

Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Church family
December 2017

Milestones and Moments

Life is full of changes, special moments and events -- let's rejoice in them together!

- Jacob Kan arrived on Nov 3rd to Martin and Florence Kan
 - Evan and Eli Hazlett arrived on Nov 11th to Brian and Tina Hazlett
 - Dec 31st - Baptisms for Sybil Hepple, Grace Leung, Ian & Julian Mak, Rita Chau and Enpei Zhang, and reaffirmations for James Hepple and Cindi Tang
-

Get to Know our Mission Partners

YWAM Harbour City

The Viana Family



**Please tell us a bit about yourself and family.
What drew you to live and work in Hong Kong?**

I moved to Hong Kong with my family in 2008 after living 8 years in Tibet, China, where we pioneered a YWAM ministry.

My initial relationships in Hong Kong began in 1994 when I was working with YWAM Macau. During the year that I lived in Macau I was often in Hong Kong picking up guests at the airport or working alongside the YWAM group located here since 1980.

Right before moving to Hong Kong in 2008 I felt the Lord's guidance to enter a master's program online with Fuller Theological Seminary – I then graduated in 2013. I felt that YWAM Hong Kong was the perfect place for me to both study and apply what I learned in my studies in the area of leadership.

Hong Kong's strategic location for reaching into China and out of China into the world is an immense drawing factor for our family. Being from Brazil, I am very biased in seeing Rio de Janeiro (my mother's home) as the most beautiful city in the world... however, Hong Kong is a close second. Hong Kong is also truly a miracle city where East meets West in such a perfect way.

How long have you been serving with YWAM? What excites you about working for YWAM?

I joined YWAM in 1991 when I was 18 years old. My love and appreciation for “our tribe” only grows as the years go by, even after almost 30 years of being a YWAM missionary. I love how people of any age, background, culture, and experience have equal opportunities to envision and implement new ways to bring relief to those who suffer, justice for those without a voice, and hope and destiny to those who are lost. It is amazing to me how I can go to any of the 1,100 YWAM locations in over 180 nations and still see the same values that guide us here in Hong Kong. For example, one of our Foundational Values is to Practice Hospitality. You can go to practically any YWAM location, from the Amazon to Siberia, from Fiji to Wales, and you will receive a hospitality welcome basket with some local treats and a welcome card saying how valued and appreciated you are as their guest — this goes for everyone, not just YWAMers.

Currently we are working in growing our Missions Training programs to better serve the Body of Christ worldwide. These programs can go from one to twenty-four weeks. We want to prepare and equip this generation to dream about ways in how they can make a difference in the world and bring pleasure to God while doing that.

What have been your struggles and joys as a missionary family?

My biggest struggle is that I cannot make time to learn Cantonese. I learned Mandarin and some Tibetan while living in China, but I never thought I would be in Hong Kong for so long. I also never thought I would make it a personal goal to see Cantonese-speaking Christians taking their place in world missions. Now that “the ball is rolling” it is very difficult for me to stop and go back to language school. I am instead relying on a network of gifted Cantonese-speaking staff and volunteers who can do an amazing job serving the local church to take its place in the Great Commission.

One of my greatest joys is seeing my children loving God and having a personal relationship with Him. They give me hope for this generation of young people who have so many opportunities to make a difference in the world for Jesus, but also have so many obstacles to overcome of confusion, deception, consumerism, and loneliness.

How can we support and/or pray for you?

We need more people! We need more gifted men and women who want to use their gifts and abilities to go beyond securing a well-deserved salary. That does not mean we want everyone to quit their jobs and join YWAM. Through their jobs and their talents, they can be a huge resource to the Mission of God. We need accountants, graphic designers, dancers, musicians, Bible teachers, interior decorators, school teachers, and much more.

Financing our ministry through fund raising is something we do several times throughout the year. If you would like to know more about it, please come talk to us. We would love to at least add your name to our mailing list so you can receive our updates 4 times per year.

Please pray for more gifted staff to join us in the coming months, especially those with marketing and administrative giftings.

Come pray for the Vianas at this Friday's prayer meeting!

Get to Know the Church Family

Daniel Pang



Tell us a little about yourself and background. How do you spend your days off?

I'm what some people would (generously) label a banana. I was born in Hong Kong, but I grew up with an internationalised / westernised culture, and I'm still technically illiterate in Chinese. I attended university overseas and came back in 2011 for work, and have been here since. These days I spend my days off sleeping or doodling.

How long have you been a Christian? In what ways have you been served/loved by the church?

I grew up in a Christian family, and those of you who've done likewise will know what I mean when I say there are few lightning bolt moments, but moments here and there that make you think just a bit harder. I first got into serving at All Souls Church in London, in the international student ministry. That involved menial stuff like moving chairs and washing dishes, and bible study leading, all sorts of stuff. Being over there, and being young and enthusiastic, really gave me a taste of what church family is - all we had was each other, and we loved each with every fibre of our being.

How has your spiritual walk with Jesus grown over this past year?

It's been a very hard year to be honest. I feel like I need a break from most things in my life, but I can't work up the courage to make changes.

How might you encourage others who might be struggling in their faith?

Some of my darkest days involved cursing at myself on an hourly basis, as well as cursing at God. And I just had this mental image of Jesus standing there, not really saying anything, head down, taking my abuse, but just refusing to go away no matter what I said. In the end it was up to me to get myself out of that pit and apologise to him. But the whole time he just stood there and refused to leave.

How can we, the church family, pray for you?

Pray that I'll find joy in what I do, be it church, work, or friendships. Thanks!

Praying for the Church

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread **and to prayer.**” Acts 2:42*

- Pray for the seven people who are getting baptized or reaffirming their faith on Dec 31st
 - For the Christmas Bazaar on Dec 2nd to be an opportunity for us to share the love of Christ with those who don't normally come to church.
 - Christmas Special Services (will be meaningful for the visitors and the regulars alike)
 - Dec 3rd 'Seeking and Finding' with Dr. Denis Alexander
 - Dec 10th Family Christmas Service
 - Dec 17th Christmas Carol Services
 - Spiritual Habits/Disciplines
 - For us to continue to grow in prayer, worship, Bible reading, giving, confession, friendship.
 - Safe Journey for many of our members who'll be traveling over the Christmas holidays; for a deeper understanding of the grace of Christ demonstrated through the coming of Jesus Christ
-

The Exchange

Need a washer/dryer? Have something to sell or donate? Looking for a tutor, or can babysit? Looking for friends to join you for a social outing? Share your interests, skills and goods here!

- **Used furniture** - Heewoo & Mary Han have a pine wood bunk bed frame to sell/give away. Please contact mary@shatinchurch.org.hk if interested.
 - **New & Used furniture** - Peter Tsih (ptsih@hotmail.com) has two mattresses to give away:
 - 1) 36"/75"/7" (brand new; brand is Airland)
 - 2) 38"/76"/8" (7 yrs old but rarely used; custom made)
 - **Moving House** - Mia Jane Cheng will be moving house in December and needs some strong hands to help. Please talk to Mia, or contact her at miajanecheng@yahoo.com if you can help out. Thank you!
-

This newsletter is put together by and for the Shatin Church family to share life and bless one another. If you have anything you'd like to share on this newsletter, please don't be shy and email mary@shatinchurch.org.hk.



Shatin Church