

# Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Anglican Church family  
August 2019

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## Get to Know the Church Family

Rhoda Chan, Youth Director



“ I am Rhoda Chan the new Youth Director at Shatin Church. I was born in Boston Massachusetts and moved to Hong Kong when I was five and a half with my missionary parents. When we first moved we started to go to Saint Andrews church, although we were living in Shatin at the time. Someone suggested that my parents go to Shatin Anglican church as it was much closer and they had two young children. So I grew up in this church, was baptized in this church and was touched by the loving church community.

I started serving at Shatin Church when I was eleven years old on a team that taught the children. I was able to see God use me to teach His word to the kids. I was also asked to play on the worship team as a drummer. This made me passionate about music and worshipping God through the musical talents he had given me. When I was sixteen, I started to help out with Revelation Warriors now known as Solidrock Sunday as well as the PA team. When I came back from university, I was heavily involved in the church. I've served as a youth leader, worship leader and a Kingdom Kids helper. Though it was tiring I loved serving God in the church.

**Before going to seminary, you were educated and trained as a teacher. What did you teach?**

I went to university in New York studying TESOL (Teaching Speakers of Other Languages) Education. After college I returned to Hong Kong to teach. I taught at two different schools and two different tutorial companies -- EdFun an English teaching company associated with Commercial Press, and International Christian School working with high school students in the special needs program. I also worked at a tutorial center teaching English to secondary students. Later, I moved to Christian Alliance International School working with the Special needs teacher to support elementary school students with special needs. I mainly worked with kids who had reading disabilities and ESL students.

**What made you go to seminary and what did you focus on studying there?**

When I was seventeen and looking for colleges, I had received my first calling to go into ministry. I applied to all Christian colleges with the intention to study youth ministry. I was accepted to Nyack College and went there, but then changed my mind and did not listen to the calling God gave me. Instead, I chose to do an education degree and told myself if God really wanted to use me I would just use my degree to become a missionary. After college, while I was serving at the church, the Lord gave me my second calling. There were several factors that led me to going to seminary, but the major impact happened after I had taken some of the youth to a youth worship rally. One of the youths was crying and God used me to touch her. I remember in this moment telling God that I would follow Him and serve Him. That night I was given a vision and it was my original calling story.

In 2018, I received my Masters in Divinity with a concentration on youth ministry. I also decided to pursue a second degree, a Masters in Educational Leadership and focus on family ministry, which is still in progress.

**Did you always want to come back to Shatin Church? How did you pray about it?**

When I went away to seminary, I was always praying for God's guidance for my life. I could see God using me in Hong Kong but I could also see Him using me to do His work in the U.S. In my third year of seminary, I went on a missions trip to Macau. On this trip, I felt the Lord saying he wanted me to go back to Hong Kong and serve Him. I was not sure when but had known he had called me to come back to Hong Kong. In the summer of 2018, I met with Rhys and we were talking about our futures. At the time, I was thinking about finding a church to do either youth ministry or worship ministry. Later that year, I was told that there might be an opening for a Youth Worker position at Shatin Church. By then, I had applied to several different churches already: two in the U.S. and one other church in Hong Kong. I was given an offer to three churches, and was waiting and praying about Shatin Church. I did not feel at peace with the other churches even though they offered me a "better" job in terms of position. I really prayed and felt as though God was calling me to work at Shatin Church.

**What do you look forward to seeing happen among the youth? What do you anticipate as challenges?**

I am looking forward to seeing the church invest in the lives of the youth. I am excited to see the youth grow in spiritual maturity. I am really excited to come alongside the youth to discover where God has called them to. I believe that the Lord will use the youth to bring about His kingdom and look forward to being able to be a part of that. I am excited to see how the Lord, as well as the church, can use the gifts that they hold. My ministry journey started when I was eleven and was only discovered because of the strong youth leaders and church members that encouraged me. Some challenges I anticipate are having the wisdom to reach the youth. When or if youth open up to me I want to be the light to them.

I need the wisdom of the Lord to help me in these situations. I also want to stay focused on the Lord and His plan and not make it my own.

### **How can we pray for you?**

- If you could pray that I transition well in my new position and new place. It has been a while since I have lived in Hong Kong and still need time to adjust.
- If you could also pray for the ministry and that the Lord will give me guidance to lead and run the ministry.

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## **Get to Know our Mission Partners**



Langham Partnership is an evangelical global fellowship founded by John Stott to raise up a new generation of biblical leaders for growth with depth in the global church. 📢 **Join us on 2nd August at 8pm in the Church Centre to hear updates from Nicholas Wong, the Langham Foundation Development Manager.**

**Last year, we saw tightening regulations in China restrict many of our mission partners' work in the country. For Langham Partnership, that included preventing seminary students from studying abroad. How do these regulations continue to impact Langham's work with training pastors and church leaders?**

The tightening process in the big country does have an impact on our ministry. However, we are adjusting by pushing forward the 'indigenisation' process. For example, for level One preachers' training, it is being carried out by local facilitators and preaching clubs organised/ supervised by the coordinator living there full-time.

As for students seeking theological education abroad, we are aware that those from the official church network are finding it difficult to obtain permission to study. However, those who apply through the 'education channels' (such as universities, colleges, etc) are not as affected. The restrictions are on 'church' related and not 'academic' institutions. Among the scholarship recipients Langham Foundation has chosen for year 2019/20 is a brilliant lecturer from a 'first-class' provincial university who has received approval to study in the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. Obviously, this doctorate student would

be expected to return to teach in the university but he will also grow and build his local church.

### **Have you seen other prayers being answered (or still waiting to be answered)?**

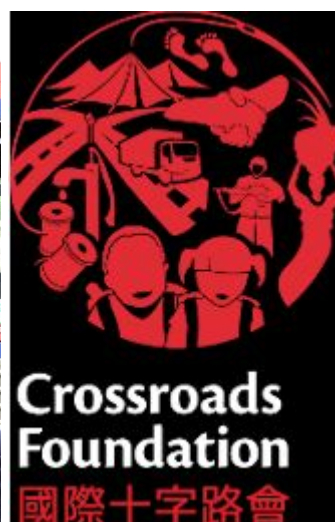
Let me share with you a glimpse of what the Lord has enabled us to do in the process of 'indigenisation'. Let me highlight one particular case for thanks and praise to our Lord. We have been given a seven-figure sacrificial gift just for the one-volume Bible commentary. This amount may not be enough for a 10-year project but it is a useful start and will keep us focused on God's bountiful provision as we stay faithful to Him.

### **Prayer requests**

- Langham Foundation, indeed the Langham Partnership International (LPI) as a whole, is growing to meet the global needs of churches, pastors and church leaders, including the big country. Please pray with us for more resources such as, new staff, preaching movements, funding for scholarships and relevant, contextual literature.
- For Langham Foundation, LPI's East Asia regional member, we are preparing for the 2021 John Stott Centennial growth campaign of HK\$13.8 million. Please pray for the feasibility study that will be carried out in September and October, to ascertain whether it would be possible to raise this amount of capital funding.
- We are still seeking a part-time executive officer /assistant for the office. Nicholas is now spending most of his time doing admin and operation work because there is no helper.

# Get to Know our Mission Partners

Clarissa Gafoor, Crossroads Foundation



“Crossroads Foundation is a non-profit, non-faith based NGO that was started by Mal and Sal Begbie in response to flooding in North China. The whole remarkable story can be found online. Why Crossroads exists is because in a broken and unjust world, we are called to do whatever we can to try to redress the balance – to assist those in poverty and distress.

Crossroads is divided into four parts:

## GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION

It is said that if you give a person a fish you feed them for a day – if you give someone a fishing rod you have fed them for their life – but hang on – not everyone knows how to fish. Thus one of the tasks set before Crossroads is to equip the ‘teachers’ – in other words those who work with the disenfranchised here and all around the world, as well as working here with the Hong Kong SAR Social Welfare Department – International Social Services and other like-minded organisations.



## GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

Crossroads also teaches people through various activities and events how people in poverty live and survive. People like us, the 1% of the world’s population – get a glimpse of life as it is lived by so many people.

## THE FAIR TRADE SHOP/CAFE

I don't really think I need to explain this one. Some Shatin Anglican Church people know all about this already. And the answer as to why is in the name isn't it?

It is the largest fair trade shop selling not only foods but many gift items in Hong Kong.



## GLOBAL HAND



This is an online platform that does the same work as Global Distribution but on line.

The people who volunteer here also run the disaster relief page for the U.N. So – that is the story behind Crossroads in a nutshell.

### **As to why me? What led me to join?**

I truly believe that simply by living in Hong Kong I am already materially blessed in ways that most of the world cannot understand. With this in mind I began volunteering part time back in 2000. At that time, Crossroads was in the old Kai Tak airport building. Later when everything moved to Tuen Mun, the once Perowne Barracks, I made the decision to join full time.

I have to say that it has been an adventure – and a challenge reading stories about (and hearing first hand) how difficult, if not downright impossible, life is for so many of our fellow humans.

Currently, I have been teaching the few children whose parents are full time team members thus can't afford school fees. Several schools give Crossroads children full scholarships, but only when there are places. It has been a very joyous season in my life as I currently only have three munchkins in the class – 5 to 6 years old. And I am sure that any teacher reading this will be a little bit envious of this number.

Later in a few months I shall go back to Global Distribution. Possibly managing packing rooms and also assisting those who wish to take small amounts of goods overseas.

### **Prayer requests**

- For me – Praise points are health, safety during these `interesting` times, family and friends. And pray that I continue to seek our Lord's will for my life as well as for real, life changing quiet times.
- For Crossroads – Praise for Sal Begbie's health, one of the founders and for some truly great interns who prove daily that Hong Kong students, as well as the few from overseas, are really worth investing in. Pray for finances, which are always an issue. Pray for a real lease – not the three months a time now issued (standard for any charity of course) as well as for staff – full time and committed part time.

Please come and see us. It isn't as far as people think. Crossroads is open Tuesdays to Saturdays – 10am to 5pm. You are always welcome to stop by for a good cup of fair trade

coffee or tea or soft drink, a snack from iBakery, or a gift for a family member, friend or yourself. You might even take part in some activities. Look us up at

[www.crossroads.org.hk](http://www.crossroads.org.hk).

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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 prayer.**” Acts 2:42*

### Prayers for Hong Kong

- Please pray that even in this atmosphere of fear, that Christians will remain certain of God's sovereignty and security in him. God's plan cannot be thwarted.
- Please pray for those who feel a sense of despair and anxiety, that they would look up and find God who gives them hope.
- Please pray for peace and well being of the city
- Please pray for a quick and peaceful resolution to this unrest.
- From the Book of Common Prayer, a prayer in times of conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Prayers for Shatin Church

- Praise for the approval of work visa for Ariel and Immalyn Pinero. Pray for Ariel as he leads diverse ministries: music, mission and Philippines Fellowship.
- Pray for many who are traveling over the summer; that they would grow in knowledge and love of God wherever they are
- Pray for those who have returned back to their home countries, for them to find another church quickly and continue growing in Jesus.
- Pray that Shatin Church will be welcoming to those who will be visiting this autumn.
- Pray for the upcoming Leaders’ Day on Aug 10th. Pray for many to be able to attend and to contribute to the vision and the life of the church.

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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 email [mary@shatinchurch.org.hk](mailto:mary@shatinchurch.org.hk).



*Growing in Jesus • Sharing our Lives • Reaching the World*

SAVE THE DATE  
SHATIN CHURCH DAY AWAY '19

# *Follow Me*

OCTOBER 12, 2019 | BREAKTHROUGH YOUTH VILLAGE

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER BARRY COOPER

Barry is an author, teacher and filmmaker who helped create Christianity Explored and its follow-up courses.

[www.shatinchurch.org.hk/dayaway19](http://www.shatinchurch.org.hk/dayaway19)

