

Inheriting Grace; Pursuing the Vision, Together

Hello, brothers and sisters. Today is the day RCAC celebrates its 49th anniversary. We have been witnessing God's faithfulness in this place for 49 years. We thank God for using a group of brothers and sisters carrying a mission to establish the church here in Richmond back in 1977. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, what they saw was not the literal farmland right in front of them, but the calling to build a lampstand for God—a place to witness the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Next year, RCAC will officially step into its 50th year. In the Bible, a 50th anniversary is beautifully described as a "Jubilee." The 50th anniversary represents a pivotal milestone that connects the past and the future. It is not only a time to look back at the foundation God has laid here over the past half-century, but also a time to look forward, marking the beginning of moving toward the greater things God wants RCAC to accomplish. In the past, RCAC has stood the test of history and numerous challenges, yet it continues to display the vibrant vitality of salvation. That is not because of how good we are, but because of how strong our God is.

The pastoral staff has already begun preparing a series of activities to celebrate this momentous occasion. We will centre around the core theme: "Inheriting Grace; Pursuing the Vision, Together."

Inheriting Grace

First, at the end of this year, we will begin inviting brothers and sisters to take photos as family units. This will serve as a witness that RCAC is not just a physical building, but a community of over a thousand people coming together every week to worship God—a community spanning several generations worshiping together. Let us commemorate this milestone through these photos.

On June 6 next year, we will gather to praise the Lord's grace. We have already booked a venue, so let us witness God's grace together through a celebration banquet.

Pursuing the Vision

RCAC's vision must inherently include missions. Missions is in the DNA of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA). Next year, from July 9 to 11, the quadrennial "Joint Mission Conference (JMC)" will be held on the West Coast of Canada. And this time, the event will

take place right here in Richmond. We will use this opportunity to encourage every member of RCAC to participate, reminding us that our vision is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Let us carry this mission and press on toward the goal together.

In the church health survey conducted two years ago, quite a few brothers and sisters reminded us to do more community work. We are deeply grateful for the support this community has given to RCAC. At the end of next August, we will host a "Community Day". We hope to express our gratitude to the local community. In addition, we also hope this Community Day will serve as a channel for our neighbors to get to know RCAC, and ultimately, hear the Gospel.

The grand finale of the celebration will be a spiritual revival conference. Thanks be to God, we have invited Dr. David Pao, Dean of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, to be our guest speaker. In our conversations with Dr. Pao, we expressed our hope that he would deliver a message themed around looking toward the future, once again inspiring us to run together toward the vision.

Together

We look forward to RCAC's 50th anniversary celebration with all of you, not as an accumulation of numerous activities, but as a demonstration of thanksgiving, inheritance, vision, and mission.

Here, we also ask brothers and sisters to pray for our Transitional Lead Pastor Team:

- Pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen the unity of this team. Pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen the unity of this team so that our strong start in teamwork can be sustained.
- Pray that the Lord will grant us the ability. Pray that the Lord will grant us the ability to continue leading RCAC to higher ground.
- Pray that the Lord will reign over the recruitment of pastoral staff. Pray that the Lord will reign over the recruitment of pastoral staff so that new colleagues can join us as soon as possible.

HIS servant,

Pastor Collins,
Pastor Mark