




# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**X-Border Missions**

January 2025

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**A LEADER IS BEST  
WHEN PEOPLE BARELY  
KNOW HE EXISTS,  
WHEN HIS WORK IS  
DONE, HIS AIM  
FULFILLED,  
THEY WILL SAY:  
WE DID IT OURSELVES.**

*Lao zi (circa 604 – 531 BC)*

# The Unbearable Weight of Decrease

JANICE HA

*He must increase, but I must decrease.  
(John 3:30)*

When the work we are stewarding becomes led by trusted, competent team members, we will naturally and perhaps to the envy of some, transition from doing something to letting go and doing nothing.

Independence is a necessary milestone of maturity and a coming of age. When a ministry is able to stand on its own, chart its own course and fund itself, the scaffold of our presence as missionaries can and must be dismantled and removed. Interdependence, the hallmark of successful mission work, can then materialise and take centerstage. We make a way and then get out of the way.

The Church in our places of ministry has matured and the missions landscape has also evolved in tandem. Gone are the days when we had to cart bibles and medicines across borders or assemble our team of medical staff or educators to the missions field. There are now a slew of publishers, pharmacies and no lack of competent and compassionate hands and boots on the ground ready to serve their people.

There are also more Christians in government able to shape policies and bring systemic changes to their own communities.

This shift is evident in how most of this year's Annual Report are written by local disciples who have taken over the mantle of leadership.

It is true that even more challenging than doing something, is doing nothing! Yet difficult and uncomfortable as it is to decrease and descend, there is nothing more satisfying than reading faith-filled write-ups of the next generation of missional disciples and witnessing them envisioning the future with the Holy Spirit.



# Exhausted? Look Up and Live Up



This year we completed the 30th Batch of Church Planters' Training with 28 new church planters. 6 students from East Asia School of Theology (Singapore) came and spent 10 days with them. It was a time of deep, mutual learning. Everyone experienced reciprocal impact in their lives and ministry.

From this year's batch of graduates, 8 new churches are planted in different regions with many more to come soon. 13 Pastors also completed their Diploma in Theology this year.

A few hundred new believers are added into the Church and a few hundred received water baptism. Thus far we have planted 270 churches all over this country. We are still offering the diploma course, regular training and short-term courses for pastors and church leaders: both on-site and on-line.

In May, a team of doctors and nurses from Chile came and conducted dental camp in 3 government schools for 6 days, 2 churches for 2 days and 1 elderly home for a day. About 300 children and 50 adults not only benefited physically, they also heard the Gospel in and through the Church.

SOUTH ASIA  
REV. SHYAM M.





In September, Thomas Chang and his team (4 members) from Touching Young Lives International (Singapore) visited us. The team got an opportunity to serve in different local churches. They were also involved in Pastors' Upgrade Training (PUT) in the Mid-West, about 50 pastors benefited from their teaching. Topic for the conference was: Starting Right, Finishing Well. The training provided an opportunity of fellowship with one another and encouraging them to be faithful in their calling.

Pastor Dong and his team of 6 from Living Sanctuary Brethren Church (Singapore) visited us in October. The team served with local youth leaders to conduct a 3-day Vacation Bible School for 130 children. They also equipped 20 children ministry workers to be more effective in their ministries. Both the children and youth leaders benefitted from their coming.

As Apostle Paul said in Galatians, let us never lose heart and give up doing what is good. When it seems like there is no fruit from all our labor and hard work, let us look up to the Lord and live up to His calling. Whenever we get an opportunity, let us work to advance God's kingdom through church planting, teaching-training and different social works.

**WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES WE WILL  
REAP A HARVEST. IF ONLY WE DO NOT GIVE  
UP NOW, THROUGH WEARINESS.**







# A Place of Care and Compassion

Immanuel Old Age Home was started around 30 years ago because of a great need rather than a planned vision. Many elderly people started coming to Christ, but their families disowned them because they became Christians. These elderly people had no place to go. Seeing their need, the church opened her doors to give them shelter and care.

For the past 30 years, the Home has served more than 60 elders, providing them with food, shelter, and a place to feel loved.

Today, the Home has around 15 elderly people. There are 3 staff members who help with the cleaning, cooking, and managing.

These staff members also live at the Home with their families. They each have their own special stories. Some were abused and in need of help when they joined us. Now, they work here and serve with much joy and gratefulness.

**THE HOME IS SUPPORTED  
BY CHURCH MEMBERS.  
EVERY FAMILY BRINGS A  
HANDFUL OF RICE EACH  
WEEK TO HELP FEED THE  
ELDERLY RESIDENTS**

SOUTH ASIA  
REV. NP





The vision of the Home is to take in elderly people who truly need help. It is a place where they can feel cared for and loved. Many of the them who live here say this will be their last home before they leave this world.

The church still helps with feeding the residents. However, medical care is a big challenge. When medical emergencies happen, there are not enough resources to provide proper treatment. This is one reason why the Home is taking in fewer people than it can accommodate. More support and expertise is needed to give better care and help to more elderly people.





EAST ASIA

胡传道



# 经历真实的神

今年神向我开了一个玩笑！我6岁的女儿因病毒感染，她身体上的免疫系统错误地攻击了自身的脑组织，将神经中枢自身抗原识别为外来抗原，激发了免疫杀伤功能而发生的一系列炎性反应。出现了以下症状：精神行为异常、认知障碍、近事记忆力下降、癫痫发作、言语障碍、运动障碍、不自主运动、意识水平下降与昏迷、自主神经功能障碍等和睡眠障碍等。那段时间，在还没有清楚具体病情之前，我们全家经历着黑暗时刻，真正明白什么是死阴幽谷，没有盼望，但感恩的是我们经历过了，就知道神没有离开，祂的恩典一直都在。

**我们晓得万事都互相效力，  
叫爱神的人得益处，  
是按他旨意被召的人。**

罗八28





## 祷告如此重要，怎么不祷告呢？

很感谢CTM和其他教会恳切祷告守望和爱心奉献，我们的牧者林老师师母也一路的守望和陪伴，感恩神也垂听了祷告，神特别保守了女儿的治疗，在住院期间女儿好转的进度都很理想，在5月6号也出院回家继续半年的康复。如今已经过去了大半年的时间，我们夫妻也在同心的祷告里有平安，停止了一切的复诊和药物，凭信心继续经历神的恩典。感恩神完全的怜悯和医治，现在女儿生活都恢复过来，经历了这一次的患难，更让我们一家三口坚固服事主的脚踪，继续专心跟随主服事主。

有首歌“中国早晨五点钟”，讲的是祷告，也常听教会因早晨愿意付上祷告经历复兴。因此今年8月开始，由于受圣灵的感动，想建立早晨祷告的习惯，开始邀请两位肢体跟我一起学习早晨的祷告，随着开始一段时间后，越来越多的人参与在当中，无论天热或天冷，都在坚持。

于是我们设立了每周两次的晨祷，主要是为着教会的需要而守望，在当中我们每次用不同的经文来建立自己，以代祷的方式来为着国家、为着社区及教会的需要和个人的需要进行守望。

记得我们为着社会的偶像文化来祷告的时候，神就叫一个被邪灵搅扰的人来到我们当中，这是我们第一次真实接触这样的人，但因着祷告，并没有感到茫然或害怕，而是非常清楚地知道要让对方先听到福音，然后在相信中作医治释放。目前这个生命还在跟进中，他的害怕及担心使到释放的日子还需要等待和守望，但我们没有气馁，乃是在祷告中相信他必要认识要医治他的主耶稣！

【赛五十四】主耶和华赐我受教者的舌头，使我知道怎样用言语扶助疲乏的人。主每早晨提醒，提醒我的耳朵，使我能听，像受教者一样。



# Grow, Stabilise & Thrive



As we assess the current state of our church activities across various congregations, it becomes clear that each community is navigating its unique set of circumstances, opportunities, and challenges. This report details the work in Baulkham Hills Farsi Church, Eastwood Chinese Church, Lidcombe Chinese Church and English Ministry, as well as outlines future program initiatives aimed at fostering growth and stability.

**OUR COMMITMENT TO OUTREACH, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT WILL GUIDE US AS WE NURTURE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE ALL CAN FLOURISH IN THEIR FAITH JOURNEYS.**

SYDNEY

REV. LAWRENCE & HELEN ONG

## Baulkham Hills Farsi Centre

The Baulkham Hills Farsi Centre is presently focusing on stabilising its operations and creating a strong foundation for future growth. At the forefront of these efforts is Pastor Mostafa, who has been instrumental in developing a welcoming and engaging environment for the congregation. His leadership has not only encouraged attendance but has also fostered a sense of community among existing members and newcomers alike. The church has seen an influx of new members, which is encouraging, though it is noteworthy that the financial offerings generated from the congregation remain low. This situation has led the church to seek external support to ensure that its operational needs are met. Currently, attendance stands at about 30 congregants each Sunday, reflecting a stable but modest congregation. Efforts are being made to enhance community engagement further and promote spiritual growth among attendees.





### **Eastwood Chinese Centre**

In the Eastwood Chinese Centre, the community is grappling with several significant challenges, particularly in leadership. The recent loss of two key leadership couples has created a vacuum that the remaining leaders are working hard to fill. Despite this setback, the church is fortunate to have one couple providing essential support during this transitional period. Financially, the Eastwood congregation is in a good position, which provides a stable backdrop for its operations, even as leadership issues linger. The church leadership has wisely determined that it is crucial to establish a more stable internal structure before embarking on new ventures or initiatives. Currently, attendance for the Eastwood Chinese Centre hovers around 20 to 25 members each week, indicating a loyal but potentially precarious base that will need nurturing to foster long-term growth.

### **Lidcombe Chinese Centre**

The Lidcombe Chinese Centre is experiencing a period of consolidation and growth. The church benefits from effective leadership that has provided a sense of direction and purpose, contributing significantly to a more stable environment. As a result, there is a palpable optimism regarding growth potential within this congregation. Financially, Lidcombe is thriving, supporting various initiatives and allowing the church to serve its community comprehensively. Recently, the church has also celebrated two new baptisms, marking continued spiritual growth among its members. Weekly attendance stands at approximately 25, indicating a firm commitment from the congregation.





## English Ministry

The English ministry, while vibrant in spirit, faces its own hurdles, particularly concerning the establishment of a strong worship team. This absence has been felt deeply, as a robust worship experience is pivotal to the community's engagement and spiritual development. On a positive note, the ministry has recently celebrated the baptism of five new members, a testament to its outreach efforts and the continued work of the Holy Spirit within the community. Anticipation is building around the arrival of Pastor Ian Bartley, who is set to join the English work in 2025. His expertise and leadership are expected to provide much-needed encouragement and direction during this crucial time. Currently, average attendance in the English service is approximately 15 attendees, a figure that underscores the need for more outreach and connection initiatives. Financially, however, the English work remains stable, allowing for the continuation of key ministry activities and the support necessary to cultivate church life.

Looking ahead, there is a strong desire to establish a robust cell group system designed to deepen connections among congregants and promote spiritual growth through smaller, more intimate settings. The church is also planning to organise major events that will foster community engagement and evangelism, aimed at attracting new attendees and enriching the current congregation's faith experience. Central to these efforts is the ambition to organise a combined church camp, an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual enrichment that brings together various congregational groups. This camp will serve not only as a platform for spiritual growth but also as a means to strengthen relationships across different congregations.

In conclusion, as we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, our collective focus remains on fostering strong communities anchored in faith, ensuring that each congregation is supported in its efforts to grow, stabilise, and thrive.



# Lessons from Fingerlings



My lesson this year can be summarised in a scene that I saw in a fish nursery located in Cambodia. We were there to explore the possibilities of community livelihood projects, and the guide brought us to one of their success stories that helps bring livelihood to the women in the village. There were several baskets of baby fishes learning how to swim before they were released into the big outdoor ponds. One basket of fingerlings were moving rapidly in circles and another basket they were still. The guide asked, "Which basket do you think is ready for the big pond?" To our surprise, he said it was the basket of fingerlings that were not moving! Their stillness actually meant that they were strong enough to swim against the current and thus ready for bigger waves in the pond. The fingerlings that were busy swirling in circles were actually not swimming but just being pushed round and round as if they were in a washing machine.

**THIS YEAR IS PROBABLY  
THE YEAR WHERE I  
GAINED THE MOST  
GROUND PHYSICALLY &  
METAPHORICALLY**

LIM ZHI JING

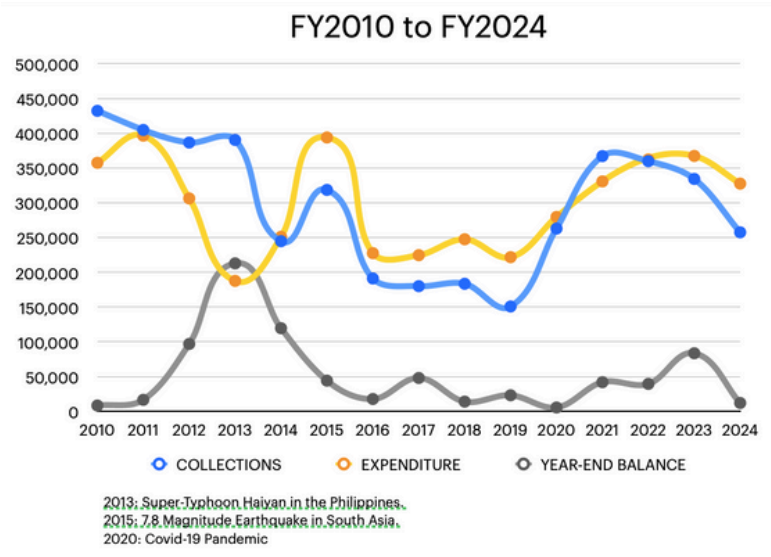
In the same way, what appears as if nothing was moving or gaining ground, Janice and I as a team travelled to at least 5 countries with double the trips just to learn and explore from others who have gone ahead of us. At the same time I also lost some home ground with the death of my dad and also the loss of some significant relationships in my life. I comfort myself with the image of the fingerlings that remained still in the water. Their seemingly outward passivity is actually their best effort at activity and respect for life.



# MISSIONS FUND AT A GLANCE

**\$13,590**

YE2024 Closing Balance



**11.7%**

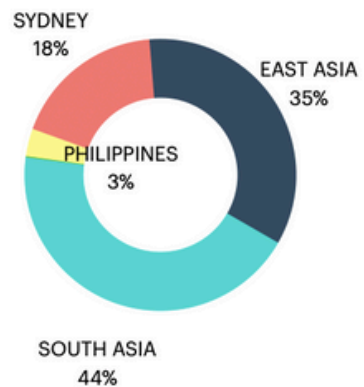
DECREASE IN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

Some works achieved self-supporting status in 2024

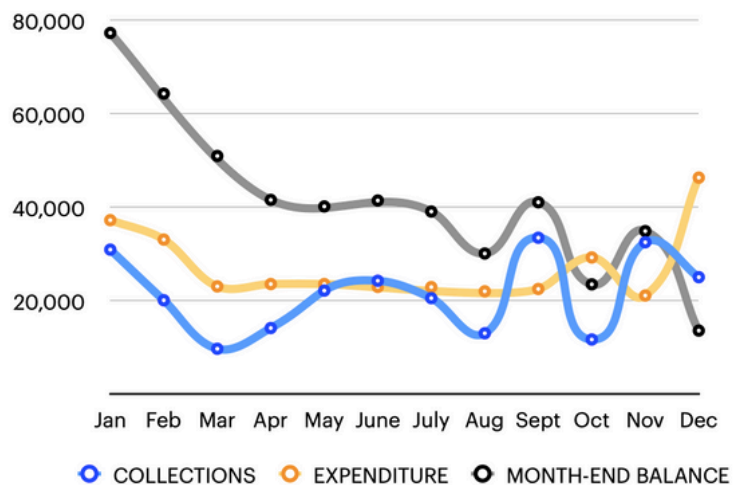
**257K**

ANNUAL COLLECTIONS IN SGD

Total collections in 2024



2024 Monthly (Jan to Dec)





**308**

Total number of foreign-based mission churches

**2**

Total number of AG workers and AG ministers overseas

**356+**

Total number of co-workers serving in the mission churches

**327K**

Total missions spending for the year in SGD



Bank: DBS BANK  
A/c no: 0720418522  
A/c name: X-Border Missions

