

First Chinese Baptist Church Rancho Rancho Cucamonga, California

We bring to you another story of a church plant which had its first Worship Service, January 19 2019. In bringing to you the process of how this church plant got started, we hope that you will be encouraged to become a sponsoring, supporting, or sending church as well.

God-led Church Planting Julia Wong

Rancho First Chinese Baptist Church was officially organized and held its inaugural Worship Service on January 19 2019. The church is in the city of Rancho Cucamonga, a good 45 minute-drive east of Los Angeles where many Chinese immigrants have moved to in recent years. The sending church had spent three years planning, praying and preparing for that day. I would like to share with you how God was involved in the entire process.

The Vision of the Church – to Multiply Itself

The First Chinese Baptist Church San Gabriel, the mother church, was itself a church plant. In 2009, the First Chinese Baptist Church Los Angeles sent Minister Julia Wong and six families to the San Gabriel Valley to plant it. In 2017, it became an autonomous church with Rev. Joseph Chun as the Senior Pastor. Right from the start, the Pastoral Team recognized the importance of church planting. Therefore, they had hoped that when the church became more established, they would want to plant a church themselves.

Waiting and Watching for God's Clear Leading

From 2015 to 2016, God used various people on three occasions to prompt Minister Julia, the Mission Pastor, about the city of Rancho Cucamonga and the need of the Gospel there. The Pastoral Team began to seek the Lord if that was indeed the place God wanted us to plant a church there and specifically praying for a church planter to lead that ministry. In October 2016, brother Jo Woo began his final year as a Supervised Ministry student at the church. We invited him to seriously consider if God wanted him to serve at the

Rancho Cucamonga church plant after his graduation from seminary. In April 2017, he responded in the affirmative. Minister Julia also received clear confirmation from the Lord to plant a church there.



Prayer Meetings and Putting the Team Together



In May 2017, the church started a monthly Prayer Meeting specifically for the church plant. In June, brother Woo went for the Church Planter Assessment Interview conducted by the North American Mission Board. In July, he graduated from the seminary and moved his entire family to Rancho Cucamonga to begin his church planting

ministry. In November, the Ministry Team was formed with Minister Julia as the Supervisor, brother Woo as the Assistant Minister, and 6 brothers and sisters from the San Gabriel church as the core members. The First Chinese Baptist Church Los Angeles provided the prayer and financial support as the church planting partner.

Evangelistic Meetings and Family Gatherings

Between November 2017 and February 2018, we held three evangelistic events – Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Musical and a Chinese New Year Carnival. We praise God that through these, we were able to meet many people from the community. In January 2018, we started our bimonthly



Family Gatherings in order to follow up with the friends we have come to know and to help them to have a good foundation in the faith. We thank God that the number of people attending our Family Gatherings continued to increase.

Seeking a Place to Worship

Between April and September 2018, we began to look for a place where we could have our Sunday Worship. We found a Brethren Church that was willing to rent to us. This Anglo church had also rented out their facilities to an organization that operated a Chinese school on Saturdays. The school had 150 students coming from many parts of the city.



Recognizing this as an opportunity, we decided to have our Worship on Saturdays and to hold it concurrently with the Chinese School. This would allow us to reach out to the parents and to include the school as part of our mission field.

The Church Organized and the Inaugural Worship

On January 19 2019, we held our Inaugural Worship. Rev. Joseph Chun from the mother church preached the message; Rev. Benny Wong from the grandmother church gave the word of encouragement; Rev. Jimmy Davidson from NAMB gave the benediction; and, more than 10 leaders from the mother church rendered the special music. All in all, it was a very meaningful worship service and we all felt the presence of God in our midst.



The Needs of the Harvest Field and Mobilizing the Workers

In recent years, there was a massive migration of Chinese eastwards out of Los Angeles. Many of them had settled in Rancho Cucamonga. Among them are believers looking for a spiritual home but most of them are not yet believers. The harvest field is truly great! Although the church plant is a 45-minute drive away, the entire mother church is mobilized to support its ministry. It sends a team of workers every week to help until such time that



the work has sufficiently grown and is able to stand on its own.

May the Chinese church obey the Great Commission to reach out to more people and to plant more churches. The Lord will be with us in this and may God's name be glorified!



Minister Julia Wong is the Mission Pastor of the First Chinese Baptist Church San Gabriel and the wife of Rev. Benny Wong, Senior Pastor of the First Chinese Baptist Church Los Angeles and President of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the US and Canada. She is also a member of the Church Planting Team of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship.

Led by His Grace, I Followed Him by Faith Jo Woo

When the May 12 2008 Wenzhou China earthquake struck, more than 80,000 people lost their lives. This unfortunate and painful episode brought much soul searching for the entire nation and for me personally, questioning – Is this all there is to life? Am I just racing towards death in life? 80,000 people died today! How many more days do I have left? ...

The life witness of missionaries of the “foreign religion” on college campuses at that time was an eye opener for me. Amid suffering and pain, I saw in them a dazzling brilliance and a peaceful demeanor. What made the difference in their lives? Why do they always have a smile on their faces, to care for others and to encourage one another...

When I awoke at dawn and amidst the snoring of my roommate, I read the Bible, Psychology, Philosophy ... why was it whenever I read the Bible, even though I did not fully understand what I had read and yet, the words gave me such peace, wholeness and satisfaction? Love is good. Love is meaningful. But where does love come from? God! Where are you? Is there truly a God?

Yes! You are “the Way, the Truth and the Life” I want to choose the right way. I want the truth that never changes. I want a full and meaningful life. I could only find that in Jesus!

I received Jesus as my Savior and accepted Him as the Lord of my life. I resolved to follow Him as He leads me. The “never a loser” in me took this verse to heart: “You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.” Psalms 65:11.

In 2015, my home church – First Chinese San Gabriel Valley – began studying the book, “Experiencing God.” One important principle we learned from it was that we have to know where God is working and He invites us to work with Him. In 2016, we noticed that quite a number from our church have moved to Rancho Cucamonga, an area east of Los Angeles. The church asked my wife and me to consider serving there as a church planter. We accepted the challenge.

When we first arrived there in October 2016, the Anglo churches we visited were supportive of us planting a Chinese church in their community. But when we asked if we could rent their facilities for a Christmas outreach event, they all closed the door in our face! So much for the welcome!

Feeling despondent and discouraged, we continued to “prayer walk” driving around with mixed emotions: On the one hand, I was happy that I had done my part and now it's time for God to send someone else! On the other hand, I was sad. The church had always advocated that we are to preach the Gospel, to engage in missions, and to care for the lost but if I don't do it, who will take “to seek and to save the lost” seriously?

Starting with that simple prayer, we began to see evidences of God's amazing presence in providing a place to meet for very low rent; an overflowing crowd of 50 to the Christmas event; and, people we met in the public places were open to our caring and praying for them. How else could I respond?



牧場第一華人浸信會

我們為你帶來了另一個栽植教會的故事，該新教會於2019年1月19日開始了她的第一個崇拜聚會。在與你們分享這個新教會開始的經歷中，我們希望你們能夠成為一個為植堂而祈禱，贊助，支持，差遣和倍增的教會。

神引領教會出去植堂

黃張采蓉傳道

牧場第一華人浸信會 於2019年1月19日正式成立，舉行首次崇拜。這間教會座落於洛杉磯市東開車45分鐘的城市，近年有許多中國新移民遷入。差派的教會從禱告等候、籌劃預備，到正式成立，總共三年之久。願意將神帶領植堂的整個過程，與眾教會分享。

教會的異象 — 不斷植堂

牧場教會的差派母會，聖蓋博谷第一華人浸信會，本身也是由植堂開始。2009年羅省第一華人浸信會差派張采蓉傳道及六個家庭在聖蓋博谷植堂，2017年獨立，主任牧師為秦民輝牧師。教牧和領袖深感植堂的重要，因此希望教會穩定之後，能夠不斷植堂。

禱告等候神清楚引領

從2015到2016年，共有三次，神使用不同的人，把“Rancho Cucamonga”這城市的名字及禾場需要帶給負責宣教的張采蓉傳道，教牧同工便開始積極為是否要在Rancho植堂禱告，求神預備植堂的帶領人。2016年10月，正值教會實習生吳漾巍弟兄讀神學院最後一年，教會就請他禱告，是否畢業後神引領他到Rancho植堂。2017年4月，吳漾巍弟兄確定神引領他到Rancho植堂，張采蓉傳道也從神得到要去Rancho植堂的印証。



開始禱告會、成立同工團隊

2017年5月，教會開始每月一次的植堂禱告會。6月吳漾巍弟兄通過NAMB的審核面試，7月吳傳道從神學院畢業，一家搬到Rancho，開始植堂工作。11月植堂核心同工團隊成立，由張采蓉傳道為植堂監督，吳漾巍擔任植堂助理傳道，聖蓋博教會的六位弟兄姊妹為核心同工。羅省第一華人浸信會也成為植堂伙伴，在禱告和經費上支持植堂工作。



社區佈道、家庭聚會



11月至隔年2月，舉辦了三次佈道聚會：感恩節聚餐，聖誕音樂佈道，和新春嘉年華會。感謝主，接觸到不少社區的人。2018年1月開始每月兩次的家庭聚會，跟進新朋友，幫助他們在信仰上紮根。感謝神，家庭聚會人數逐漸增加。

尋找崇拜地點

2018年4至9月，尋找主日崇拜地點。感謝主，一間基督弟兄會的教會願意租給我們。這間西人教會也租給一所中文學校，有150學生來自附近幾個城市。我們選擇崇拜在周六，跟中文學校同時進行，以便能接觸家長。中文學校也是我們的宣教工場。



教會成立、首次崇拜



2019 年 1 月 19 日舉行首次崇拜，母會秦民輝牧師傳講信息，祖母會黃守謙牧師勸勉，北美宣教部 Jimmy Da-

vidson 祝福，母會的十多位領袖獻詩，崇拜滿有神的同在。

禾場需要、教會總動員

這幾年大批洛杉磯華人東遷，許多搬來 Rancho 買屋居住，當中有些是基督徒，需要找教會，絕大多數還是未信的，禾場的需要何等大！植堂離開母會，開車要 45 分鐘，但感謝神，全教會總動員支持植堂工作，每周輪流派人手過來幫忙，直到植堂成長穩定！



願華人教會都遵守主的大使命，走出去得人，植堂建教會，神必與我們同在！願神的名在華人教會得榮耀！

黃張采蓉傳道是聖蓋博谷第一華人浸信會的宣教傳道，也是洛杉磯第一華人浸信會主任牧師，美加華人浸信會聯會會長黃守謙牧師的妻子。她也是美加華人浸信會聯會植堂部的成員。

主恩引領，憑信跟隨 吳漾璇傳道

2008 年中國“5.12”汶川地震，超過 8 萬人罹難的驚恐與悲痛，不僅瀰漫在全國各地，更是在我心裡激發了生與死的探索——“難道人生就是如此嗎，生是奔著死去的嗎？”，“8 萬人今天離世，我會多活幾天？”……

大學校園裡“外教”宣教士們的關懷與美好的生命見證，似乎讓我看到生命與眾不同的燦爛與和諧，究竟是什麼讓他們不論患難還是順利，總能歡笑、彼此關懷、互相激勵……

清早起來，在宿舍其他室友的鼾聲中，讀著《聖經》、《心經》、《論語》，為什麼《聖經》中的篇章即使有不懂，卻給我許多的平靜、踏實與滿足？愛很美好，愛很有意義，但愛從何而來；神，你在哪裡？真有神嗎？

是的，你是“道路、真理、生命”，我要選對的道路，我要永遠不改變的真理，我要充實的生命，只有主耶穌才有！

我接受主耶穌作我個人的救主、生命的主，也定意跟隨祂的帶領，跟著祂，從來不吃虧：“你以恩典為年歲的冠冕，你的路徑都滴下脂油！”

2015 年，我們母會——聖蓋博谷第一華人浸信會，全教會開始閱讀《不再一樣》，其中有一個關鍵的原則，當尋求神的心意時，求神清楚帶領，讓我們看清神在周遭正在做什麼，並憑信心求神邀請我們參與神的作為。2016 年，有不少教會弟兄姊妹逐漸往洛杉磯東部搬遷，其中一個城市：Rancho Cucamonga，越來越多跳出來。從完全不知 Rancho 在何處的我與妻子，接受教牧同工的邀請，為植堂事工禱告。

2016 年 10 月，當第一次來到 Rancho Cucamonga，也探望了好些西人教會，分享我們在禱告作植堂的工作。許多教會口頭上都很支持，很鼓勵，很希望更多的華人可以聽聞福音。然而，談及是否可以租借場地於聖誕佈道所用，卻處處吃到閉門羹。

心灰意冷的我，在開車繞城禱告時，很複雜的心情湧上心頭：一方面，很放鬆，因為我做了我能做的了，“神啊，你可以找別人啦！”另一方面，很沉重，教會都說傳福音、宣教、關懷喪失靈魂，然而都不做，那誰會看重“尋找、拯救喪失的靈魂”呢？

從這簡短的禱告開始，神不斷地給我和妻子外部的印證，帶領我們和教會一起參與祂在 Rancho 的植堂工作：從聚會無著落到“廉價”租借到超出所求所想的場地；從“預算”十多人參加的聖誕小聚，到“爆棚”的快五十人出席。從初來乍到，沒有熟人、到在公園、圖書館、學校、超市，接觸不信主的人，關心他們、為他們禱告，見證神奇妙的作為。

主的恩典親自引領，我們只是憑著信心跟隨，必經歷祂豐盛的奇妙！

