

Welcome!

I hope you all enjoyed having Thursday off of work this week. I found it to be a welcomed surprise to add to our already extensive number of Hong Kong holidays (did you know only India has more?).

In our quest for spiritual growth, it's vitally important that we understand some essential principles. How is it, exactly, that maturity happens? What role does God play, and what is our own responsibility?

Today's message is geared toward ensuring spiritual growth. Whether you've been in church for years, or perhaps just checking out the Christian faith, the essentials for growth are the same. I pray you will be both challenged and blessed.

Brett



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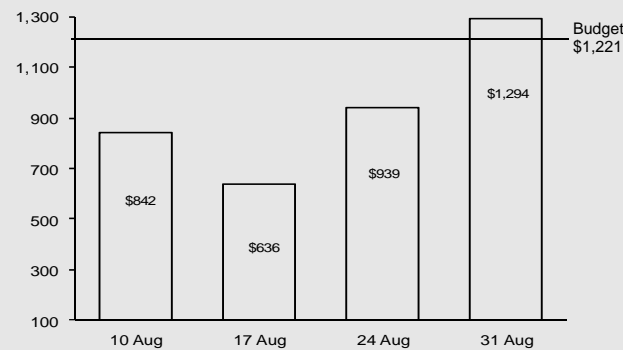
FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2015-AUG 2016

YEAR TO DATE (53 WEEKS)

-3.28% deficit on giving

YTD Budget \$ 64.721M
YTD Giving \$ 62.596M
YTD Variance \$ -2.125M

PAST 4 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)



	10 Aug	17 Aug	24 Aug	31 Aug
Weekly Budget	1,221	1,221	1,221	1,221
Weekly Giving	842	636	939	1294
Weekly Variance	-379	-585	-282	73

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. Enquiries to 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

Formulas

September 6 2015 9.30am, 11.30am, 3pm, 5pm
633 King's Road, 1/F, 2/F, 10/F

COMING UP AT ISLAND ECC

TODAY Emulate Youth Conference: Early Bird Tickets

Emulate Youth Conference ticket sales start today! Buy your tickets at the 1/F and 11/F Connect Counters. Early bird ticket prices start at \$200. The conference runs on Friday & Saturday, November 6 & 7, 1/F. Doors open on Friday evening at 6.30pm.

SEPT 9 FUSE — Young Adults Fellowship Kick Off Party

FUSE, Island ECC's Young Adults/Young Professionals Ministry, will be kicking off a new year, 7.30pm, 11/F, The Well. Come and meet other young professionals and hear about some big and exciting changes in store for FUSE. Email youngadults@islandecc.hk with any questions.

SEPT 13 Launch Party and 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. GROW Course starts Sunday, September 20, 9.30am or 11.30am Visit: www.islandecc.hk/classes/ for detail and registration.

SEPT 15 Men's Fraternity Kick Off

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/.

SEPT 16 The Village Kick Off

We farewell summer and say hello to Fall - a new spiritual rhythm every Wednesday night and all women are welcome! Come for a night of worship, sharing, meeting your stream leaders and learning more about the studies. 7.30-9.30pm, 11/F, The Well. Register now at isc.hk/the-village-streams.

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.

SEPT 20 November Cambodia Mission Trip Information Session

The Cambodia team is hosting an information session on 10/F Living Room, 2pm. Come and find out more if you have a burden for Cambodia or simply want to experience short term missions! Tentative travel dates: November 15-22, 2015.

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.

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 for more information.

Kids Club Fall Volunteer Recruitment

Kids Club is now recruiting for our regular Sunday volunteers for the Fall Term starting October 2015. We are looking for all types of leaders, from Small Group Leaders, Storytellers to Kids Worship Leaders and Family Welcome Team. Check out our website for more information or contact us at kidsclub@islandecc.hk



On The City

Staff Vacancies on the Marketplace

- **Children's Ministries positions** — to complete our ministry team preparing and leading the weekly Kids Club and other related events. A love for kids and relevant experience required .
- **Coordinator of Ministry Support** — to work as a member of our busy Ministry Support team in taking care of our facility and supporting our Sunday services etc. This is a full-time position.

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, 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."

September 6, 2015

Formulas

¹¹We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use (practice) have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5.11-14

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Matthew 7.24-27

Mission Trip to Taiwan

