

A Piece Of Textual Material – Newsletter in November, 1990

*The Chinese Christian Church of Victoria*

*Loyal Orange House : 524-530 Elizabeth St. Melbourne 3000 Phone: 347 5886*

---

---

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1990.

---

---

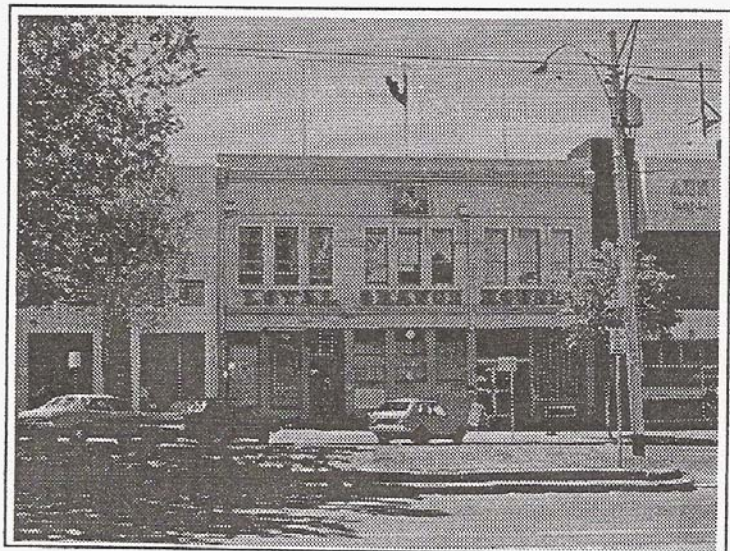
## A Brief History Of The Chinese Christian Church Of Victoria

The Chinese Christian Church of Victoria was founded in mid-February 1983 by a group of Christians who uphold the bible and see its authority intact.

Back in 1977, the majority of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in Australia joined together to form a single big denomination called the Uniting Church of Australia. There were also some of these churches not responding positively. The newly established Church also issued its own doctrinal bases. The small Chinese church at the Little Bourke Street called the Gospel Hall at that time also became a member of the new church.

### Debates

Then some of the board members of the Gospel Hall began to realize what this church-reorganization meant, and soon came to the conclusion that the new doctrinal bases were unacceptable. In the following years, after many prayerful considerations, debates were held among the board members, and also between the board of deacons and the representatives from the Uniting Church. Moreover, much consultation was done as whether a new church had to be formed for those church members who would not compromise in this matter. Those consulted in-



Our Place of Worship

clude Rev. Don Bell from the Continuing Methodist Church, Rev. D.L. Lim from the China Evangelical Seminary, Rev. Fred Cheung from the CGST, Rev. John Coleman, editor of the New Like Weekly, and others.

### Vision

Along this development an incident or two involving Rev. Joshua Mak also happened, but it can be said that all this eventually

brought good to the whole issue. The vision was then clear: to uphold the inerrant and God-inspired Word of God contained in the Bible.

In February 1983 the majority of the members of the Chinese Uniting Church as it was then called left and formed the Chinese Christian Fellowship. One year later the full status of the Chinese Christian Church of Victoria was established. God provided Loyal Orange House as place of worship for the new church

## Appendix K

### Question Design

For individual interviews

*What cultural or other factors lead those young Chinese to attend this particular Chinese Protestant Church?*

4. Are you a Christian?
5. Are your parents Christians? If so, do your parents attend the same church with you?
6. What language do you speak at home? What language do you speak in this church/ fellowship?
7. How long have you been attending the church/ fellowship?
8. Have you ever been to other churches before? Why this one, then? What leads you to attend this church/ fellowship?
9. Which service/ fellowship do you attend?
10. What do you expect to find in this church/ fellowship?

What support do they find for their Chinese cultural identity in the Church?

11. What are the “Chinese” values? How important are they to you?
12. What are the “Australian” values? How important are they to you?
13. Do you see yourself as Chinese, Australian, neither or both? What makes you think this way?
14. What are the characteristics of this church?
15. Do you feel at home here or do you feel you belong to this church/ fellowship? Why or why not?
16. What are the main reasons for you to stay with this church/ fellowship?

*Does the church support their spirituality and in what ways?*

17. How would you define spirituality? How about your parents? Draw or write something to express your beliefs or values.
18. Do you feel your spirituality is nurtured in this church/ fellowship in any ways? In what ways?
19. Do you have any kinds of spiritual experience, or do you feel close to God? Would you explain why?
20. Whom would you go to when you have questions or problems? Would you go to

anyone in this church/ fellowship?

21. What would you expect the church to do for you so as to meet your spiritual needs?

To what extent are these Chinese young people affected by the changing spirituality of Australian society?

22. Do you have friends going to the other churches? To what ethnic groups do they belong?
23. Do you have friends who were used to go to church but now are not going any more? Why are they not going to church?
24. What do you think about their spirituality?
25. Do you find any difference between people going to church today and those of some years ago? What are the differences? Why? Are these factors also affecting your spirituality?

*How can the cultural identity and spirituality of young Chinese be nurtured through Chinese churches in the Australian society?*

26. How long have you been to this church/ fellowship?
27. How did you feel when you first came to this church/ fellowship?
28. What were your needs at that time? How did the church meet your needs? And now, how does the church meet your need?
29. If there is a new young Chinese comes to your church/ fellowship, what does the church do for him or her?
30. Has your church/ fellowship been changing in accordance with the needs of the church members or attendants? What kinds of changes have taken place in your church/ fellowship?
31. What are the reasons for the changes?
32. What do you think are the characteristics of a Chinese church in Australian society?
33. What are the spiritual needs of young Chinese like you, in a multicultural society?
34. What can a Chinese church do for the young Chinese?
35. What should the church do to make him or her feel a sense of belonging here?
36. What are your suggestions to the church/ fellowship for the nurturing of spirituality among young Chinese people?

## Appendix L

### Tables Of Research Findings – An Individual Interview

Interview with a youth named Y6

Time: 4:45-5:30pm

Date: 12<sup>th</sup>Sept., 2003 (Fri)

Place: At Y6's home

Table 1 – General background

Participants (Christian/ non-Christian)	M/ F	Age	Years staying in Aus	Years attending the church	Parents in CC	Parents Christian/ non-C
Y6 - Christian	F	17	12	Since 5 or 6	Both attending the Chinese congregation	Both parents are Christians

Table 2 – Language and ethnicity identifiers

Language spk (Chinese/ Eng)	Main lang (Chinese/ Eng)	Going to Chinese School	Who are the close friends	Whom to go to when having problems	Friends going to the other churches	Remarks
30% Chi & 70% Eng to P <sup>26</sup> ; Eng to all friends	Eng	- For 7 yrs; quit after finishing the Cantonese course - After finishing the Cantonese course, move on to Mandarin - Currently taking Japanese	- Chinese friends in the church - “My best friend, is in my group.”			“I did not speak Chinese well and everybody knows that you are from oversea. I am an in-between.”

<sup>26</sup> An example given by Y6: 今朝(This morning), I went to school to 交功課 (hand in my homework)

Table 3 – Identify with cultural values: Traditional Chinese &/ or Australian

Remarks	
Identify with Aus/ C/ Both/ N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "I don't fit in either side."</li> <li>- "I did not speak Chinese well and everybody knows that you are from oversea. I am an in-between."</li> <li>- Chinese at heart as born in a Chinese family: "I cannot do anything about that as I was born in a Chinese family and I am Chinese at heart."</li> <li>- An Australian as raised up in Australian environment: "Because I have been raised in Australian environment and I am the citizen. It doesn't make me very Chinese."</li> </ul>
Neither one values	
Both-and values	
Australian values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more open to everything and expressive</li> <li>- Y6 reckons herself as outgoing to meet new people, unlike other Asians.</li> <li>- "in a lot of Australian families, the parents hug their children every night."</li> </ul>
Traditional Chinese culture & values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Honoring parents is important</li> <li>- Parents working hard for children; they show their love and care by doing work for them; they seldom shows affections: "my dad, he is very traditional Chinese orientated. He works hard for his children. He does not show his affection or emotion much. He shows you his love or care by doing work for you."</li> <li>- Y6 is influenced by parents and inherit some of their values: "I am under his influence as well."</li> <li>- "When you are in high school, you are still a child. When you are graduated, you may be more mature because you are considering to work or uni things."</li> <li>- "They (Asians) stick to their own friends and their own groups, not go out and reach out" but Y6 sees herself different that she is outgoing.</li> </ul>

Table 4 – Identify with English congregation in the church

Attending English cong/ services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "I like the worship time."</li> <li>- "I like the bible reading"</li> <li>- "The sermons are good. It's quite interesting to have guest speakers other than our pastor."</li> <li>- "we are in this small hall. If the children from the Junior church come, it is quite crowded and it's good."</li> <li>- We have more musical equipment and the songs are more contemporary. As</li> </ul>
----------------------------------	--

	<p>young people don't like standing there singing very slow hymns, they get to jump around and shout. I think it's good for the youth because they can be touched in that way. Both contemporary songs and hymns are about adoration of God and if they sing hymns about how wonderful God is, they may just sing it but not feel it. But if they sing the contemporary songs, like God is great, or I love Jesus, they sing it like they mean it."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take turns to be responsible for different ministries, e.g. Junior Church, Scripture reading and projector management.</li> </ul>
First impression at church	-
Attending Chinese cong	
Reasons for attending English congregation	- "We have our fellowship groups and cell groups." And "we are very good friends."
Identity in English congregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English side are most youth.</li> <li>- "We are all English speaking and a lot of us not know much about Chinese"</li> <li>- "we are grown up in the Chinese church"</li> <li>- "we have a little congregation of our own"</li> <li>- "we have changed our location from the big hall to this little chapel."</li> <li>- "we also have couples of leaders"</li> <li>- "we have our pastor.": "It's very good that our pastor can speaks to us as youths."</li> <li>- "We're happy to be separated from the adults, no need to sit together with our parents."</li> <li>- "I can talk to my church friends and if I am struggling with my faith, they are here for me and they can pray for me, which is very touching."</li> <li>- "Most of my Christian friends are at my church."</li> </ul>
Comments on Chinese congregation	- For the drums: the Chinese side thought it a bit too loud at the beginning.
Identity in small groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "We have been in the same group for two years. There are only four cell groups and they are made up to suit the people so that no one would feel intimidated in the group. In the Alpha group, it is more a fun group and for discussion. You can bring a friend. Also the cell group is made up of your own gender and my alpha group is made up of both genders. I feel comfortable around the boys also."</li> <li>- "Because we have been together for so many years and you have developed relationship and you know what has happened in the past. If there is a new group, you have to explain everything from the start and the connection</li> </ul>

	<p>wouldn't be there. While in Alpha groups, it is a group for discussion and it is good to have a change in order to hear other people's opinions. And change of the leaders, as well."</p> <p>- "I am really happy with my Alpha group and I don't want to change."</p>
Remarks	<p>- "It hard to evangelise and bring our friends to church because it's a Chinese church. Most of our friends are Australians or other culture. It's a kind of awkward. It's now getting better now because we become more multicultural in ministries."</p> <p>- Values of Chinese congregation affecting the English congregation, e.g. in the matter of baptism: "the Chinese congregation, they have this rule that you have to be eighteen or sixteen to be baptised. That's the age limit. They want you to be very sure and mature about baptism before you do it while other churches around Melbourne, people can be as young as twelve years old to be baptised. I think that I might not be mature enough to be baptised."</p> <p>- Values of Chinese cong as a factor of development of English cong: "we're a bit scared as the Chinese side thought it (the drums) a bit too loud at the beginning. We got used to it and they got used to it. Now we got electric guitar.</p> <p>- There has a gradual change in the development of English congregation.</p>

Table 5 – Reasons for staying in the same church

R1	R2	R3	R4	Others	Comments	Having been to other churches
Close rel with good friends: "We have our fellowship groups and cell groups. We are very close."	Relate to the fellowship of the same belief: "a lot of my school friends are not Christians. So when I need to talk about God or something, I can talk to my church friends and if I am struggling with my faith, they are here for me and they can pray for me, which is very touching"				<p>- Like a home (family) &amp; praying a lot for each other</p> <p>- I love my church because of the people whom I have known for so long.</p>	Been to other ch as visitor: the people were mostly Australians, and they are very wild, more wild than our English side. They are very outgoing and make you feel very welcome.

Table 6 – Spirituality

Involvement in the church/ Ministries	- involved in Junior Church, background work & beach mission: evangelise the children by telling them about
Church to nurture spirituality	- fellowship: to grow and find out more in God with other people in a small group: "Fellowship is very important in a church. ...It's difficult to grow and find out more about God if you are alone." - "If we have a small group, we have a sense of security. They will give you honest opinions and advice."
Spiritual needs	- reassurance of God's Salvation - need to help and care for other people and need to know that there are other people around and ready to help
Factors affecting spirituality	- "She (mom) took me to Sunday school or childcare."
Spiritual experiences/ Relationship with God	- Once during the worship felt touched and cried - Usually through songs in worship and that God is always there when you need Him - In the conference of Youth Alive, felt great to see so many people around
Definition of spirituality	- "It's a relationship with Jesus that you can't see but spiritually you are allowed to be very close to god; He speaks to you and may touch you in a way that is not physical."
Definition of Christianity	A Christian is someone who believe the only god & believe in Jesus Christ & His Salvation.
Baptized or not/ Def of Baptism: "The Chinese congregation. They have this rule that you have to be eighteen or sixteen to be baptised. That's the age limit. They want you to be very sure and mature about baptism before you do it while other churches around Melbourne, people can be as young as twelve years old to be baptised. I think that I might not be mature enough to be baptised."	- "it is a declaration of Jesus that you believe in Him and you believe that He will save you if you accept Him as your Saviour. It's a chance to tell other people that you are taking the step of faith to be baptised and be one of God's people. Everything I do will be in reflection of God." - "Baptism is really big thing to us. The Chinese people are really serious about it. - "They take it very traditionally and they think it is a ritual and they emphasize how important it is. So a lot of us are scared about being baptised." - "I am scared that I am not devoted enough. Our pastor said that to be baptised all you need is faith. But I am scared that I am not reading the bible everyday, not putting God in first priority and I am not ready because of that. I should not do that if I go to set a bad example." - "I care about what others like non-Christians think about me. And if I am doing something wrong or something bad, I don't want them to see me (like that)."

Table 7 – Identity & Relationship within the Church: Between English & Chinese congregations

Sense of belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>"Ultimately I still love my church because of the people whom I have known for so long."</i></li> <li>- <i>"It's like a home and you have a sentiment to value it."</i></li> </ul>
Impression of the ch/ Most important characteristic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comfortable as growing up with friends around the same age: "I am comfortable at my church because I grew up with the girls and brothers and sisters that are my age.</li> <li>- Hard to bring in friends (Australians) as it's a Chinese church</li> <li>- Better now as it has become more multi-cultural</li> <li>- "we pray a lot for our brothers and sisters, that's our style, because we are talking to God and though we are using our mouth. God is listening to us. He can help us through ways that we might not understand or we might not know why He did it. Praying would be one."</li> </ul>
Things doing for catering new comers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- greet him and find out his name</li> <li>- talk to him and make him feel comfortable</li> </ul>
Expectation from the church/ Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "the people to have the right attitude towards church": people should come to church to know more about God instead of saying it is a day to meet your friends and catch up for lunch.</li> <li>- Important for people to be involved</li> <li>- Fellowship: to be around people and support one another</li> <li>- encourage one another and set a good example to let others know God's work</li> <li>- "What can be done is that we can encourage others and set a good example to let others know how God works in other people. They may see since God is helping them, God may help me, too."</li> </ul>
Differences between Ch & Eng congregations	<p>Mostly young people in the English congregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- used to have family fellowship: relationship is close to one another then two congregations, English for the young and Chinese for parents and the others</li> <li>- Moved from the big hall to small chapel, having a piano then more musical instruments, singing more contemporary songs and led by uni st rather than parents</li> <li>- "the university students. They used to be teenagers and they used to be looked after by the parents. They had to become the adults and they had to become the leaders. They brought in new ideas and it's been getting better."</li> <li>- "our youth pastor, his messages are appropriate for the youth. He's been bringing in new ideas and it's very good."</li> </ul>
Reasons for friends not going to church	<p>"It hard to evangelise and bring our friends to church because it's a Chinese church. Most of our friends are Australians or other culture."</p>

Table 8 – Church future development

Things done for improvement	Suggestions for the church	Relationship between the two cong
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “It’s now getting better now because we become more multicultural in ministries.” That is better to bring in new friends other than Chinese.</li> <li>- To improve the rel of the two congregations: events like camping and activities together, e.g. combined services in Christmas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The right attitude to come to church: Church is not a place to meet your friends &amp; catch up for lunch; Church is a place to know God &amp; for fellowship</li> <li>- important to have relationship but difficult because of language barrier</li> <li>- events like camping and activities together, e.g. combined services in Christmas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “it is important to relate with each other because we are one church.”</li> <li>- not much chances to talk to the parents or those in the Chinese congregation: “you may say hello and how are you. Or try to help them with something, for example serving them with lunch.”</li> <li>- Lang barrier: “You still have to love them and communicate with them because it is like we are part of the family, yet you don’t talk to them, it’s a kind of strange.”</li> <li>- “We don’t know the Chinese youth that well”: “They are trying to break out of these solemn hymns and use guitar and drums, and so are we. I don’t know why we don’t communicate with each other well.”</li> </ul>

Table 9 – Parenting style

Traditional customs & values	Norms at home	Culture/ music/ sports	Western values	Conflict	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Honoring parents as impt</li> <li>- Ps work hard for children</li> <li>- Show their love by doing work for them but seldom show their affections</li> </ul>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Y6 shows care by doing things rather than verbal expressions.</li> <li>- Y6 is doing well academically and Helping the other younger students at school</li> </ul>

Table 10 – Attending Conferences/ Seminars outside church

Conferences	Experiences	No. of People	Feedback	Remarks
Youth Alive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not getting much out of it but mainly to bring new friends; once touched by the message in YouthAlive: “A few years ago, the speaker told his stories about how he got through all the tough things. I was touched by that because we always complain about little things just at school, I got a C whereas some people they go through so much like bad times and yet there is a kind of hope. It is to say why you get so wound up over something so little. When someone says to help you, you are complaining about little things and you should count your blessings, instead.”</li> <li>- Growing in her own faith by seeing kids’ growing to know more about God</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is easy to invite friends to go and it is not Asian dominated in Y.A.: “It’s easy to invite your friends and it’s not just Asian dominated. The other thing is if you bring in a friend, you have to explain to them carefully what it’s like and you don’t get much of it.”</li> <li>- Being involved in B.M. helps growing as more than a spectator.</li> <li>- “I am not good with evangelizing people of my age” but “I find children is easier and better for me as they are more open and innocent.”</li> </ul>	Been in YA for 2 or 3 times