



**Feature Article**

**Good Place. Good People.**

Ray Lee

How does a place become “good”? Is it by its geographical location? Or by the activities that happen there? Or by the people who gather there? And what makes a person “good”? By their background? Or by what they do?

105 Gibson Centre’s Cultural Café ministry strives to be a place where the community can gather to experience the rich cultural diversity that exists in our midst. We have been making an impact primarily from a Chinese perspective through Friday Night café concerts and the food prepared and served by Joy Beyond Vision Community staff. These concerts showcase local musical talents performing in Cantonese, English or Mandarin songs.

We see a rise in the percentage of non-Chinese users. How do we promote a cross-cultural experience among them? We plan to intentionally celebrate and appreciate cultural diversity and creativity. This cultural diversity can be represented by a different ethnic group or a different form of artistic culture such as performing arts, visual arts or literary arts that can express our creativity.

One element will be common to all Café events, regardless of the event type or the cultural group engaged. We want to share positive stories to encourage and inspire our audience. We thank those courageous ones who are willing to share their stories with others.



neighbourhood to enjoy. -- Written by 105 Gibson Reporter

**105 Gibson Cultural Café Ministry**

promotes dialogue, creativity and celebrates cultures through food and cultural performances. The food is prepared by Joy Beyond Vision Community. The Café performances include a live musical concert on a regular basis.

We hope that the Cultural Café can promote dialogue, celebrate cultural values and foster a sense of community belonging to our visitors, thus creating a “good place” for the “good people” in our

**A Home that Shed Light into My Life**

Marco Chan



Marco has been working at the 105 Gibson Cultural Café since it opened in 2014. His optimism and great sense of humour makes it difficult to imagine the hardship he faces as a visually impaired person (VIP). He was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa and gradually lost his vision by his mid-30s. Shortly after, he became unemployed when the family business closed down. He spent his days hiding at home. His life was dark, long and without hope.

He met Rev. Danny Leung, founder of Joy Beyond Vision Community (JBVC), at this low point in life. He became JBVC’s first VIP to complete the Food Safety Handling Certification course and to work at the Cultural Café. It was not easy at first, but the customers were very understanding and patient. Their compassion encouraged Marco to work harder and these valuable experiences strengthened

his confidence. Today, he is able to brew Hong Kong style milk tea and carry out different tasks with ease.

To him, 105 Gibson is more than about work as he also takes tai chi lessons. He especially likes to work during the Friday concerts as it is an excellent opportunity for new visitors to learn about how VIPs work. He sees Jesus’ love when he interacts with staff and volunteers as they are friendly and compassionate. The Centre and Café have shed light in his life by providing him with a second home. He longs to come here as this is where he meets friends, learns and gives back to the community.

When asked what advice he has for other VIPs, he said: “When you encounter difficulties in life, do not hide. Everyone is good at something. Find out what that is for yourself and use this to serve God and the community.” -- Written by 105 Gibson Reporter

## MY experience with 105 Gibson



### A Faithful Servant

Edwin Li

I was invited to be the Chair of 105 Gibson Centre's Phase 2 Construction Committee two years ago. It was a big role to fill as it involved understanding each ministry's needs and requirements, selecting the architect, lawyer and general contractor, not to mention attending regular meetings. I was hesitant at first but the Bible reminded me to use the talents I have received to serve others as a faithful servant of God's grace (1 Peter 4:11), so I accepted this invitation.

I am glad that the new spaces will be utilized by various ministries to serve the community. People often think of Christian missions as going overseas. But in the Bible, Jesus also taught us to love our neighbours who are in need. I believe 105 Gibson is an excellent local mission ground for us to serve and love those in our community.

In the two years I have also learned to be faithful to God. Quite often we solve problems based on our own knowledge. My experience as a professional engineer certainly helped in this project. But more importantly, I learned to rely on God for His guidance and He will provide the best for us. The past two years had been a very valuable lesson for me and I am thankful for being part of this journey.

Many people attended the Phase 2 Grand Opening and they were curious to learn more about the Centre. I hope that one day they will be our users and volunteers in serving the community together. -- *Written by 105 Gibson Reporter*

### Another Milestone!

YY Chan

YY Chan was the project manager of 105 Gibson Centre's Phase 2 Construction Project. His main tasks included analyzing the entire project, updating stakeholders on the progress, preparing budgets, controlling costs and quality, and aligning the timeline to prevent interruption of the Centre's daily operations and ensuring that the construction could be completed safely and legally. There were many challenges including recruiting team, finding suitable architects and contractors and solving problems from Phase 1 construction. Yet he witnessed God's guidance along the way. He was thankful that the construction was not affected by the snowy winter weather and no industrial accidents happened. It was God's grace that the entire project completed on time and within budget under the cooperation of all parties. YY learned how to integrate his accounting and project management experience with the needs of the ministry. He also learned about the significance of humbling himself and understanding other people's perspectives so that we could complement each other. When YY was asked about his feelings after the completion of the project, he answered, "I am very happy to see more space and programs being brought into the community"

-- *Written by 105 Gibson Reporter*



### New Culture. New Friends. New Family.

Virginia

I witnessed a drastic change in my nephew Kenny's life during the three years he joined the 105 Gibson's Youth Services A Meal Together program.

Born in Shanghai, Kenny was educated in an international school with his younger brother and grew up with two nannies at home. This "western" and luxurious upbringing had cultivated a prideful and self-centered personality in his early years.

He came to Canada when he was 15 years old and I invited him to join AMT. He was initially reluctant, feeling the culture was too different than what he was used to in Shanghai. He also felt that he had no need to be tutored by someone else and that sharing a meal was for those who were less fortunate. It took several months of persuasion before he finally agreed to try AMT. This opened the door for him to mingle with peers and experience a Chinese culture that was unfamiliar to him in Shanghai. He even invited his friends to come and started tutoring others in math and English. These new friends were his new family members in this new country who share the same culture with him. By the time he graduated from high school, he has become humble, independent and willing to help others.

Now he is studying aviation and attends church in Indiana. His AMT mentor testifies that this life change is a result of God's power and love for Kenny. His father and I are very grateful to 105 Gibson for nurturing him into a mature and responsible person. -- *Written by 105 Gibson Reporter*



# Upcoming Events

## 105 Gibson in Action

35 volunteers helped 410 tax clinic clients to file their tax returns in March and April. Many of the volunteers were not accountants so they had to spend extra time learning how to complete and file income tax returns in order to help our clients.



## The Phase 2 construction Grand Opening

on March 25 drew close to 800 guests to celebrate and tour the new facility. Tyndale University College and Seminary President and Vice Chancellor Dr. Gary Nelson shared words of encouragement with us.

Two Open Houses were held on April 10 and 12 to welcome community groups, other churches and businesses. They learned more about our services and programs through tours and videos of our users sharing how they had benefitted here.



**ALP Talk** will be held on Thursday May 17 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. The topic will be **"First Aid at a Glance"** by Peter Lam. Please join us and learn how to save someone's life. Fee is \$3. A light lunch will be served. Reserve your spot by May 14.

**Cultural Café Concert** will take place on Friday May 25 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, sharing songs and stories. Refreshments available.

ALP will host a **"Bile Duct and Gallbladder Disease" workshop** with Canadian Liver Foundation on Saturday May 26 from 10 to 11:30 am. Speaker is Gastroenterology Specialist Dr. Yvonne Tse from Toronto Western Hospital. We welcome all to join.

The **Thrift Store** will open on Wednesdays from 12 - 4pm and Sundays from 11am - 3pm in May and June.



The **Thrift Store Side Walk Sale** will take place on June 23 (9 am - 12 pm) and June 24 (12:30 - 4 pm). Stay tuned for more details.

The **Abundant Life Reflection Spring Passion Summer Camp** will take place from July 3 to 26 (Camp A) and from August 7 to 30 (Camp B) from 10 am to 3 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Early bird fee (before May 27) is \$60, and \$80 afterwards.

We welcome campers who are 65 years or older to register. For more info, please contact Elizabeth Chan at 905.946.8787 Ext. 119



## Supporting 105 Gibson

We welcome you to join our efforts in blessing the community through partnership, donations, and volunteering. Visit our website for more information.