

# Welcome!

A UCLA study on parenting found that the average one-year old child hears over 400 times a day, the word, "no". That's a lot of "no's", huh?

The study goes on to say that the overuse of negative instructions influences a child's hard-wiring, and can make him/her fearful, risk-averse, and desperate for approval.

I wonder how many "no's" you hear each day from God? Not verbal, spoken words from heaven, but a sense of negative comments. A cosmic nodding of the head in disapproval.

Is that the life of freedom that God desires?

Make no mistake, if you are considering stealing from your employer, God is certainly saying, "No!". He does have strong opinions. But beyond being a rigid task-master, God is a doting dad, preferring to nudge you on in approval and affirmation, rather than whispering "no" all the time.

So how do we find that sweet spot of connecting and hearing from a doting

#### MINISTRIES

men@islandecc.hk

WOMEN

YOUNG ADULTS youngadults@islandecc.hk

YOUTH youth@islandecc.hk

CHILDREN kidsclub@islandecc.hk WORSHIP worship@islandecc.hk

VOLUNTEER

PRAYER

CARE GROUPS caregroup@islandecc.hk

CLASSES classes@islandecc.hk For other questions, please contact info@islandecc.hk

HONG KONG info@hopeofthecity.com

OUTREACH

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GLOBAL

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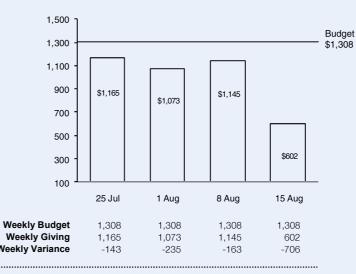
#### YEAR TO DATE (50 WEEKS)

7.0% deficit on giving

YTD Budget \$ 65.4M YTD Giving \$ 60.8M YTD Variance \$ -4.6M

## FISCAL YEAR SEP 2015 - AUG 2016

#### PAST 4 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)



Bold Faith Fund \$115.3M Received \$64.3M Outstanding Pledge \$51M

Bold Faith Initial Fund Raising Target \$1 Billion

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.

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# **HIGHLIGHTS**

## AUG 26 ISLAND YOUTH SMALL GROUPS ARE BACK

Got that sunshine in your pocket? Good soul in your feet? Then come to small groups starting on August 26! Middle School students meet on the 11/F at 6.30pm, and High School students meet on the 2/F at 7.30pm. Testimonies from students: "More fun than you think it will be!", "Great!", "10/10".

## SEP 3 PRAYER RETREAT

God is near to all who call on Him. Experience this truth as we spend time with God at the one-day outdoor retreat in Mui Wo. Register at the Connect Counter on your floor. Registration fee is \$100 which includes lunch. If you have questions, email prayer@islandecc.hk.

### SEP 11 PARENT MEET AND GREET

Parents, if you have children in Kids Club or Island Youth, you are invited to our parent meet and greet to kick off our Fall Term over light refreshments:

- Kids Club: 1.30-2.30pm, 9/F Kids Worship Hall. Meet our staff and small group leaders, and hear a parenting talk, "It's Just a Phase". Childcare available. RSVP by Sep 7 at kidsclub@islandecc.hk.
- Island Youth: 1.15pm, 11/F The Well. Come connect with our staff and other parents, and to learn about what the upcoming year has to offer.

#### IOIN A CARE GROUP IN SEPTEMBER

This is a perfect time for you to join a group! Our new season is kicking off soon in September. We'll start a church-wide care group study in the week of September 12. Visit our care group page islandecc.hk/caregroups for more information and to sign up. Life is better when you're connected!

#### **OUTREACH**

# AUG 27 MOBILE SHOPPING FAIR

Each month, low-income families from Shek Kip Mei order necessities from St. James' Settlement at a reduced fair price. We need 20 volunteers to help deliver these goods to immobile families and spend time to chat with them. 9.00-11.30am.

# AUG 28 get to know hope

Hope of the City was founded by Island ECC in 2010 in the hope of transforming the lives of the underprivileged in Hong Kong and providing them with access to opportunities, with the belief that each person has the potential to succeed. Come to our Get to Know Hope event, where you can learn more about Hope of the City and the work they do. 1.15pm, 10/F Auditorium. Light lunch will be provided.

### SEP 3 NORTH POINT ELDERLY HOME VISIT

Hope of the City is partnering with Hong Kong Family Welfare Society this Mid-Autumn Festival to care for elderly people living in Healthy Village, a public housing estate managed by the Hong Kong Housing Society. We are looking for 15 volunteers to serve with us that Saturday, 9.30am-12.30pm.

## SEP 9 & 10 ssp x-perience 2.0

What does life in Sham Shui Po look like? Hope of the City is running again a two-day experience where participants will take a guided tour of our work, visit partitioned homes, serve in a soup kitchen, and stay overnight in SSP. Fee is \$700 per person. Limited to 20 people.

## SEP 10 cheung sha wan mid-autumn festival home visits

Hope of the City continues to care for families in Cheung Sha Wan area over the Mid-Autumn season through home visitations and mooncake gifting. We are looking for 15 volunteers to join us, 2-5pm.

To sign up for or enquire about any of the above outreach events, email volunteer@hopeofthecity.com.



#### **CLASSES**

#### REGISTER AT ISLANDECC.HK/CLASSES

## SEP 4 THE RISE OF RADICAL ISLAM

9/11 shocked the world 15 years ago. A lot more has happened since then. This one-off class will provide the analysis not found in mainstream media (including Al Jazeera, BBC, CNN). We will also discuss how to respond to the rise of radical Islam (1 Peter 3:15). 10/F Classroom, 2.30-4.30pm.

# SEP 18 grow discipleship course and launch party

Do you want to take your walk with Christ to the next level? Join the GROW discipleship course (formerly 2:7) which starts on September 18 (9.30am/11.30am) to learn what it means, and how to grow as Christ's disciples. Find out more about the course at the GROW launch party on September 11, 1.30-3.30pm, 10/F Worship Hall. Lunch will be served.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

#### COORDINATOR OF WORSHIP AND CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

We are looking for a full-time Coordinator to provide administrative support for the worship team for our Sunday services and special events, and to help coordinate and follow up on strategic promotional plans and creative initiatives of the church. If you have a heart to serve, are fully fluent in English, are familiar with social media platforms, possess excellent administrative skills, and maybe a creative flair too, please email your CV and cover letter to hr@islandecc.hk.

#### KIDS CLUB FALL VOLUNTEERS

Kids Club is recruiting for regular Sunday volunteers for the Fall Term which starts on September 4. We need small group leaders, storytellers, worship leaders, AV hosts, and family welcome team members. If you have a heart to serve kids, contact us at kidsclub@islandecc.hk, or drop by the 9/F Welcome Desk.

# **NEW TO ISLAND ECC**

# MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER

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 # 1

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.



#### 21 AUGUST 2016

# Stop Hyding

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.
<sup>17</sup> As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

Romans 7:15, 17, 20

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:1-6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.