

Featuring our new Church Plants

In 2010, we launched the Church Planting Initiative with the goal of planting 600 new Chinese Baptist churches in North America by 2020. The math was simple. If we added up all the 50 states in the US and the 10 Provinces in Canada and if all the churches in each of the states or provinces were to start one new church each year, we could reach that target of 600 new churches in 10 years.

The Initiative was a good and noble one. On paper, the Initiative was simple and achievable, but in reality, it was much more difficult. That difficulty is reflected in the number of new churches and mission points we had a hand in starting. Since 2010, working in partnership with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, we had only planted 70 new churches and mission points. But we see this as progress even though it is far from our original goal.

We have evaluated the situation and identified several issues that we needed to address before we could make any significant headway in reaching our goal. We have devised a 5 year strategic plan to address many of the issues. But we soldier on. We are pleased to report of several new church plants that had their first Worship Services within the last few months. We praise God for His work among us. In this and the next few issues of the NEWSLINK, we hope to bring to you a few of the new church starts and the stories of the church planters and churches that brought them about. We trust that you will be inspired to be involved as well — as a church that ventures out to plant a new church; a church that gives to support the church planters and church plants; or, as a church that prays for our church planters and for the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest field.

Dublin Baptist Chinese Church, Dublin Ohio

By the grace of God and His leading, the support of the Dublin Baptist Church, the Metro Columbus Baptist Association and the Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the US and Canada, the Dublin Baptist Chinese Church held its Inaugural Worship Service on January 6 2019 as they gathered as a church. Dr. Rich Halcombe, Director of Missions of the Metro Columbus Baptist Association and Rev. Amos Lee, Executive Director of the



Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the US and Canada brought congratulatory messages. Sixty five people attended. Praise God!

Dublin Baptist Chinese Church is the first Chinese church in Dublin, Ohio and the first Chinese Baptist congregation in the Metropolitan Columbus area. They seek to be a Christ-centered, Bible-teaching, Gospel-proclaiming, and God-glorifying church that reaches out and disciples their Chinese compatriots for the sake of the Gospel.



Please pray for the ministry of Dublin Baptist Chinese Church that God may add to the number of people being saved, for His glory and honor and to His Kingdom.

Rev. Joshua Li is the Founding Pastor of the church. He was born in Shandong, China and an M.Div. graduate of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. For more information about the church, please visit:

www.dublinbaptistchinesechurch.com

or contact Rev. Joshua Li at: pastor.h.j.li@gmail.com

On January 5 2019, Rev. Amos Lee and his wife Ruth, met with some in the congregation in preparation for their organization as the Dublin Baptist Chinese Church. They shared from their many years of experience in the pastoral ministry and in denominational service. We praise God for their teaching, encouragement, prayers and support.



A Church Planter's Story – Joshua Li

When I was in College, I studied the famous speech by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. - "I have a dream". Since then, I had many dreams: To marry the person I love – Shumei; To have a nice job - I did; To have children - I have two. Most of my dreams came true but they were centered around my personal health, wealth, happiness and fame. However, being a Pastor was never one of them.



I was born and raised in China. Before I came to the US in 1998, I had never heard of the gospel, or the name of Jesus. In order to socialize with other Chinese people in my community, I attended a Chinese Bible Study in a Christian home. It

was difficult for me to put my faith in Christ because of my pride and the atheistic education I received in China. I believed that I could take good care of myself and that my life was full of potential. When Christians shared the gospel with me, I told them, "I would not believe in Jesus unless I personally experienced Him." In the Spring of 1999, God spared my wife's life and mine from what could have been a fatal car accident with an 18-wheeler. If it had not been for God's grace and mercy, my wife and I would have been killed. On that fateful day 20 years ago, Shumei and I confessed our sins and received Jesus Christ into our lives as our Lord and Savior. We were baptized on Easter Sunday 1999 at the First Baptist Church Jackson, Mississippi.

God has made of me a new creation! I was very grateful to Him. I was passionate to share the Gospel with friends and family. But I was not ready to become a full-time minister.

I was actively involved in three Chinese Churches in the past 20 years due to family relocations. However, serving God full time never crossed my mind until one day in April 2014, when God's call came to me through his Word in Matthew 16: 26, "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" Those words came to me as "What will it profit you if you gain the whole world, yet many people forfeit their souls?"

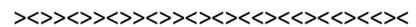


I obeyed God's calling, quit my job as an Oracle Database Administrator for Jackson State University and enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in the fall of 2014 as a full-time student. Even though I had trouble speaking fluent English, I managed to fulfilled all the requirements for the Master of Divinity degree including Greek and Hebrew. I thank God for His grace!

I recalled that In the final year of my studies at Southwestern, the Spring of 2018, I needed to find a Southern Baptist pastor to be my Supervised Ministry mentor as part of the course requirements. Since I live in Dublin, Ohio, I prayed and google searched for a local pastor and I was led to the Senior Pastor of the Dublin Baptist Church, Dr. JD Davis. Needless to say, it was nothing short of a miracle that I found him as the Lord brought him to me. Dr. Davis was very supportive and a great help to me. I was blessed and honored to be mentored by such a great pastor, preacher, teacher, advisor, and encourager.

With Pastor Davis' encouragement, I started to lead a Chinese Bible Study in February 2018 and other outreach ministries and events including a ping pong ministry that attracted quite a number of Chinese from the community on Tuesday nights. We continuously saw God's work and His blessings in the Bible Study Group. We were moved by the Christlike love and care of the Pastoral Staff, Deacons, the Church Council and our brothers and sisters of Dublin Baptist Church. We learned how each ministry and department of Dublin Baptist Church worked which helped the development of the Chinese ministry. On November 25 2018, I was ordained to the Gospel ministry and the Chinese ministry of the Dublin Baptist Church had its Inaugural Worship Service on January 6 2019 as the Dublin Baptist Chinese Church.

In John 12:32, Jesus said "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Therefore, the Mission of the Dublin Baptist Chinese Church is to exalt Jesus Christ, to share the gospel and to make disciples among Chinese people for the glory of God.



You may download a copy of the 2019 Directory of Chinese Baptist Churches in the US and Canada for your reference at: www.cbfusacanada.org

The content of the Directory is to be used for the sole purpose of facilitating communication between Chinese Baptist churches, ministers and members in the US and Canada and is considered privileged information. Please do not use it for any other purposes.

Inasmuch as we want to be as accurate as we can when furnishing this information, some might become outdated over time or by error. Please help us update this publication by sending the corrected information to: info@cbfusacanada.org



植會者的故事 - 李海龍牧師

當我在大學時，我研究了馬丁路德金牧師的著名演講 - “我有一個夢想”。從此以後，我有許多的夢想：與我所愛的人結婚 - 我娶了淑美; 有一份好的工作 - 我做到了; 生養孩子 - 我們有兩個。絕大多數的夢想我都實現了，他們的核心是圍繞著我個人的健康，財富，幸福和名聲。然而，成為牧師却不是我的夢想。



我在中國出生，長大。在 1998 年來美國之前，我從未聽說過福音或耶穌的名字。來到美國之後，為了與社區中的其他中國人交往，我參加了每週五在一個華人基督徒家中的中文查經班。

由於我的驕傲和在中國所接受的無神論教育，我很難相信基督。我認為我可以掌管自己的一切，我的人前景光明。當基督徒與我分享福音時，我告訴他們：“除非我親自經歷上帝，否則我不會相信耶穌。”在 1999 年春天，上帝讓我在一場與一輛 18 輪大貨車差點發生致命性的車禍中保守了我和我妻子的性命。如果不是祂的恩典和憐憫，我和我妻子早已死了。在 20 年前的那個非同尋常的日子，我和淑美認罪，悔改，接受耶穌基督為我們個人的救主和生命的主，並於 1999 年復活節，在密西西比州傑克遜第一浸信會受浸，成為上帝的兒女。

上帝使我成為一個新造的人！我內心充滿了感恩！從此我熱心於向朋友和家人分享福音。但我那時還沒有準備好成為一名全職的傳道人。

由於工作變動，家庭有兩次搬遷。我在過去 20 年中積極參與了三個華人教會的服侍。然而，我並沒有想過有做全職侍奉。2014 年 4 月的一天，神的呼召藉著馬太福音 16:26 臨到我：“人若賺得全世界，賠上自己的生命，有什麼益處呢？人還能拿什麼換生命呢？”那些話語對我說：“即使你獲得了全世界，卻有許多的人在喪失他們的靈魂，那對你有什麼益處呢？”

我服從上帝的呼召，辭去了傑克遜州立大學甲骨文數據庫管理員的工作，並於 2014 年秋季作為全日制學生就讀於西南浸信會神學院。儘管我講英語都不

够流利，但我還是順利地完成了學業，包括希臘文和希伯來文，於 2018 年 12 月 14 日畢業獲得道學碩士學位。感謝上帝的恩典！



記得 2018 年春天，在西南浸信會神學院學習的最後一年，因課程的要求，我需要找一位美南浸信會牧師來擔任我實習課的導師。由於我住在俄亥俄州的都柏林，我一

邊祈禱一邊在谷歌上搜索當地的浸信會教會。感謝主引領我找到了美南浸信會的一間教會——都柏林浸信會的主任牧師，JD 戴維斯博士。毋庸置疑，我找到戴維斯牧師絕對是一個神蹟，是神的帶領。戴維斯博士非常支持我，給我莫大的幫助。我能够榮幸地受教於這樣一位優秀的牧師、傳道人、導師、顧問和勸慰者，是神對我極大的祝福！

因著戴維斯牧師的鼓勵，我於 2018 年 2 月在都柏林浸信會成立了一個中文查經班，並帶領其他的外展事工和活動，包括週二晚上的乒乓健身事工。這事工吸引了社區中不少的中國人到來。同時，我們在查經班中不斷看到上帝奇妙的工作和祂的美好祝福。我們被都柏林浸信會的牧師，執事，教會執委會以及弟兄姐妹在基督裏的愛心和關懷而深受感動。都柏林浸信會的各個部門之間相互合作，一起幫助華人事工的發展。在 2018 年 11 月 25 日，我被按立為都柏林浸信會的華人牧師，負責都柏林浸信會的華人事工。都柏林浸信會華人教會於 2019 年 1 月 6 日正式成立並開始了首次主日崇拜。

在約翰福音 12:32 中，耶穌說：“我若從地上被舉起來，就要吸引萬人來歸我。”因此，都柏林浸信會華人教會的使命是高舉基督，廣傳福音，造就門徒，榮耀主名！

