

# MCBC UK Exploratory Short Term Mission Post-Trip Report

Prepared by: Lawrence Lau

Date: July 25 , 2025

---

## 1. Background

With approximately 150,000 new Hong Kong immigrants settling in the UK over the past four years (an estimated one-quarter of whom are Christians), understanding their integration into UK Chinese churches is crucial. Through direct engagement with UK counterparts, we aimed to gain firsthand insights into the current state and needs of the Christian community there. This report provides an initial evaluation to inform the Mission Committee's future overseas mission planning.

## 2. Trip Overview

Our three-member team conducted an exploratory mission trip to the UK from July 4-14, 2025, with Rev. Ng joining on July 8. Approved by the Mission Committee, the trip's primary goal was to assess the mission needs of Chinese churches in London, Manchester, and other cities, facilitated by the UK Short Term Mission Organization.

We are grateful for a highly productive and enriching trip. Our team visited eight churches across five cities: London, Southampton, Milton Keynes, Camberley, and Manchester. We established meaningful connections with pastors at each location.

## 3. Observations on UK Chinese Church Growth

We observed significant growth in many Chinese churches over the last 3-4 years, particularly among young families and multi-generational households. This surge is largely attributed to the influx of Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong immigrants, impacting churches even as far as Edinburgh, Scotland. While this growth is encouraging, it also presents substantial challenges for both newly established and existing congregations.

## 4. Key Findings: Identified Needs

Our team identified the following critical needs within the UK Chinese church community:

- **Integration of Hong Kong Immigrants:** The recent wave of immigrants creates an urgent need for churches to effectively welcome and integrate newcomers, especially the estimated 25% who are Christians.
- **Evangelism for the Unchurched:** There's a notable lack of comprehensive plans and strategies to evangelize the remaining 75% of Hong Kong immigrants who are not yet connected with a church.

- **Ministerial Support:** All churches we visited reported a shortage of ministers, highlighting a significant need for additional pastoral support.
- **Traditional Ministries:** The rapid growth has led to high demand for core church ministries (e.g., discipleship, fellowship).
- **Volunteer Recruitment:** Churches urgently need volunteers for various roles, including Sunday school teachers, cell group leaders, pastoral care, retreats, and summer camps.

## 5. Recommendations for Future Engagement

Based on our observations, we believe MCBC can effectively support the growth and vitality of Chinese churches in the UK by responding to these identified needs. Our preliminary recommendation is to consider deploying **two separate Short-Term Mission (STM) teams** to the UK, acknowledging the distinct demographic and cultural requirements of different regions:

- **One team for Central and Southwest London**, in collaboration with Abundant Chinese Church.
- **One team for Central England**, specifically Manchester and surrounding cities, through the UK Short Term Mission organization.

Crucially, **clear and established connections with UK pastors must be secured** during the planning phase to ensure effective collaboration and impactful ministry before deploying any STM teams.