

HEART OF A PASTOR, FILLED WITH PASSION

PASTOR SUET MAN

Hi everyone, this is Pastor Suet Man. My Chinese name means "Delivering warmth in snow and intelligent, while eager to learn". That is likely my father's wish for me. I am also a mother of three, and together with my husband Kin Kwong, we carry a deep desire for our children to be nurtured and blessed in the grace and truth of the Lord.

I grew up in Hong Kong and started going to church after becoming a believer during my early high school years. I have always wanted to be a teacher since I was young, and I became an art teacher after graduating from University. Unfortunately, in the Hong Kong education system, I can only teach subjects, and not students. That is why I felt responsible for building up the next generation, helping them grow and fulfill the mission and gospel. With that said, I entered seminary studies to equip myself. After completing a year of internship at my mother church in family ministry, I was brought to Zion Alliance Church (Yonge and Finch) by the grace of God to continue serving Him. It has now been 1.5 years.

The most memorable ministry work happened during the Dragon Boat Festival this year. While making glutinous rice dumplings, we realized that it was the first time for many brothers and sisters. This activity was to recall the taste of home, and also experience the feeling that Zion is our home.

In following the directions to make the glutinous rice dumplings, which is quite challenging, we learned that it is similar to working together as a family. It requires patience and love to work, just as love is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4. The secret to making glutinous rice dumplings is not just about practicing to make them perfect, but also about working together with others. We all work together in sharing this responsibility, just as it is written in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burden, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ." When we attend to the needs of others and serve each other, we will be able to experience the joy of working together and the satisfaction of completion.



Finally, the glutinous rice dumplings need to be steamed for 4-5 hours. The longer it is steamed, the more fragrant the bamboo leaf becomes. As we grow up in the church, everyone would agree that the genuine time spent with brothers and sisters is most cherished. When the steamy hot glutinous rice dumplings were ready for sharing, their imperfect shapes and sizes made them taste extra good because we made them with love. I am reminded that this is what it means to live as the body of Christ, "It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1st Cor 13: 7-8) We all have different personalities, habits, preferences and gifts. Some of us serve, some of us pray, and some of us care for others. Only by loving each other and serving together can we be the fragrance of God's love.

Traditionally, if a family's rice container is full, then it's a good fortune for the family. We are all a family in the church, and let the rice we make be rice dumplings full of passion, a testament of God's love. May "Zion as my home" bring you a sense of warmth and joy!