

# Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Church family  
February 2018

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## Get to Know our Mission Partners



This month we're getting to know **Sports Services International (SSI)**.

### How did your organization get started?

SSI was founded by Jimmy Stewart, a once famous college basketball player. Prior to settling in Hong Kong, He has lead teams of athletes to Thailand and Japan to conduct camps, clinics and exhibition games etc. He has also been invited by the People's Republic of China to conduct the workshops in their National Sports University. Through such experiences, he realised the potential of sports as a tool for bridging social and cultural communication which resulted in opportunities for training, education and honest discussion about important issues to young people.

### What is your strategy for reaching young people?

We provide a friendly and open environment where students feel free to relax and have fun when they are learning different sports activities. These are the main elements in SSI foundation:

**Physical:** Learn new athletic skills, bringing the body into good physical condition by exercising, practicing healthy dietary habits and supplying the body with adequate rest.

**Mental:** Academically, we provide the opportunities for students to practice and learn English through casual conversation and/or tutoring. We also hope to challenge students through the intellectual aspects of sports, including knowledge of the game, remaining open to constructive criticism, having a teachable attitude, setting high goals and aiming to become the best one can.

**Social & Emotional:** Opportunity to become a friend with coaches from different countries/cultures; interaction with other students; practicing commitment to sports training; learning to never give up, and hope that weaknesses can become strengths.

**Spiritual:** We believe that being in the right relationship with the creator, is the key element to being a "whole" person. We hold discussion groups where students can talk about relevant topics (such as "pressure to succeed," etc.).

Finally, recognising that the relationship between coaches and players can have a significant long-term impact, SSI staff strive to maintain ongoing relationships with students involved in SSI programs. To augment this, SSI tries to arrange all the activities in partnership with members of local schools, churches and other organisations to increase the number of adults available to participate.

### **What are some of the ministries you are currently involved in?**

- Weekly drug rehab sports and fellowship
- Local school outreaches and Sports Demos
- Annual Hot Hoops Basketball Camps
- Sports DTS (Discipleship Training School)

### **What kind of things can we pray for you?**

- Weekly program at the drug rehab centre
- A full-time female staff in Admin office
- Continual pouring out of the Spirit to give us new ideas and ways to reach the kids and youth of Hong Kong
- Prayer for continual financial blessing on SSI, its staff and ministries.



### **Shatin Church Basketball Team!**

On Saturday 3 February a basketball team from Shatin Church went to a Sports Day with other Anglican churches in Hong Kong. It was our first time as it is generally a Cantonese -language affair, and indeed we were the only internationals there, but good to meet with our brothers and sisters.

Our diverse team with a huge range of ages and nationalities truly represented our church. We managed to practice a few times in the weeks beforehand and thought we had a good chance, wondering whether playing outside in cold weather would be an advantage or not... Our first game against All Saints Cathedral was a surprise.



We expected this large church to have a superior team, but we ended up winning 32-17. But having made it to the quarter finals, we faced a very strong church. Big, fast and experienced guys that ended up in 3rd place overall. Still, at 41-58 we did pretty well.

We will definitely go back next year, and we found it just great to hang out and play together

as part of the church family. We hope to keep doing this occasionally, so if you like basketball, do join us!

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## Get to Know the Church Family

### The Hazlett Family (Brian, Christina, Hannah, Evan and Eli)

#### Please tell us a bit about your family.

Brian and Tina moved to Hong Kong September 2015. Brian spent most of his childhood in Asia. Tina is from Kentucky. The two met in college and then got married in 2011. They spent the first few years of their marriage working at an international school in India before moving to Hong Kong. Brian and Tina have three children; Hannah, Evan, and Eli. Brian is a middle school math teacher at International Christian School and Tina is a busy mom. Hannah is two and half years old and a lover of Peppa Pig. Evan and Eli are three months old and spend most their time eating and sleeping.



#### What does it mean to be a part of the Shatin Church family?

We have attended Shatin Church since we arrived in Hong Kong 2 ½ years ago. For us, being a part of the church family means finding friends who we can walk through life with. We want to be there for others during their joy and pain, during their sorrows and victories. We also want our church family to be there with us during our struggles and triumphs. We have definitely found community and this type of love and support at Shatin Church.

#### What are some of the challenges you have faced as a family and how have you seen God working during these challenges?

For those of you who don't know our story, we just had twin boys (Evan and Eli) on November 11<sup>th</sup>; and the last three months have been a lot of highs and lows. Tina had an emergency C-section due to health complications. Both boys spent time in the hospital and have continued

to struggle with various health issues. After having an easy pregnancy and healthy baby with our previous child (Hannah) this was not what we were expecting. Throughout all these difficulties God's goodness has continued to bless our family. We have seen God's love for us and our children through all the support of our Shatin Church family and the ICS community. We have seen God working through your prayers, to delivering meals, to providing help with babies and Hannah, to having friends who will cry and laugh with us.

### How can we pray for you?

- Pray for us as we adjust from a family of three to a family of five.
  - Pray for Eli and his heart arrhythmia. Pray that he will outgrow his SVT and that he would have no adverse side effects from the medication.
  - Thank the Lord for hearing our cries and allowing Evan to have surgery to repair his hernia. He is recovering quickly and doing well.
  - Pray for Hannah as she adjusts to her new role of big sister and learns to share mommy and daddy's attention with her brothers.
  - Pray for us financially as we feel the added stress of having three kids.
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### Praying for the Church

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers"* Acts 2:42

We give thanks

- For all those who heard the gospel over the Christmas period, including at the New Year's baptism service
- For encouraging Sundays being envisioned through Philipians
- For the excellent TnT parenting conference, and a chance to repeat it in March
- For the many ways people love each other practically at our church

Let's continue to pray

- For us to shine like stars as we hold out the gospel here in Hong Kong
- For the gospel to be our priority in both big and small decisions
- For those doing Christianity Explored to come to faith (and for more people to use it)
- For us to be a welcoming church that helps newcomers integrate
- For wisdom and gospel opportunities for those visiting non-Christian family during CNY.

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*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](mailto:mary@shatinchurch.org.hk).*