



CONNECT

connecting Christians with God's word and each other





about **CONNECT**

The Aim

To see every Asian church in Melbourne equipped and empowered to train and raise their own leaders.

The Strategy

CONNECT is an inter-denominational Christian ministry dedicated to help churches

- equip and encourage their current leaders;
- find leaders for tomorrow; and
- sustain their leaders for life long ministry.

To do this we will organise events focused on meeting the needs across the spectrum of church leadership – from new or potential leaders, to lay leaders and those considering full time ministry.

The Reason

The Bible speaks about churches being led by Christians of godly character, conviction in the truth of God's word and competency in shepherding his flock (1 Tim 3; Titus 1).

The Apostle Paul set an example of discipling and training leaders who were suitable to help him in the task of strengthening the church and spreading the gospel in Asia Minor (e.g. Timothy & Titus). Most leaders are not self-made; they are discipled and encouraged by more mature leaders who help them develop the gifts God has given them to build his church (Eph. 4:11,12).

The Need

Does the following story sound familiar?

Our churches' strategy meetings acknowledge the critical need for training and discipling but lack the time or resources to make it happen. We struggle to find leaders who are willing and able to shepherd God's flock and many of our key ministries are led by people who may not have the necessary skills, training or coaching. The few leaders we do have are often overworked – many burn out – and the mentoring and guidance of the next generation of leaders can feel like yet another responsibility on an already overflowing plate. Meanwhile our pastoral search

committees can spend years looking locally, nationally and internationally for a suitable pastor without success. As such, replacing pastors who leave is becoming increasingly difficult.

While the details may differ from church to church, the story is a common one for Asian churches struggling with generational and cultural differences. In fact, each of the **CONNECT** committee members can share similar stories from their own personal experiences as church leaders. **CONNECT** seeks to partner with churches to reverse this trend and see such stories become a thing of the past.

The Vision

Our vision is to see leaders raised in every generation who are Biblically solid, Gospel centred, spiritually humble, culturally sensitive, mission minded, ministry competent and who will grow the church and empower her for mission to reach Melbourne, Australia and the world (Matt. 28:18-20).

We do not have all the answers and we acknowledge that **connect** might not be for everyone. However, given the difficulty churches have in organising their own training programs and leadership retreats, we at **connect** see an opportunity to partner with churches to begin to address this need.

How can **connect** support your church?

connect will seek to understand and tailor its program to meet the training needs of your church. We will provide your leaders and potential leaders with opportunities through our conferences (refer to the following 2 pages for details) to grow in their knowledge and love for God, learn how to teach the Bible in various contexts, network, learn from other pastors and leaders, and support and pray for each other. But above all, **connect** will be committed to praying for your leaders and your church.

How can my church support **connect**?

Tell us what your needs are and how we might be able to help address those needs. Since **connect** exists to address the needs of the Asian churches in Melbourne, if our program does not meet those needs, then there is really no reason for us to exist!

Another way to support **connect** is by including our conferences into your church's training calendar. Use us as much as possible to strengthen your church. This means supporting and encouraging your leaders and potential leaders to participate in **connect** events.

You can also advertise **connect** to other churches who may benefit from this ministry.

Which churches should partner with **connect**?

We want to further God's kingdom in every Asian church in Melbourne. If **connect** will help you grow God's kingdom by enabling you to raise more leaders for the task, then

please partner with us.

So if your church is still struggling to set up a training program to equip your leaders, then partner with **connect**. Instead of reinventing the wheel and training in isolation, why not do it in fellowship with other Asian churches in Melbourne who have the same needs? You can also get ideas to start your own regular training programs at your church.

Even if your church has well established training programs, **connect** offers a unique opportunity to meet leaders from other Asian churches, build support networks, exchange ideas, and be refreshed and invigorated by world-class preaching. There is nothing like sharing each other's burdens and realising that there are other Christians in the same boat.

How do I formally sign up as a partner with **connect**?

Please contact David Huynh (enquiries@connect-ministry.org / 0412 015 777) or go to our website (www.connect-ministry.org) to sign up as a partner.

CONNECT Conferences

As a ministry organisation, **CONNECT** is planning to organise three different conferences (which are explained in detail on the next page) to address the different needs of the Asian churches in Melbourne. They are:

1. **CONNECT** Training Conference
2. **CONNECT** Day Conferences
3. **CONNECT** Challenge Conference

The goal of our conferences is to connect Christians with God's word and each other. This means that all our conferences will be guided by the following principles:

Biblical – the Bible governs what we teach. Everything else, including our own experiences and training methods will be subject to the word of God.

Prayerful – we can plant the seed and water the plant, but it is God who makes

things grow. We will therefore rely on God and not on ourselves.

Kingdom – we are focused on building God's kingdom and fulfilling his command. We are not building our own empire or making a name for ourselves.

Unity – as a community of believers in Jesus Christ, we will express unity amongst all the churches and denominations.

Quality – our speakers and trainers will be experienced teachers of God's word. We will endeavour to provide the best available people to teach and train delegates.

Flexible – we will change with the times. As needs change, we will adapt to meet those needs. Receiving feedback and working closely with pastors and leaders will be a priority.

CONNECT TRAINERS

Theologically Trained Christians in Ministry

Ministers
AFES Staff Workers
Missionaries

Christians Currently Undertaking Formal Ministry Training

Theological / Bible College Students
Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAP) • MTS Trainees
Metro Apprentices • AFES Apprentices

Lay Christian Leaders

Deacons • Bible Study Leaders / Co-Leaders
Sunday School Teachers • Youth Leaders • Lay Preachers
Sunday Service Leaders • Music Directors
Coaches / Mentors • Camp Organisers

Regular Christian Church Attendees

Keen Christians
Christians desiring to become a lay leader
Christians showing leadership / teaching potential

CONNECT DELEGATES

This diagram helps us to visualize the different people who will be involved in **CONNECT** conferences. Ministers and theologically trained Christians will serve as **CONNECT** Trainers, while deacons, leaders in different areas of ministry, and keen Christians are encouraged to attend as **CONNECT** Delegates.

1. **connect** Training Conference

connect Training Conference is targeted to current and emerging church leaders who want to become better equipped to know and teach the Bible. Delegates will be trained in biblical skills and doctrine, challenged to grow in Christ-likeness, and helped to develop skills for ministry which they can take back to their own churches.

We hope that **connect** Training Conference will be a place for Christians to meet other Christians from different places, ages, and walks of life and be mutually encouraged by God's word and in prayer.

The heart of the conference is the Strand group. This is where delegates are assigned to a small group to study the Bible in-depth, facilitated by an experienced trainer. The Strands have been designed so that each year delegates are able to build on the material they have learnt from previous years. So, over the years, you start at Strand 1 and work your way through Strand 2, 3 and so on.

Who should come to connect Training Conference?

Everyone is welcome to come to **connect** Training Conference. We hope that this conference will be used by God to serve a wide range of his people, including new and

veteran Christians; church, small group, children's and youth leaders; those who serve their churches as deacons, in music, or in Bible reading and prayer (and so on...).

So if you're interested in an opportunity to be refreshed by spending quality time delving into God's word at a deeper level with brothers and sisters from other churches, then come along! If you're interested in enjoying fellowship, prayer and meals together, then come along! If you're interested in being challenged in your walk with Jesus, encouraged to live a life in a manner worthy of the Lord, then come along! If you're interested in being trained in various ministry skills to be better equipped to serve the church, then come along!

When is the first connect Training Conference?

25 Sept to 27 Sept 2009

Start time: 7pm for a 7:30pm start on Friday

Finish time: 2pm on Sunday

Please mark it in your diaries now!

Our keynote speaker is Mike Raiter – Principal of Bible College of Victoria (BCV). Mike will be speaking on the theme 'On Solid Ground'. He will take us through the four Christian teachings which changed the world: Grace alone, Faith alone, Christ alone and Bible alone.

2. **connect** Day Conferences

By 2012 we hope to kick off **connect** Day Conferences. These conferences run for one day, 4 times a year and will focus on particular aspects of Christian leadership. This will not only provide church leaders with opportunities to network, but will also provide them with ongoing training and support throughout the year. Some focused workshops may include

- How to run a youth group
- How to disciple a younger Christian
- How to MC
- How to lead a congregation in singing
- How to write a Kids' Talk
- Understanding Islam

3. **connect** Challenge Conference

By 2012 we hope to run our first **connect** Challenge Conference.

The specific goal of this conference is to challenge and encourage suitable Christian lay leaders to wisely and prayerfully consider full-time Bible teaching ministry as their life's work. Given the shortage of pastors in Asian churches in Melbourne, this conference will provide a means for churches to raise their own pastors.

Contact Us



David Huynh (Chairman)

0412 015 777

davidhuynh@connect-ministry.org

David is an Australian-born Chinese. He grew up attending Melbourne Chinese Bible Church in West Footscray. David and his wife Kylie are currently studying at Moore Theological College. They are looking forward to returning to Melbourne in 2009 where David hopes to become a pastor to Asians.



**Rev. Ying Yee
(National Director)**

yingyee@connect-ministry.org

Ying was born and bred in Sydney. He studied at Moore Theological College, and has been a pastor at Chinese Christian Church, Milson's Point (Sydney) for the past 16 years. He is currently chairman of the English Taskforce for CCCOWE (Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelization), chairman for BLT

(Brisbane Leadership Training) Ministries, chairman of the English Taskforce for SCCCA (Sydney Chinese Christian Churches Association) and coordinator for the Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAP). He is married to Ivy and has three beautiful daughters: Rebecca (12), Carolyn (10) and Sarah (9).



**David (Treasurer) &
Jessie (Secretary) Tong**

davidtong@connect-ministry.org

jessietong@connect-ministry.org



Both David and Jessie Tong originate from Hong Kong, though David was born in

Australia. They attend the Chinese Christian Church of Victoria in the LifeSpring English Congregation. In the past few years, they have been running the Junior Church program and training Junior Church leaders. David also serves in the LifeSpring committee overseeing the ministry of the English congregation.



**David & Cindy Chan
(Committee Members)**

davidchan@connect-ministry.org

cindychan@connect-ministry.org



David and Cindy are both Australian-born Chinese. They were heavily involved in Melbourne Chinese Baptist Church

where they helped to run the youth and young adults' congregation as well as provide training and mentoring to other leaders. David was also heavily involved with the Jumpstart Ministry from 2001-2006. They now attend Holy Trinity Doncaster.

 **CONNECT Postal Address:**
PO Box 2124, Rangeview, VIC, 3132

www.connect-ministry.org

Find us on Facebook – search for 'Connect Ministry' in Groups.

What **connect** seeks to achieve in Melbourne is part of a national movement. Similar conferences and training events have already been set up in Brisbane and Sydney. Please go to their websites for more information:

Brisbane Leadership Training (BLT)
<http://www.blf.org.au>

Sydney Chinese Christian Churches Association
www.ace-network.org

connect upholds the fundamental truths of the Christian faith, including:

The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.

The universal sinfulness and guilt of humanity since the fall, rendering men and women subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

The conception of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit and his birth by the Virgin Mary.

Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death, as our representative and substitute, of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective in the individual sinner, granting him or her repentance towards God, and faith in Jesus Christ.

The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

 *If you have any questions about these beliefs, please do not hesitate to contact us.*



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why are you called **CONNECT**?

We are called **CONNECT** because we want to connect Christians with God's word and each other.

Why is **CONNECT** only targeting Asian churches?

Western churches may have similar needs to Asian churches, but there are a number of fantastic organisations that are already working towards meeting their training needs. Some examples include Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) and the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES).

However, for various reasons, very few Asian Christians participate in MTS or AFES activities. Also, Asians face particular expectations, pressures and struggles as migrants straddling the Asian and Western cultures. **CONNECT** events will address the unique situations faced by Asians and help them see what the Bible has to say about their culture and traditions.

I'm not Asian. Can I still come to **CONNECT** conferences?

Absolutely! Though **CONNECT** was set up to address the needs of Asian churches in

Melbourne, if you think what we are doing will help support your ministry, then by all means, come along!

I don't think **CONNECT** is addressing the core needs of Asian churches. What should I do?

Please contact us. We would love to hear from you. We always want to adapt our program so that it meets the churches' needs.

My church normally plans a leaders' retreat. Why should we go to **CONNECT** conferences?

It is fantastic that your church runs its own leaders' retreat. We are not asking you not to go to that. However, we would like to encourage you and your church to consider coming along to **CONNECT** conferences as well. This is because you will not only have an opportunity to hear from world-class speakers, but also network with other church leaders in Melbourne.

I'm concerned that you'll steal our leaders for your own church. Will this happen?

CONNECT is not a church; it is an inter-church, inter-denominational organisation that supports churches by training and equipping

leaders so that they can better serve at their home churches. The **CONNECT** committee members attend different churches and want to support the growth and maturity of all churches, not just their own.

What is MAP and remote-MAP?

MAP stands for Ministry Apprenticeship Program. It is a two year pre-Bible College, 'hands-on' training program that aims to prepare people for full-time ministry in an Asian church. The program challenges apprentices to think through the many issues one will face in full-time ministry, encourages them in their spiritual growth and equips them with tools necessary to be able to grow others, the church and the work of the gospel. It also allows them to work out whether they are suitable for full-time ministry.

Remote-MAP allows a person to continue serving in their home church while working with a MAP trainer at one of the MAP training centres.

How can I find out more about **CONNECT**?

Please go to our website:
www.connect-ministry.org

Otherwise, you can contact David Huynh
(enquiries@connect-ministry.org / 0412 015 777)