



Welcome!

“Joy to the world! The Lord has come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room ...”

Supposedly, as the famous Christmas carol “Joy to the World” tells us, Christmas is about joy. Yet sometimes joy seems so far away. There is so much to do and amidst all the busyness joy seems to get squeezed out. We do so many things because we’re supposed to do them during Christmas. And we hope, even expect, that God would bring joy. But that joy seems so elusive ...

Joy. We all want it. How can we experience joy this Christmas season? The simple but profound lyrics of this Christmas carol point us back in the right direction. Jesus has come! If we want joy then we must receive the King – we must focus on Jesus again. If we want joy then we must prepare room in our hearts for Jesus this Christmas season. Today, we will explore what it means to prepare room for Jesus and for joy.

Make room everyone! Make room!

Didi

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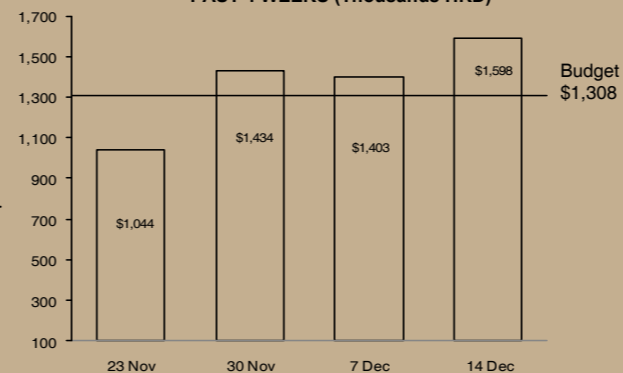
FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2015 – AUG 2016

YEAR TO DATE (15 WEEKS)

-15.46% deficit on giving

YTD Budget \$ 19.615M
YTD Giving \$ 16.582M
YTD Variance \$ -3.033M

PAST 4 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)



Budget \$1,308

	23 Nov	30 Nov	7 Dec	14 Dec
Weekly Budget	1,308	1,308	1,308	1,308
Weekly Giving	1,044	1,434	1,403	1,598
Weekly Variance	-264	126	95	290

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

The Fulfilment Of God's Promise

December 20, 2015 9.30am, 11.30am, 3pm, 5pm
633 King's Road, 1/F, 2/F, 10/F



HIGHLIGHTS

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 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.

DEC 31 **DEADLINE FOR FRIENDS OF HONG KONG CHARITIES DONATIONS**

Please note that donation cheques for Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc. to be accounted for in 2015 should be dated and handed in no later than December 31. Anything received after this date will be considered as a 2016 donation. Thank you.

JAN 16 **PRAYER RETREAT**

In this busy season we hope you can set aside time with God. But why not plan to join us for an outdoor retreat in Mui Wo in the new year. Register at the 1/F Connect Counter and pay \$100 (lunch included). For questions, email prayer@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 can benefit from it.

OUTREACH

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.



CLASSES

REGISTER AT ISLANDECC.HK/CLASSES

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.

JAN 17 **BETWEEN THE TESTAMENT - PALESTINE BEFORE JESUS**

Who were the Pharisees, Sadducees or Zealots? Why did they have such trouble with Jesus? Why did Jesus use a Greek translation of scripture? What is apocalyptic literature? Who wrote the Dead Sea scrolls and why are they important? Join Martin Radford for this 6 week class to learn more about the 400 "Silent Years" better known as the period of Second Temple Judaism. 11:30am, 8/F Classroom.

OPPORTUNITIES

COORDINATOR

We are looking to hire a full-time Coordinator in our Ministry Support team to assist with the functional aspects of our church and ministries. Excellent interpersonal and administrative skills required. Both good English and Cantonese fluency (spoken and written) are 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 20, 2015

The Fulfilment Of God's Promise

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Luke 2:25-35