

COMING UP AT ISLAND ECC

TODAY Baby Dedications

We are delighted to witness the dedication of three children to the Lord today (10/F):
- **Eliana Josephine Harvey**, daughter of Buzzy and Raquel, born 27 Sept 2011
- **Pau Hiu Tung Nicole**, daughter of Benjamin and Jamie, born 17 Nov 2011
- **Jonathan Samuel Li**, son of Ross and June, born 2 July 2012
We warmly welcome relatives and friends visiting for this special occasion.

TODAY Christmas Love Offering

Today you will have the opportunity to give to our annual Christmas Love Offering. This is a chance to give generously, over and above your tithe, in order to support ministries in Hong Kong and beyond. Special offering envelopes will be provided.

TODAY 2013 Island ECC Devotional Calendar

The Island ECC Devotional Calendar is now available! May it bring blessings and joy to your household and friends. They are \$50 each and are available on each floor.

DEC 14 FUSE: Bus Carolling

Fuse, our Young Adult ministry is hosting a great Christmas carolling event for the 20 and 30-somethings! We will be zooming through Causeway Bay and Central on an open top double-decker bus, singing carols! Tickets are on sale at the Connect Counter for \$20 only. **Friday, December 14, 7.30-10pm.** Contact youngadults@islandecc.hk for more details.

DEC 24 Christmas Eve Services

Christmas is just around the corner and we look forward to celebrating with you at our special Christmas Eve services on **Monday, December 24**. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your family, friends and colleagues. Special music, creative features and a Christmas message will take place on 1st and 2nd floors at **6pm, 8pm and 10pm**.

Children’s Ministries - New Check-in System

Children's Ministries is preparing for a new check-in system and needs the help of all parents. Prior to the launch of the new system in January, families need to pre-register and be set up with their account on The City. For more information, pick up a flyer on the 9/F. Bar code cards are now available to collect before and after services from the Green Room on the 9/F.

Deadline for Donations for Friends of Hong Kong Charities

Please take note that donation cheques for Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc. to be accounted for 2012 should be dated and handed in no later than December 31, 2012. Anything received after this date will be considered as a 2013 donation. Thank you.

Israel Study Trip 2013

The church is adjusting the Israel Study Trip and now planning for the summer of 2013. The trip will cover most of the important places in Israel and concludes with a visit to Petra in Jordan. The cost will be approximately HK\$28,000 per person. More information coming in January. Please email Pastor Rick at rick@islandecc.hk to register your interest.

Sermon Podcasts Online

Video podcasts of weekly sermons are available online at www.islandecc.hk. Consequently, we will no longer be providing CDs of sermons.



WATCH FOR. . . ON THE CITY

Weekly Devotionals

Each week one of the pastors posts an uplifting and thoughtful devotional word on the Island ECC group.

Vacancies for staff on the Marketplace

- Caretakers and cleaners for our church facility.
- Staff for our 10/F Nursery on Sunday mornings.

NEW TO ISLAND ECC?

1

MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER ON 1/F

We are so glad that you’re here today and would love to get to know you! The Connect Counter is located on the 1F and volunteers are there to answer any questions you might have about Island ECC and its different ministries and events.

2

JOIN THE CITY

The City is the online connection point for Island ECC. It’s limited to the people who attend our church and over 1,000 people are already using this fantastic tool. By creating an account and logging in, you’ll have access to weekly devotionals, updates on events, the chance to connect with others and more!

3

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

By visiting www.islandecc.hk, you’ll have access to information about all our ministries, as well as a broad spectrum of resources - including video podcasts of sermons.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

HE LOVES

God loves you because he chooses to. “God wasn’t attracted to you and didn’t choose you because you were big and important... He did it out of sheer love...” (Deut. 7:7-8). He loves you so much that...

HE GAVE

He gave Jesus, His one and only Son. While we do wrong things daily, Jesus is sinless. Though sinless, Jesus took our sin. He died on the cross in our place. Our response to this great gift is simple...

WE BELIEVE

We trust Jesus to do what we can’t. We don’t trust our own efforts to save us. We can’t save ourselves. We don’t place our trust in other people to save us. We believe in Him.

WE LIVE

God gives us brand-new life. We have joy because of his Spirit living within us. Little by little his Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus. No guilt in life, no fear of death, He gives life, now ... and for eternity.

You can tell God you accept Him now.
“Father, I believe you love me. You gave your one and only Son so I can live forever with you. Apart from you, I die. With you, I live. I choose life. I choose you.”

photos: Egypt Mission Trip



December 9, 2012

Soul

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:28-31

We are uniquely gifted with a soul from God

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being (soul).

Genesis 2:7

Our soul is valuable to God

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Mark 8:34-38

Our deepest worship of God comes from the soul

⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant ...”

Luke 1:46-48

¹ Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

Psalms 103:1-2