

North Point Alliance Church

English Worship Service

July 11, 2021 (10:45-11:45am)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Arnold Chow

Pastors: Rev. Stera Chan (stera@npac.org.hk),

Pastor Liona Fok (lionafok@npac.org.hk)

Pastor Lawrence Choy (lawrencechoy@npac.org.hk)

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EM website: www.npacem.org; email: em@npac.org.hk

EM Youth Ministry website: www.npacemyouth.com

EM Facebook & Instagram page: "NPAC English Ministry"

Social Concern Sunday - Worship Order

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 116:5, 12-13

The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

Songs of Praise

Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading – Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon – Lord, when did I see You?

Response Song

Offertory Prayer

Welcome & Family News

Testimony Sharing

Monthly Bible Verse – Luke 6:49

But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.

Doxology & Benediction

Postlude

Chairperson:	Joseph Trinh	Speaker:	Pastor Liona Fok
Praise Team:	Joseph Trinh & Fri Team	Scripture Reader:	Caitlin Trinh
Pianist:	Minnie Ho	PowerPoint:	David Yeung
Welcome Team:	Jeremy So, Wilson Lam, Jason Choi		
Offering Counters:	Kent Ang, Davey Poon		
Sound System:	Amanda Chan, Bono Lee, Clarence Fok		

Seeing Jesus Behind Pandemic Poverty

By Rev Libby Wang

How do you feel at this stage of the pandemic? Setting aside worries, distress and negativity about whether one should get vaccinated, I wish to share on the year's work of the "Love Shared" initiative that concludes in March this year. The group may have escaped your attention amid a high volume of messages.

During the pandemic, many people wish to do something or make some kind of contribution, not to mention Christians who are given the command to love others as ourselves. A relatively easy task was to share anti-pandemic resources. As we had received a wealth of donated materials from brothers and sisters out of their love, all NPAC staff were mobilized to package and prepare the materials and to carefully and orderly distribute them to needy brothers, sisters and neighbors. Nevertheless, the impact of the pandemic could not be tackled by one or two such distributions alone. What else could we do? The "Love Shared" initiative was set up in April last year to coordinate existing ministries of the Welfare Committee and the Family Service Centre as well as new pandemic-related resources.

Though I am an experienced staff, participation in the group has given me the opportunity to better understand and take part in NPAC's community ministry. During the pandemic, we teamed up with various organizations to provide food to some 20 families. A counseling hotline to offer emotional support was also set up and used by some brothers and sisters. However, the response to the services offered was not as anticipated and the number of people served was limited. For example, only a few children took part in the "Home Study Support Program" that provided tutorial service online or onsite. When the Government banned dining in at restaurants from the midnight of Jul 29 onwards, we opened up the church premises for neighbors to have lunch. Our coworkers did not only wait at the church but distributed tracts to look for those in need. It was only then that 28 came and used the service on Jul 30.

Caring for our neighbors is intertwined with spreading the gospel. It is like what Jesus said when He likened the Heavenly Kingdom to a king who went out to invite people to attend his son's wedding feast. But when some invitees felt they had something more important to do, they declined the invitation. Meanwhile, Jesus, the Word, became flesh and lived among the people. Crowds of help seekers and truth enquirers poured in. No promotion was needed. I have to admit that I have not been incarnational enough, and have to find out brothers and sisters' needs through a questionnaire on the work situation of NPAC congregants. In the process, I was touched by those who were suffering from reduced income but who still wanted to make offerings to support others. The impressive amount of supermarket vouchers we received are brothers and sisters' willing offerings, which we tried our best to give out to the needy through different channels.

Jesus said: *"You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me"* (John 12:8). If we have Jesus in our lives, we will take the initiative to get in touch with our neighbors to care for them and find out their needs instead of not knowing how to help when their needs arise. For sure, it is never too late now that there is the awareness of the need to care.

Family News

1. **Regular meetings (Education Centre)** [Note special venue arrangements in Jul]
 - a. **Gatekeepers** (secondary school): Fri, 7:30-9pm

<i>Jul 9</i>	Special: Spy Race [Rm 219]	16	C.A.M.P. (Day 1) [Rms 201-3, 208-9]
<i>17</i>	C.A.M.P. (Day 2) [Hall & Rms 208-9]	18	C.A.M.P. (Day 3) [Hall]
 - b. **Peacemakers** (uni students & above): Fri, 8-9:30pm

<i>Jul 16</i>	Prayer meeting [Rm 211]
<i>23</i>	Bible Study [Hall & Rm 218]
 - c. **Tentmakers** (young working adults): Every 2nd and 4th Sat, 5-6:30pm [Venues TBC]

<i>Jul 24</i>	Social	31	Retreat
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 - d. **Joint Adult Fellowship (Mixed mode)**: Sharing and Prayer on Sun Jul 11, 1:30-3pm, Rm 211; Children's Room: Rm 210
 - e. **Couples Fellowship (Mixed mode)**: Book Study: Shepherding a Child's Heart; Sun Jul 25, 1:30-3pm, Rm 211; Children's Room: Rm 210
 - f. **Women's Fellowship**: Old Testament Characters (1) on Sun Jul 25, 1:30-3pm, Rm 215
 - g. **Sunday School** (children, youth, and adults): Sun from 9:15-10:20am
 - h. **Children's Program**: For children aged 3-10 during worship service

2. **Others (Onsite unless otherwise stated)**
 - a. **Yunnan Prayer Group** prayer meeting: After worship service on Sun Jul 18
 - b. **Peacemakers** committee meeting: Sat Jul 31 at 2pm (online)
 - c. **Study Group "1 Peter for You" (Last meeting)**: Sun Aug 1, 2-4pm, Rm 215




3. **NPAC overall theme for 2021-2030**: A decade of NPAC worshipers. **Sermon theme (Jul-Sept)**: "Have you understood all these things? – The parables of Jesus"

4. **Devotionals on the Gospels: *Encounter God through daily devotions on the life and ministry of Jesus in the four gospels!*** Booklets from *Our Daily Bread Journey Through Series* on Luke, Matthew, Mark and John (with a daily Bible passage, explanatory notes, reflection questions and space for journaling) will be given out one by one from July onwards.
You are encouraged to commit to practicing the spiritual discipline of daily devotion with partners or on your own! To participate:
 - a. **Register as individuals or groups** at <https://bit.ly/EMDevotionals> to get the first booklet on Luke from Pastor Liona or Pastor Lawrence
 - b. **Upon completion of each booklet: *Individuals*** will be given the next booklet, and ***groups*** will be given additional Christian resource.



5. **EM Sunday School (2021-22) new student registration.** For students of international schools aged 5 or above (as at Aug 2021). Obtain application form by enquiry email below or from the church's info. rack. Return completed form before Sun Jul 25:
 - a. By email to em@npac.org.hk
 - b. By hand to the church's reception (Main Church, Truth Centre, Education Centre)
 - c. By mail to North Point Alliance Church (English Ministry), 1/F Fortress Metro Tower, 238 King's Road, North Point, HK**Enquiries:** em@npac.org.hk or Pastor Lawrence

6. **Talk on Social Concern Sunday “Loving Family & Neighbors in the Wind”** (「愛家愛鄰逆風行」): *Speakers*: Mr. Rex Wu (Co-founder & Principal, HealthyMind Parents Academy) & Rev. Lawrence Chan. *Date & Time*: Sun Jul 11 from 2:30-4:30pm. *Venue*: Main Church (with live broadcast). *Enquiries*: Ms. Judy Chan (2909-9700)
7. **NPAC’s Evangelistic Meeting for Seniors “Papa Mama Don’t Grow Old – Cherish Our Parents”** (「爸媽可否不要老?–珍惜眼前人」): *Speaker*: Dr Lawrence Ko (高銘謙博士) *Date & Time*: Sat Jul 31, 2:30-4:00pm. *Venue*: Main Church. *Language*: Cantonese. *Target audience*: Non-believing seniors (aged 65 or above, especially the just retired). *Enquiries*: Pastor Tim Yuen (2909 9700)
8. **NPAC’s 14th Winter Camp “Hope Against Hope”**: *Speaker*: Rev. Gordon Siu (蕭壽華牧師) *Date & Time*: Dec 26-27, Sun 2:30pm-Mon 5pm. *Venue*: NPAC. *Language*: Cantonese. *Fee*: Freewill offering. More details to come.
9. **“Holistic Development Scheme for Young Students” Volunteer Recruitment: Needed:** Teachers, teaching assistants, administrative support. Nurture children of newly arrived and low-income families (personal growth, character formation, English and other abilities and relationship with Jesus). *Time*: Every Sat from 2:30-4:30pm. *Venue*: Education Centre. *Enquiries*: Mr. Edmond Choi (2807-5200)
10. **Typhoon and Rainstorm Arrangements:** Typhoon season has arrived. Please note the arrangement for EM’s Sunday School classes, worship service and fellowship meetings under different weather conditions at: <https://bit.ly/3xv1erJ>

	Prayer Corner: <i>Need prayers for unbelieving family and friends, or your personal needs?</i> Come to the Prayer Corner (on the side of the AV Room in the worship hall) right after the worship service. The Prayer Corner Group will be there to pray for and with you!
	What’s at our Info Table? <i>barnabasaid</i> , devotional materials, gospel tracts, evangelism resources and much more!
	Tithe and offering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offerings will be collected at the end of the worship service in offering bags at the entrance of the worship hall. Please prayerfully prepare beforehand. Other channels: www.npac.org.hk/notices/2020/doc/202005_offering_en.pdf

Prayer Items

- Churches in Hong Kong:** *Pray* for churches in Hong Kong to continue to stand fast in Christ’s teachings and His love, walk in the Holy Spirit and live as the children of peace among conflicts and tensions, and to point the lost souls to our Savior.
- EM Youth C.A.M.P. (Fri to Sun Jul 16-18):** *Pray* for the work of the Holy Spirit in our 24 campers’ hearts to know more about Christ, to grow in faith and fellowship. *Pray* also for the volunteers’ wisdom and strength throughout the preparation and during the camp.

Next Sun July 18: Speaker: Rev. Stera Chan (“Persevere and bear fruit”, Luke 8:1-15); Chairperson: Moses Chen; Praise Leader: Moses Chen & Team; Pianist: Carman Chan; Scripture Reader: Jeremy So; Welcome Team: Jasmin Delos Reyes, Keng Ang, Timothy Ng; Offering Counters: Lily Cheung, Vincy Ng; PowerPoint: Shayne Descartin.