

# NURTURING COURAGEOUS FAITH

## ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



Ambassadors For Christ  
In Canada

加拿大  
基督使者協會

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For over 50 years, Ambassadors for Christ (AFC) in Canada has played a unifying role in the diaspora Chinese community. While our common faith, ancestry, and culture has historically brought us together, we must recognize that times have changed and are still changing. Today's youth are more fluent in the ways of social media than in their cultural heritage.

**So, what role does AFC play in the lives of today's youth? Or perhaps a more important question: is there a relevant role for us?**

I believe that indeed, there is—now more than ever before.

Today's societal context brings about unprecedented challenges for our youth. They need the support of a community to help them navigate through these complexities—'it takes a village'. AFC believes it is called to be a part of 'the village' that helps build up the next generation of Christ followers.

After all these years, the heartbeat of AFC remains the same: **to nurture students toward a courageous faith in Jesus that motivates them to live beyond themselves.** With faithful partners like you, we are building up a generation of



courageous Christ followers. We are building a different world; one that amplifies Christ's love, mercy, and compassion.

Since joining AFC in 2021, I have remained consistently encouraged by your tireless commitment to our mission. AFC exists as an outpouring of your love. As stewards of the calling, we are continuing the legacy of those who came before us. Thank you for your continued support and trust.

With a grateful heart,

Darren Lung  
Executive Director

# Helping Youth Thrive in a Hurting World

We live in a world in turmoil.

Globally, there is political upheaval and nations at war. Here in Canada, we are faced with economic volatility, a housing crisis, and job instability. And then there are the issues right in our own home: a youth mental health epidemic, social media addiction, cyber bullying, and youth leaving the church at unprecedented rates.

For many youth today, the obstacles to building a flourishing life can feel insurmountable. What does the next generation need in order to flourish in life and faith?

**Courage.** With the state of today's world, it takes courage to follow Jesus.

To follow Jesus means to embrace the things that Jesus did, to love like He did; and that takes courage.



## The Role of AFC

The ministry of AFC is focused on journeying with youth through their most formative years. Establishing a courageous faith in this season will carry them through to becoming adults who follow Jesus with steadfastness.

While our focus is on students, we are, in actuality, an intergenerational ministry. We believe that **courageous faith isn't nurtured in isolation; it is nurtured together.** We are continuing the faithful work of those who have come before us. Though our forebears faced many hardships, many of whom moved to Canada as immigrants, they exhibited courageous faith when they pursued Jesus together.

Today, this legacy of courageous faith permeates through our growing staff team, volunteers, partnering churches, and supporters. Partners like you are the mentors, role models, and cheerleaders that young people need on their journey to developing a courageous faith.

Together, we act as the great cloud of witnesses, spurring on our youth to engage compassionately with a broken world that God loves.

# Looking Back

## *The Year in Review*

It is a great irony that while youth are more digitally connected than ever, they are also more lonely and socially isolated.

In response to this very nuanced need, AFC is creating more opportunities for intergenerational connection, mentorship, and community. The hope is that these will not be one-off experiences, but 'touchpoints' that connect throughout their journey, culminating in a strong and rooted faith in adulthood.



### **Junior High Ministry** ***Engaging Youth Earlier***

In conversation with pastors and parents, we have observed the need to start planting the seeds of courageous faith at an increasingly younger age so that by the time students reach high school, they are more firmly rooted in Christ.

This year, we started a ministry specifically for grade 7 and 8 students called **EXT78**. Each month, junior high students gather to develop friendships, engage with Scripture, and explore how to put their faith into action.



# High School Ministry

## High School Ministry

### *From One Generation to the Next*

In 1992, Christine helped start the high school fellowship at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute in Scarborough. Since her days as a student she is now living out her faith through her work with a Christian non-profit that helps refugees find shelter, community, and access to justice.



This past March, Christine was the keynote speaker at **Teens Conference** 2024. Thirty years after her own time as a student, she is now challenging the next generation to courageously live for Jesus.

Christine's journey, and others like her, are living testimonies that encourage us as a ministry and inspire high school students to follow Christ courageously with their lives.



*Being open and loud about faith is a good thing, we should spread God's love to everyone around us. We are more blessed when giving than receiving. Christine's stories really entered my heart.*



Daniel, Student

## **Teens Conference (TC)**

TC is much more than a March break activity, it is a leadership training ground. For the six months leading up to TC, student volunteers are mentored, developed, and coached to lead various parts of the conference. There is no other youth conference in Canada like TC. **Since 2022, TC has grown by 148% in both attendance and student volunteers.** In 2024, nearly 100 adult volunteers journeyed alongside over 700 high school students, 70 of whom were student leader volunteers.

There are many different ways to live for Christ. In recent years at TC, we have encouraged youth to consider opportunities through Christian universities and a range of missions opportunities. Older students were also serving younger students by leading at Christian summer camps.

# Post-Secondary Ministry

## Post-Secondary Ministry *A Critical Season*

The transition from high school to post-secondary is a significant inflection point in life. Young people leave home for the first time, are thinking about 'what to be when they grow up,' and must decide what their faith will look like in this new season of life. But with the aggressive secularization of our post-secondary institutions, many young people end up spiritually unmoored, without the tethers of weekly youth groups and home churches.

**This is where AFC comes in.** Chinese Christian Fellowships (CCF) are a vital community for students to 'own' their faith; to put their faith into action on the mission field of their campus. Being involved in CCF is an opportunity to develop leadership skills, be mentored by AFC staff, and to be stretched to live as an ambassador for Christ.



*In an increasingly secular world, it's harder to be outwardly Christian on campus, but that makes witness in community and in personal lives all the more powerful.*



Riley, Student

Having started with students at an early age, AFC is a trusted community for students into young adulthood. Nine of our TC 2024 student Bible study leaders enrolled in Toronto Metropolitan University and immediately got involved in CCF this year.

By growing in their confidence of who God has made them to be, students become young adults who follow Jesus with a vision to make a positive difference in the world.

**In the past year, participation has increased by 40% across all our post-secondary communities.**

# The AFC Ministry Team

## Growing for Greater Impact

Since 2020, **AFC has tripled in size—growing from 7 staff to 23 in 2024!**

This incredible rate of growth has enabled us to expand our reach and increase our impact. Our staff team continues to grow in diversity as well, with staff serving in Mandarin and Cantonese. This year, our team also grew to include a Digital Media team which utilizes digital platforms to engage students in ways that resonate with them most.



## Internships

From post-secondary onwards, graduates have the opportunity to explore service in full-time ministry with AFC. AFC Internships is a one-year program that provides robust theological training, diverse ministry opportunities, and emphasizes holistic personal development.

After his internship, Brandon decided to join as a permanent staff member and is looking forward to how he can continue to grow in life and ministry as he serves with AFC.

## Volunteers and Alumni

One of the most unique aspects about AFC is our large network of alumni who continue to journey with us. From various ages, backgrounds, and areas of society, we are thankful to the many who continue to support us in our mission.



Tiffany

*What I enjoy most about working at AFC is the people and the nature of the work. I'm grateful to have so many kind and caring teammates.*



Michael

*What do I enjoy most about the work I do? Seeing people have epiphanies about the way they see God, themselves, or others.*



Brandon

*Ever since I was young, my passion has been to teach young people. There is an increasing need for godly teaching in their lives. This internship has allowed me to influence these young people with the gospel.*



# Looking Ahead

## *The Future of AFC*



As we enter into the next 50 years of AFC's ministry, we challenge ourselves to ask what it will take to stay relevant and impactful.

Given the growing diaspora Chinese community in Canada and the changing cultural and spiritual landscape, we find our focus in three key areas.

### **Organizational Sustainability**

We are growing at an astounding rate. To sustain such growth, we must continue to invest in systems that will support such expansion.

- Continue building financial health and sustainability
- Structuring for cost effectiveness
- Strengthening communications with students, volunteers, and partners
- Strategically using digital platforms for greater reach and engagement

### **Innovation for the Current Age**

Canada is a post-Christian nation. The aggressive secularization of our educational institutions also means increasingly less

access and freedom on campuses. The vision, mission, and central message of the gospel remain the same; however, our methodology must adapt to today's reality.

### **Team Development**

The harvest is plenty but the workers are few. In particular, we are asking God to grow our burgeoning Digital Media team and to add women to our Field Ministries (high school and post-secondary) team.

Currently, we only operate in the southern Ontario region. We are praying that God would provide the team and resources for us to respond to the needs that are coming to us from beyond this area. There are many more students yet to be reached for Jesus.



# Investing in the Next Generation

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As we build for the next 50 years of AFC, we seek your partnership in these areas of need. Would you prayerfully consider supporting us in these ways.

## **Champions and Advocates**

We need passionate individuals, communities, and churches who will use their influence to advocate for the amazing work that God is doing in and through AFC.

## **Staff Development Fund - \$30,000**

A strong future for AFC will be built upon strong leaders. The majority of our staff and interns are now new graduates which means they are bringing youthful energy, enthusiasm, and heartfelt commitment. It also means that they need to be developed as leaders. We are putting an intentional focus on two areas.

- Theological formation: formal seminary education, conferences, training seminars, or other similar avenues.
- Leadership/skill development: coaching, marketing, communications, human resources, or team management.

## **Digital Media Ministry - \$30,000**

In the spirit of 'innovating for the current age', we plan to develop content that is specifically relevant to the youth we aim to reach. Some studies suggest that youth spend up to 7 hours each day on social media. Secular media cannot be the last word for our youth. We need to be a voice that brings truth, faith, and hope amidst the noise of the world. To do this, we need updated technology, equipment, and advisors who will help us shape our communications strategies and develop our young Digital Media team.

## **Support Our Staff - Monthly Giving**

All of our staff are self-supported. Each has a Ministry Partnership team that partners with them in prayer and finances. Our staff trust God to provide all their financial needs, including the totality of their salary and ministry costs. They are always looking for more partners to support them in this.

**To support us in any of these ways, visit:**

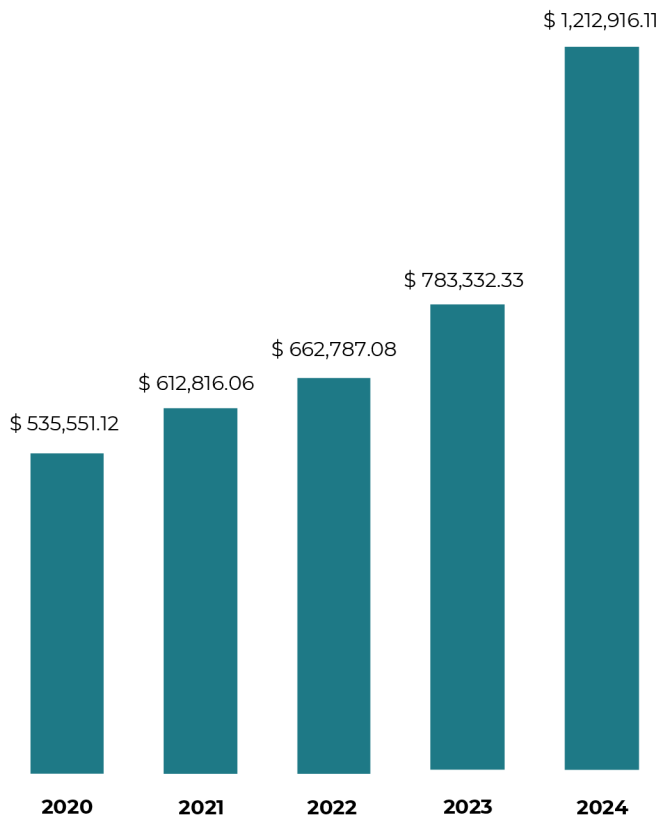
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# Financial Standing

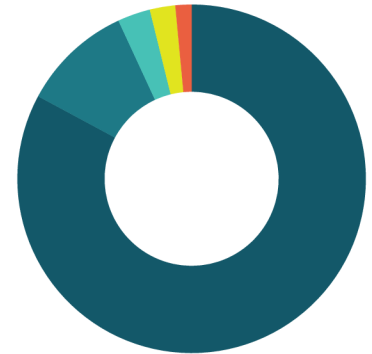
## Building Financial Stability

To start, we thank God for His providence, and you for your gracious generosity. Over the last four years, we have been moving toward financial stability. But beyond the numbers, an increase in giving also indicates that more people share our vision and see the value of the mission. The alumni, now with careers, are stewarding their resources towards the Kingdom through AFC. In this way, their courageous faith is leading them to live beyond themselves and we are grateful for their contribution.

### Annual Revenue Growth

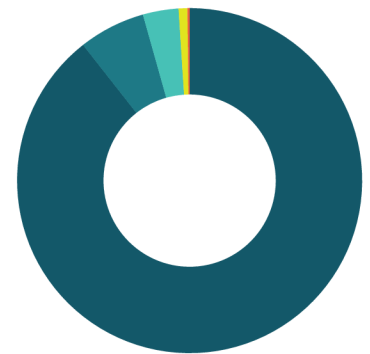


### 2024 Revenue Total: \$ 1,212,916.11



Contributions	\$ 1,004,889.94
Conference Registrations	\$ 124,376.97
Other	\$ 36,835.64
Investment Income	\$ 28,688.56
Non-Donation Sponsorship	\$ 18,125.00

### 2024 Expenditures Total: \$ 1,092,863.09



Ministry Programs	\$ 977,071.20
Office and Administration	\$ 68,101.15
Fundraising	\$ 36,550.05
Professional Fees	\$ 8,977.50
Amortization	\$ 2,163.19

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As we reflect on 2024, I am reminded of AFC's enduring mission to **nurture courageous faith in students.**

This year marks my sixth year as Board Chairman, and it was a privilege to represent AFC at the Lausanne 4 Congress in South Korea. At this global gathering, urgent issues were discussed, with reaching the next generation identified as a top barrier to finishing the Great Commission. This resonates deeply with AFC's mission and highlights the critical need for student ministry.

Championing student ministry and discipling the next generation is central to AFC's efforts. When we prayerfully carry out this calling, we trust that God will raise up young adults who will live out the gospel faithfully, transforming their communities with Christ's love, mercy, and compassion.

AFC lives out its truest purpose in being an intergenerational ministry that connects the next generation with the gospel and the greater community of faith. That's our mission.

I invite you to join us in this pursuit.

Through your prayers, partnership, and financial support, you can help cultivate



faithful disciples who will boldly live for Christ, carrying forward the Great Commission.

*Abraham Wong*

Mr. Abraham Wong  
Board Chairman

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