



# Welcome!

“Peace on earth and mercy mild” is a line from the carol, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. Peace on earth. Most manger scenes paint quite a peaceful scene. Perfectly star-lit sky. Adoring Mary and Joseph hovering over a newborn baby who is somehow not crying. A snapshot in time that captures peaceful circumstances. But the reality of that birth was anything but peaceful. The timing, the pregnancy, the delivery, the location. Not one detail was peaceful.

So in what sense can we expect peace from our faith in a Saviour? How does God actually deliver on His promise that this newborn King that is introduced to us is the Prince of Peace?

I hope your Christmas is full of peace. But the reality is that there likely will be some disappointments. There may be awkward conversations, lonely heartache, painful prognoses, or fearful futures. That’s how life is. But how can it all be redeemed for something greater?

*Brett*

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## GENERAL OFFERING

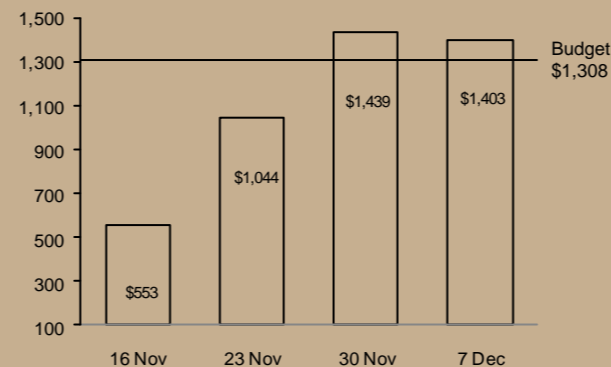
## FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2015 – AUG 2016

### YEAR TO DATE (14 WEEKS)

**-18.13% deficit on giving**

**YTD Budget \$ 18.308M**  
**YTD Giving \$ 14.989M**  
**YTD Variance \$ -3.319M**

### PAST 4 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)



	16 Nov	23 Nov	30 Nov	7 Dec
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	1,308	1,308	1,308	1,308
<b>Weekly Giving</b>	553	1,044	1,439	1,403
<b>Weekly Variance</b>	-755	-264	131	95

**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

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## BEYOND REINDEER

### Peace In God's Promise

December 13, 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 with 2 families in the dedication of their children to the Lord:

- Ethan Lee Jeng Han, born 13 February, 2015, to parents Brian & Dwi (9.30am, 2/F)
- Sophie Grace Tan, born 2 September 2012 and Sean Wesley Tan, born 18 July 18 2015, to parents Stephen & Sherine (11.30am, 10/F)

We warmly welcome all family and friends visiting for this occasion.

## 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.

## DEC 18 **FUSE YOUNG ADULTS 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 Youth Adults 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**

## TODAY **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.

## DEC 27 **WALKING THRU THE BOOK OF I CORINTHIANS**

1 Corinthians is one of the most personal letters that the apostle Paul ever wrote. It contains both great theological truths and practical life teachings. Join Pastor Albert Ng for a 3-week class to explore some important features of this letter. 11:30am, 8/F.

## JAN 10 **THE RISE OF ISLAM (PART I)**

Hardly a day goes by without the reporting of news related to the Muslim world. Every Christian must be prepared. This 4-week course introduces you to Islam, strengthens your Christian faith, and equips you to respond with respect and confidence. Completion of this class is a pre-requisite to taking Part 2, to be offered in April 2016. Workbook cost: HK\$150. 2.30-4.30pm, 10/F Classroom.



## **OUTREACH**

## TODAY **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.

## JAN 29 & 30 **SSP X-PERIENCE**

What does life in Sham Shui Po look like? Hope of the City is running a two-day experience for participants to take a guided tour of our work, visit cubicle homes, serve in a soup kitchen etc. and stay overnight at SSP. \$500 per person. Limited to 20 people. For more details and registration, email info@hopeofthecity.com.

## **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.

## **DECEMBER 13, 2015**

## Peace In God's Promise

<sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel which means "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

## **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

