



# Love for the Unlovely

THE STORY OF GRACE  
IN THE LIFE OF JACOB



HOUSTON  
CHINESE CHURCH  
德士頓中國教會

**Fear Not, I Am With You**

**The Preacher: Henry Ow**

**Sunday, February 9, 2025 | 9:15am - 10:30am**

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## ENGLISH WORSHIP SERVICE

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Welcome & Call to Worship

Worship in Song

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Offertory

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading, *Genesis 26:1-25*

Worship in the Word, Pastor Henry Ow

"Fear Not, I Am With You" - [Sermon Outline](#)

Worship in Song

Benediction & Doxology

### Call to Worship

The call to worship exhorts God's people to turn from worldly distractions and to focus hearts, minds, and actions on revering him..

## UPCOMING SERMON SCHEDULE

Every Sunday at 9:15 AM

### A Stolen Blessing

February 16 | *Genesis 27* | Jason Tarn

### The Gates of Heaven

February 23 | *Genesis 28* | Jason Tarn

### The Idol of Love

March 2 | *Genesis 29:1-35* | Jason Tarn

### No One is Too Far Away

March 9 | *1 Kings 17:17-24* | Henry Ow

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### ONLINE

Sermon notes and video recordings can be found here:

[hcc.tv/sermons](http://hcc.tv/sermons)



## ENGLISH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Sunday School classes at 11:00am -12:15pm. Jesus calls us to be disciples, workers, and leaders. Our teaching ministry aims to produce believers who are committed to the call of Jesus.

**Leaving a Strong Christian Legacy** | Rm 115 (for ages 50+)

**2 Corinthians: A Verse-by-Verse Study Class** | Rm 210

**Old Testament Survey (Part 5 of 6)** | Trailer 411

**Systematic Theology Survey (Part 2 of 3)** | Trailer 412-414



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**Love for the Unlovely: The Story of Grace in the Life of Jacob**

Fear Not, I am With You

*Genesis 26:1-35*

We desire blessing in our lives. We want to be blessed financially. We wish for our bodies to be fit. We hope to do work we enjoy. We long for the approval of others. Many of us have experienced such blessings. But have we ever wondered: why does God bless us? This morning's message will help us know the purpose of God blessing his people, so that we can use our blessings rightly.

1. Requirement for Blessing

2. Types of Blessing

3. Purpose of Blessing

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### **Baptism and Membership Classes** | *Sundays in February* | 11am-12:15pm | *Trailer 416*

Ready to proclaim your faith through baptism or just want to know more? Class **TODAY** is focused on baptism, and classes on Sundays, Feb 16th & 23rd will walk through becoming a member of HCC. To schedule a makeup class: [englishadmin@hcchome.org](mailto:englishadmin@hcchome.org)

### **Mexico Missions Trip Bake Sale** | *Today, Feb 9th* | *After Service*

Sweet treats for a sweet cause! Come right after service to support our bakesale for the YWAM Chico Orphanage in Vicente Guerrero, BC, Mexico. This bake sale will support over 70 orphans ranging from babies to teens! There will be boba tea, breakfast tacos, mango sago, desserts and more!

### **Care Package Distribution** | *Today, Feb 9th* | *After Service* | *Lobby*

Pick up a care package after service on Sunday in the lobby to give to a neighbor in need as you commute this week. Care packages include socks, water, snacks, and other items that may help people asking for assistance at street corners.

### **Central Asia Mission Trip Sharing** | *Today, Feb 9th* | 1:00pm-1:30pm | *Trailer 412-414*

Come hear from our church members about their medical mission trip to Central Asia!

### **Taiwan Mission Trip Info Session** | *Today, Feb 9th* | 1:30pm-2:30pm | *Rm 208*

Interested in joining the HCC Taiwan STM (July 2025)? Attend the information meeting this afternoon. For more info, contact Mr. Frank at [frankt@hcchome.org](mailto:frankt@hcchome.org)

### **Q&A - "Efficient Ways to Give to HCC"** | *Sunday, Feb 16th* | 12:30pm-1:30pm | *412-414*

Almost 24% of our donations and offerings still come in via personal checks and cash. If you're in this group, come learn smarter ways to give your regular tithes and offerings and fulfill your Building Pledges which can also save you taxes and money (see today's bulletin insert). This info session was last held in August, 2023.

### **Legacy Grandparenting Summit** | *Saturday, Feb 22nd* | 9:00am-4:30pm

HCC is hosting a simulcast site with Legacy Grandparenting Summit. Grandparents, come learn how to partner with your children to make an impact on your grandchildren. Register at [hcc.lv/legacy](http://hcc.lv/legacy). For more information, go to [legacycoalition.com](http://legacycoalition.com).

Any question, contact [xianyunwu@yahoo.com](mailto:xianyunwu@yahoo.com)

### **Awaken Houston** | *Wed, Mar 5th - Sun, Apr 20th* | *City-Wide Prayer/Fasting Movement*

Awaken Houston is a city-wide movement of prayer, fasting, and preaching during the Lenten season. It aims to unite Houston Church Planting Network (HCPN) affiliated churches in seeking personal renewal, church revival, and a spiritual awakening across Greater Houston. This year, HCPN is calling 100,000 Houstonians to pray daily, with the bold aim of seeing 1,000 baptisms in April. To be one of the 100,000 committed to daily prayer during the 40 days of Lent, visit [awakenhouston.org](http://awakenhouston.org) and fill out the sign up form. You'll be supplied with daily devotionals and ideas for fasting and praying as a community. On Wed, March 5th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary, we will be hosting a Collaborative Prayer Gathering with regional churches to kick off Awaken Houston.

## CHURCH NOTICES

### **Welcome New Temporary Children's Admin**

Christine Chang, Children's Ministry Admin, will have reduced hours during Youth Minister Stanley Chang's sabbatical. Accordingly, Alyona Chen will be joining the Children's Ministry as temporary Admin Staff from February to April 2025.

### **Kitchen Staff Volunteers Needed** | *Sundays* | 9:00am-10:30am or 10:30am-12:30pm

We are still looking for kitchen volunteers to serve lunch on Sundays! For more info and to sign up, visit: [hcc.lv/kitchen](http://hcc.lv/kitchen). Questions? Contact [jychang48@gmail.com](mailto:jychang48@gmail.com)

# HOUSTON CHINESE CHURCH FACTS & FIGURES

## LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2025

HCC WORSHIP

PEARLAND WORSHIP

306

ENGLISH

88

CANTONESE

202

MANDARIN

60

YOUTH

125

CHILDREN

73

COMBINED

13

CHILDREN

867

TOTAL

HCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

114

ENGLISH

64

CANTONESE

77

MANDARIN

PEARLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL

10

ENGLISH

29

MANDARIN

-

YOUTH

9

CHILDREN



FEBRUARY 2, 2025	OFFERINGS	YTD RECEIVED	YTD (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	
			THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
HCC GENERAL	\$20,517.55	\$173,003.37	(\$143,746.09)	(\$180,913.44)
PCC GENERAL	\$3,483.00	\$14,284.00		
HCC BUILDING	\$31,544.40	\$66,650.04		
ORIGINAL PLEDGE PAYMENTS	\$128,499.40	\$166,439.65		
RENOVATION PLEDGE PAYMENTS	\$10,100.00	\$59,175.54		



### LUNCH PREPARATION

Newcomers can pick up a free lunch coupon & voucher to book stall at the Welcome Desk!

*Aihua* (this week)

*Jeffrey/Patrick & Debbie* (next week)



### STAFF ITINERARY

*Henry Ow*: Vacation, 2/10-15



### PRAYER

Join us as we pray for our long term workers in this month's Global Outreach Spotlight:

[hcc.lv/pray25](http://hcc.lv/pray25)

SCAN HERE FOR HCC PEARLAND GIVING FUND



### ← PPGF GIVING CODES

Your donation will default to the General Fund, unless you use a code to designate a fund (e.g. \$250.25 for a pledge fulfillment).

"27" - Fulfilling your Renovation Pledge

"25" - Fulfilling your Building Project pledge

"22" - Designate to the HCC Building Fund

## ABOUT US

### New or Visiting HCC?

If you are a newcomer or visitor, we would love to connect you with our church community! Take a moment to fill out our Visitor's Welcome form: [hcc.lv/welcome](http://hcc.lv/welcome) OR stop by our welcome desk in the lobby. We will contact you with ways to connect with our community!

### Sign Up for Our Newsletter | [hcc.lv/news](http://hcc.lv/news)

Subscribe to our weekly newsletters with announcements, opportunities, and updates.



## Efficient Ways to Give to HCC

*Note that these tips are meant as General Information and may not be suitable for any particular individual's own financial situation. Please consult your financial advisor and/or do your own research before taking any action.*

*These strategies are not only good for Building Campaign Pledge fulfillments but can also be used effectively for your regular tithes and offerings.*

**1. Appreciated Securities.** If you own stocks, mutual funds, or other securities that have increased in value since you acquired them, donating them directly to the church can be a tax-efficient way to give. You can receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the securities, and you won't owe capital gains tax on the appreciation. **This only applies to long-term capital gains (i.e., if you've held the asset for more than one year).** Contact your brokerage firm or the HCC Treasurer ([treasurer@hcchome.org](mailto:treasurer@hcchome.org)) for more information.

**2. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs).** If you are 70½ or older and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you can directly transfer up to \$108,000 total per year from your IRA to qualified charities, like a church. This donation can count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD) and is excluded from your taxable income. Contact your IRA custodian for more information.

**3. "Bunching" Multiple Years of Charitable Donations Together.** With the standard tax deduction so high now, it can often be difficult to have enough deductions to make it more beneficial to itemize. One strategy is to do "bunching" - combine two (or more) years of your planned charitable contributions into one tax year so that you

will have more deductions than the standard deduction, making it worthwhile to itemize. Then in the other tax years, you take advantage of the high standard deduction when you have fewer charitable contributions and would not be able to itemize.

**4. Establishing or Adding to Your Own Charitable Donor Advised Fund (DAF).** Similar to “Bunching Multiple Years of Charitable Contributions Together” above, you can donate multiple years’ worth of appreciated assets to your own DAF in one tax year, realize the total charitable contribution amount as a tax deduction in that one year if you itemize, not pay the long-term capital gain taxes on the donations, and then take years to issue “grants” from your DAF to the charitable organizations you would have normally supported with your cash or check donations and do so at the same frequency. Contact any of the big-name financial services firms for more information.

**5. PayPal Giving Fund (PPGF).** Donating via PPGF is an easy way for a donor to put their donation on a credit card while the church does not have to pay the typical credit card fees. This allows the donor to earn their credit card rewards while the church gets 100% of the donation. This should only be used if the donor is planning on paying off their credit card bill in full every month and will not carry a balance. Note: Donations to PPGF by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month will be paid to the church by the 25<sup>th</sup> of that month. Refer to HCC’s “Online Giving” webpage for more information.

**6. Employer Matching Funds.** For those fortunate enough to work for a company that still matches its employees’ charitable contributions, note that most employers no longer match employees’ “religious” contributions. However, they typically still provide matching grants for non-religious community-oriented charitable causes (such as the homeless care packages and neighborhood health fairs that HCC does in its Community Service ministry). Contact the HCC Treasurer for more information.

*Join us for an open Q&A session next Sunday, Feb 16th if you have more questions on the information above. Bring your lunch and join us from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Trailer 412/414.*