Recounting the seven-year process of how the True Jesus Church was established in South London, our hearts are full of thanksgiving towards God for His guidance throughout the journey.

History

Our chapter in building a church in South London begins following the London Church board’s focus on evangelism. In December 2004, the building committee started renting a conference room in a newly built leisure centre for Sabbath services, supported by workers from central London. Initially consisting of two board members and their families, through God’s guidance, more members joined us for worship, including now-baptised truthseekers. This influx of members injected new blood into and progressed the divine work.

Every week, we held two Sabbath services with fellowship activities, two RE classes as well as a truthseekers’ class, all in just one room. It was very compact. Nevertheless, our prayers granted us patience and hope towards God.

In 2006, through the support of UKGA and the generous offerings from the UK brethren, we acquired a property on Beadnall Road; however, our applications for change of use for it were repeatedly rejected. We also bid for other church properties but failed to secure any of them. The church board then decided to make an application for residential use on our Beadnall Road property.

It was only after many relocations during our wandering years and finally renting a community hall with several rooms that our patience bore fruit. A property agent informed us that a chapel belonging to the Jehovah’s Witnesses in Forest Hill was for sale, and our bid was successful. On 23 March, 2011, within six months of the sale process, we purchased the chapel, largely due to the great financial support from all the UK churches. Moreover, we did not need to apply for change of use, and the church is conveniently situated across from Forest Hill train station.

Simultaneously, our successful application for residential use on our Beadnall Road property attracted immediate interest, and the sale enabled us to repay most of the loaned money from the other UK churches.

In the past seven years, we have moved five times, made three unsuccessful bids for church properties, made three applications and one appeal for change of use on the Beadnall Road property, and ultimately bought the chapel on Forest Hill. We truly thank the UKGA and all the UK churches for their support and intercessions during this process. All things work for the good of those who love God.

Church Dedication

On 30 June, 2012, we held our first Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation with the theme “Holy City–New Jerusalem”. On 1 July, 2012, the chapel on Forest Hill was dedicated for the Lord’s use. We gained encouragements from Dn. Silas Chan (UKGA chairman), Bro. Michael Brenyah (London Church’s RA Officer), Pr. FF Chong, Dn. KC Tsai (IA Board member who was attending the Literary Ministry Seminar in Leicester), and Pr. TK Chin.

One thing noteworthy is that Forest Hill Church organised a choir with members aged nineteen to eighty-nine who had no prior singing experience. They diligently practised in unison, and presented hymns of thanksgiving and reverence to God on this special day.

Over the two days, we welcomed around 140 attendees in our eighty-seat chapel, yet we did not feel lacking in space. Combined with the hard work of our fellow London Church brethren, we accommodated the attendees, and we express our heartfelt gratitude to our co-workers for their great support. Thank God that after the closing prayer, the sun came out after the rain and we were able to have a group photo outside the church.

Although our small chapel is unable to accommodate all the brethren who wished to attend the dedication, our doors are always open to you. We hope that you can visit us in the near future. Please continue to pray for the divine work of our young church in Forest Hill.

To our God in heaven, we pray that Your eyes are always on Your people who gather in Your temple to pray. We pray that You will accept Forest Hill Church that we have dedicated to You and guide us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. The true church will prosper, as this is Your will.

May the grace, peace of our Lord Jesus be with you always. Hallelujah, amen.
Edinburgh
Thank the Lord for the Holy Matrimony of Bro. Shao Lun Ho and Sis. Michelle Shek on 7 July, and of Bro. Paul Shek and Sis. Lucy Chen (Vancouver, Canada) on 10 July. May the Lord grant both married couples a blessed marriage in Christ.

On 8 July, five infants—three from Birmingham, and two from Leicester—were baptized. Thank the Lord for the Holy Matrimony of Bro. Paul Shek and Sis. Lucy Chen (Vancouver, Canada) on 3 July, and of Bro. Alan Ho and Sis. Samantha Shek on 3 July, and of Bro. Alan Lai to Sis. Lily Ho on 17 July. May the Lord grant both married couples a blessed marriage in Christ.

On 5-26 August, we held the YTTC for Year One students. There were thirty-two students, and eleven team leaders who provided guidance and counselling.

We held our annual Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation on 16-18 September, with the theme “Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord (Hosea 6:3)”. Pr. FF Chong shared encouragements on our mentality when serving God and how relying on the Holy Spirit helps breakthrough obstacles associated with the works of preaching. Pr. Johnny Liu fed our souls with the unconditional love God has for His people in the Book of Hosea. Many members used the time to renew their faith. May the Lord remember the labour of the workers and bless all the members to put into action the teachings taught to shine brighter for God and to draw closer to Him daily.

The first Northern Regional Youth Fellowship was on 22-23 September, based on Isaiah 6:8 and the theme of servitude: “Here Am I! Send Me”. Over seventy youths attended from Edinburgh, Gifford Park and Elgin.

Gifford Park
Thank God, we played host to seventeen YTTC Year Three students and five team leaders on 5-26 August, with the theme “Be Diligent”. Thank God, the members fulfilled their assigned tasks and the event went by smoothly. May God remember their love and labour.

We say “bon voyage” to Bro. Eugene and Sis. Michelle Tang who have moved to Newcastle. We wish them all the best, and ask God to guide them in their next chapter.

Newcastle
July began with the Holy Matrimonies of Bro. Alan Ho and Sis. Samantha Shek on 3 July, and of Bro. Alan Lai to Sis. Lily Ho on 17 July. May the Lord grant both married couples a blessed marriage in Christ.

On 15 July, the RE Department held a fun-filled sports day for students, parents and teachers.

We held an Open Day on 22 July, and set up a stall to introduce people to the church during the local Ouseburn Festival, where the Senior Youth Choir performed a few hymns. Thank the Lord for His guidance and for the many visitors who came to church for the first time. Our Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation followed this event on the 23-25 July. Pr. Steven Shek and Pr. Michael Chan encouraged us with the theme “A Victorious Life”, and thank God, seven new members were baptised.

From 29 July-4 August, we hosted the NSSC College Youth Class. Pr. TK Chin and Pr. Steven Shek led topics about Spiritual Cultivation, One True Church and the Book of Hosea. Many members used the time to renew their faith. May the Lord remember the labour of the workers and bless all the members to put into action the teachings taught to shine brighter for God and to draw closer to Him daily.

On 26 August, we held our annual RE Special Service. The RE Coordinator reflected on the progression in the RE department and its future plans.

Leicester
On 7-8 July, we hosted a youth fellowship with Pr. TK Chin and Pr. Steven Shek. The theme was “Gird Your Waist With Truth—Stand Firm” aimed to equip the youths to fight the good fight for the truth and to take courage to preach the gospel of salvation. The following day, we also held a seminar titled: “Return Your Heart To God”.

On 8 July, five infants—three from Birmingham, and two from Leicester—were baptised into the fold.

On 19 August, Bro. Tim Lin (Edmonton, Canada) and Sis. Annie Chan celebrated their Holy Matrimony. The couple have decided to reside in Leicester to serve the Lord with us.

On 26 August, Bro. Wong Fong Yau and Sis. Chung Yuk Wun received baptism. Their studies.

Weddings
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On 26 August, Bro. Wong Fong Yau and Sis. Chung Yuk Wun received baptism. Their children participated in their baptism to testify of the great love of Jesus Christ.

On 2 September, we held our annual RE Special Service. The RE Coordinator reflected upon the guidance and blessings of God in the past year, and reports were made in regards to the progressions in the RE department and its future plans.
Cambridge

Our Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation was held on 14-15 July at Caxton Village Hall. Thank the Lord for the work and love provided by all members in organising the event, the preachers who conducted the services, and the attendance of visiting members from Leicester, Sunderland, Peterborough and Portsmouth. Baby Rosie Raju, daughter of Sis. Carina Liew, also received baptism.

Members from afar came to visit us: Dr. Peter Pang and his family (Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia), Bro. Glenn (Singapore), Bro. Sie Chiang (Singapore), and Bro. Blake (Taiwan). Bro. Kelvin Liew also came back to visit his family for a short period of time.

Late September came sad news of the father of Bro. Vincent Yeung, who passed away after a long period of illness. We ask members to remember his family in their prayers and so they find everlasting comfort from the Lord during this difficult time.

London

The NSSC Intermediate Youth Class was held between 29 July-2 August. The theme was “Make Me a Servant”, with classes taught by Pr. FF Chong and Pr. Johnny Liu. Around sixty students and team leaders participated in this event, and we could see their transformation as they were cleansed and moved by God’s word.

Our theme for the new RE year is “We are One Family”. On 1-2 September, we held our RE day followed by an RE outing in Hampstead Heath. The weekend was attended by students, parents and the RE teachers. It was joyful to see everyone working together to make the occasion a success.

Our Evergreen Fellowship day, a special service held in honour of our elderly members, took place on 29 September. The Song of Songs Choir presented several hymns, and Pr. Joseph Shek conducted the service. The day ended with a sumptuous green-themed dinner.

Portsmouth

On 28 August, we said farewell to Sis. Esther Fan who departed for Taiwan, initially for six months during her gap year, to study Mandarin. Sis. May Ho has also commenced her university studies in Brighton, and our newly baptised sister, Jade Leung, has moved to London to further her studies.

Sis. Jade had been truthseeking with her family since April 2012, and by the wonderful grace of God, received baptism on 14 October during London’s Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation. May God continue to guide her in her journey of faith.

We will be holding an Open Day on 25 November, and an evangelical service on 9 December. Please keep these events in your prayers and may the Lord guide us all in spreading the gospel.

Weddings

July 3: Alan Ho & Samantha Shek (Newcastle), Newcastle

July 17: Alan Lai & Lily Ho (Newcastle), Newcastle

August 19: Tim Lin (Edmonton, Canada) & Annie Chan (Leicester), Leicester

September 3: Paul Shek (Edinburgh) & Lucy Chen (Vancouver, Canada), Edinburgh
Church Events

July 1-4: Elgin Youth Choir, Spiritual & Evangelical Convocation, Elgin

August 5-26: YTTC Year 1, Edinburgh

September 22-23: Northern Regional Youth Fellowship, Edinburgh

NSSC Junior Youth Class, Sunderland

Sabbath One Family Fellowship, Sunderland

Forthcoming Events
(December 2012-February 2013)

National:
- December 23-26: China Brethren Special Services, London
- January 11-13: Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation, Pr. TK Chin & Pr. Derren Liang, Forest Hill
- February 17-21: The 3rd Adult Theological Training Course (ATTC), Pr. HH Ko, Newcastle

Cardiff:
- December 28-31: Pr. FF Chong
- January 14-22: Pr. Joseph Shek

Russia Ministry:
- December 6-24: Pr. HH Ko
- February 7-March 4: Pr. Michael Chan

Africa Ministry:
- December 4-31: Zambia, Holy works/NSSCs, Pr. Steven Shek & 3 volunteers
- December 6-23: Kenya, Holy works/NSSCs, Pr. Michael Chan & 3 volunteers
- December 13-31: Ghana, Holy works/NSSCs, Pr. Johnny Liu, Pr. Joseph Shek & 4 volunteers
- January 17-February 17: Kenya & Tanzania, Pastoral ministry/training, Pr. FF Chong & volunteer
- January 22-February 10: Liberia, Pastoral ministry, Bro. Michael Hsu
- January 30-February 25: Zambia, Pastoral ministry/training, Pr. TK Chin & volunteer