

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED AND YEAST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021 | MATTHEW 13:31-35 | REV. DR. KEN FOO

CHURCH NEWS

Vacation for MCBC staff as below:

- Rev. George Lin (Mandarin Division) – August 3 to 16 (inclusive)
- Rev. Edward Ho (Senior Pastor) – August 21 to September 4 (inclusive)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Announcement from Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry invites all parents of youth (grades 7-12) to join the online meeting, "Welcome Back, Parents Meet-Up."

After a year and a half of the epidemic, youth in many families are facing new struggles. To help them experience healthy spiritual growth, parents need to work together with the church. Through this meeting, you will get to know the leaders and activities within the Youth Ministry. Let us work together in the new school year to help our youth face the challenges ahead.

Who: All parents of youth at MCBC

Time: Friday, August 27, 2021 at 7:30-8:30pm

Link to join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81863339988>

Contact Grace at 4168995887 or graceyswang@gmail.com

2. Volunteering in Children's Ministry

Kidmin Hour is our Grade 1-6 online children's fellowship. Our new term is from September to December 2021 and runs every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, and every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. We are looking for leaders, ages 14 and up, who will share God's love with these children through games and activities, prayer, and short lessons.

Leaders will need to commit to serving for the whole term, either on Saturday or Sunday. You do not need to commit to both. No prior experience is necessary. We will provide training. Leaders will have different roles/activities to oversee each session, so prep time is minimal. For more information or to join us, please email Pastor Joanne at Joanne.Lee@mcbc.com.

3. New Bulletin Format

We are excited to announce that English Division will be transitioning from the current bulletin format (posted weekly on the church website) to an e-bulletin that will be sent directly to church members' emails every week.

If you are a member at MCBC, you should automatically be on the email list and begin receiving the e-bulletin next week. If you do not receive an email and wish to receive weekly e-bulletins, then feel free to sign-up for the e-bulletin through the church website.

Our hope is that new e-bulletin will help you stay up to date with the latest that is going on at MCBC, so stay on the lookout for the launch!

4. Generation Worship 2.0

On August 29, at 9:30am in the English service, we'll be having Generation Worship! We invite everyone of all ages, whether children, teens, or adults, to join us for a time of worshipping together. We'll also be doing some sharing from summer camp this year, so we hope you'll come join us at <https://mcbc.com/en/mcbc-online/>. See you soon!

5. Homeless Shelter Volunteering Opportunity

The homeless shelter "Yellow Brick" is looking for new and fresh photographs to use in their marketing pieces. They need volunteers on Wednesday, August 18th to pose as shelter residents for this, and are hoping for four or five women or children from the church to volunteer for this. For more information,

contact David Liu at david5button@gmail.com.

6. Church Council Meeting

The Q3 Church Council Meeting of 2021 will be held today, Sunday, August 15 at 2:30 PM via Google Meet. Please keep our leaders in your prayers that the Lord will give them wisdom and guidance.

7. Updates on Church Physical Gathering Reopening

Thanks to the Lord! After months of collaborative efforts in combating the pandemic, we finally see it mitigating. After several consultations and discussions, the Physical Gathering Reopening Committee has decided the following reopening plan:

Cantonese Service: resume in-person Noon Service (11:15 AM), with live streaming, on Aug. 15th; Morning Service (8 AM) and Sunday School remain online

Mandarin Service: continue to run via live streaming; date to resume in-person service to be confirmed.

English Service: continue to be run online; date to resume in-person service to be confirmed.

The arrangement and logistics of the resumed service have been adapted to comply with the following government guidelines:

- Pre-registration is required: <https://intl.mcbc.com/apps/registration> (participants are recommended to be fully vaccinated)
- 2-metre physical distancing among participants
- Wearing of face masks is required
- No after-service gathering will be arranged

Please check Church News on the church website for updates and details.

Should you have any suggestions or questions regarding the reopening, welcome to communicate with the Committee via email: info@mcbc.com

We earnestly pray for the Lord's wisdom, patience and unity in overcoming the challenges and difficulties we are encountering during this reopening process!

8. Church Office and Facilities Opening Hours

The church admin office opens during regular operation hours: Monday to Friday 9 AM to 5 PM. All doors of the church building will stay locked. Brothers and sisters can ring the doorbell at the west or north side entrance to access the building and drop off offerings into the offering box. For any other business, please contact the office in advance for arrangement. Please be reminded that mask wearing is mandatory inside the church building at all times (face shield is not a substitute for wearing a face mask or covering).

Sunken Garden is now reopened for small group/fellowship or ministry gatherings. Group or ministry leaders may contact the Church Office for details.

9. Hiring Children's Ministry Interns!

Children's ministry is looking to hire 3 children's ministry interns with a passion for reaching children ages 2-12 for Jesus! Most if not all of this work will be done remotely from your own home. You must be between the ages of 15-30 to apply for this job. The job is about 20 hours/week for 14 weeks. For more details, please see the full job description under the "About - Employment opportunities" section on our website (<https://mcbc.com/en/about/#hiring>).

10. "Summer+" Camp Prayer

Summer+ Prayer Updates: We know most of you won't be joining us for virtual camp, but we hope that you'll join us in prayer. Each week, we'll be uploading a prayer update with camp stories and prayer

requests and we hope that although you won't be with us virtually, we will still be united in spirit through prayer. Please visit the YLD Children webpage for updates: SUMMER+ PRAYER UPDATES – Markham Chinese Baptist Church (<http://mcbc.com>)

11. English Small Groups 2020-2021 are OPEN!

English Small Groups are open for newcomers to join and be a part of our spiritual community. We have intergenerational, young adults and family small groups throughout the week. Please check <https://mcbc.com/en/small-groups/> for the available day and time which will meet your needs and register by filling out the form by clicking on the yellow button. Our team member will connect with you shortly.

12. Pastoral Caring and Support

While all on-site gatherings are suspended, pastoral shepherding continues. Brothers and sisters, if you have any caring needs and/or prayer requests, feel free to contact any of our pastors in their respective divisions. We will do our best to render as much assistance and support as we can.

13. English Prayer Meetings

Brothers and sisters can join one of our three prayer meetings to pray for one another, our church, our community and the world. There are three timeslots to choose from in order to meet different needs:
Sisters' Prayer Meeting - First Monday 10 am to 11:30 AM and Third Tuesday 8:30 PM to 9 PM
Brothers' Prayer Meeting - Second and Fourth Wednesdays 8:00 to 9:00 PM
Saturday Prayer Meeting (Brothers and Sisters) - Every week from 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Zoom links will be posted on the website at www.mcbc.com/en/prayers

14. Four Ways of Offering

We can continue our obligation of offering (details at <https://mcbc.com/en/give/>) while worshipping at a distance via:

1. E-Transfer
2. Paypal Giving Fund program: make offerings at <https://www.paypal.com/ca/fundraiser/charity/3450711>
3. Mailing in cheques to the church office (Please do not send cash)
4. Putting your offering (cash or cheque) into the offering collection box during church office hours.

Note: Brothers and sisters, if you would like to donate specific amounts to Mission Fund, please do so via E-Transfer or by cheque. Donations made via Paypal will have the total amount allotted to General Fund.

HIRING

We are now hiring for the following positions:

- Youth Pastor
- Director of Media Ministry (Part-time)
- Summer Workers (CSJ)
 - Children's Ministry Workers (Part-time)
 - 3 positions to be filled

For more details, please see the full job description under the "About - Employment opportunities" section on our website (<https://mcbc.com/en/about/#hiring>).