

## **SMBC 2017-19: following the call of the gospel on our lives**

*William, Cheryl, Eden, Harmony, Rowan Chong*



Dear friend,

Thank you for taking the time and considering how you might partner with us in the next phase of our lives.

Please read on to learn more about:

- Who we are and how God saved us in Christ
- Our sending church (Howick Baptist Church, New Zealand)
- The opportunity for William to pursue seminary training at Sydney Missionary Bible College (SMBC), and what it will involve
- Details on how you can partner with us

If this sounds like the kind of ministry work that you believe in supporting, we invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with us financially.

With Christ as our sure hope,



William & Cheryl Chong

## About us



**William** was born in Kuching, Malaysia to parents of Malaysian-Chinese and Taiwanese origin. He moved to New Zealand at the age of 9, and was introduced to Christianity as a 17 year old when someone took the time to sit down with him and explain the gospel message. He confessed his sin and placed his trust in Jesus for full forgiveness.

William graduated in 2008 from the University of Auckland with two degrees and no sense, and set off on a learn-as-you-go career, posing variously as medical copywriter, content marketer and web developer.

**Cheryl** was born in Melbourne, Australia to parents of Hong Kong origin, but was raised in Auckland, New Zealand. She grew up in a Christian home, but did not trust in Jesus as her only Saviour and hope until a time of significant trial showed her that her attitude of self-reliance was a sin before God, fully paid for by the blood of Jesus.

After receiving her BA in psychology at the University of Auckland, Cheryl completed a postgraduate diploma in speech science and a diploma in web development at Natcoll Design School. In 2012, Cheryl was promoted to a full-time role as mum and discipler of our children.

**Eden** was born in May 2012, and is a beautiful bundle of joy. She enjoys reading books, collecting interesting plants, and riding on her balance bike.

**Harmony** was born in January 2014. She loves building lego masterpieces, looking for mushrooms, and riding in the bicycle trailer.

**Rowan** was born in April 2016. He usually finds it hilarious when you squeeze his face.

## About Howick Baptist Church (our sending church)



- [Howick Baptist Church](#) (in Auckland, New Zealand) is a multi-cultural, multi-generational church striving together for the gospel, passionate about Jesus and making Him known in our community
- HBC's Christ-centred mission is to **gather together for Him, grow towards maturity in Him, and go out into the world with Him**, bearing His name and carrying His message of repentance and faith.
- William and Cheryl were members of HBC from 2008

We were involved at HBC in the following ways:

- Attending church services and other meetings
- Reading the bible 1-to-1 with members of our young adults group
- Opening our home for meals with our church family

In addition, William served in the following ways at HBC:

- Leading gathered worship
- Leading bible studies for Christians and non-Christians
- Taking part in outreach events and evangelism opportunities
- Serving as a deacon
- Serving on the preaching roster
- Serving on the STAND Conference organising committee
- Accompanying pastoral visits
- Helping the elders and staff with administration tasks
- Managing the HBC website and social media pages



William spends the remainder of his time:

- As a full-time student at SMBC
- As a husband to Cheryl, and father to Eden, Harmony and Rowan
- As a member of Petersham Baptist Church, Sydney
- Serving on the Equip Conference (NZ) organising committee

## About the opportunity before us



### About SMBC:

- An independent, evangelical, interdenominational Bible college in Sydney, Australia
- Rev. Benson Barnett (Founder, 1916): *“Not only are we a Bible College, but we are a Missionary College ... we are taught by Christ, that we are to pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest field.”*
- Study at SMBC provides a deep and systematic understanding of the Bible, its theology and its application to all aspects of life.
- A number of Kiwis currently study, or plan to study at SMBC
- More info: <https://www.smbc.com.au/about/about-smbc>



### Why Bible College?

- **We enjoy sharing God’s Word and loving God’s people**, and would like to do these things more effectively for the rest of our lives
- **Our church leaders and others we trust have encouraged us** to step out in faith and be properly equipped for a lifetime of Word ministry.
- While seminary cannot replace practical ministry experience in a local church, a good seminary provides a **dedicated environment to learn skills and foundations for a lifetime of Word ministry** that most local churches aren’t in a place to provide.
- **There is a need for more gospel workers** trained to serve in the mission field of New Zealand – one of the most secular English-speaking countries. We believe that the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few (Luke 10:2, Matthew 9:8).

### The plan (Lord willing):

- 2017-19: Chongs at SMBC
- 2019: The Chongs return to serve in New Zealand

## Letter of recommendation

*To whom it may concern,*

*It is with great pleasure that the Elders of Howick Baptist Church recommend to you William and Cheryl Chong.*

*William and Cheryl have been members of Howick Baptist for 7 years, during which time has served diligently in the church. As a result of this, we have been able to observe William and Cheryl and their suitability for ministry.*

*William has led bible studies, overseen and led worship as well as preached. He has met with individuals on one-to-one discipleship. He has also worked part time for the church helping with administration, visitation and preaching.*

*During this time we have observed:*

- That William is a gifted communicator and teacher. He has led the worship team well, setting a high standard for others to follow, communicating clearly the direction he wants worship to go. His ability to open the Scriptures and explain them clearly reveals to us that God has blessed him with a gift in teaching.*
- Another area in William's life that has stood out is his passion for the gospel and his single-mindedness for the things of the Lord. William is passionate in doing what the Lord wants and so is wholehearted in his willingness to serve.*
- William also shows a love for the church and has a great desire to see the church grow. As a result of this, William gives of his time, his talents, his gifts and his abilities in order to see God's church grow. He is a faithful servant to God's people.*
- William is a faithful husband and father to Cheryl and their two children, Eden and Harmony. Both Cheryl and William are very hospitable, opening their home up for meals etc.*
- Lastly and most importantly, William and Cheryl both have a great love for the Lord which is revealed in the way they conduct their lives. Their passion for the Word, their desire to tell others about Him and their desire to encourage others in the faith is an example to many.*

*For this reason, we believe the Lord is calling them into full time pastoral ministry and we have no hesitation in recommending William and Cheryl to you.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*The Elders of Howick Baptist*

## How you can partner with us

Thank you for reading this far!

Our hope is that you might join our team of financial supporters so William can complete seminary training at SMBC from 2017–2019. To cover course fees and living expenses, we are trusting the Lord to provide for \$65,000 NZD each year (+/- 5% due to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations)

After taking into account our existing savings and support from our home church, this breaks down to 25 people giving \$100 a month, or 50 people giving \$50 a month each.

Your gifts will only be used to cover study costs for William, and accommodation and other living costs for the Chong family during their time at SMBC. For example:

- \$50 / month, over 3 years, covers the fees for one course in William's MDiv programme.
- \$100 / month, over 3 years, covers the fees for all courses in one of the Biblical languages (Greek/Hebrew) in William's MDiv programme.
- \$800 covers the cost of our family's food for a month.
- \$2500 covers the cost of residential accommodation for a month.
- \$2700 covers the fees for one year in SMBC's Certificate of Bible and Ministry subjects, including preaching, evangelism, and college mission projects.

## My response

Yes, William and Cheryl, I'd like to make a donation to help you reach your goal of \$2,500 NZD per month to support gospel ministry in New Zealand.

I will pledge a **monthly amount of:** \$ 50 / 100 / \_\_\_\_\_

Starting from \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / 20\_\_

Or a **one-off donation of \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## How to give

*Please note: Your donations will not be tax-deductible because we are not an official charity. Rather, they will be considered a gift from you to us.*

### 1. Online Banking – New Zealand

Please set up a recurring or one-off electronic transfer to the following account:

Account Number: **12-3056-0001874-01** (ASB Bank)

SWIFT Code/Bank ID: **ASBBNZ2A167** (ASB Bank New Zealand)

Please include your name in the reference so we can thank you and pray for you.

### 2. Online Banking - Australia

Please set up a recurring or one-off electronic transfer to the following account:

Swift Bic/Bank ID: **NATAAU3303M** (NAB Australia)

BSB (Sort Code): **082604**

Account Number: **246472331**

Account Name: **William Chong**

If using BPay: Make payment via internet or phone banking using the following Reference Number:

Biller Code: **164319**

Ref: **000345728**

### 3. Credit or Debit Card

You can use this fundraising page -

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/chongs2smbc>. Note that the site takes a 5% fee.

### 4. Bank Cheque

Please post cheques to our sending church:

William & Cheryl Chong  
c/o Howick Baptist Church  
PO Box 38110  
Howick, Auckland 2145  
New Zealand

The cheque should be paid to **William & Cheryl Chong**. Please include your name on the back so we can thank you and pray for you.

*Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." – Matthew 9:37-38*