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(Theological Studies)

Pressing Ahead in the Journey of Life

In the summer of 1981, at the age of 17, I boarded a plane for the first time, traveling to Quebec to study Grade 12. In 1985, I completed my undergraduate degree at Queen's University and then pursued graduate studies at Princeton University in the United States. Apart from one or two trips, I never really set foot in Canada again. I would never expect that, 40 years later, God would once again send me to Canada to serve the local Chinese Christian community.

I believe that the feeling of being adrift between two continents resonates with many from Hong Kong. My father, pessimistic about Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, sent his three children, including me, abroad for their education. The political changes in 1989 awakened in me a deep desire to share the gospel with the people of China, leading me to pray for an opportunity to return to Hong Kong for ministry. By chance, I met Rev. Dr. Carver Yu in the U.S. (who was then the Vice President of China Graduate School of Theology) and sought

his insights into the state of Hong Kong churches. I never expected that a few years later, CGST would invite me back to teach. I began my teaching ministry at CGST in early 2001 and never considered serving anywhere else.

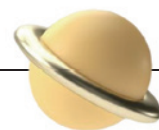
Life's path is ultimately directed by God. In recent years, many Hongkongers—some who never planned to emigrate—have left their homeland with heavy hearts. CGST had not established any office overseas before, but in response to the times, we established our first overseas office in Toronto. This does not mean CGST's passion for serving the church in Hong Kong or mainland China has diminished in the slightest. Rather, we seek to continue ministering to believers who have relocated abroad.

As the Chief Executive of CGST Toronto, I am not leaving Hong Kong or CGST. I will continue teaching and preaching there. In the coming years, I will travel between Canada and Hong Kong, and beyond teaching, I hope to visit Chinese churches in Toronto, across Canada, and in the U.S. My goal is to build bridges, and to explore how CGST can effectively serve overseas Chinese Christians despite our very limited resources.

Our vision for CGST Toronto is to provide practical, relevant theological training for overseas Chinese Christians. During the planning phase, we consulted a number of North American Chinese pastors to better understand the needs of the church. To avoid duplicating the efforts of existing Chinese seminaries in North America, CGST Toronto does not plan to offer traditional programs such as the Master of Divinity. Instead, we will focus on short-term theological education programs that address issues that are relevant to North American believers, issues that are difficult to clarify in a sermon. We will invite CGST professors from Hong Kong as guest lecturers while also seeking local experts familiar with the Canadian context to share their knowledge and experiences.

Contextual research is another focus of CGST Toronto. This area will be led by Dr. Wing Sze Wong. We will explore how Chinese churches in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and Australia navigate cultural shifts. For example, how can we pass on our faith to the next generation? How can churches maintain their distinct Christian identity while thriving with a diverse, multicultural society? Our hope is to support the renewal of Chinese churches and work alongside pastors to adapt to changing times. Looking ahead, we aim to develop and offer advanced programs for pastors. We hope these programs will align with our research initiatives, so that we can help pastors to develop ministries that are not only rooted in Scripture, but also can respond effectively to the contemporary social context.

When I was a student in Canada, the Prime Minister was Brian Mulroney, who passed away last year. The country has changed significantly since then. As I return to Canada now, I must reacquire myself with this place and its Chinese Christian community. I would love to hear your thoughts on CGST Toronto and connect with more friends. Please feel free to reach out to me via email. I look forward to meeting you!



毅然踏上 生命的另一步

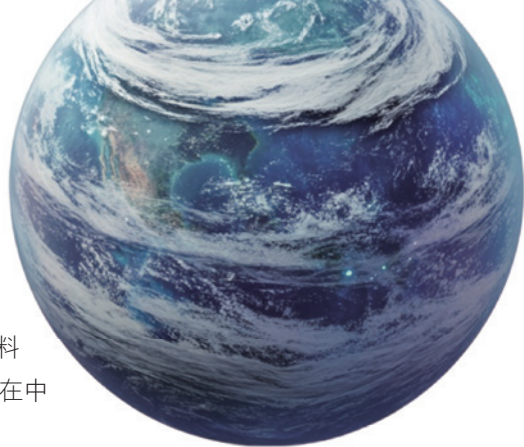


雷競業博士

中神多倫多總幹事
天恩諾佑教席教授（神學科）



1981年的夏天，17歲的我第一次乘坐飛機，前往加拿大魁北克省讀12班。1985年，我在皇后大學完成學士課程，跟著到美國普林斯頓讀研究院。除了一、兩次旅遊，基本上我再沒有踏足加拿大。沒料到40年後，神再次差我到加拿大，服侍當地的華人信徒。



漂浮大洋兩岸，相信是不少香港人的經歷。當年父親對九七回歸抱悲觀態度，就把三個孩子（包括我）送到外國讀書。1989年的時局變化，喚起我向中國人傳福音的心願，就向上主祈求回港服侍的機會。後來，機緣巧合之下，在美國認識了余達心牧師（當年他是中神的副院長），向他請教香港教會的情況。怎料數年後，中神邀請我回港教學。2001年初，我便開始在中神教書，從來沒想過要轉換工場事奉。

不過，人生的道路由上主鋪排。過去幾年，許多本來沒有打算移民的香港人，或許都存著依依不捨的心情離開了這片土地。中神不曾在外地設立辦公室，今天因應時勢，在多倫多成立了首個海外辦事處。這並不代表中神服侍香港或國內教會的熱忱有絲毫減退，而是我們期望繼續服侍移居了外地的信徒。

雖然是中神多倫多的負責人，但我並沒有離開香港或中神，仍然會在香港教書和講道。未來的日子，我會往返加拿大與香港之間，除了教學，希望有機會探訪多倫多、加拿大，以至美國各地的華人教會，建立橋樑，探討中神如何能善用自身的有限資源，有效地服侍海外的華人信徒。

中神多倫多的異象，是為海外華人信徒提供「貼地」的神學培訓。在計劃階段，我們請教了多位北美華人牧者，嘗試了解教會的需要。為避免重複現有北美華人神學院的努力，中神多倫多目前並打算提供道學碩士等訓練，但我們會提供短期的普及神學教育課程，探討一些與北美信徒息息相關或是無法在講道時以三言兩語解說的議題。師資方面，一方面邀請香港中神的老師客席教導，另一方面亦會尋找一些熟悉加拿大處境的專家，分享他們的經驗知識。

處境研究是中神多倫多另一個重點，黃穎詩博士將帶領這方面的發展。我們會探討加、美、英、澳四地華人教會如何面對文化變遷，譬如兩代之間信仰傳承的障礙和機遇、教會如何能在多元社會中和而不同等。我們希望與華人教會以及眾教牧一同更新，與時並進。我們期盼將來能為教牧提供進深研究的課程，祈願這些課程能與研究計劃配合，使教會的牧養不但扎根於聖經，亦能回應社會當前的處境。

我在加國讀書時，首相是去年離世的Brian Mulroney。加拿大社會亦早已改變了很多，今天回來，需要重新認識這地方和這裏的華人教會。渴望聽到大家對中神多倫多的意見，也希望結識多些朋友，歡迎大家透過電郵聯絡我。

News and Prayer Requests 消息及代禱

- Grateful for the Lord's guidance, CGST Toronto has leased an office space in Richmond Hill. It requires minor renovations and the purchase of furniture and equipment. We pray for a smooth process and that this place will serve as a blessing to all churches.
- Reverend Kin Yip Louie will come to Toronto from September to December to undertake the significant responsibility of leading CGST Toronto. We hope that CGST Toronto will become a strong support for local churches, not only by providing theological education but also by serving as a partner in practical ministry.
- The research team is grateful to God for providing six dedicated research assistants to help update the directory of overseas Chinese churches. May the Lord bless and reward this group of volunteers for their diligent efforts.
- 承蒙上主引領，中神多倫多已於烈治文山租賃一處辦公室，惟需稍作翻新並添置傢具及設備。懇求上主保守過程一切順利，並願此處成為眾教會的祝福。
- 雷競業牧師將於9月至12月期間前來多倫多，肩負起帶領重任。我們期望中神多倫多能成為本地教會的堅實後盾，不僅提供神學教育訓練，更能在實際的事工上成為夥伴。
- 感恩上主為我們預備了六位委身的研究助理加入，協助研究團隊更新海外華人教會名錄。祈求上主報答這群義工們的辛勤努力。

- The research team is currently seeking advice on the project from pastors in Australia, the US, the UK, and Canada. Please pray that God would grant the team wisdom in designing the surveys, so that the findings may effectively support the work of Chinese churches in all four countries.
- The D.Min. program development committee has begun the process. We thank God for preparing pastors with extensive experience pastoring Chinese Christians in Canada to serve on the committee. Please pray for the team's collaboration and wisdom in designing a program to equip church leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to lead overseas Chinese churches in the 21st century.
- The inauguration of the CGST Toronto office will take place on June 21, 2025. A series of public lectures, a pastoral seminar, and a spiritual revival meeting will also be held over that weekend. Please pray that the Lord will bless these events, using them to encourage and uplift all churches.

- 研究團隊現正就研究項目諮詢澳洲、美國、英國和加拿大的牧者意見。祈求上主賜予團隊智慧，設計出合適的調查問卷，使研究結果能夠支援這四個國家的華人教會事工。
- 教牧學博士課程發展委員會已正式啟動課程設計工作。感謝上主預備了多位在加拿大具有豐富華人牧養經驗的牧者參與委員會的服侍。請為團隊的合作與智慧代禱，求上主帶領他們設計出一個能夠裝備教會領袖在二十一世紀領導海外華人教會所需知識與技能的課程。
- 中神多倫多辦公室將於2025年6月21日舉行成立典禮，並於該週末舉辦一系列公開講座、教牧研討會及培靈聚會。請為此代禱，懇求上主賜下恩典，祝福這次的成立典禮及各項聚會，使其成為眾教會的祝福。

2025 Financial Needs 2025 財政需要

To respond to the pastoral needs of Chinese churches worldwide, CGST Toronto is fully committed to planning several key initiatives. These include a research project addressing the unique challenges faced by overseas Chinese churches, the development of a networking and support platform for pastors, the design of a Doctor of Ministry program tailored for overseas Chinese church leaders, and the launch of a series of accessible theological education courses. The projected budget for 2025 is CAD 500,000. We warmly invite brothers and sisters to lift this financial need in prayer and to consider supporting the ministry through your offerings, partnering together to bless Chinese churches across the globe.

為回應普世華人教會在牧養上的需求，中神多倫多正全力規劃多項事工，具體包含針對海外華人教會獨特牧養挑戰的研究計畫、創建教牧人員互動交流的平台、設計專為海外華人牧者開設的教牧學博士課程，以及推廣一系列普及神學教育課程。2025年預計經費為加幣50萬元，懇請各位弟兄姊妹在禱告中記念此項財務需要，並考慮以奉獻支持，共同祝福全球華人教會。

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