

## AMBASSADOR CHURCH



*To Make and Equip Disciples from  
All Nationalities to be Christ's Ambassadors to  
All the Nations.*

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# 3rd Quarter Report 2011

## MEETING AGENDA ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING December 18th, 2011

Welcome and Call to Order .....Jerome Wang

Prayer for the Meeting .....Jerome Wang

Staff Reports and Mission .....Pastor Ray

Financial Report, Budget .....Mike Huang

Question and Answer.....Congregation

Adjournment and Closing Prayer .....Jerome Wang

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## BACK TO THE FUTURE

### ***Philippians 3:14-15***

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

### **STATE OF THE CHURCH**

Another year has flown by quickly. It may be old age, but it seems the calendar year moves quicker than my biological year. I still feel young but we are already a few weeks from 2012.

With the coming of the New Year, 2012, we are first thankful for 2011. This has been a year of getting back to the the basics. It was a year of being reminded of God's faithfulness. As you might all recall, 2010 was a roller coaster year for our church. We went through some highs of multi-site, adding new staff, recovering from a downturn of the economy. But through it all, God has remained faithful to us.

This past year, we want to go back to some of the basic themes of the Christian life. We started with Ecclesiastes and focused on the futility of chasing the wind. It was a great reminder that the world leaves us empty and craving for more. During the summer, we moved toward taking a hard look at the sins the often chain us down. This series was on the seven deadly sins or SEVEN. Then in the fall, we move to focus on the book of Romans.

The book of Romans gave us a fresh look on the meaning of the Gospel. Our question was, "What is the Gospel." Romans answers this question by giving us a simple definition. The Gospel is "God saves and restores sinners through Christ." It is a simple way of understanding a profound truth. Through the Gospel, we have redemption and restoration. It changes everything we do.

This past year, our emphasis has been on living out the Gospel through mission and giving. We have seen our church give and move forward in outward mission. We saw two trips to Vietnam, four trips to Mexico, one trip to Alabama. We also saw the generosity of our people giving above and beyond the general offering to support the mission work.

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We also saw the expansion of our children's ministry with the hiring of Daniel Wassnik and Shannon Mickle. We saw our ministry expand to older children this past year.

As we now look at 2012, we want to further move our church forward in growing our church both internally and externally. Our desire is to see the Gospel move in action with reaching more unbelievers, planting churches, developing both lay and pastoral leaders, and finally, making disciples from all nationalities.

As you read this report, celebrate with us on the work God is doing at Ambassador. And join with us in prayer, as we look at 2012 as a year to expand the work God is doing.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Ray Chang  
Lead Pastor

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## ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

This has been a tough year for several people at Ambassador due to sickness, finances, and loss. However, in the midst of sorrow, we can still praise God because he is sovereign and holds our lives in his tender hands. This is what I am thankful for and focused on during this Holiday season.

I also praise God for Ambassador and see many people's lives touched because of our mission to love God, love each other, and love the world.

**Inreach:** This quarter, we had our very first men's retreat in Running Springs. This retreat was entirely run by the men of the church (that means it was completely done by volunteers). It was an amazing time for the men of our church to connect to each other and to God. There were many great conversations that started and are still continuing today. I'm confident that there will be many more retreats and other events for the men to connect and grow. I'm very thankful for the men's leadership team who are doing a tremendous job ministering to our men: Josh Carroll, Jesse Espinoza, Thomas Do, Brian Louie, and David Kim.

Small groups continue to thrive and we have over 80% of our regular attendees involved in these groups around LA and OC. Thanks to all the small group leaders and hosts to care for each group!

**Outreach:** On November 19, over 20 people gathered together to collect food at Vons for families in Brea who were in need. Over the course of eight hours, we collected enough food to give a Thanksgiving meal to 13 families in Brea. We worked closely with six Brea-Olinda elementary schools to find the families who needed the food the most. While there are many more families who need food, it is a blessing to meet the needs of these 13 families. I am thankful to Daniel Purcell who led and coordinated this event. May Ambassador continue to shine and bring hope to the local community.

This next quarter we plan to establish our first team of deacons to work closely with the Elder board and care for the needs of the church. We also hope to establish a consistent team of hosts who will welcome visitors to our church each Sunday. These will be two great ways for people to serve in very practical ways as we continue to strive to be a welcoming and serving church.

I am very happy to be a part of this church and look forward to seeing the gospel change lives in 2012. May God be praised and may we continue to take comfort in our sovereign Lord!

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Ethan Hedberg

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## UPREACH REPORT

This year is almost gone but looking back, we have a lot to be thankful for. Ambassador Church is beginning to gel together. We see God's unity in so many ways: In how we respond to one another in times of need, in how we step up to serve one another and the community, in how we seek God together, and yes, in how we worship together on a Sunday morning. It is our goal as a ministry to facilitate a time where we can meet with God in times of celebration, contemplation, and in prayer. It is such a joy to watch the congregation from week to week, grow deeper and stronger in the knowledge and love of God. God is moving in our midst.

Looking back, the Upreach ministry has spent the last year stabilizing and gaining a consistency and unity built on time spent ministering with one another. Looking forward, throughout this next we year we want to grow in both excellence , quality, and in number (more volunteers). Practically, we will be looking for more volunteers to help us accomplish our mission: to engage the congregation and glorify God in our praise and worship. We are looking for those with a musical gift and a desire to serve God and his people. The more servant hearted and gifted people we have, the better we will be able to serve the people of Ambassador.

In addition to musicians and singers, we are also looking for people to help in the areas of stage design, audio/visual support, and graphic design. Finally, we could use someone who just wants to help set up and tear down sound equipment.

Our ministry values it's volunteers. We believe in serving with excellence but not at the expense of our people. Our hope and goal is to get to the point where we serve once a month and are able to worship in the congregation the other three. Currently, the musicians and singers are serving once every three weeks and the sound and AV volunteers are doing it twice a month. Being a part of this ministry takes sacrifice and God is so worthy of that but as they say, "Many hands make light work." Could God be asking you to step up this next year and serve in this capacity? Do you have a gift in music or a skill mentioned above or do you just want to get involved? Please pray if this is your year to be a part of the Upreach ministry and let me know.

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Thank you for coming together each and every Sunday to love and serve each other and worship God with all your heart, He is so worthy of our best and highest praise!

Blessings,  
Ben Fowler  
Pastor of Upreach

### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

This last quarter was focused on transitioning the leadership of the small groups to lay people. Each small group now has lay people who are organizing the emails, events and gathering times. It's been great to see each person step up and contribute in significant ways. In a few months, all the small groups have become self-sufficient and is actively reaching out toward friends and serving the Ambassador Community. Thanksgiving was a unique season to unite with the church in it's efforts to reach the community. I was proud of how involved each of the small groups were in their participation in the outreach and the lunch.

On the connection side, Pastor Ethan and I have been building a team of "Hosts" for our Sunday Service. We are recruiting warm and friendly people to connect visitors into our community. More so, we want to create a culture of hospitality to those who are new. This means that our community would have eyes for visitors and make it a point to welcome and connect them. It's always hard to walk into a new environment where you don't know anyone. Hopefully, when they take the risk of walking into to our community, we would do the rest of the work.

Over the last few weeks, I've been working on an Evangelism series for our church. One of my growing passions is to see the church become more missional to effectively reach our family, friends and co-workers for the gospel. The vision is to see ourselves as missionaries to the places that God has placed us and to have our small groups be mission teams to impact our community.

Joe Pak and I are still working on our Apologetic discussion for non-believers. Our second attempts at our first meeting will be in January. There has been many people who have expressed interest in attending a venue like this. Members of the young adult are also desiring to have conversations about Philosophy, Apologetic and Theology. It will be a venue for open discussion and a place where people feel comfortable bringing hard and controversial questions.

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As the young adults settle at Ambassador and the small group became lay ran, I am positioning myself to contribute toward the Missional facet of the Church.

Merry Christmas,  
Wilson Wang  
Pastor of Young Adults

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This last quarter has been a great time seeing our children grow in their relationship with the Lord. We had five children go through our baptism class, baptism interview and get baptized on October 30<sup>th</sup>. It was great to see Joshua Park, Hannah & Jason Wang and Garrett & Evan Huang make a statement of faith through baptism that they are followers of Christ.

During the ministry fair in October we had a few sign up to help with our CM worship. Lisa Kim has been doing a fabulous job and now we are looking to add some live music with the keyboard and acoustic guitar. We have also added Shannon Mickle to our Ambassador CM staff as the Children's Ministry Assistant. Welcome Shannon!

In the month of November we got a chance to go to the Rob Biagi concert. It was great seeing our children sing songs to Jesus and enjoy their time at the concert.

For the month of December we are gearing up our children to do some outreach through Christmas songs. We plan on going to a retirement home to sing songs to the residents there. Our children will also be singing these songs at our Christmas banquet and maybe one song on Christmas day in the main service. I am thankful to Lisa Kim, Susan Ryoo, and Stephanie Hu for putting this together for us.

Right now we are also taking signups for the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade winter camp (January 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) called "Created in his image, saved by His grace." One of our own Pastors (Pastor Ethan) got this camp started years ago.

Some of my goals for this winter are to help our children be intentional about sharing their faith. One great way I will encourage them in will be to invite their friends to church. During the Christmas service they will be singing one song, maybe they can invite their friends to come watch them? Another goal of mine is to start Bible clubs within our Elementary schools. I have had the privilege of getting three Bible clubs started within my school district. I would love to help any teacher or parent in our church get these Bible clubs started for the schools our children attend. Please let me know if this is something you feel God calling you to do.

Blessings,  
Daniel Wassink  
CM Pastor

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## Ministry Associate REPORT

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY-** This past quarter the Thursday Night Bible Study has started back up. We are studying the Book of Acts. Going through this book has really challenged us to think more about prayer, how the Holy Spirit works, and what God calls us to do as Christians. Helping me teach this quarter are Tiffany Louie, Lisa Kim, and Tiffany Kim. Each woman that attends has been placed into a prayer group. The reasons behind this change are: 1) so that each woman has enough time to share how their week has gone and what they need prayer for, 2) to build stronger and deeper relationships with the ladies in their prayer groups, 3) to emphasize how important prayer is in community and not just something we have to do because we are at Bible study. Each week it is such a blessing to see the ladies get into their groups and really share from their hearts. We will be taking a break for a few weeks in late December/early January for the holidays. We will start back up on January 12th and continue through the Book of Acts.

Usually when we have the Thursday Night Bible Study we also have the Wednesday Morning Bible Study but this quarter we are taking a break from the Wednesday meetings and instead we are meeting twice a month for play dates. This seems to work better for this time and for this season. We will re-evaluate again in January to see if the play dates are still working or if we have enough interest and leadership to go back to doing the bible study weekly.

**SMALL GROUP FEMALE LEADERS-** Last quarter I told you about how I would be meeting with the female leaders or the leaders wives to see how their small group is going, how I could help them, pray for them, encourage them. I was hoping to meet with a leader a week but that wasn't realistic for my schedule so I have been trying to meet with at least 2 leaders a month if possible. It has been so wonderful to hear these ladies' hearts for their group and how they want it to be a great community for their group. I have really enjoyed being able to come alongside them and pray with them.

With our Romans series I have also been writing a small devotional each week and sending it to the female leaders. Each week we focus on a part of the passage that was preached and I provide for them discussion questions to think about as leaders and prayer direction for the week. It has been such a joy to provide this for the leaders this past quarter. This next quarter I am going to open it up to any of the ladies in the church. If you are interested in this devotional please email me ([melodiecarroll@gmail.com](mailto:melodiecarroll@gmail.com)). I would love for you to be a part of this discussion and prayer time.

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It has been a pleasure to be able to minister to the Women of Ambassador this past quarter. If you are a woman who is in need of prayer, encouragement, a shoulder to cry on, counsel, etc... I would be honored to sit with you and be there for you. You can email me (melodiecarroll@gmail.com), call me (714-397-8352) or grab me at church on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Melodie Carroll  
Ministry Associate

### CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

The connection ministry, as a whole, has been functioning without any major changes and/or issues. However, as mentioned earlier in this report, Pastor Wilson and Pastor Ethan have both been working together to help form a new greeting team in response to the issue I addressed in my previous quarterly report – about the discontinuity between the two areas which make up the connection ministry. These two areas are that of *integration*, moving first time guests to becoming regular attenders and/or full-fledged church members, and that of *operations*, the set up and break down of the worship location on Sunday mornings.

The new greeting ministry will help us with our *integration* by welcoming and connecting new guests to our church community. I find that the start of this greeting ministry will be one of the most effective ways in reaching out to those who step foot into our doors. As always, establishing a new ministry does take some time and training, but we hope that in doing so, our church will be able to recognize both the needs and the benefits. Another change that we hope to implement for the *integration* side of our connection ministry, is to restart quarterly welcome dinners and or/dessert fellowships next year. The goal of these dinners will be to provide a time and place, other than Sunday mornings, in which those who are new to our church can come out and get to know our pastoral staff and other lay leaders who are able to attend these dinners. We hope that in setting up these quarterly dinners and the new greeting ministry, newcomers will be able to connect with both the church leadership and the church community as a whole.

For the *operations* side of the connection ministry, most of the small groups have continued to show their faithfulness and diligence in setting up and breaking down the main worship location and the children's ministry. It is my

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desire that more small group members are able to help out in this process and not just the small group leaders themselves.

I have been working on getting a new main sign to replace the one that is falling apart outside. The new sign will look the same but will be attached to an adjustable "A" frame that only has to be opened up instead of staked into the ground. I hope that this change will help those who set up and break down the signage for our church. I also plan getting a new sign to replace the one that was lost for the corner of Birch and Randolph and or to replace some of our existing ones.

Lastly, to the credit of Pastor Ben, we plan on getting some decent looking platters in which to put the donuts and a napkin holder to keep the napkins from flying all over the place on windy days. We also are considering ways to better decorate and present a more hospitable and welcoming environment to our guests. Although some of these changes may possibly require a little more attention to details, just as any of us know when we open our homes to guests, one of things we try to do is clean things up and put our best foot forward. We hope to accomplish the same thing for our church.

Blessings,

Paul Kim

Pastor of Connection

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## FINANCE REPORT

One change which will be implemented within this quarter is the movement of our checking account from Bank of America (BOA) to Evangelical Christian Credit Union (ECCU). The majority of our cash reserves were already at ECCU because of their mission to help fund churches and other Christian organizations in their respective missions. Our business checking account has traditionally been with BOA, which, for the most part, has been easy to work with but has created issues in the past. Regardless to say, there were five main reasons which helped inform our decision to move all of our funds over to ECCU and enter into a full banking relationship with them.

The first and foremost reason is that we believe in ECCU and desire to support them in their mission to invest in the kingdom of God. Unlike other national banks, we know that the money we keep with ECCU will ultimately be used in furthering the scope and impact of other Christian ministries. The second reason is that since ECCU mainly provides services to churches, they know how churches operate and the services that churches need. Working with BOA is mainly business. To them, we are simply classified as a small business and therefore, are treated as one. Sometimes their procedures make it difficult for us to implement certain changes in a practical manner. The third reason is that of convenience. Having bank accounts at different institutions makes it difficult and/or tedious to make changes and or move funds. The fourth reason is that ECCU recently started providing a small ministry checking account which is fee free, provided that we do not go over the allotted amount of transactions. After analyzing our average monthly transactions, it is wholly feasible to not incur any regular monthly fees. The fifth reason is that ECCU is local to our ministry center and provides a personal account specialist who is assigned to our church and whom I directly talk with for any matters regarding our accounts. Although I was able to establish a personal contact to a banking assistant at the local BOA branch in Brea, his promotion left me with no one to personally call when I had questions or concerns. On the contrary, when our account specialist at ECCU was promoted into another area, she personally informed me of the change and introduced me to another account specialist who would be my new point of contact.

Working with any bank can be a headache. However, I believe ECCU has an accountability that goes beyond other national banks. It is in their values and their convictions to help assist churches in their financial management and ultimately in their mission. I have had the first-hand experience in comparing BOA and ECCU and am confident that entering into a full banking relationship with ECCU is the best option for our church's financials assets. You can learn more about ECCU at their website: [www.eccu.org](http://www.eccu.org).

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As usual, please remember that our quarterly financials will only cover up to the middle of the last month of the quarter due to the report cut-off date. Some expenses from our credit card bill and various reimbursement requests are yet to be classified by our bookkeeper, as well as some of our other major expenses that are usually paid towards the end of the month. All of which are not reflected in the expense numbers listed below.

Please note that because of the holidays and an earlier cut-off date, our quarterly financials do not reflect any expenses past December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you and God bless.

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## AMBASSADOR CHURCH OC 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget

Category	FY 2011-2012
<u>INFLOW</u>	
4000 General Giving	\$ 400,000
<u>OUTFLOW</u>	
5000 Salary Expenses	\$ 295,840
6000 <u>Ministry Expenses</u>	
6100 Upreach Ministry	\$ 3,750
6200 Inreach Ministry	\$ 2,750
6300 Outreach Ministry	\$ 6,250
6400 Children's Ministry	\$ 9,250
6510 Youth Ministry	\$ 0
6520 College Ministry	\$ 400
6530 Young Adult Ministry	\$ 800
6540 International Student Ministry	\$ 250
6550 Women's Ministry	\$ 3000
6560 Men's Ministry	\$ 300
6570 Couple's Ministry	\$ 250
6600 Church Events	\$ 5,000
6700 <u>Other Ministry Expenses</u>	\$ 1,250
Ministry Expenses Sub-Total	\$ 33,250
7000 <u>General Expenses</u>	
7100 Building Expense	\$ 58,740
7200 <u>Administrative Expense</u>	\$ 12,170
General Expenses Sub-Total	\$ 70,910
<u>TOTAL OUTFLOW</u>	\$ 400,000

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## AMBASSADOR CHURCH OC FISCAL YTD (APR 1, 2011 – DEC 9, 2011) Profit & Loss Summary

Category	Actual	Budget
<hr/> <b>INFLOW</b> <hr/>		
-		
4000 General Giving	\$ 262,414.52	\$ 273,344.10
<hr/> <b>OUTFLOW</b> <hr/>		
5000 Salary Expenses	\$ 177,354.21	\$ 203,421.51
6000 <u>Ministry Expenses</u>		
6100 Upreach Ministry	\$ 2,457.09	\$ 2,698.94
6200 Inreach Ministry	\$ 1,280.84	\$ 1,899.90
6300 Outreach Ministry	\$ 6,442.20	\$ 5,940.88
6400 Children's Ministry	\$ 4,826.44	\$ 7,317.89
6510 Youth Ministry	\$ 0	\$ 0
6520 College Ministry	\$ 371.26	\$ 276.36
6530 Young Adult Ministry	\$ 464.11	\$ 552.68
6540 International Student Ministry	\$ 27.52	\$ 172.73
6550 Women's Ministry	\$ -805.12	\$ 2,072.58
6560 Men's Ministry	\$ 510.38	\$ 207.26
6570 Couple's Ministry	\$ 600.00	\$ 172.73
6600 Church Events	\$ 1,912.86	\$ 3,435.48
6700 <u>Other Ministry Expenses</u>	\$ 1,564.08	\$ 863.60
Ministry Expenses Sub-Total	\$ 19,651.66	\$ 25,611.03
7000 <u>General Expenses</u>		
7100 Building Expense	\$ 39,155.22	\$ 40,581.14
7200 <u>Administrative Expense</u>	\$ 8,526.63	\$ 8,407.75
General Expenses Sub-Total	\$ 47,681.85	\$ 48,988.89
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW</b>	<b>\$ 244,687.72</b>	<b>\$ 278,021.43</b>
 <b>NET INCOME</b>	 <b>\$ 17,726.80</b>	 <b>\$ (-1,677.33)</b>