



### *Greetings to all brothers and sisters in the Lord:*

LOOKING BACK on 2025, it has truly been a difficult year. Among our beloved co-workers, some have experienced the loss of family members, some have suffered severe strokes, and others have had to step back from ministry due to burnout. Some fellowship members were hospitalised for major surgeries, and others passed away. Amid all this, our co-workers have been stretched to their limits, and the RMI ministry once had to slow down.

On 25 December, our Christmas worship service and RMI brought together the summary of our ministry in 2025. Members from the Mandarin group and Cantonese group, along with old and new friends—nearly 100 people in total—gathered joyfully. We are grateful to Central Baptist Church for generously lending us their venue.

As we emerge from the shadows of 2025, we move into 2026 with hope and new challenges. The first encouragement comes from our outreach worker, who, after nearly six months of rest, returned to duty in January, eager and ready to resume ministry. The second encouragement is seeing the deep hunger among RMI brothers and sisters for the Word of God.

While attendance at worship services has temporarily plateaued—about 60 people across the Cantonese and Mandarin services—more than 80% attend Bible study groups. Many workers in the restaurant industry face limitations in learning and comprehension, yet they are eager to ask questions and actively participate in small-group discussions. For many believers, attending Bible study requires extra self-discipline and effort; however, this is not the case for our brothers and sisters. They regard learning God's Word as a joy, even as a way of "recharging" their lives.

Two weeks ago, a brother working as a restaurant waiter was hospitalised due to illness. His condition was quite serious, and he remains in hospital. Even while confined to his hospital bed, he asked the pastor if he could join the Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:30pm online. Such dedication to learning is supported by teachers who pour their hearts into adapting their teaching to meet the needs of

the brothers and sisters. Our pastoral team places great emphasis on ensuring that God's Word is clearly understood and applied—not merely as biblical knowledge, but as life formation. This requires living out the truth, allowing life to influence life.

Thanks be to the Lord! The teachers' efforts have not been in vain. Several brothers and sisters have experienced profound, life-transforming change.

Regarding Australia's restaurant industry, we anticipated long ago that Cantonese-style restaurants would gradually decline. A glance into many kitchens reveals chefs often in their sixties or seventies, and those attending the Cantonese RMI gatherings are likewise ageing. Even so, opportunities for leading people to Christ have increased accordingly. This is because more workers in the Cantonese catering sector are semi-retired; those who once claimed they had "no time" to attend gatherings now have fewer excuses. The key question is whether we have sufficient manpower to reach out and follow up.

From a long-term perspective, however, the focus of the RMI ministry will shift increasingly toward Mandarin ministry. Workers in this industry who speak Mandarin tend to be younger, and those attending RMI Mandarin gatherings are likewise relatively young. This year, we hope to allocate more human resources to advance Mandarin ministry. Where necessary, we will reassign or recruit co-workers to serve in the Mandarin group. This is our current plan, though we recognise there will be many challenges in coordination and adaptation. We therefore wait upon the Lord to choose the right people and ask everyone to uphold this in prayer.

In March this year, we will be holding our short-term mission earlier than usual, as a local church has agreed to partner with us in reaching out to nearby eateries. This mission trip is short in distance and duration—four days in Maitland, approximately 170 kilometres north of Sydney. Seven participants have already registered. We earnestly ask for your prayers that restaurant workers in this area will come to faith.

After taking a brief pause, we set out once again on our journey into 2026. We will first strengthen the spiritual foundations of our brothers and sisters, then press forward with gospel outreach. A "journey" inevitably comes with resistance, but we hope that you will stand shoulder to shoulder with us and become our prayer warriors. May this be our heartfelt prayer!

Yours in Christ,  
**David Ko**

## Restaurant Mission Incorporated

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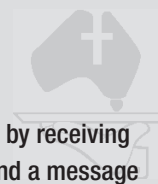
Opening hours: Monday to Friday (exclude public holidays)  
10:30am - 4:00pm (12 to 1pm Lunch break)

Worship Service: Cantonese - Tuesday 5:30pm - 6:30 pm  
(Dinner and Bible study groups after Service)  
Mandarin - Tuesday 7:30pm - 8:30pm  
(Bible study group 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm)

Website: [www.restaurantmission.org.au](http://www.restaurantmission.org.au)

### PRAYER POINT

1. Pray for the development of the Mandarin restaurant ministry and for sufficient manpower. Ask the Lord to raise up and call servants to participate in this ministry.
2. Pray for the Maitland short-term mission in March. Ask the Lord to prepare the hearts of the participants and to prepare people in the area to receive the gospel.
3. Pray for the spiritual growth of fellowship members. Ask the Spirit of the Lord to daily move each person to read Scripture, pray faithfully, and boldly testify for Christ before family members, friends, and colleagues.



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