



2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

[www.ecb.asia](http://www.ecb.asia)





# REFLECTING ON 2023

Thank you for taking the time to reflect with us on the things that God has done and is doing at ECB. I pray that as you scroll through the pages of this annual report, your heart will be filled with excitement and gratitude for how Jesus continues to build His church and enables us to fulfil our mission to make disciples for global impact!

“Growth” is the word that comes to my mind as I look back on 2023. We have seen many new people joining our worship services on Sundays and finding their place of belonging in our faith community. An increasing number of people have joined a LIFE group and fellowship ministries like Oasis (women), Adelphoi (men), young professionals and our business fellowship have seen a growing attendance and engagement in their ministry events. Moreover, we have seen spiritual growth, transformation and breakthroughs in many individual lives through our discipleship programs for young and old and our counseling and soul care ministries. Friends, it is evident, Jesus IS expanding His Kingdom and He powerfully uses ECB for that purpose!

“Anticipation” is the word that comes to my mind as I look ahead to 2024. Encouraged by God’s consistent faithfulness to ECB in the past, we can look forward confidently to new things that He has waiting for us this year. We are planning for a church retreat again in October. Fueled by the fond memories of our previous retreat in 2022, we are anticipating even greater things for this upcoming retreat, hoping that many of you will be able to join. Also, we will expand our counseling ministry, including a designated counseling room, to be able to help more people to find emotional and spiritual healing in their core journey as a disciple of Jesus. We plan to have a three-day Soul care conference in November with Rob Reimer (founder and author of this ministry), providing a profound opportunity for followers of Jesus to find freedom and fullness in Him through Biblical transformational principles. These are some of the things that we anticipate for this new year as part of our unwavering commitment to fulfil God’s mission for us to make disciples for global impact with a vision to reflect Jesus in all of life!







Loved ones, at the beginning of this new year, I want to thank you all for being part of what God is doing at ECB. Together, we are His church. And together, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we have an incredible opportunity to impact Bangkok, Thailand and the nations of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for taking part in that!

I pray that through all that God will be doing in our midst in 2024, each of us will experience deeper intimacy with Jesus, greater transformation into His likeness and an increasing impact for His Kingdom!

In Christ,  
Pastor René Dekker

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (Philippians 1:6, NLT).





# LEADERSHIP TEAM

## 2023 ELDERS

William Goh  
Ray Granaderos  
Edwin Hawson  
Decha Kositthanakorn  
Jonathan Lembright  
Siew Hwei (SH) Lim  
Manny Low  
Paul Muri  
Travis Smith  
Howard Tsang

## 2023 PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor René Dekker  
Pastor Phil Holcomb (Since February)  
Pastor Pablo Morales  
Pastor Kevin Moua  
Pastor Steve Odera (Until May)

## 2023 MINISTRY HEADS

Siree Chanyaputhipong (Until June)  
Gonneke Dekker (Until September)  
Chris Ebrahim (Since September)  
Faheem Ebrahim  
Janice Johnson (Until June)  
Juana Martinez (Since in May)  
Vena Matias (Since in June)  
Jill Moua  
Liz Odera (Until May)  
Aimee Smith  
Candy Tsang  
Zach Wylie





# ELDERS

Travis Smith

2023 was a year of equipping for the ECB Elder Board, and most of our meetings included a training component. Pastor Pablo acted as a leadership consultant and facilitated discussions on topics such as: biblical foundations of eldership, organizational health, decision making, the eldership process, eldership systems, and eldership and women. This training was very valuable and was part of a larger transition in the leadership culture at ECB. Each elder also completed a leadership strengths assessment, which gave us valuable insight into how we might better function as a team. As we enter this next year, the Elder Board is poised to better oversee the ministries of ECB in a way that ensures alignment with our mission and vision.

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# COMMUNITY

Pastor Phil Holcomb



2023 included significant transition within Community Life at ECB. Pastor Steve and sister Liz returned to Kenya, I joined the ECB pastoral team, and several ministry heads moved to new areas of kingdom participation. Transition can be disorienting, yet I have been encouraged seeing the fingerprints of our faithful God marking this year.

One example of God's faithfulness has been in launching Business Fellowship. Emi Rowse, supported by a gifted team, organized regular gatherings to equip followers of Jesus to reflect Him within the marketplace. God asks us to be a light to the world, and this new ministry contributes to this in a keyway.

Another example of God's faithfulness this year is adding a new rhythm within our LIFE group ministry where 3-5 groups were clustered into Missional Communities. This invites our leaders into an ongoing peer-coaching model for the purpose of missional effectiveness, encouragement, alignment, and ongoing learning. May this continue to form our LIFE groups into nurturing communities where people are transformed in discipleship and unleashed for outreach!

As we look forward to 2024, our desire as a team is to continue to learn to be in step with the One we serve shaping us to love God and others well.



# DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Pablo Morales



We always ask God to encounter His people in our ministry, and we are humbled when He does! This was the case of Giorgio. Seven months after visiting ECB, he sent us this email from Italy. “We met in May this year during a worship service. You prayed for me and with me for 1 hour, as my soul was in pain and struggling to find again the Way. From that moment I started to stay in contact with the Lord more and more and step after step God put everything in order (and He is continuing in that). I cannot stop to think of you and what Jesus made for me through you. Next time I come to Thailand I hope I can come to visit you and the Church. God bless you and your service.” Giorgio’s testimony is an encouraging reminder that God has positioned ECB in a unique place for global impact. As we continue to make disciples, our prayer will remain the same in 2024: “Lord, encounter your people!”

God has graciously blessed us with an impactful ministry in 2023. Through the faithful service of ECB teams, we were able to offer Alpha, Freedom in Christ, the Marriage Course, Jesus Lifestyle, one-on-one discipleship mentorship, and private counseling. In addition, pastor Pablo was invited to equip the Elder Board with Strategic Leadership Training and served as a guest speaker at events with CMA, TBMF, YWAM, The Leprosy Mission International, and Bangkok Christian College.







# OUTREACH

Pastor Kevin Moua

In 2023 the focus for outreach was on giving exposure to our outreach partners. We did this through our monthly outreach partner highlight during the worship services. Many of partners were able to share about opportunities to reach out to the people of Bangkok and how God has been using them to make a difference in the city. Our partners also provided pathways to serve alongside them, such as prayer walks, teaching English and the Bible, giving out meals, and many other opportunities.

We also continue the Love Bangkok Food Bag distribution. We gave over 6,500 food bags throughout Bangkok with our outreach partners and individually. In October we had a campaign called “Love and Treat” with the purpose of sharing the love of Jesus through giving out goodies bags instead of going out to receive bags during Halloween. Over 150 people participated in this campaign. We gave out over 2,000 bags and were able to raise over 200,000 Baht for this outreach.

As we look forward to 2024, may we as a church continue to be unleashed to bring the hope of the Gospel to people and areas of the city that need to encounter King Jesus!



# CROSSTOWN

Chris Chan Ebrahim

In 2023 CrossTown saw God move in relationships, fellowship, and outreach.

**Relationship":** The Daddy and Daughter Banquet marked a heartwarming beginning to the year, fostering a deeper connection through scripture and love. The intimate, fun-filled event strengthened family bonds, laying the foundation for more engaging activities in 2024.

**"Fellowship":** Our volunteer team experienced enhanced unity through weekly fellowship. These gatherings provided a platform to share the joys and challenges of teaching at CrossTown. Volunteers rested together, enjoyed snacks, and deepened personal connections, creating a supportive community in preparation for an equipping year in 2024.







"Outreach": The Christmas Family Event became a significant outreach success. Welcoming non-regular ECB attendees and non-believers, the event creatively shared the gospel through art, craft, and fun games biblically. Witnessing many discover the story of Jesus' birth was a joyful highlight, emphasizing our commitment to spreading Christ's message beyond our regular congregation.

As we bid farewell to 2023, let us carry the warmth of relationships, the strength of fellowship, and the joy of outreach into the promising year of 2024. Together, a new chapter of growth, love, and faith in the story of Crosstown will be written - for all kids, all parents and all volunteers to have a growing community to foster.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." - 2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)





# STUDENT MINISTRY

Jill Moua



Here are three highlights from the Student Ministry in 2023!

In Outreach: This year has been a fun year of sharing food and the Good News of Jesus! We went on 4 Food Bag Distribution Ministries to Soi 8 and on Sukhumvit near ECB. We shared food bags from the #LoveBangkok project, shared our testimonies, sang songs, and prayed for people. One of the biggest joys in going on these outreaches is listening to God during our prayer time before we go out to see who He wants us to talk with and minister to and we heard from Him! We also took a team of students to Udon Thani to do school outreach ministry in 2023 and we prepared for our students to go to visit the Red Lahu in Chiang Rai. The trip actually happened early 2024 but we were able to perform one of the skits at an Outreach Christmas Party in partnership with Imagine Thailand.







**Spiritually:** One of our greatest joys of 2023 was to see our students grow in their desire for God's presence and seeing them learn how to hear God's voice. This was evident as we joined House of Prayer with ECB's Prayer Ministry, and had as many or more students as adults at these gatherings, who were entering into the prayer and worship taking place. We also saw this when we would have prayer invitations on a regular Exchange night or on special evenings, and students would long to linger in prayer even after the scheduled prayer time was over. It was awesome to see students praying for each other and for them being eager to share with the Youth Group the amazing way God has worked in their lives from the front. We also saw an increasing amount of students having visions or words from God as they sought His will and direction. Our prayer is always that students will encounter God, so this all is a huge joy to see!

**Leadership Team:** At Exchange we have an amazing group of leaders. These leaders are committed to invest in, get to know, and mentor their group of students. This year not only have our leaders grown in numbers (which is exciting because that means we can have more small groups!) but they have also grown in their willingness to lead different aspects of our gatherings, even to the point where our leaders are willing to give the messages for Exchange on a regular basis! This is a huge answer to prayer to see leaders being built up to lead. Early in 2023 we went on a leaders' retreat. At this retreat we spent a good portion of our time in prayer. Our leaders' growth and the growth of our students, begins with prayer! Only God can do the amazing things that we have seen happen in 2023!



# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Zach Wylie



2023 was a year of growth, commitment to our core practices of Gathering, Growing, and Going. Below are highlights captured by a few of our ECB YP Lead Team members: Benj, Brodie, and Meg. We hosted 4 gather events, 4 Go events, and 4 grow events. Between these we regularly gathered for meals, times of prayer, and saw many of our YP's integrating with men's and women's ministries and finding places of service within ECB.

GATHER - A highlight for me would be our GATHER: Pickleball and Pizza event in July 2023. I am passionate about playing Pickleball, and having the opportunity to share it with our fellow YPs was a memorable experience - not to mention that over 50 people joined the event. People enjoyed their fill of pizza and fellowship. - Benj

ROLLERSKATING!! I got to chat with a lot of new people there and build relationships and make fun memories with people. - Brodie



GO - December has always been a hectic time for ministry, but the YPs were able to celebrate Jesus through a GO/GATHER event titled "Cozy Christmas." What's special about this event is that it provided an opportunity to share the real Christmas story through songs and poetry and to raise funds to help one of our partner ministries. - Benj





GROW - One of the most special parts of YP this year to me has been seeing the hearts of our YPs grow in welcoming others into our community. No one lets others go unnoticed. During our events, people are intentional and that spills out to our daily lives. I love seeing God bring together people from different backgrounds and cultures to become brothers and sisters to each other when we are far from home. - Meg



GO - I loved being able to get back to blood donation, finally! We were able to serve in this way 3 times last year with over 20 YP's joining in giving the gift of life - blood. - Brodie



# OASIS

Gonneke Dekker



In the year 2023, Oasis experienced significant changes. A new leadership team, comprised of seven women dedicated to fostering sisterhood, was established. Monthly meetings were initiated, providing activities, laughter, and fellowship opportunities.

In April 2023, we officially relaunched Oasis to create a community where women could fellowship, mentor, and connect in a safe and supportive environment. Throughout the year, we organized seven activities, including arts classes, fitness sessions, baking workshops, movie screenings, and a special Christmas celebration.

On average, each event witnessed active participation from 40 to 80 women of ECB. Notably, many attendees extended invitations to their pre-Christian friends, reflecting the impact of our community outreach. The diversity of participants, spanning teens, young women, single mothers, and grandmothers, demonstrates the desire for connection. The enthusiasm and anticipation for each event underscore the inherent need for women to bond and celebrate the communal essence that God designed in each one of us.

As we look forward, we remain committed to fostering a sense of belonging and community among the women of ECB.





# ADELPHOI

Faheem Ebrahim



Vulnerable Men = Powerful Men of God!

This year's Adelphoi men's retreat showcased a slightly different approach to the usual format. Held at the idyllic Eastin Hotel at Thana City Golf Club, 45 men gathered for an intense two days of learning, prayer and reflection as well as wonderful fellowship.

On the first day, Pastor Pablo navigated us through how to remove "Roots of Disappointment" and "Roots of Bitterness." These topics are fundamental to emotional healing and health, hugely impacting our journey to mature discipleship and intimacy with Jesus.

On the second day, Pastor Rene & Pastor Phil, led the men through worship with deep reflection, prayer and confession. Men were vulnerable, receptive and intentional in submitting and surrendering to Jesus.



This experience has led to a breakthrough for Adelphoi as God has shown that it is absolutely necessary that we as men of God, surrender in this way so that we may steward the advancement of HIS kingdom in our families and community.



# PRAYER

Juana Martinez



We had a transitional year for the Prayer Ministry, but we have been intentional in moving forward to build each other up and walk in unity to be fueled by prayer in everything we do. We desired to grow in the foundation of prayer with passion as we learn to pray at ECB, to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We had three highlights during the year, the first one was the Prayer Team Leaders Retreat. It was a time of connection that led us to be closer to each other and learn more about the importance of the Armor of God. We had the opportunity to review the guidelines of our ministry which helped us to have clarity of our responsibilities as we minister prayer.

The second one was when the Prayer Team was invited to minister at the Thiensung Church to share on prayer with their Prayer Team members. We talked about why we pray and other tools we use to help us cultivate prayer in a way that we stand in the gap for the church.

Lastly, the Prayer Ministry joined with the Worship and Arts Ministry to have quarterly, a Night of Worship through music, prayer, and art in the main sanctuary on Friday night. This is a new event inviting everyone to experience the presence of God in an ambiance that helps them engage in prayer. We heard testimonies of trusting Jesus and how their faith has been strengthened to stand firm in Him.





# WORSHIP ARTS

Aimee Smith



Our team continues to grow in number, even as some move on from Bangkok and to other things. We are excited to now have 8 rotating worship leaders, with 2-3 more to be trained in 2024. We had over 50 new signups for Worship Arts at the August ministry fair. It is exciting to see the interest and commitment of so many.

We had a successful Easter art show and a smaller Christmas art show, where ECB members could showcase their art and express their worship through their creativity. Many people enjoyed seeing the art and we pray that it touched hearts in a new way. We added art as an aspect to our last two Night of Prayers, which many enjoyed as another way to express their worship to God.

The choir continues to be a consistent, fruitful, and vibrant ministry led by Rey and Maya Maclang. They have developed a beautiful community of men and women of many nationalities, ages, and backgrounds who love to sing and worship together. The choir sang once a month in worship services, and participated in a Christmas outreach to local hotels and restaurants.



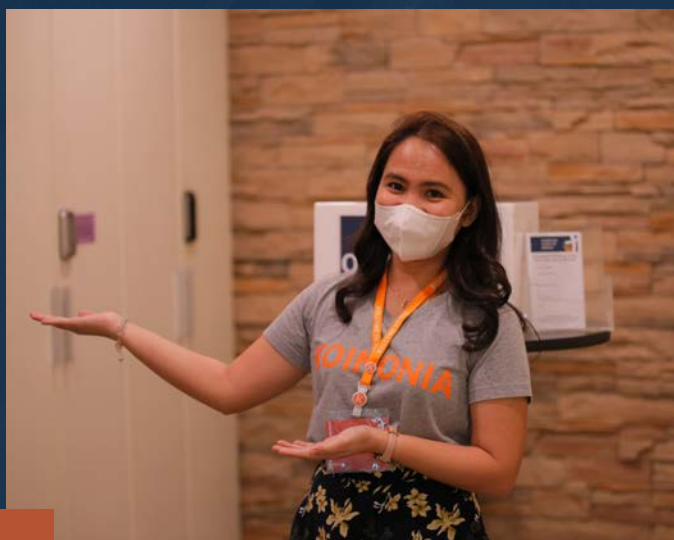


# KOINONIA

## Vena Matias

This past year Koinonia has transitioned with Janice passing the baton to Vena as the new Ministry Head. We are thankful for Janice's faithful leadership!

Koinonia continues to serve in all three sanctuaries of ECB and at other times when requested. The ministry also added a new position to support with parking making an English speaking attendant available for newcomers. Koinonia has also assigned a member to be stationed at the welcome desk during each service as this is an area where newcomers often need help. Additionally, we have added new team members bringing the total up to 57. Some members have stepped up to take on leadership roles, and this will allow me as the Ministry Head to focus more on training and recruiting of new members as well as bringing a deeper sense of community within the ministry.



Although training this year have been few due to the change in leadership, we are planning more regular training and times of fellowship in 2024. Also, our recruiting form will include some new additions such as a question to recruit members who have experience with CPR and medical emergency training. Koinonia has also requested and started training in fire and emergency evacuation. As the congregation grows this will be vital to our ministry.



# CARE VISITATION

Candy Tsang



Here are three highlights from the Care Visitation Ministry in 2023. A YWAM volunteer got sick and came to Bangkok for treatment. She knew no one here but through ECB, Care Team volunteers visited her in Bumrungrad Hospital. We helped her in finding a place to stay, sent her meals and prayed with her. She was greatly encouraged and returned to Cambodia with a grateful heart, thanking God and thanking the ECB Care Team.

The “Golden Years’ Luncheon” was held in Oct 2023 and was welcomed by many of our church elderly members. They enjoyed a great day with good food, an encouraging message from the Bible, fellowships, and games. They left ECB feeling treasured and cared for. We raise God for such a terrific opportunity to show our love to our elderly members.



While a lot of our church members could come and join the Christmas Eve services, the Care Team brought the joy of celebrating Christmas to one of our elderly in our fellowship named Juanita. The Care Team also helped to organize the Christmas Eve Luncheon for church members who are single or without family members here in Bangkok. Praise God for His provisions.



# OPERATIONS

David Perrot



As we reflect on the grace-filled journey of 2023, we are delighted to share pivotal advancements within our church family. First and foremost, a profound transformation unfolded within our Operation team. Through strategic organizational changes, we cultivated a culture of unity, structure, and accountability, fostering an enhanced team spirit.

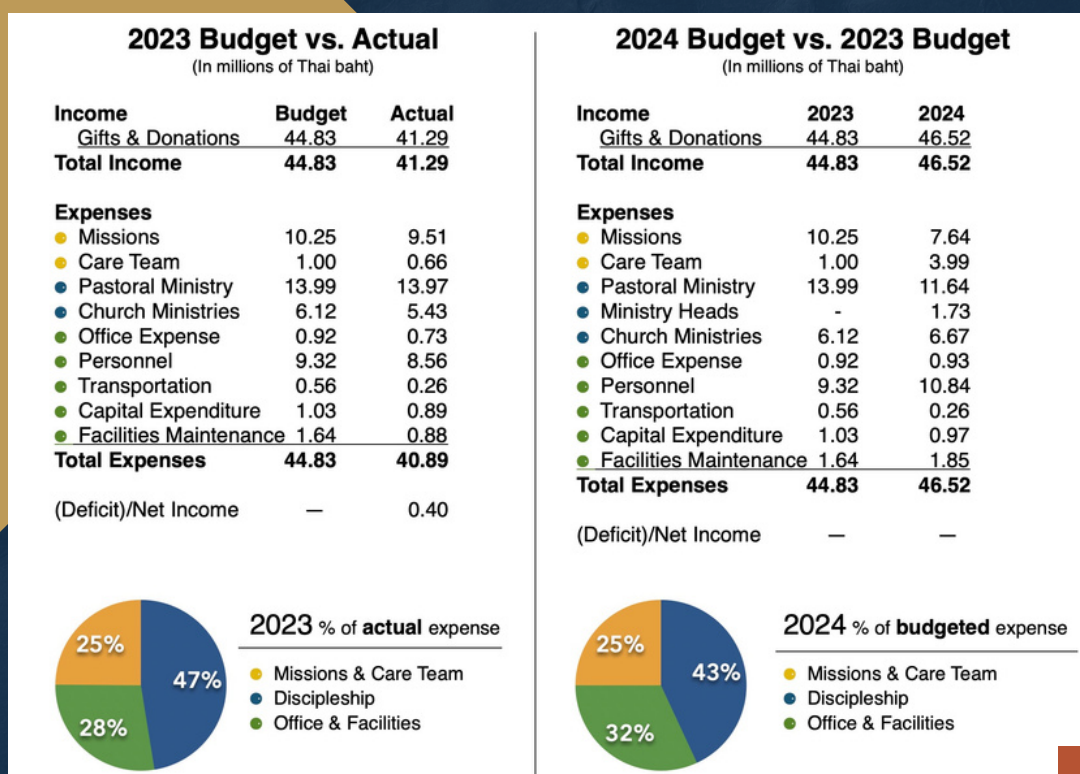
Additionally, our sacred grounds underwent a comprehensive rejuvenation, marked by a major deep cleaning and reorganization. This renewed environment reflects our commitment to providing a sacred space for worship and fellowship.

Furthermore, the safety and well-being of our team and congregation took precedence. We invested in upgraded safety equipment, heightened awareness initiatives, and comprehensive training programs, ensuring a secure environment for all.



In unity, gratitude, and faith, we celebrate the blessings of 2023, laying a foundation for continued growth and spiritual abundance in the coming year.





In 2023, the Finance Committee comprised of Jeff Boehm (Treasurer), SH Lim (Elder), William Goh (Elder), René Dekker (Lead Pastor), and David Perrot (Head of Finance and Operations). The committee worked to ensure proper financial accountability and oversight of the budget.

God has blessed us at ECB through the generous and faithful giving of our congregation, and our ministry teams were flexible to adjust as needed to available resources. Gifts & Donations were below budget by 7.9%, and total expenditures were 8.8% under budget, resulting in a net surplus of 0.40 million baht.

Our Missions & Care Team spending was 25% of actual expenses in 2023, in line with our goal of 25%. In 2024 we plan to continue our commitment of 25% of Gifts & Donations to Missions & Care Team. More detail can be found in the financial report. Please see the missions report in this document for examples of how our Missions budget is impacting the Kingdom.

As ECB leadership, it is a joy to see ECB's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ among the nations lived out through our consistent, generous giving and faithful stewardship of our Father's resources. These are both acts of worship to our Lord and practical steps of obedience in making disciples for global impact!

The following documents are available in this report:

- 2023 Year End Financial Report
- 2024 Budget as approved by the elder board

On behalf of ECB leadership and the Finance Committee, we thank you for your commitment and faithful giving in 2023.