

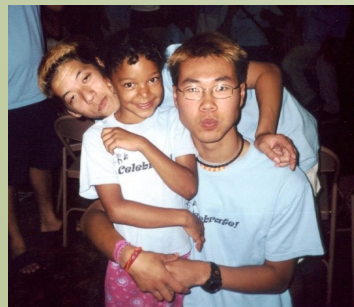


**Stan:** "What helped me grow was serving and rolling up my sleeves and choosing to be more involved. Serving at Urban Encounter and on core in CG made me live out what I was hearing and learning in church and Bible studies."

**Martin:** "I remember helping with Journey Summer Day Camp my first summer at ECC. Pat and I would bus to the International District where Auntie Remy Poon would pick us up and drive us to camp. Serving together, we got to know some of our peers – Theon Poon, Jonathan Tang, Kevin Tsui, and Jonathan Chin – better. That was where I first found and experienced Christian community for myself in Seattle."



Pat and I also helped Po-Wen Ching run a kids program for Chinese Families for Christ in San Jose. Teaching kids about Jesus at both these programs helped ground my own faith."



**Pat:** "Serving the kids at Urban Encounter opened my eyes to see that there were bigger issues than what I experienced in high-school and college. It made me realize that others had more real-life issues than I thought I did."

Over the years, this gaggle of high-school boys has grown up. A few of them have even met their wives at ECC. (Remember Victor Lee who initiated the Men's Bible Study? Allen married his eldest daughter, Rachel. Funny how God works...)



Married or single, the group continues to serve faithfully. They've stepped up from volunteering in the nursery and facilitating Vacation Bible School to singing in the Youth Choir and ministering in Mexico and Taiwan on various mission trips.



These days, you might see them fixing coffee and snacks for our refreshment. Preparing

communion. Leading Sunday worship. Serving as deacons on the Church board. Or behind the scenes strategizing marketing for a grassroots movement to alleviate extreme poverty.

But one ministry continues to remain close to their hearts. "I'll always remember youth ministry at ECC because it had a special impact on us, on me. It was a key time in my life. That was my sticking point. I see it is a critical point for the next generation so that's where many of us have chosen to serve," says Pat.

It is true. Everyone in this group of 7 has at one point or another, served as a counselor for the youth group. Many of them are still currently serving as YSF counselors and modeling their faith to a new generation of high-schoolers.

And so it continues. A ride to and from church. An invitation to join a fellowship activity. A meaningful word. A simple meal together. The ripple effects of God's work at ECC from one generation to another, one life to another, and one faith to another. Who knows where it will lead?

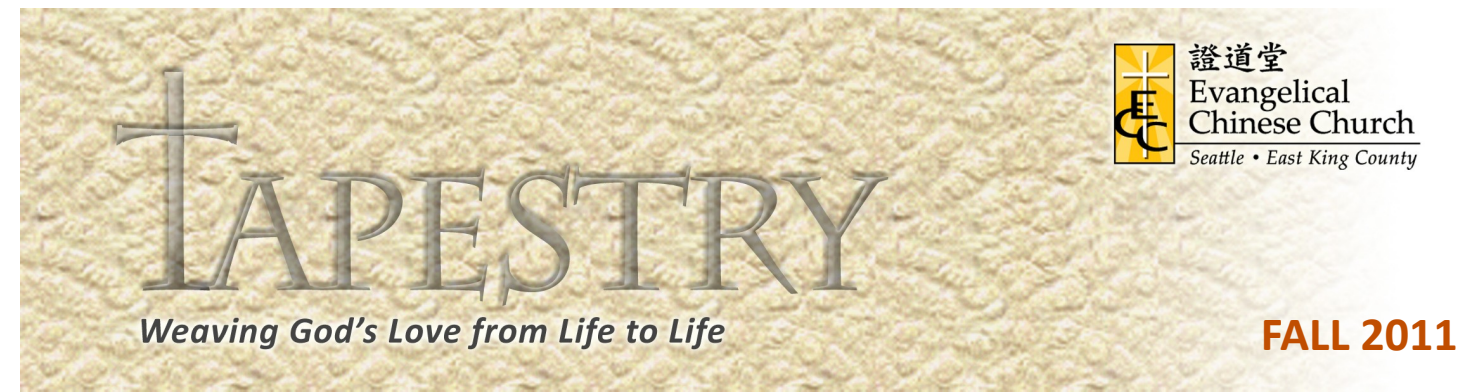


None of us could tell God was working then in their lives but of course He was. He always is. God is in the business of molding men (and women) of God. We get the privilege to be part of His work and get molded ourselves along the way.

So wherever you are on the journey, be faithful and be patient. God is at work.

**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

**For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**



## PATIENCE, GOD IS @ WORK

*Editor's Note: What you are about to read is about relationships that were made and cemented in Christ as our church community of believers wove their lives in and through each person listed below. This is what it's all about: faith to faith, life to life, generation to generation.*

—Interviewed by Ling Hong

It seemed they popped out of nowhere one random Sunday at church. A gaggle of high-school boys squishing into a whole front pew on the left side of the sanctuary. You couldn't help but notice them. They were clearly new. Of course it didn't help that their hair ranged from red and blonde to blue and brown.

One was invited by a classmate and brought his cousins along. Another came because his church didn't have a youth ministry. And soon, they brought more friends with them.

A few were new to the faith but most of them were seekers. Only one of the seven had grown up in a Christian family.

This is a story of how God used ECC to shepherd and grow these young men. It is a story of how God is using them and their faith to impact and influence others at ECC and beyond for His glory.

Meet **Allen Yeh, Esmond Leung, Martin Lu, Mike Nguyen, Patrick Lee, Pert Lin** and **Stan Hu**. They came to ECC as high-schoolers between 1998-2000 and started out in YSF.



Adjusting as newcomers wasn't easy in a group that had mostly grown up together. Esmond recalls not liking YSF initially. Pat says, "It was very difficult to get integrated. Thankfully, we came as a group around the same time."

Despite being intimidated in their new environment, the group recalls various ECC family members making them feel welcome. Erin Li-Dayala and Marian Tseng-Altaras were persistent in inviting them to YSF activities. Anton Lee and Erick Cheng invited them to play football and various sports after church on Sundays then gave rides home afterwards. Betty and Victor Lee gave Martin and Stan rides to church every week.



It was Victor Lee (with the prompting of Jennie Li – then also a YSF mom) who gathered the group so they could dig into the Bible and meet God for themselves.

Victor recruited slightly older guys (Willy Chen, Tim Hong, David Wang, Carl Lim and Chris Tang) as counselors and a men's Bible study was born. They met weekly for two years studying the Gospels, Acts and Romans, and praying in smaller groups. The counselors led and over time taught the younger guys to lead Bible studies as well.

Somewhere along the path of this men's Bible study, outreach events like *Acquire the Fire*, and youth camps, these high-school seekers grew into believers. At men's Bible study, they shared their testimonies with each other and learnt to share their faith.

"I remember pairing up and doing outreach at Bellevue Square as part of men's Bible study. It was terrifying and pretty horrific. But it was good too. It challenged my faith," says Pert.

"I was struck by the consistency and commitment of the counselors. It was cool that they were almost always there. I don't remember exactly what we learned in our Bible study but I remember that they took a vested interest in us and that meant a lot," says Pat.

God also used many ECC members, who modeled their faith, to influence the group too.

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## GROWING GODLY CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH TOP ONLINE RESOURCES

Karen Ho

Many very wonderful and completely free Christian resources for outreach and faith-building have come online in recent years. This article highlights three of my favorites that are definitely worth checking out for children and youth to learn on and (even better) to share with their schoolmates.

My absolute #1 recommended resource is one I've recently discovered. It is called [www.ubdavid.org](http://www.ubdavid.org) (as in "you be David, I'll be Jonathan"), which is dedicated to helping users develop a character after God's own heart. This website offers approximately 600 extremely well-written online lessons on Christian doctrine, Bible knowledge and topical life issues graded for ages 5-years old to adult (lessons can also be delivered by mail if desired) and has an award system of certificates for each group of lessons completed. Even better, there are incentive awards such as subsidies to camps and retreats—even bible college scholarships for the higher grades. So far, my kids have been logging in and completing lessons on their own after being introduced to the website and are thrilled with their first certificates. I like the fact that it is possible to have appropriately-aged, quality bible studies mailed to the homes of their friends (with parental permission, of course). According to the website, 60% of their active students, approximately 15,000, are unchurched.



CBH (Children's Bible Hour) is not a new resource, exactly. It has been a champion of resources to grow kids in Christ for **decades**. However, I sadly did not discover it until having children of my own. This wealth of classic and contemporary material can be experienced and/or purchased from their website, [www.cbhministries.org](http://www.cbhministries.org).



Kids' favorite links from the homepage are sure to be [www.iTOADu.com](http://www.iTOADu.com), a virtual campground of interactive activities and games and the brand new [www.lostinthequeue.com](http://www.lostinthequeue.com) web program.



For those long trips in the car, why not download "Down Gilead Lane," the listen on-demand audio drama presented by [HisKids.net](http://HisKids.net).



And with ECC's focus on missions this year, the "Missions Zone" game link offers a terrific supplement to the "Mission Explorers" curriculum being taught to children's classes in both Seattle and Eastside campuses this fall.

Finally, one of the most comprehensive and useful websites for Christian families and individuals is



[www.ChristianAnswers.net](http://www.ChristianAnswers.net). It is self-described as "a mega site providing biblical answers to contemporary questions for all ages and nationalities with over forty-five thousand files." I found its claim well-substantiated and especially appreciate it for its resources on Creation, dinosaurs, and fossils, and the fact that it appears to be available in 43 languages! A great help to parents, teachers, students and families.

### REPAYING A LONG-AGO KINDNESS

Jennie Li

This summer my husband Hinsing and I had the privilege of hosting one of our ECC-supported missionary families, D & V. At first I was a bit anxious as I wondered about how to keep three teenage boys entertained for a whole week; having raised two daughters I had no experience with having boys in the house. It turned out to be such a blessing to have the whole family with us during that week. I was so impressed with the boys' maturity levels as they engaged in our adult conversations, all were avid readers and – the most amazing thing of all – none of them had any electronic gadgets!

At the end of their stay with us, as D & V and their sons packed up and got ready to head up to Vancouver, we casually mentioned the name of a mutual friend whom we knew in Vancouver years ago. D told us that this person just happened to be his father's very good friend as well. So I asked D, "What is your father's name?" D, being an American Born Chinese, spoke mostly English, but this time, rather than saying his father's English name, he told me his father's Chinese name in Cantonese, "L. Kuen Chua." When I heard D's father's name my mouth just dropped wide open and I exclaimed, "WHAT?! This cannot be true!"

#### Flashback:

Many years ago, when my twin brother and I arrived in the United States, we missed our connecting flight from San Francisco to Seattle because of a typhoon that delayed us. This being our first time in America, we didn't speak much English and so we were at a loss as to what to do upon our arrival. As my brother and I got off the plane and entered the huge San Francisco airport suddenly there *he* was, Brother L. Kuen Chua (D's father!), standing there among the sea of people in the terminal. Brother L was at the airport that day seeking to help any arriving Chinese students who had no place to go.

We recognized him from our church in Hong Kong and quickly told him our predicament. He said, "Don't worry. I will take care of you." Brother L took us to his own home, put us up for the night and helped us to book another flight to Seattle for the next day. Then the following morning, he took my brother and I on a bus back to the San Francisco airport and stayed with us until we were safely on board our flight to Seattle. I never forgot Brother L's generosity and kindness and had always wanted very much to repay him somehow...

#### Fast forward to this past summer:

Without my even knowing it, God honored my desire by giving me a beautiful opportunity to repay this kindness from long ago through hosting Brother L's son and his family during their visit here in Seattle! I firmly believe that this is no coincidence. It is all part of God's amazing plan and unending blessings!

### PATIENCE, GOD IS @ WORK

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**Martin:** "Our families were not believers so we did not grow up with Christian backgrounds.

Having a spiritual family – older people who cared about us and hung out with us – helped a lot in building my faith.



Tim Hong was my mentor as well as my college counselor for a few years. I also appreciate Elton Lee who provided medical advice and was a college counselor for us. Po-Wen Ching asked me tough questions about my faith. He questioned why I was doing what I was doing. He kept me in check and I treasure that."

**Esmond:** "Uncle Edison Cheng had a huge influence on me. Not only did he make an effort to talk to me but there was a time when I was facing an uncertain future between work or school. Uncle Edison was there for me and helped me through the decision process. I cannot thank him enough for that. I am also grateful for Uncle Bob Williams who often invited us over for dinner and asked how I was doing. His care and time meant a lot. As my YSF counselor, Anton played a huge role in my growth because he took the time to get to know new people like me. These individuals made me feel like I was involved in church."

**Allen:** "David Wang was so genuine and earnest about helping us grow during our times at men's Bible study. At church, Uncle Edison Cheng frequently made a point to talk and check in with me. He listened to what I said too because he remembered to email and follow up on how I was doing. Uncle Bob Williams was my mentor throughout college. He still checks in on how I'm doing now and then. Plus, Pastor Sam and all the YSF and CG counselors made an effort to include us and kept encouraging us to serve."



**Mike:** "Anton Lee was my YSF counselor. Uncle Paul Eng was my mentor in college. Tim & Ling Hong were my CG counselors. They all invested heavily in my faith & life at ECC."

**Stan:** "Elton Lee was a counselor when I was in CG. I value how he provided sound answers to my tough questions and provided good perspective. Uncle Victor Lee and the men's Bible study were both pivotal in helping me learn more about my faith."

**Pert:** "Anton Lee helped me settle in at ECC when I first got there. I got to know Uncle Edison Cheng during our Taiwan sports mission and I appreciate how genuine he is and how he really cares about how I'm doing. Willy Chen was my mentor in high-school and he was always available to listen to me. I remember that we would sometimes grab lunch together and talk. Uncle Bob Williams always made time for us. He made me feel like I was important enough to talk to and I always appreciate that."



**Pat:** "Many at ECC have impacted my walk. I'm concerned I'll leave someone out. A few individuals stand out. Betty and Victor Lee, Mr. Sun, and Mr. Pan faithfully gave me rides to church. Ed and Carol Shi invited us to hang out and eat at their house almost every Sunday. My family was going through tough times then so it was invaluable for me to see a healthy family.

Anton Lee often encouraged me. I still remember him saying that no matter one's past, God can always use you if you are willing. Back then, I was a rebel without a cause and Elton Lee and Ling Hong put me in my place more than a few times. Elton actually pulled his car over and yelled at me on the side of the road once. I wasn't too pleased then but on hindsight, he was right."

God used various ministries at ECC to mold and shape their young faith as well.

**Mike:** "I enjoyed getting to know my peers in small groups but it wasn't until we served together that we really bonded.



Urban Encounter and something as ordinary as cooking food together for dinners at CG are some of my fondest memories.

Serving others and serving together made me feel more invested in my fellowship and consequently, my faith grew stronger."

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