



A Chat with our Executive Director

July 2019 marks a milestone for the Toronto Christian Community Church and 105 Gibson Centre. Rev. Dr. Harding Ng, founder of 105 Gibson Centre, retired this month after serving as TCCC's Senior Pastor for 21 years. Rev. Jonathan Chan, 105 Gibson Centre's General Director since 2013, will succeed him. We thank Rev. Ng and Rev. Chan for their vision in serving the community and for setting the foundation for the team to move ahead from here.

We welcome Pastor Raymond Lee as our incoming Executive Director. He is not completely new to us, as he has been our Community Services Manager and is transitioning out of this role. In his new role, he will be providing pastoral care to the staff, users and volunteers, and leading the Centre in serving more in the community.



How do you see 105 Gibson as a community?

105 Gibson is a community of people and not just a service-offering Centre, and I plan to invest in its people. I will intentionally foster a culture where staff are empowered staff to seek self-awareness and internal transformation. It is only through understanding about oneself that we can move forward as a team to serve and transform the community.

I also plan to spend time with our users, listening and understanding their needs so that the Centre can respond appropriately. Many of our existing programs and services are designed and launched based on understanding people's interests and needs.



If you were to describe the Centre in one word, what would that be?

Love. We reach out to the community because of love. It is what I aspire to see at the Centre and for it to be the essence of what happens here. I wish for our users to see our love of them above the programs offered, and to be motivated to come to the Centre because of that engagement. After all, the Bible teaches us that people would know we are Christians if we love one another. (John 13:35)



What is your general background and how does that relate to the ministry of 105 Gibson?

I have a degree in Computer Engineering and have recently graduated from Tyndale Seminary with a Master of Divinity in Counselling. In between the two degrees, I have worked with homeless/at-risk youths at Youth Unlimited, and at Evergreen Hospice as their In-house Support Worker.

I also served at Richmond Hill Christian Community Church for over 15 years in different capacities, including a pastoral care team member, junior high fellowship leader, adult Sunday School teacher, adult small group and fellowship leader.

Through these experiences I have learned to journey patiently with people with various needs. This can help me to define the Centre's strategic direction and to execute it with our teams.

MY experience with 105 Gibson

My Prayer for 105 Gibson Centre

Rev. Jonathan Chan

Former General Director, 105 Gibson Centre

It has been a wonderful six years in which I was in the role of General Director for 105 Gibson Centre and many things have changed. The greatest change I saw over the years is how the Centre has matured with respect to its liveliness, level of services and operations, user visits and even our confidence.

Today, the Centre is serving a wider demographics of people who come with a sense of familiarity, friendliness and belonging. They even invite their friends to come as well. Staff and volunteers serve these visitors tirelessly and joyfully. More services have been introduced and the Centre's space is utilized in a much more efficient manner.

Looking back, I wished I had given more time to the staff team. As

my concern was with the Centre's service growth and other priorities for the community. I wished there was more laughter, fun and team building. We did hold staff retreats but I wished we had spent more time together.

I pray that the Centre will become capable to respond to the needs of the community and be able to make transformational changes to the community through holistic services as we had set out to do six years ago. I also pray that the Centre will be able to re-examine our six ministries and to build the synergism required to respond to the needs in the community in the context of its changing demographic characteristics.



Following Christ as Lifelong Journey

Rev. Harding Ng

Former Senior Pastor, Toronto Christian Community Church

Now Consultant Pastor Emeritus of TCCC

Founder, 105 Gibson Centre

I began attending the Toronto Christian Community Church in 1975 – the year that Rev. Dr. John Kao and his wife Esther founded the church. It was a spiritual home to many visa students from Hong Kong – a place where they learned to serve God and the community. From this beginning, the church has since multiplied into 14 churches in the GTA and 2 overseas churches in Panama and Argentina.

In 1994, in obedience to God's calling and at the invitation by Rev. Kao, I left my 15-year career as a medical doctor and joined the pastoral team. I was ordained in 1996 and became the senior pastor in 1998.

In 2001, the church relocated to its current location at 100 Acadia Avenue in Markham with services in Cantonese, English and later Mandarin. Since then, God has brought a renewed vision on how to do church – a holistic approach of the gospel message, which balances the intentional sharing of the good news of Jesus in both word and deed, meeting the needs of body, soul and spirit of all people in the community.

In 2009, the warehouse at 105 Gibson Drive was put up for sale. The church board, together with congregational membership, approved the purchase of this 47,000 sq. ft. building at the cost of \$5.6 million. With further fundraising, Phase 1 construction and phase 2 renovation were completed in 2013 and 2018 respectively in order to develop the various social services and outreach ministries. It is my belief that this is an exciting God-given platform to practice discipleship and mentoring through community outreach as we seek to obey Jesus' command of loving God and loving our neighbours.

Following Christ is never easy and we have made mistakes along the way; however, this is a lifelong journey of learning. Let us not be complacent then; instead, being empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us roll up our sleeves to become servants of Christ as we serve others. "It is always more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

At this juncture, I feel most gratified to step down as senior pastor in July 2019 and pass the baton to Rev. Jonathan Chan, who has, similarly, passed on his General Director role to Pastor Ray Lee. I am also grateful to God for the constant stream of insights from my wife Lok-ping who has influenced me – she is a person who not only possesses a keener sense of a holistic Christian care, but also proves her faith not so much with words, but with deeds!

By God's grace, together as one church and with the efforts of many volunteers, may we look forward to Phase 3. I envision, for the future, more diversified, multicultural and inclusive programs and ministries.



105 Gibson in Action



Thanks to our Ward Councillor Isa Lee who visited us on June 7 and distributed dumplings to our users for Dragon Boat Festival.



It was a bright and sunny day on June 8, perfect for planting 225 treelings in Phyllis Rawlinson Park. Over 200 people attended and raised close to \$22,000 for our programs and services.



Long-time donor Eric presents a donation to the Centre to support our services.



Thrift store sales have attracted customers to find great deals at low prices!

Upcoming Events

105 Gibson Thrift Store will have discount on handbags, shoes and summer apparel in July. Opening hours are Wednesday and Sunday from 12 to 4 pm.

105 Gibson is partnering with WoodGreen Community Services to offer **Citizenship Preparation Class** from Tuesday July 9 to August 27 from 10 am to 12 pm. This course is taught by a Settlement Worker from WoodGreen and uses Discover Canada as the official study guide. Suitable for those preparing for citizenship exam with ESL Level 4 English.

105 Gibson Cultural Café will host **Pottery Night** on Friday July 26, August 9 and 16. Learn to use clay and various tools to create a pottery cup. Fee is \$90 + \$24 material cost. Must attend all three nights.

Grace Melodia is organizing a benefit concert called **"The Best is Yet to Come"** on Saturday July 27 at 7:30 pm at TCCC. ZION NOiZ is performing at the concert and proceeds will be donated to 105 Gibson Centre. Come enjoy their music and support us! Tickets details on Centre website.

Abundant Life Institute will host **ALI Talk** on Thursday August 22 from 1 to 2:30 pm. Topic is "Legal Awareness for Seniors".

105 Gibson will participate in City of Markham's **Doors Open Markham** on Saturday September 7 from 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission, all are welcome to join!

The **105 Gibson Walkathon** will take place on Saturday October 5. We welcome you and your family to join us. Details will be announced.

Our **6th Anniversary Thanksgiving Dinner** will take place on Sunday October 6 from 6 pm to 9 pm. Details to be announced.

We are adjusting our "My 105" bi-monthly newsletter publication dates. The next issue will be published and distributed on October 6, 2019.

For inquiries or registration, please visit Centre reception, call 905.946.8787 or email info@105gibson.com

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.