



# Welcome!

It's officially December now, and for Hong Kong, we're going to say it's officially "cold". Those of you who know real cold like in Toronto or Beijing, can laugh all you want, but now that the temperature has dropped to the teens, we're putting on our puffy coats and calling it winter. "Baby, it's cold outside".

And "winter" means Christmas. For the next 3 Sundays we'll take a look at the somewhat-familiar story of the birth of Christ and take away some practical insight for making Christmas meaningful. I love Christmas decorations as much as the next guy, but hopefully there is more to the holiday for us all than just lights and gifts. We're going "Beyond Reindeer" to focus on what makes this holiday spiritually encouraging.

Since our Christmas Eve event at Queen Elizabeth Stadium is completely booked out, there is no opportunity this year to invite friends and colleagues. You may consider inviting them instead to one of our Sunday worship services.

*Brett*

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## GENERAL OFFERING

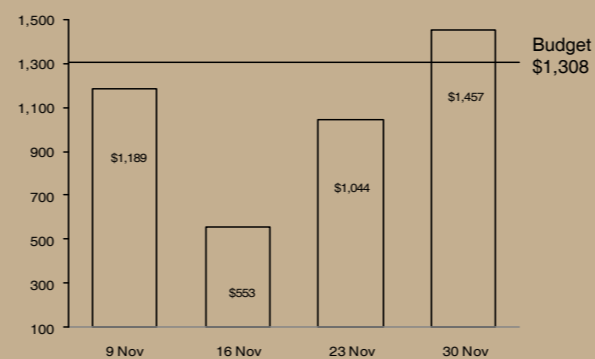
## FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2015 - AUG 2016

### YEAR TO DATE (13 WEEKS)

**-19.98% deficit on giving**

**YTD Budget \$ 17.000M**  
**YTD Giving \$ 13.604M**  
**YTD Variance \$ -3.396M**

### PAST 4 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)



	9 Nov	16 Nov	23 Nov	30 Nov
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	1,308	1,308	1,308	1,308
<b>Weekly Giving</b>	1,189	553	1,044	1,457
<b>Weekly Variance</b>	-119	-755	-264	149

**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 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 islandecc.hk



## BEYOND REINDEER

### Waiting On God's Promise

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



# HIGHLIGHTS

## TODAY **BABY DEDICATION**

We are delighted today to join Mike and Kat Lau in the dedication of their children to the Lord: Aiden Michael Lau, born on 13 December 2012 and Everly Grace Lau, born on 18 April 2015. We warmly welcome all family and friends visiting for this occasion (9.30am, 2/F).

## TODAY **PRAYER AFTER SERVICE**

We want to encourage the church to set aside time to pray today wherever you are and if you need to pray with people, feel free to approach our prayer volunteers at the front. Kindly leave the sanctuary quietly and respect those who are praying.

## TODAY **SEEK FIRST CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE**

Island ECC 2016 calendar is based around God's prompting to seek first the kingdom of God. It features beautiful photography taken by our church around the city. The calendar is available on 1/F, 2/F and 10/F at \$50 each.

## TODAY **QUENCH CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE**

Pick up some Christmas gifts for your family and friends at the Quench Christmas book sale on 1/F and 10/F. Up to 50% off selected adult and children's titles. While stocks last.

## TODAY **CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS**

Today is the last day to drop off your filled gift bags into the collection box on your floor. We are deeply grateful for your participation in making Christmas special during this season.

## TODAY **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**

Volunteering is love in motion! Serving as a volunteer at Island ECC is both a fun and rewarding way to help the church family. Come and hear about volunteer opportunities, 1.30pm-2.30pm, 10/F Living Room. Lunch will be provided. See you there!

## DEC 18 **FUSE BUS CAROLLING**

It's that time of year again - to spread some Christmas cheer from a bus (with no roof) going 80km/h through Hong Kong Island! So, come all ye faithful to the FUSE Bus Carolling Party, 7pm-10pm! Tickets are on sale now for \$50 only - pick them up at the 1/F Connect Counter. Contact fuse@islandecc.hk for more details.

## DEC 27 **INDONESIAN MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AND OUTREACH**

We would like to invite your Indonesian helper to join us for our Christmas Celebration and Outreach. 10.30am, 19/F Concord Commercial Building, 157 King's Road, Fortress Hill (across from MTR Exit A). Programme includes Indonesian dancing, Christmas message, gifts, drama, vocal group. For more information, contact indonesian@islandecc.hk.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TICKETING**

Thanks to your incredible enthusiasm for the event, all tickets have been given out. If you have tickets that you know you will not be using, please bring them back to the Connect Counter, so that someone else who would like to attend could benefit from it.

## **CLASSES**

### **REGISTER AT ISLANDECC.HK/CLASSES**

## DEC 13 **PARIS AND THE ISLAMIC STATE: WHAT EVERYONE MUST KNOW**

A series of coordinated attacks in Paris on Nov 13 resulted in the deaths of at least 128 people. What are the root causes of this atrocity? Join Lincoln Loo for this one-off class which will provide the analysis that is lacking in major news reports and social media. 2.30pm-4.30pm, 10/F Classroom.



## **OUTREACH**

### TODAY **INDONESIA TRIP SHARING SESSION**

The Sundanese people of West Java are one of the least reached people groups in the world (25,000 Christians out of a population of 24 million!). Come hear about our trip to support a ministry that's bringing the gospel to this unique group. 1:30pm-3pm, 11/F Small Group Room. Snacks provided!

### DEC 13 **CHRISTMAS SEASON HOME VISIT**

As Charlie Brown once said, "Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone". Hope of the City is looking for 25 volunteers to bless the North Point area neighbourhood through home visits, 2pm-4.30pm. Email volunteer@hopeofthecity.com for more information.

### DEC 13 **PHILIPPINES MISSION TRIP INFO SESSION**

Do you have a passion to serve and share God's love and message with the poor? The ICM Kids Camp gives 80 children living in the slums of the Philippines the opportunity to participate in acting, crafts, singing, sports and more. The trip will run March 30 - April 5. Meet the leaders and find out more, 3pm, 11/F The Well. Email fuse@islandecc.hk with any questions.

### DEC 13 **HELP MOTHER'S CHOICE - REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

Do you want to transform lives of young girls facing crisis pregnancy and children without families? Join Mother's Choice Flag Day as a flag seller on Saturday, January 16, 2016! Flags can be sold in any public place in Hong Kong from 7am to noon. Families welcome. Register at www.motherschoice.org/flagday or call 3915 5740.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **RECEPTIONIST/COORDINATOR**

We are looking to hire a full-time Receptionist/Coordinator for our church office. A cheerful friendly personality, good administrative skills, ability to multi-task, and excellent spoken and written English & Cantonese required. Email hr@islandecc.hk with a cover letter and CV.

### **ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT**

We are looking for a full-time Accounting Assistant to work in the church's busy Finance Department. Good math and computer skills, especially Excel, are required and a willingness to develop accounting skills. Email hr@islandecc.hk with a cover letter and CV.

# **NEW TO ISLAND ECC**

## **MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER**

**1** We are so glad that you're here today and would love to get to know you! Visit the Connect Counters on 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.

## **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**2** Check out www.islandecc.hk, where you'll have access to information about all our ministries and events, as well as a broad spectrum of resources - including weekly blog posts and video podcasts of sermons.

The School at True Vine Church in Lebanon



## **DECEMBER 6, 2015**

# **Waiting On God's Promise**

<sup>5</sup> In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. <sup>7</sup> But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside.

<sup>11</sup> Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. <sup>14</sup> He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup> He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

<sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup> When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

<sup>23</sup> When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup> "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days He has shown His favour and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Luke 1:5-25