

December 23, 2018

THE PATH TO BETHLEHEM

## The Wise Men

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

<sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.”

<sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:1-11



**Are you new here?**  
Come to our Newcomers Lunch  
for details, please refer to the highlights of the bulletin.

Let's get to know each other!  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to see how I can help  
with the church and the community.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Please join us for our special candlelight services, held at 5 pm and 7 pm. Arrive early with your full group if you'd like to sit together on 1/F, or you can save seats for loved ones on 2/F or 10/F. Our nursery will be open during the 5 pm service on 10/F for children 2 years and under.

### TODAY ISLAND ECC 2019 CALENDAR

The 2019 Island ECC Calendar is now available! Get this as a wonderful Christmas gift for your family and friends. On sale at 1/F, 2/F and 10/F for \$60 each.

### DEC 30 FRIENDS OF HK CHARITY DONATIONS

Please note that donation cheques for Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc. for 2018 should be dated and submitted no later than 30 December. Anything received after this date will be considered as a donation for 2019.

### JAN 9 WOMENS' BIBLE STUDY: KNOWING GOD'S COVENANT

God enters into a binding agreement with His people and always keeps His promises. Trusting Him as a covenant partner frees us from the bondage of worry and anxiety. This study helps transform the way you read the Scriptures. 10 am – 1:30 pm, 11/F Classroom. For more info, email [women@islandecc.hk](mailto:women@islandecc.hk)

### FEB 22-23 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

GLS is a two-day leadership training event featuring world-class speakers via videocast as well as live local influencers. Learn how to maximise your impact and inspire those around you. Early bird discount of \$350 available through 31 December. To register, visit [glshk.org](http://glshk.org)

## CLASSES & SUPPORT GROUPS

To register and for more information on the following classes, go to [islandecc.hk/classes](http://islandecc.hk/classes)

### JAN 6 OLD TESTAMENT: TOO OLD, ODD, DIFFICULT?

The Old Testament always presents a challenge to Christians because it seems so distant and distinct from the New Testament. Join Martin Radford in this 4-week class to obtain a panoramic view of the Old Testament and understand its relevance today. 9:30 – 11 am, 10/F Classroom.

### JAN 13 NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCES GOD'S WAY

Come join this 8-week class to improve your life and finances by learning what God says and practical skills on handling money with Bryant Stone. The practical principles derived from over 2,000 Bible verses will also help you honour God. Registration begins on 9 December at 1/F Connect Counter. \$400 fee includes 2 textbooks. 11:30 am – 1 pm, 8/F Living Room. Limited seats.

## OUTREACH

### JAN 19 NORTH POINT ELDERLY HOME VISITS

As Chinese New Year is drawing near, Hope of the City is partnering with Hong Kong Family Welfare Society to care for a list of elderlies living in Healthy Village Estate, North Point. We are looking for 15 volunteers to serve between 9 am – 12 pm. For more info, email [volunteer@hopeofthecity.com](mailto:volunteer@hopeofthecity.com)

## OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about the below opportunities, go to [islandecc.hk/about-us/employment-opportunities](http://islandecc.hk/about-us/employment-opportunities). If you are interested, send your CV and cover letter to [hr@islandecc.hk](mailto:hr@islandecc.hk).

- Web Developer
- Senior Accountant
- Creative Video Producer

#### GENERAL OFFERING

##### LAST 2 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)

Budget	10 Dec	17 Dec
Giving	1,532	1,532
Variance	2,102	1,170
	570	(362)

##### YEAR TO DATE

(16 Weeks)

Budget	
Giving	\$24.5M
Variance	\$19.5M
	<b>\$-5.1M (-20.8%)</b>

#### BOLD FAITH FUND

Received	\$131.2 M	Outstanding Pledged	\$18.8 M
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#### GIVING TO ISLAND ECC

We encourage those who consider Island ECC their church home to prayerfully give a percentage of their income to the church on a regular basis.

Cheques payable: 'Island ECC Ltd' for Hong Kong tax receipts or 'Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc' for US tax receipts.

Enquiries: [giving@islandecc.hk](mailto:giving@islandecc.hk)