CPR FUNDRAISING 2.0

September 2025

FROM PASTOR SAM WONG

Dear brothers and sisters of VCBC,

The theme “If Christ Is First” invites us into deep reflection. Contained within this simple phrase are profound questions about our faith and our daily living.

• **“If”** reminds us that many Christians do not always place Christ at the center of their lives. Too often, we fall short of this most basic calling.

• **“Christ”** (the Lord) by definition must come first. If He does not hold first place, He is no longer truly Lord.

• **“First”** challenges us: if Christ is not first, then something or someone else has taken that place of priority in our lives. Whatever holds that position is our true master. From September through November, our pastoral team will preach on this theme, drawing from the book of Ephesians to consider what it means to live with Christ first in every area of life—personal and corporate. One important aspect we will explore is this: If Christ is First, then we will give faithfully and joyfully.

Faithful and Joyful Giving
When Christ is first, faithful and joyful giving naturally follows.

• Faithful giving arises because we learn to care about what Christ cares about. Jesus taught His disciples to give faithfully, to seek first the Kingdom of God. “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” To follow Christ means to deny ourselves and take up the cross. If Christ is first, our financial giving will reflect the financial priorities of the Kingdom and the Church.

• Joyful giving flows from love. To sacrifice for the people and causes we love brings joy. If we truly love Christ with all our heart, soul, and strength, then contributing to His Kingdom plan becomes a delight.

Our Current Challenge
For the past two years, we have been fundraising for the church building project, yet progress has been discouraging. The very need for special fundraising already points to a shortfall in our regular giving. If every believer placed Christ first and tithed faithfully, there would be no need for additional campaigns.
For more than a decade, we have often given thanks simply when there was no deficit, yet seldom asked why there was no meaningful surplus. The absence of surplus reflects a lack of faithfulness in giving. In this, we have not truly put Christ first.

And yet, God has graciously opened the way for us to rebuild—through the cooperation of city officials, the support of neighbors, and the closing of every alternative path, leaving only the opportunity to rebuild on our current site. Such grace has not been seen in the thirty years of past attempts. The factors we could not control, God has already provided. What remains is our faithful response. Sadly, we have not yet seen broad commitment.

A Call to the Congregation

We currently have an estimated 500–600 adults actively involved in our church. Yet only 173 pledge forms have been returned—about 30% of the congregation. These pledges are not immediate donations but expressions of intent, spread over two, five, or even ten years. Their purpose is to help the CPR Committee understand what financial resources we can realistically commit.

But with 400 adults (70%) yet unwilling to pledge, the entire project faces significant obstacles.
The church building belongs to the whole congregation. To rely on 173 people to shoulder the responsibility of providing a space for 500–600 is neither fair nor reasonable. Our current building, over 70 years old, continues to deteriorate—leaks, electrical issues, and structural decay worsen every year. Government restrictions prevent major repairs. The situation is now urgent.

Discerning God's Will

Some of you may not agree with the decision to rebuild on the current site, and therefore hesitate to pledge. But remember: in a Baptist church, congregational voting is not a social election designed to satisfy individual preference. Instead, it is a process of discerning God's will together. In society, if the result of a vote does not align with our own preference, we can simply boycott that matter. But in the church, we cannot act this way, because our system seeks to discern God's will through collective decision-making. As long as the outcomeof the vote does not contradict biblical truth, we ought to join together in unity to participate and put it into practice.

Leading by Example

Normally, I prefer not to speak of my giving or service, for fear of being misunderstood as boasting. Yet with encouragement from our leaders, I choose to set aside my personal hesitations and lead by example—for the encouragement of the flock. As your Senior Pastor, my wife and I each submitted our pledge forms at the beginning of this campaign. Personally, I have committed one-quarter of my salary over the next five years to support both the building project and regular ministries. With the church's permission, I will also use my vacation time to accept more speaking invitations at other churches—both to serve them and to donate all honoraria to the "Sparkler Campaign. Additionally, I will accept invitations to officiate funerals for believers without a church, dedicating all received fees to the project.

A Final Word

Dear brothers and sisters of Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church, when God Himself has opened the way before us, is it not a rare and precious opportunity to join together in service?

We are now at a critical moment in our church's building project. With the deepest sincerity, I earnestly appeal to every brother and sister to join together in participation and offering. What is needed is not only a few capable individuals giving large amounts, but rather each one of us giving faithfully, joyfully, and thankfully according to what God has placed in our hearts and hands. As we each contribute with a grateful heart, small drops will gather into a flowing stream, and together our collective offering will glorify the holy name of God through this building project.

May we unite as one body, lay aside personal preferences, fix our eyes on God's leading, and put Christ Jesus first. As we dedicate ourselves to His Kingdom and His Church, may we receive even greater blessings and accomplish greater works— for the glory of God and the mission of His Kingdom.

In Christ,
Pastor Sam

#VCBC CPR
DONATION PLEDGE FORM

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DONOR INFORMATION

Name:

☐ Individual ☐ Family

Email:

Phone Number:

PLEDGE INFORMATION

Offering Number:

☐ I / We have submitted a pledge previously.

How would you like to give? Please select the following options as applicable:

☐ I / We would like to pledge $_____ for each year over ___ years;

☐ I / We would like to pledge $_____ per month via auto payment (Sparkler Campaign)

☐ I / We would like to provide an interest-free loan of $ _____

Signature:

Date:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Personal information gathered by our church is kept in confidence. Completed form can be dropped off at the church office or deposited in the offering boxes.

NOTE: The amount pledged in this form is only for budgetary purpose of the church's redevelopment project and is not legally binding.