties they encounter, and share my knowledge and views with them.



Peter Leung

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In the past 40 years, through the work of these missionaries, the people of Moukden got to know Jesus Christ who could bring them life and hope. Through their work, the seeds of the gospel were planted on the northeast land. I sometimes feel the limitation of text, because these few lines of history simply is incapable of expressing their tears and prayers, day and night, during their lives in China. Fortunately, our God remembers. Looking back at the gospel road in China, it is composed of the life and blood of many missionaries, just like the rebirth of a grain of wheat. Putting everything on the table to convey the love of Jesus Christ to all peoples and nations. The mission of the missionary is derived from the call of God.

Today, we have received the passed down gospel baton. What kind of mindset should we have to pass it on? [Leave your homeland, your relatives, and your father's house, and go to a land that I am going to show you.] (Genesis 12: 1) For those who serve God, the calling of God is the beginning of all service. Those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ have been crucified with Christ and will definitely abandon everything in response to the Word of God. Therefore, "leave" means abandoning everything in the past. "Homeland" may be a worldly, comfortable environment or a stable life. A person called by God needs to "leave" all of this, but also needs to "break through" and "destroy" the once worldly value system. And leave the "homeland" and "relatives" represents the need for the called to be separated from their cultural background, living habits and interpersonal relationships, family heritage, and so on. "Leave" is a kind of "severance" from the foundation, which is a kind of complete "death" towards the world. "Go to a land that I am going to show you" signifies relying entirely on faith. Therefore, what you can see is no longer evidence. All the "evidence" are in the Word of God.

Yes! The mission road is long and the task is difficult, but the Bible says: [In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us] (Romans 8:37)



Hand in hand , cooperation & growth

Pang Lai Yin Fun

Each year at the Union's Annual General Meeting, pastoral workers and church leaders can gather together. In addition to discussing union matters, they also deepen communication and understanding. However, other brothers and sisters do not have this opportunity. How can we let brothers and sisters know more about each church? I think the effective and practical way is to join the "short-term mission team."

From July 29th to August 1st 2019 at the "East London Alliance Church's Children's Day Camp", over 30 children aged 4 to 12 participated. The theme of this year's day camp was "God's Mighty Battle Team", encouraging children to become God's elite soldiers. Last year's Children's Day Camp, Rev Chiu Wai Chor of the Manchester Alliance Church led a short mission team to assist. After last year's cooperation, mutual understanding deepened, so this year's joint effort was even better. Originally, the Children's Day Camp was planned for the end of August. However, due to the borrowing of the venue, it was changed to early August. Rev Chiu understood and appreciated our situation and immediately issued a new appeal to brothers and sisters. I can only say sorry to the brothers and sisters who intended to participate in the short-term mission announced for the end of August. Therefore one month earlier, Rev Chiu's whole family of four, together with four brothers and sisters, formed a powerful and dynamic group of eight short-term mission team, and the Camp was held as scheduled.

Manchester Alliance Church is mainly responsible for the content of the children's camp, including Bible stories, hymn singing, games and crafts. In addition to Manchester Alliance Church's short term mission team, Sister Tong Mabel, a missionary of Brighton Alliance Church, also came to assist by herself. She can be said to be the "Whole Camp Assistant ". She does not have a fixed position and would fill in wherever needed. Therefore no matter whether it is at entrance reception, kitchen or dining hall, she was there with her sweet smile. When there is an item to be purchased immediately, she spared no effort to run these errands. As for the ELAC sisters, they were responsible for teaching in groups or preparing lunch in the kitchen.

ELAC is still a very young church, and external assistance is much needed when hosting large events. In addition to lack of human resources, some materials are also lacking. As more than 50 people's lunch is required to be prepared every day, they borrowed from SLAC a rice cooker that can cook more than 20 people's rice. Therefore, the successful completion of this day camp can be said to be the result of the human and material cooperation of four churches. It is really wonderful how the churches can help each other, and brothers and sisters support each other in our serving of the Lord.





Union

<http://www.cacuuk.org/>

Chairman: Rev Wai Lung Sham

Vice-chairman: Rev Wai Chor Chiu

Muslim Ministry

At the end of 2019, CACU announced the engagement of a preacher to evangelize to the Muslim community. For now it is only part-time. The main serving area is Manchester City but he will accept invites from other member churches to give assistance to promote Muslim gospel work. Would like to introduce him and his family in this column and in the future, will keep you posted on Muslim gospel work.



We, “Los Sanchez”, have come here from Peru following God’s call to the unreached in UK. Our story starts in the Chinese CM&A Peru when I was 14 years old. In 2001 I had the opportunity to be pastor at a church in the Peruvian Andes. I was desperate to be with people who had never heard the gospel, and while I was praying for God’s direction and trying to learn the local language, a group of missionaries came from the UK to my small church and were talking about all the needs there.

After the recruitment process with the CM&A Peru, I went to the British Embassy in Lima with a few documents and with no idea where to get the tickets. Once there, the official asked: “Why England?” (He had the “rejected” stamp ready.) I said: “God wants me there”. I told him about my calling, and he with a lot of patience changed the stamp to “approved”. After a few days of praying without speaking to anyone I got the tickets and I came to the UK in 2003.

At the beginning I thought the Lord had made a mistake as I didn't feel any passion; and after three months in London my old missionary agency had the idea of sending me to Manchester and the Lord touched my heart there. Three months later I went back to Peru and after a month I got married to Lilian (we were already engaged). Our church in Peru sent us to the UK without any financial promise, we trusted the Lord has called us and will provide for our needs, so I came back to London in 2005, this time with my wife and our three-month-old daughter Joyce. In 2007 we moved to Manchester, and although my English was just as limited as my cultural understanding a Muslim told me: I had a dream about Jesus, who told me that you had a message. A few days later I was discipling seven of them, without any Arabic, only broken English and very little knowledge.

In 2008, Lilian discovered that women who are not from the European Community had few opportunities to learn English, so she took on the challenge and opened an ESOL for Women. In a year she had fifty Muslim ladies and a long waiting list, but we couldn’t do much when their husbands forbade their wives to come and the wives wouldn’t talk to the police.

In 2009 we moved to another neighbourhood to join a church plant TCC – Trinity Community Church, and in 2010 Ethan came into our lives. In 2013 our sending church invited us to come back to Peru and become their pastors, but we said no, as we strongly felt the Lord wasn’t calling us to come back to Peru yet, it was a difficult decision but once again we decided to take a step of faith and obedience and embrace Manchester as our City.

Few years later TCC planted another church with Muslim people. We became British and Alexandria Library (bookshop) was born.

Many challenges came to our life like the diagnosis of our children with autism but that was another door that the Lord used to make us aware of our local community.

Last year the Lord called us again to leave our comfort zone and do church planting in a Muslim community. Since 5th July 2019 we opened Encounter 247, a church on Saturday’s evenings whose attendees are mostly refugees, asylum seekers, people struggling with mental health but a great field to share the Good News.

Throughout these years the passion of sharing our experience and train a new generation waking up the church has been growing in our hearts so we are very blessed and privileged to be called to work with Chinese CM&A in the UK – we see this as an answer to prayers and

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