



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BANGKOK



REFLECTING ON 2022

Pastor René Dekker - Lead Pastor

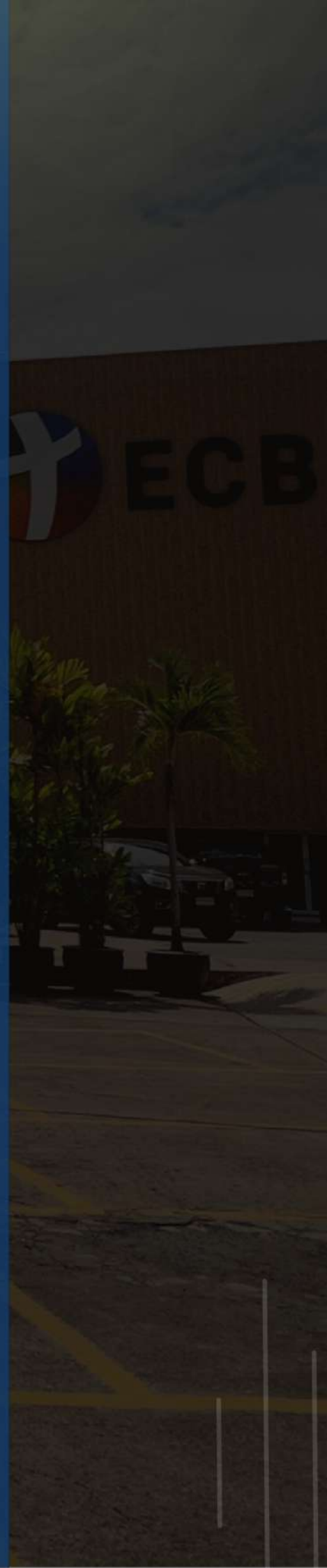
It is that (rewarding) time of the year again: reflecting on what has been and looking ahead to what will be. And as I am doing both at the same time, thanksgiving and expectation go hand in hand.

My thanksgiving comes from reflecting on how God has continued to build and grow ECB in 2022. We have welcomed many new people from all over the world into our faith community, lives have been saved and transformed by Jesus, relationships and community have been solidified (not in the least because of our first ever church retreat), Soul Care has been launched as a new spiritual formation ministry and, for the first time since 2019, we were able to gather weekly without being interrupted by lockdowns. And these are just some of the things that the Lord has done at ECB... He has given us many reasons to be thankful, so, as you are reading this, would you take a moment to praise God for all that He has done at ECB in 2022?

My expectation comes from what is waiting for us in this new year. Without knowing the precise details of where the Lord will be leading us to in 2023 (and it's good to keep it that way as He is the One in charge), we do know that we will continue to pursue our mission to make disciples for global impact with unwavering vigor. This is the mission Jesus has given us (Matthew 28:19), so that is what we consider our priority as His church. The vision we have for discipleship at ECB, whether it happens in our Sunday worship services, in LIFE groups or discipleship classes, in our children's and students' ministry or in a one-on-one setting, is that it emphasizes the centrality of Jesus in all of life, so that each of us will be equipped as disciple-maker no matter where the Lord has placed us.

What will change in 2023 is the composition of our pastoral team. At the end of May, Pastor Steve and Liz will move back home to Kenya to enjoy a well-deserved quieter life (although that is still to be seen when you hear the plans they have). I know I speak for many of us when I say that Steve and Liz will be dearly missed, as partners in ministry, spiritual "dad and mom" and as friends!

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Pastor Phil Holcomb to the ECB family as our new Community Life Pastor. Phil, Rea and their 3 daughters (Maiya, Carina and Ahnna) previously lived in Ecuador, where Phil ministered as Community Life Pastor in an International Church. After a short break in the US, they have accepted the Lord's call to join ECB's ministry. As the visa process is nearly finalized, we expect to welcome the Holcombs in Bangkok by the end of February.



REFLECTING ON 2022

Pastor René Dekker - Lead Pastor

Friends, at the start of this new year I want to express my gratitude to all of you: the ECB community, the pastoral team, the elders and deacons, the ministry heads, the office staff and facility staff and the hundreds of volunteers that drive the ministries which God calls us to carry out. It is a privilege and a joy to serve you as lead pastor and to partner with each of you to reflect Jesus in all of life. May many more come to know our King Jesus through our testimony and ministry!

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).

Let it be so, Lord!

In Christ,
Pastor René Dekker



LEADERSHIP TEAM

2022 DEACONS

Siree Chanyaputhipong
John Divakar
Rosel Fetalco
Janice Johnson
Fongchan Suksaneh

2022 ELDERS

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

2022 PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor René Dekker
Pastor Pablo Morales
Pastor Kevin Moua
Pastor Steve Odera

2022 MINISTRY HEADS

Siree Chanyaputhipong
Gonneke Dekker
Faheem Ebrahim
Janice Johnson
Jill Moua
Liz Odera
Aimee Smith
Candy Tsang
Zach Wylie



ELDER BOARD

From the Elder Board's perspective, this year has been one of figuring out ECB's identity in a post-Covid world with a new pastoral team. We have been overjoyed to see people return to ECB in person and to experience the heartfelt corporate worship that occurs during Sunday morning services and throughout the week in LIFE Groups. God is continuing to bless our church as we align our hearts and minds with Him and seek to make disciples for global impact.

There were two changes to the Elder Board in 2022. Manny Low joined the board and Joseph Kuruvila departed due to a work relocation. At the beginning of 2022, our members are René Dekker, William Goh, Ray Granaderos, Edwin Hawson, Decha Kositthanakorn, Jonathan Lembright, Manny Low, SH Lim, Paul Muri, Travis Smith, and Howard Tsang. If you don't know who we are, you can look up our pictures on the ECB website and then come introduce yourself on a Sunday morning. It would be great to get to know you. You can also write to us at elders@ecb.asia with any questions that you have.

Please continue to pray for the ECB Elder Board members to serve in a way that honors God and reflects a deep love for Jesus' church. It is both our responsibility and privilege to do so.

In Christ,
Travis Smith
ECB Elder Board Chairman

COMMUNITY AT ECB

The Community Life Ministry as its name suggests, covers a fairly wide area of ministry needs. Falling under the ECB fellowship ministries are: CrossTown Children's Ministry, EXCHANGE Students' Ministry, Young Professionals Ministry, Oasis Women's Ministry, Adelphoi Men's Ministry and LIFE Groups.



During the past year, through discipling and outreach, each one of these ministries offered opportunities for ECB members to be nurtured and unleashed for good works.

THE FIRST EVER CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT AT ECB



There is no doubt though, that the church event that mostly greatly marked the year in 2022, because of its reach and general impact, was the church family retreat held in October. This was the very first time in ECB's history that as many congregants as could go (500 in all), went on a weekend away of great fellowship, fun and worship. It was encouraging to see the church as one body, displaying a great community spirit in all the activities that took place at the beautiful golf and spa resort in Nakhon Nayok.





INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Two other major church community-based activities stood out in 2022.

The first was the International Food Festival held at the start of the advent season and which was attended by more than one thousand people.

This event offered ECB members an opportunity to bring pre-Christian friends to hear about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and to fellowship afterwards over some delicious foods from different parts of the world.



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

The second event which closed the calendar of events in 2022 was the immensely popular Christmas Brunch. The Brunch was really an opportunity for those without family in Bangkok to celebrate Christmas with others in a family atmosphere. It was attended by just under one hundred people who enjoyed the Christmas carol worship time, gift exchange, games, fellowship and splendid food.



CAMPUS RENOVATION

We praise God for the new renovations on the ECB campus. Throughout 2022, different ministries have been able to use the new canopy area for events and outreach purposes. Our prayer is that this area will be used by God for fellowship, outreach, and blessing our neighbors and the city of Bangkok. May the ECB campus be a place where people are welcomed, loved and encounter the Lord Jesus.



WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Visual Arts Ministry

A small team was formed to lead our visual arts ministry. During the Advent season a successful art exhibition was held. Many people were encouraged to participate, and many were touched by the meaningful artwork that turned our eyes to the Lord.

Mini-Retreat

In May the Worship Arts Ministry held a mini-retreat on campus. This was an encouraging time of fellowship, training and seeking the Lord together. Post-Covid, our team felt quite disconnected, so this year has been a time of reconnecting and getting back into in-person church routines and worship leading.

Worship Arts Team

Our team is growing quickly. It has been a joy to interview and meet new people that the Lord has led to ECB. These interviews have lead to interactions to encourage people who are struggling with various things. These required "interviews" for Worship Team have sometimes turned into discipleship opportunities for people who probably did not expect it, but realize the need for it and long for Christian community.



KOINONIA WELCOME MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Team

Koinonia, like other ministries had suffered a drop in numbers during the COVID pandemic in 2021 and 2022. As things lifted and got better, members returned to serving and we have had over 15 new members during the last year. We are now a team of 53 serving God at ECB. Some members serve in more than one ministry and yet they still remain dedicated to serving on Koinonia.

Highlight

The biggest highlight from 2022 is seeing new people attending ECB each Sunday. Each Sunday is like a taste of heaven, welcoming current members as well as new members.



CARE VISITATION MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



The Care Team exists to show love and care to our church members. Our prayer is that by being His hands and feet, we will glorify God.

In keeping with this mission, the Care Team visited and encouraged a number of people including the elderly. In November, we spent time with Aunty Rose, a lady who has lived alone for a number of years and who has been a faithful member of our congregation. We extended love to her in different ways such as replacing her mosquito nets and helping her with health-related issues. We will continue to minister to her as and when the need arises.



In December, the Care Team visited Hannah, a lady who was serving in the Prayer Team and who was active in her LIFE Group. Hannah had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and appreciated the support she received from the Care Team for her immediate needs and visits to the hospital. Sadly, Hannah passed on that month but is now with the Lord where there is no more pain and no more tears.

Another church member the Care Team extended the love of Jesus to was Uncle John. Uncle John passed away in December after a few rounds of treatment, going in and out of the hospital. The Care Team had been visiting John and supporting his wife and son with constant messages and prayers while he was in the hospital. A Care Team member was able to minister to John's wife and son during these difficult times. Praise God this Care Team member continues to be a devoted friend to Uncle John's family even now after he left us.

PRAYER MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Here at ECB we desire everything that we do to be fueled by prayer. Whether that is on Sunday mornings before, during and after the worship service, at home during our quiet time, or at our desk at work. May these experiences from prayer team members encourage you!

"My highlight from 2022 is the prayer retreat. I am grateful that this was organized. The hesitation to join turned into great joy afterward. Even though there were many takeaways from lectures, the people I encountered through the retreat are the most impactful to me."

"Many times I describe my intercessory prayer in front of the sanctuary as "inspired"—meaning I "receive" those prayers right before I take my position in front of the sanctuary. Whether it is before I enter the sanctuary through the backdoor or while I am worshiping with the congregation during the last song, I am sometimes "led" to pray in one way or another, and that turns out to be the prayer request of those who come up for intercession."

"I am so blessed to be part of the prayer time and be able to pray for the congregation during the Sunday services. God humbled my heart to pray for His people and connect them through worship and sermons. I sensed the prompting of the Holy Spirit while we prayed for His people. Many times, I had my lists or my agenda of what to pray for but when the Holy Spirit moved, I needed to surrender my agenda and pray according to God's will."

CROSTOWN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

People

It is our commitment to nurture the children in community and to transform them through discipleship. To do so we need a lot of volunteers in different capacities, and we must partner with parents. In 2022, an average of 140 children per week attended CrossTown, we checked in new families weekly and we welcomed around 30 new volunteers to our ministry. The numbers are not important, but we see that God provides enough volunteers when more children and families attend!

Lightbringers

After the summer of 2022, we started the Freedom in Christ course called 'The Lightbringers' with the children in Grade 1 to Grade 5. During this 10-week training, the children learned their true identity and to live in freedom through their faith in Jesus Christ. We have received testimonies of children who are renouncing the lies of the enemy with Bible verses and rejoice with them!



Family Christmas Event

The event was focused on the birth of Jesus and on outreach. Many families brought their pre-Christian friends to this event where they heard, saw and experienced the birth of Jesus. Parents have expressed their gratitude for this event and the opportunity to share the gospel with friends during and after the Christmas season.

EXCHANGE STUDENT MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

In Numbers

We praise God that He has multiplied our numbers coming out of Covid and the online season. On Saturdays and Sundays the number of students attending and being fed from the Word of God has almost doubled compared to our pre-Covid numbers! He has also provided leaders to help shepherd these students to a deeper relationship with Jesus.



Spiritually

Over the past year we have been seeing students give their hearts to Jesus as well as students finding the courage to stand up and give their testimonies. Some of the students who have given their hearts to Jesus for the first time, did so because of the testimony they heard from some of their fellow students. We praise God for the way He is drawing students to Himself.



In the ECB Body

2022 was a year where we saw many students making the decision to be baptized. There were 8 students baptized during 2022. It is exciting to see students make the decision to publicly show that they have decided to follow Jesus! We praise God for the way He worked in their hearts to get them to a point where they were ready to take the next step!

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

YP GO – Blood Donation

As a group we have completed 5 consistent blood donations, every three months. Cumulatively, more than 20 people have donated and this has provided a unique platform for those who know Jesus and those who are yet to know him, to join in being salt and light in our community. We want to be a community that serves beyond our walls – we're doing it!

YP GATHER – BBQ's and Games Night

To see the "summer" months through, we hosted poolside gatherings with games, fellowship, prayer and fun. Cumulatively, we saw 22 first-time YP's and over 40 "regulars". In September we hosted our first games night and filled the tables with 14 first time guests and over 30 people. Beyond the delicious ice-cream, seeing YP's join LIFE groups with each other, ministry teams and become friends beyond a single gathering makes us happy. We want to be a community that practices community beyond our gatherings – we're doing it!



YP GATHER – BBQ's and Games Night

On the back of Valentine's day, Pastor Pablo was our guest speaker at our first in-person gathering event of 2022. Over 35 guests attended, 25 responded to the evaluation, 6 noted being "interested in further discussion regarding knowing Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and one was a first time guest to ECB that day. We want to be a community that grows together in our applying biblical truths to our everyday lives that shapes the way we interact with God, self, and others – we're doing it!



OASIS WOMEN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Looking Back

2022 was a year of mixed online gatherings and face to face meetings. It was amazing to see how the online season brought Oasis members from years gone by, who were back home or relocated to other countries like UK, Singapore, Malaysia, Uganda, Rwanda and even those in the US, all joining despite the time difference. Praise God for technology!

New Beginnings

In December a celebration was held to thank the outgoing Oasis leadership and to welcomed the vision of a revamped Women's Ministry that would be accessible to all women whether their workplace is in the home or in the marketplace. How exciting to see what 2023 will hold! We pray that many will join the ministry to make it a reality as we activate the gifts God has placed in the women of ECB.



ADELPHOI MEN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Looking back

In 2022 Adelphoi was able to clearly establish our identity as a ministry. Over 100 men have been able to stay connected via Line to encourage one another to keep Jesus at the center. In addition to keeping Jesus at the center, men of ECB have been able to have safe, fun and relational fellowship and discipleship gatherings to seek His Kingdom first.

Fellowship

2022 was full of food and fellowship. Where there was food, there were men. We had fellowship events such as the Adelphoi Christmas Dinner, Espresso Coffee Mornings, Zoom Prayer Power Hour, and Guys Kebab night. We praise God that men were fed both physically and spiritually at all of the fellowship gatherings.



LIFE GROUPS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

LIFE Groups are the ideal place for growing spiritually, being refreshed and establishing strong and lasting friendships – taking hold of the life that is truly life (1 Timothy 6:19). Here are three of the many experiences when asked, “How have you been blessed in your LIFE Group?”

“I love meeting together in person with other members. I look forward to our weekly meeting. Each week, I expect God to do something and He does. It is just like opening a Christmas present but weekly instead of yearly, and this present never disappoints! Besides that, the fellowship, worship and discussion of the Word can be fun. We learned forgiveness, love and care through this group.”



“Through the sharing, listening to others: different viewpoints, life experiences and prayers. We have a group of prayer warriors who rise up to pray when prayers are requested in the group. In times of weakness/problems-difficulties in life it was encouraging and strengthening to have LG and brothers and sisters who stand in the gap to pray for one another.”

“Each week we discuss what we have learned from the sermon. The sharing has depth and is very personal. I am glad that everyone is willing to open up and share without reservation. This makes our discussion more honest and enjoyable. We learn more from one another, and have a deeper relationship with one another each week. I’m so blessed to be in this LG.”

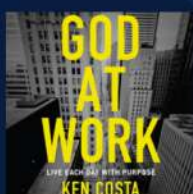
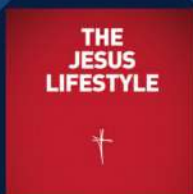
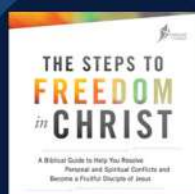
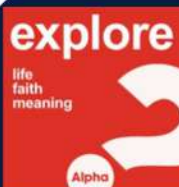
DISCIPLESHIP AT ECB

The year 2022 was another exciting year as many people at ECB (and beyond in the case of online classes) sought to experience Jesus in all of life with the help of the discipleship classes offered. These courses - designed to transform the heart and nurture the mind – helped participants foster a deeper intimacy with God and gave them a strong foundation rooted in the Word of God.



DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES IN 2022

In 2022 we offered 11 different discipleship classes. There were 370 people who participated in discipleship classes, both online and on campus.





PREACHING MINISTRY

Transformational preaching is all about creating a space where people can encounter God through the proclamation of His word. In 2022, hundreds of people had meaningful encounters with God through the preaching ministry and LIFE Group study guides. We have been deeply encouraged by the many emails and responses from people who have been impacted by His word—either while attending ECB in person or watching the studies online. We began the year reflecting on the book of Psalms and were inspired by the life of Daniel in “Servants of the Living God.” We encountered Jesus as “Redeemer” and discovered the challenges the apostles had to overcome in “Beyond.” We learned important lessons from the lives of the Apostles as we walked “In their Footsteps” and were challenged to unleash our God-given potential in “Unhindered.” As we reached the end of the year, we concluded celebrating the birth of our Savior in “All I want for Christmas.” We are humbled by the realization that from beginning to end, 2022 was a season of a preaching empowered by the Holy Spirit. In addition, Pastor Pablo also began training the pastoral team on the principles and best practices of transformational preaching, offering one-on-one mentorship throughout the year. As we continue to make disciples for global impact, we pray that each sermon is a space where people will continue to encounter God. We hope that as we bring Jesus into every part of our lives, our hearts will be transformed, our souls will be restored, and our lives will be empowered for greater Kingdom impact.



COUNSELING MINISTRY

The year 2022 was a year of encountering God and finding inner healing for our ECB family. Over 40 people had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Pastor Pablo to seek counsel and pursue the God who heals the brokenhearted. God spoke to us in personal ways, bringing light into complex situations. He helped us find breakthroughs by the power of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of His Word. As a result of this first year, God has confirmed that an intricate component of making disciples is providing one-on-one accompaniment to those who are hurting. Thus, we also began some innovation sessions to discern how to improve our counseling ministry at ECB. For this new year we desire to establish a holistic counseling system designed to empower people to exit their labyrinth of pain, experience inner healing and live in Christ for Kingdom impact. We trust that God will provide us all the resources needed for this task as we continue to shepherd the sheep and bring Jesus into all the broken areas of our lives.

OUTREACH AT ECB

In 2022 Outreach at ECB began to ramp up again. Post-Covid and with the easing of restrictions in Thailand, our outreach partners were able to provide opportunities to bless the people and city of Bangkok. Some of the ways were through prayer walks, loving and feeding our street involved neighbors (homeless) and giving away Christmas bags during the Advent season.

#loveBangkok

Love Bangkok food distribution continued in 2022. Even with Thailand opening up borders and easing up on restrictions, there were still many without jobs and unable to provide for themselves and their family. About 8,000 food bags were given out over 8 months, in 25 districts in and around Bangkok.



7,888
bags



BANGKOK
& BEYOND

25
districts

CHRISTMAS BAGS

Our goal in 2022 was to give away 2,300 bags in partnership with our Outreach Partners in Bangkok and throughout Thailand. Praise the Lord we were able to raise over 345,000 Baht and were able to join some of our Outreach Partners in handing out the bags.

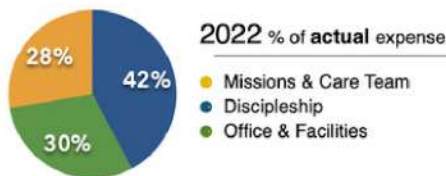


FINANCE

2022 Budget vs. Actual

(In millions of Thai baht)

| Income | Budget | Actual |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Gifts & Donations | 41.87 | 42.21 |
| Total Income | 41.87 | 42.21 |
| Expenses | | |
| ● Missions | 9.50 | 10.37 |
| ● Care Team | 1.25 | 0.67 |
| ● Pastoral Ministry | 11.38 | 10.94 |
| ● Church Ministries | 6.17 | 5.92 |
| ● Office Expense | 0.64 | 0.66 |
| ● Personnel | 7.71 | 7.42 |
| ● Transportation | 0.52 | 0.55 |
| ● Capital Expenditure | 1.37 | 1.18 |
| ● Facilities Maintenance | 3.33 | 2.23 |
| Total Expenses | 41.87 | 39.94 |
| (Deficit)/Net Income | — | 2.27 |



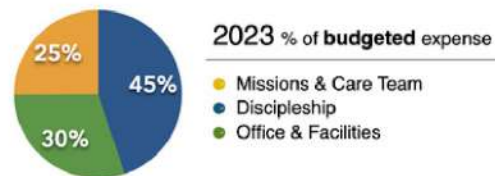
Notes on 2022:

- Actual Gifts & Donations for 2022 were above budget by 0.8%, and actual Expenses were below budget by 4.6%.
- Actual Gifts & Donations (42.21) includes a net gain of 0.41 on dollars in the US account.
- 2022 actual Missions & Care Team (11.04) was 28% of actual expenses (39.94).

2023 Budget vs. 2022 Budget

(In millions of Thai baht)

| Income | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Gifts & Donations | 41.87 | 44.83 |
| Total Income | 41.87 | 44.83 |
| Expenses | | |
| ● Missions | 9.50 | 10.25 |
| ● Care Team | 1.25 | 1.00 |
| ● Pastoral Ministry | 11.38 | 13.99 |
| ● Church Ministries | 6.17 | 6.12 |
| ● Office Expense | 0.64 | 0.92 |
| ● Personnel | 7.71 | 9.32 |
| ● Transportation | 0.52 | 0.56 |
| ● Capital Expenditure | 1.37 | 1.03 |
| ● Facilities Maintenance | 3.33 | 1.64 |
| Total Expenses | 41.87 | 44.83 |
| (Deficit)/Net Income | — | — |



Notes on 2023:

- Projected Gifts & Donations for 2023 (44.83) is about 5% below the pre-covid 2019 budget (47.09).
- 2023 Missions & Care Team (11.25) is 25% of projected Gifts & Donations (44.83).
- 2023 Pastoral budget is 2.61 higher due to pastoral transition expenses.
- 2023 Personnel budget is 1.61 higher due to anticipated addition of non-pastoral ministry staff.

In 2022, the Finance Committee comprised of Jeff Boehm (Treasurer), SH Lim (Elder) René Dekker (Lead Pastor), and William Goh (Elder, who served for most of the year). 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 more active than in the previous two years as Covid restrictions ended. Gifts & Donations were above budget by 0.8%, and total expenditures were 4.6% under budget, resulting in a net surplus of 2.27 million baht.

Our Missions & Care Team spending was 26% of budgeted Gifts & Donations in 2022, or 28% of actual expenses, which was above our goal of 25%. In 2023 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 of Jesus!

The following documents are also available in this report:

- 2022 Year End Financial Report
- 2023 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 2022.