

Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Anglican Church family

October 2018

Get to Know our Mission Partners



African Enterprise International
AE Australia Director, Ben Campbell

What are three words you would use to summarize AE's work in 2018? Why?

Unifying: We aim to bring churches together on mission, sometime despite significant differences between them, as there is one Kingdom of God, one way to get there which is through Jesus, and Jesus calls us to be recognised as disciples by our unity. It is in unity that there is strength and power given by God.

Motivated: We are motivated to see the Kingdom of God established on earth as it is in heaven. With the population growing strongly, and very young, plus the many powerful influences against the Gospel, we need to work hard whilst the harvest is ripe in Africa.

Visionary: We have increasingly strengthened our goals and vision as evangelists to prepare ourselves to meet the demands of Africa of the future. Our vision is brought by Jesus, and as a team we seek to be led to achieve the Great Commission that God has called us to through Christ. Vision means seeing how we will reach out to more cities through word and deed, and making plans as to how we will be appropriately resourced to do this.

According to the 2017 annual report, some of the significant challenges highlighted were: church closures in Rwanda, civil war in South Sudan, Islamic terrorism in Kenya and the need for trained pastors to disciple new believers. Are they still the bigger challenges of 2018?

Rwanda: Church closures and stringent and basically unachievable new rules on building access and interior look amongst many other rules have provided even more reasons for churches to be closed. It continues to be a major issue, as there is also a concern to the extent other countries in Africa follow, as well as ripping the fabric of many communities within Rwanda itself. God's intervention here is a work in progress. I think by us identifying and publicising the issues we will start to put pressure on the government to

introduce a progressive rollout of some of the positive changes, and not simply just close churches for minor items. More prayers needed as it is affecting more and more churches.

South Sudan: We are really pleased that through our constant reconciliation work and the prayers of partners, God has intervened to create peace between warring factions. Our challenge now is to set up a leadership training centre that has been postponed for many years. I think the church is now set for growth here.

Islamic threats remain high in many parts of Africa, and it is an ongoing and significant challenge for the church to prevent additional infiltration and also oppression of their communities. Kenya remains on high alert. The challenge remains to determine how Christian retains its integrity and protects itself against disunity whilst Islamic terrorism prowls like a roaring lion outside. Many communities need protection still from this. This remains a historic and entrenched issue, and we need to be “in it to win it”.

Trained pastors: This remains a significant challenge, however we have made steps toward increasing the number of trained pastors through a new pilot training program in Uganda. 200 pastors were trained in the past year, and we are rolling this program out to Ghana and South Africa. This is a major push for us and we'd love to have more churches involved in helping to train new pastors, who can then engage in mission and effectively disciple new believers following mission.

To summarise and answer your question, yes these remain major challenges, along with also grappling with the increasing growth and urbanisation of African cities. This is putting enormous pressure on infrastructure and survival, and I think that we as a church need to grapple with a spiritual approach to the issues whilst governments and world organisations deal with some of the practicalities of feeding and housing millions and improving their economy and governance.

How can we pray for you and the work at AE?

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” Our work with you is definitely making an impact, and AE is recognised and well regarded amongst African church communities for making a difference and bringing people into church. God has also answered prayers in helping our organisation to focus on the future and continuously improve our activities and relationships with supporters so we can fund evangelistic and social action initiatives.

We would really appreciate your prayers and partnership to achieve all of the following:

1. Equip the church in Africa to reach more cities through stratified evangelism
2. Build the capacity of the church to retain and nurture new believers

3. Increasing the number of transformational servant leaders who are accountable & agents of positive change in every city
4. Raise and mentor Godly, talented and influential young emerging leaders
5. Holistic empowerment and discipleship of African youth
6. Demonstrating the love of Christ to vulnerable and marginalized communities
7. Strengthen God-centred peace, reconciliation and unity within and across African nations and communities

Get to Know our Ministries



Women in Touch

Thursdays 10 am to 12:30 pm

King's Wing Plaza 2, 8K

Shek Mun



Connecting women in our church and community is our joy and privilege at WIT (Women in Touch)! We enjoy the fun of serving together with other women, and we saw the need for women to encourage other women, so we started our ministry on March 3, 2016. We meet Thursday mornings at the church centre for an inspiring, intimate time of worship, testimony sharing, in-depth Bible study, and prayer. Additionally, we have quarterly outreaches and celebrations.

In Titus 2:4-5, we see Paul instructing Titus to let the older women care for the younger

women and we adopt this biblical model for our ministry. We freely love, hug, and care for one another. We also freely laugh and rejoice together, as well as cry and weep together, as we go through the ups and downs of life.

Our purpose is to inspire our ladies to be:

Women of the Word, Worship, & Warfare

Intimacy with God, intimacy with one another

Touch others with the love of Christ, evangelism

We thank God for the joy and privilege of serving in this ministry over the past two and a half years. We are encouraged to see how our new believers have grown in faith and maturity as we study the Scriptures together each week. We also enjoy being in touch weekly, building strong, intimate relationships through sharing and encouraging one another as we walk through life together.

What our ladies say about WIT:

“WIT is like a home and shelter to me. I find comfort, care and support here.” *Cally*

“I feel the love of the Father at WIT and I feel God's power lifting me up to grow. I also see my precious young sisters grow in all aspects unto salvation, in the Word and in the Spirit.” *Lee*

“WIT helps me to have a close relationship with God. I feel much love, peace, and strength at WIT, so I look forward to coming here every week.” *Phyllis*

“WIT is God-centred, has great, in-depth Bible studies, warmth of God's love, loving support of one another, kind people, serious, yet relaxing atmosphere.” *Amica*

“I am so blessed at WIT that I keep inviting my friends to come to WIT so they can be blessed too!” *Nora*

Prayers for WIT:

Please pray that God will continue to use us to cultivate his kingdom here in our group, church, and community.

Please pray for our quarterly outreaches, that we will continue to see many more souls added to the kingdom of God.

We are going through an in-depth Bible study of Colossians over the next eight weeks.

Pray that we will have a complete view of Jesus through this study, and live lives worthy of the Lord, pleasing him in every way, and bearing fruit in every good work.

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 email mary@shatinchurch.org.hk.



Growing in Jesus • Sharing our Lives • Reaching the World