

# Welcome!

Trials are no fun at all, but they seem to be the primary way that God makes us more like Christ. The only thing that helps us get through them successfully is the hope that there is a higher purpose for what we're experiencing. C.S. Lewis describes this hope beautifully. Hold on to this thought, maybe even this piece of paper, to have with you when you go through a trial in life:

"We are, not metaphorically but in very truth, a Divine work of art, something that God is making, and therefore something with which He will not be satisfied until it has a certain character ... . Over a sketch made idly to amuse a child, an artist may not take much trouble: he may be content to let it go even though it is not exactly as he meant it to be. But over the great picture of his life—the work which he loves, though in a different fashion, as intensely as a man loves a woman or a mother a child—he will take endless trouble—and would doubtless, thereby give endless trouble to the picture as if it were sentient. One can imagine a sentient picture, after being rubbed and scraped and re-commenced for the tenth time, wishing that it were only a thumb-nail sketch whose making was over in a minute. In the same way, it is natural for us to wish that God had designed for us a less glorious and less arduous destiny; but then we are wishing not for more love but for less."

— C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

SHERMAN



## MINISTRIES

### MEN

men@islandecc.hk

### WOMEN

women@islandecc.hk

### YOUNG ADULTS

youngadults@islandecc.hk

### YOUTH

youth@islandecc.hk

### CHILDREN

kidsclub@islandecc.hk

### WORSHIP

worship@islandecc.hk

### VOLUNTEER

serve@islandecc.hk

### PRAYER

prayer@islandecc.hk

### CARE GROUPS

caregroup@islandecc.hk

### CLASSES

classes@islandecc.hk

### OUTREACH

#### GLOBAL

go@islandecc.hk

#### HONG KONG

info@hopeofthecity.com

#### FILIPINO

filipino@islandecc.hk

#### INDONESIAN

indonesian@islandecc.hk

For other questions,  
please contact  
info@islandecc.hk

## PASTORS AND ELDERS

### ELDER BOARD

elders@islandecc.hk

Rick Bates  
Brett Hilliard  
Brad Jordan

Charles Kim  
Ramon Maronilla  
Joseph Mohan

Gary Morris  
Ka Wong

### SENIOR PASTOR

Brett Hilliard  
brett.hilliard@islandecc.hk

### EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Rick Bates  
rick.bates@islandecc.hk

### PASTORS

Sherman Chau  
sherman.chau@islandecc.hk

Albert Ng  
albert.ng@islandecc.hk

Executive Assistant

Gina Charsley  
gina.charsley@islandecc.hk

Tim LaTour  
tim.latour@islandecc.hk

Didi Wong  
didi.wong@islandecc.hk

## GENERAL OFFERING

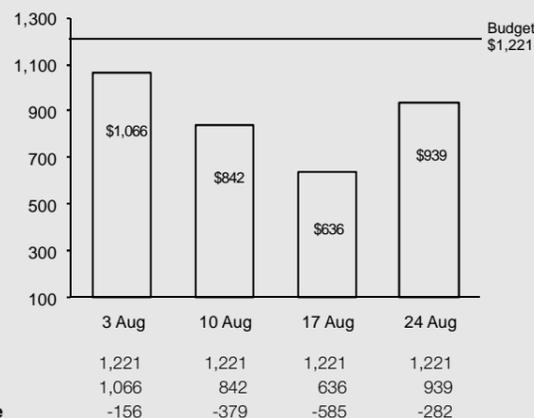
### YEAR TO DATE (52 WEEKS)

-3.46% deficit on giving

YTD Budget \$ 63.500M  
YTD Giving \$ 61.302M  
YTD Variance \$ -2.198M

## FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2014-AUG 2015

### PAST 4 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)



**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 to 'Island ECC Ltd.' for HK tax receipts or to 'Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc.' for US citizens. More info at [www.islandecc.hk/give](http://www.islandecc.hk/give). Enquiries to [karen.kwok@islandecc.hk](mailto:karen.kwok@islandecc.hk).

## ISLAND ECC

8/F 633 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong T 2864 9360 info@islandecc.hk www.islandecc.hk



## BACK TO SCHOOL

### Trials 101

Aug 30, 2015 9.30am, 11.30am, 3pm, 5pm  
633 King's Road, 1/F, 2/F, 10/F

# COMING UP AT ISLAND ECC

## TODAY Men's Prison Ministry Training Course

An introductory class by our supported partner, Kun Sun Christian Association. Learn how to reach out to English speaking inmates in Hong Kong and consider signing up to become a regular volunteer. Men and women are both welcome to attend but only male volunteers will be recruited for visitation. 2-5pm, 10/F Living Room.

## SEP 4 RZIM Apologetics Conference Tickets

RZIM in Asia aims to equip Christian leaders as they endeavour to effectively give the reason for the hope that they have in Christ. Conference runs Sept 4-5. Tickets at \$350 are available at the Connect Counters. For details, please visit: <https://www.islandecc.hk/RZIM/>.

## SEP 4 Youth Alpha

We will be hosting Youth Alpha in The Well (11/F, 6.15pm) this fall for both middle school and high school students. Dinner, games, and teaching from the Alpha Youth Film Series included. This is a great opportunity for students to become grounded in their faith and introduce friends to Jesus in a fun, welcoming atmosphere. For more information, email [youth@islandecc.hk](mailto:youth@islandecc.hk).

## SEPT 6 New Class: Money & Marriage

This 6 week study will help couples to learn about God's role in marriage and finances on giving, saving and investing decisions, the impact of debt, resolving conflicts, setting goals, dealing with crisis, etc. Instructors: Jeff Ryan & Team. 9.30am, 11/F Classroom. Cost of materials: \$600 per couple. Visit: <https://www.islandecc.hk/classes/>.

## SEPT 13 Launch Party for GROW Discipleship Course

Interested to grow stronger as a disciple of Christ? Join us at the GROW Discipleship (formerly known as 2:7) Launch Party to find out more about this life-transformational course. 1.30-3.30pm, 10/F Worship Hall. Free lunch will be provided.

## SEPT 15 Men's Fraternity Kickoff

Men's Fraternity is kicking off a new semester! There will be powerful worship, personal testimonies of transformation, and descriptions of the different studies offered. 7.30-9.30pm, 10/F Worship Hall. For more information, visit [www.islandecc.hk/men/](http://www.islandecc.hk/men/).

## SEPT 19 Prayer Retreat

Desiring a break from everything that is happening in life and spend it in an extended time with God? Join us in making this happen with fellow believers at a retreat house in Mui Wo, 9am-5pm. Limited space available so visit our 1/F Connect Counter and pay \$100 to register (lunch included). For details, email [prayer@islandecc.hk](mailto:prayer@islandecc.hk).

## OCT 16 & 17 Fuse Singles Conference: Start Tomorrow

Sometimes it's hard to get started on something. We put it off and leave it for a later time. Life can be that way. We procrastinate even the big decisions. This year's Fuse Singles Conference will challenge us to START TOMORROW...now! Get your early bird tickets today at Connect Counters on all floors. For more information, email [youngadults@islandecc.hk](mailto:youngadults@islandecc.hk).

## Production Volunteers Wanted

We are recruiting volunteers to be a part of our Production Crew for our Sunday services. We need dedicated people, with an eye for detail that want to help create a worshipful atmosphere, by helping with lyrics, slides and recording of our services. Contact Jason at [crew@islandecc.hk](mailto:crew@islandecc.hk).

## On The Mount Visits — Volunteers Needed

'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.' Hope of the City believes the step in responding towards people around us with compassion is the start of a lot of beautiful relationships. We are recruiting volunteers to regularly visit elderly people living on the hills in Kowloon Bay for 6 months. Email [volunteer@hopeofthecity.com](mailto:volunteer@hopeofthecity.com) for more information.



## On The City

### Staff Vacancy on the Marketplace

- **Part-time Coordinator of Children's Ministries** — to help prepare for Kids Club and other related events. 20 hours per week including Sundays.

For details on the above go to the Marketplace/Jobs.

### NEW TO ISLAND ECC?

#### 1 MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER

We are so glad that you're here today and would love to get to know you! The Connect Counters are located on the 1/F, 2/F and 10/F. 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 3,000 people are already using this fantastic tool. By creating an account and logging in, you'll have access to weekly devotionals, updates on events and the chance to connect with others. Sign up now at the Connect Counter.

#### 3 CHECK OUR WEBSITE

By visiting [www.islandecc.hk](http://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."

Mission Trip to Taiwan



Aug 30, 2015

## Trials 101

<sup>1</sup>James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. <sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup>But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup>Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup>but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup>Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup>He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.

James 1:1-8,12-18

Trials are God's lessons for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_, to make us \_\_\_\_\_, so that we will receive \_\_\_\_\_.

... for the sake of our perfection

Hebrews 2:10,11

(Other verses about trials: 1 Peter 1:6-8, Romans 5:3-5, Hebrews 12:7-11)

... to make us strong in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:10

... so that we will receive the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

Revelation 4:10-11

Reflect on a recent trial you went through. What was God trying to teach you?

Ask for wisdom for a trial you're going through now, and keep His higher purposes in mind.