

# emmanuel church

Burbank, California

Introducing

BRIAN S. CHAN



The Recommended

Senior Pastor Candidate

from the Emmanuel Church

Board of Elders

# FROM THE ELDERS

Dear Emmanuel Church,

With great excitement, and with full confidence in the grace of our Sovereign Lord, the elders unanimously and enthusiastically present Dr. Brian Chan as the candidate to be our next Senior Pastor.

We have many reasons for believing God has called Brian Chan to be the next Senior Pastor for Emmanuel Church, which are emphasized in the rest of this profile.

First, in the midst of a changing world, he is fully committed to the fundamental principles of our evangelical faith.

Brian trained at some of the leading theological seminaries in our country. He earned two master's degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Talbot School of Theology. For thirteen years he has served as an adjunct professor at Biola University.

Brian's strongest ministry passion is preaching and teaching the Bible — and he is an excellent communicator of God's Word. He has been invited to speak all over the country because he preaches with accuracy, clarity, and relevance to audiences of all ages and in all stages of life.

Brian is a creative, visionary leader. He seeks the Lord and grounds every ministry vision in clear, biblical principles. He has the interpersonal and administrative skills to gather others to help accomplish his vision. When facilitating groups, he is inclusive and attentive, but ultimately is decisive and moves people forward toward the common vision. Brian has a compelling and relevant vision for Emmanuel Church, that will inspire and motivate our congregation.

Brian has a unique understanding of, and experience with, younger generations and the creative and artistic community. He has a clear understanding of how to engage them in meaningful ways for the sake of the gospel — both Christians and non-Christians. At the same time, he also understands, respects, and values our church's history and tradition as solid foundations for our future.

Brian knows and loves Burbank. He and his family have lived and ministered in Burbank for several years, and he has a wide network of relationships in both church and unchurched communities here, including the entertainment industry. He is a networker who uses his contacts to bring diverse groups of people together to accomplish creative and effective ministries. People of all ages and backgrounds respond well to Brian, because he is personable, compassionate, creative, and patient, but with an uncompromising desire that they know and grow in Christ.

Finally, God has clearly given Brian, and his wife, Ellen, a special love for Emmanuel Church, and a vision for our future. It was clear to every elder that God had been preparing Brian even before he could even apply for the position; we firmly believe he is "God's man" for our church. It is also clear to the elders that God has been preparing Emmanuel Church to have Brian as our next pastor.

This profile will help you get to know Brian better — from his training to his family to his ministry philosophy. We are sure you will see what we believe: Brian Chan is a gift from God to our church.

Finally, thank you for your faithful prayers and support during this long process, and let's go forward!

# MEET BRIAN S. CHAN

## **Dr. Brian S. Chan**

Instagram (public): brianseechan

Facebook Artist/Author Fan Page (public):  
brianseechan

[www.brianseechan.com](http://www.brianseechan.com)



## EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Bachelor of Arts** in psychology – University of California, Davis (1996)

**Bachelor of Arts** in sociology – University of California, Davis (1996)

**Master of Arts** in Christian education, emphasis on educational leadership – Dallas Theological Seminary (2004)

**Master of Theology** in historical theology & pastoral leadership (dual emphasis) – Dallas Theological Seminary (2004)

**Doctor of Ministry** in engaging mind & culture – Talbot School of Theology, Biola University (2013)

## PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCES

**Lead Pastor** (church planter): Re-Create Church/Creativity Catalyst, CA (2014-present)

**Adjunct Professor** of “Beauty & Spirituality” & “Theology of Heroes & Villains” at Biola University (2006-present)

**Lead Pastor** (EFCA church planter): One Thing Church, Alhambra & Hollywood, CA (2007-2012)

**Pastor of Small Groups Ministry** (part-time): Newsong LA2 church, Los Angeles, CA (2007)

**Pastor of Church Planting, College Ministry & Creative Arts:** Ambassador Church, Buena Park, CA (2006)

**Pastor of Christian Education, Discipleship & Creativity:** Asian American Baptist Church, Dallas, TX (2004-2005)

**Pastoral Intern** (2002-2004)

**Founder & President:** Eikon Arts Group at Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX (2002)

## PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

“Shadow” in *It Was Good: Performing Arts to the Glory of God* (2018)

*Not Easily Broken*, a novel (2015)

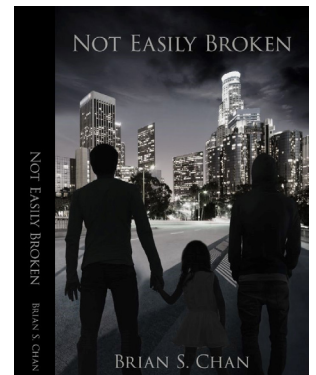
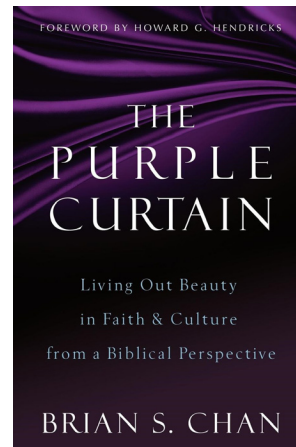
*The Purple Curtain: Living Out Beauty in Faith & Culture from a Biblical Perspective*, a book on the theology of beauty (2011)

“Social Redemption” article, *EFCA Today* magazine (Fall 2009)

“Person of Peace” article, *EFCA Today* magazine (Winter 2009)

“The New Oz: The Effect of Cyber Technology on Relationships and the Church” article, *EFCA Today* magazine (Winter 2009)

“The Disturbing Beauty of Art” article, *EFCA Today* magazine (Fall 2008)



## INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

“Meet Brian S. Chan of Creativity Catalyst (DBA),” an interview article in *Voyage LA* magazine (Jan. 8, 2019):

<http://voyagela.com/interview/meet-brian-s-chan-creativity-catalyst-dba-burbank-culver-city-fullerton/>

“Artist Spotlight,” an interview article in the *Burbank Arts Newsletter* by the Burbank Cultural Arts Commission (Aug. 15-28, 2018):

<https://burbankarts.com/artists/brian-chan/>

Interview on “Faith with Flavor,” TBN-Salsa, on faith and beauty from my book, *The Purple Curtain* (aired July 13, 2017):

[www.tbn-salsa.org](http://www.tbn-salsa.org)

“The Beautiful Life with Brian S. Chan,” an interview in *Ubiquitous* magazine (Feb. 6, 2017):

<https://annettetrucke.com/ubiquitous-you-magazine/>

Interview on Asian America: The Ken Fong Podcast (aired Oct. 18, 2016):

<http://asianamericapodcast.com/?podcasts=brian-chan>

Interview on Actors Anonymous Podcast, regarding faith and spirituality for the artist (aired April 2016): [www.actorsanonymouspodcast.com](http://www.actorsanonymouspodcast.com)

Interview on TBN’s JCTV, regarding true beauty and *The Purple Curtain* (aired week of Dec. 5, 2011): [www.jctv.org](http://www.jctv.org)

# VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Art Consultant:** Weir's Gallery, Dallas, TX (2000-2002)

**Case Manager:** Child Action, Inc., Sacramento, CA (1998-2000)

**Family Support Worker:** Vacaville Police Department, Vacaville, CA (1996-1998)

**Counseling Intern, Drug and Alcohol Group**

**Counselor, Life Skills Group Counselor** (1994-1996)

**School Counselor:** Families First group home (level 14 SED), Davis, CA (1996)

**Counseling Intern:** Asian Pacific Community Counseling, Sacramento, CA (1994)

## BRIAN ON HIS FAMILY

I have been married to Ellen Lee Chan for 19 years.

We fostered two infant boys. Our first foster son, "Lil Guy," was welcomed into our lives when he was 18 days old. After fostering him for 8 months and 1 day, he was reunified with his birth mother after she got clean from drugs. His birth mother, who is a faithful follower of Jesus, keeps in touch with Ellen and me, referring to us as Lil Guy's second parents.

We took in our second foster son, "Peanut," when he was 10 days old. After fostering him for 750 days, we proudly adopted him and named him Josiah Tin-Chi Chan. Josiah is now 5 years old.

Ellen has a 25-year-old biological daughter from a former relationship, named Carissa. She was adopted as an infant. We have developed and maintained a strong, active relationship with her. Even though Ellen did not raise her, she calls Ellen "Mom," and refers to me as her stepdad because of our relation-

ship with her. She recently married a godly man (a wedding that I officiated), and is working to become a social worker. We are very proud of the woman she has become in Jesus.





# BRIAN'S MINISTRY PASSIONS

**Teaching:** pulpit, classroom, workshops, biblical exposition, theology, philosophy, apologetics, “intelligent faith”

**Visionary Leadership:** vision-casting, strategizing, pioneering, innovating

**Soul Formation:** discipleship of leaders, spiritual formation of creatives, small-group ministry, Christian education

**Social Redemption:** social justice, urban missions, overseas missions, outreach to creatives

**Arts & Culture:** visual arts, film, creative writing, cultural engagement, philosophical/apologetic engagement

## BRIAN'S MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

Within my creative portfolio, my primary vocational calling is to teach the Word of God and be a visionary leader of His church. As a pastor to creatives, I lead as one of them, a pastoral principle I derive from 1 Corinthians 9:20-22 and Colossians 4:12. That's why I find myself in Burbank, pastoring creatives as one of them. I engage the postmodern culture as a philosopher, the millennial culture as an artist, and the Gen Z culture as a teacher. As a visionary leader, I lead through my teaching as a scholar, vision cast as an artist, and strategize as a storyteller.

The theology of beauty and creativity are thematic passions of mine. If there was one purpose-statement to my life that synergizes everything I do, it is: “I exist to create beauty.” In my creative life, I believe my greatest creative endeavor is the church, the beautiful bride of Christ.

### TEACHING/PREACHING PHILOSOPHY & PRACTICE

The foundation of my teaching/preaching is always exegetical and expositional. The format and delivery of my teaching generally follows an inductive approach and narrative structure. Scripture is core to the content of a sermon. The message should be substantive, revelatory, and insightful. A good teacher must be a great student of the Word. The craft is the composing, arranging, and delivery of the message.

### PHILOSOPHY OF THE CHURCH

I believe the church is meant to be the beautiful bride of Christ, radiating to the world a beauty Jesus gave her. I desire for the church to be a center for soul formation, where even non-Christians would

# BRIAN'S MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY CONT.

find their spiritual journey connecting with the church. In the end, we're cultivating disciples of Jesus and lovers of God. The church is a home away from home for brothers and sisters, where the truest sense of family is defined and experienced. The church is the place where the worst of our ugliness is dealt with, and our greatest beauties are created.

Missionally, the church is God's plan A for reaching the world, and there is no plan B. Defined by the gospel and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, the church should be a context where people experience God's foreshadowed kingdom. The church is meant to exist in constant tension between relevance to the world and radical difference from the world, so that it expresses a reality and quality that is both understood and yet-to-be-understood by others.

I believe in a theology of presence for the church. To manifest the gospel tangibly to its community, the church is to be a representation of Jesus' presence in the community. This is achieved by strategically integrating with society, intellectually engaging the minds of people, contributing to culture, presenting radical grace and love, and manifesting a robust theology.

A buzzword that began in the '90s for the church was "relevant." I believe the church is supposed to go beyond relevant to radical, not only following culture but contributing to and shaping culture. In so doing, the church is a forerunner for the goodness of human flourishing and God's kingdom on earth.



# FAMILY FUN FAVORITES

## BRIAN'S FAVORITES INCLUDE:

- writing fiction over a cappuccino.
- creating art in my studio.
- practicing Wing Chun and Northern Shaolin kung fu, as arts and for exercise.
- backpacking and hiking.
- gardening, especially our artistic bonsai and succulent garden.
- raising reptiles (two bearded dragons and two tortoises), and going to reptile shows with the family.
- watching good movies and television programs to wind down.
- attending Comicon events, and maintaining a respectable action-figure collection.
- recalling my days as part of a hip-hop dance crew.

- meeting people for “coffee” (though I don’t really drink coffee; I prefer hot chocolate or frappucinos).
- volunteer projects.
- construction-type work (so long as it doesn’t require a lot of heavy lifting :).
- sushi, enchiladas, and pasta (but not the spicy versions).
- watching movies in the theater.
- reading.

## JOSIAH'S FAVORITES INCLUDE:

- dancing, gymnastics, hiking, and basketball.
- art, movies, superheroes, and Legos.
- going to Legoland and comic conventions with Mom and Dad.

## ELLEN'S FAVORITES INCLUDE:

- volunteering at Josiah's school.
- rock-climbing.





# SEARCH TEAM OBSERVATIONS

**Kevin Mokracek:** “Brian’s love and vision for Burbank in particular really captivated me. We so much want to impact our community, and this is someone already invested in the community and very passionate about reaching those who live here. He owns a home and is raising his family in Burbank.”

**Jon Ericson:** “Brian’s deep love — for God, for the people of Burbank, and even for Emmanuel — shone through his words. I suspect nobody outside our congregation has put more thought into who we might become than Brian. There are many men who would make fine pastors for a church content to serve the shrinking population of Christians in our city, but Brian expresses a larger vision of loving our neighbors who have learned to distrust the church. Further, Brian has fostered relationships with non-Christians, and demonstrated an attractive faith.”

**Janessa Godwin-Austen:** “He is already familiar with working in a multi-cultural setting, and sees it as a glimpse of heaven... He desires to help make us more intergenerational, and really integrate the generations.”

**Kate O’Sullivan:** “Brian has fresh and really new ideas about how to reach people in Burbank. He doesn’t seem to be stuck in a box... Brian has a vision and love for the city of Burbank already. His love of the arts/creativity and how to reach the ‘creatives’ in Burbank has set him apart from any other candidate.

“Brian loves that we have 75 years of history! He wants us to celebrate this wonderful characteristic about Emmanuel. He also believes it is important for the young people to be grounded in this fact.”

**Ginger Hartman:** “Brian is a man of maturity — biblically, emotionally, and relationally. He is firmly grounded in the Word of God, with an ability to teach and preach in a way that not only gives us greater depth of understanding, but also spurs a desire to be an instrument of God.

“Brian respects our history and traditions, but will push us beyond ‘the way we have always done it’... Brian is a bold and forward thinker who will help us reach into our community in a loving and generous way without compromising God’s Word.

“Brian relates well to the younger generations in our church and in Burbank. He ‘gets’ the culture of millennials and Gen Z. He relates well to the non-believer, and can speak into their life in a non-judgmental way.”

**Kristen Terranova:** “Brian has a love for Burbank. He doesn’t just live here, he’s really taken the time to research and explore what this area is all about, and what it needs from the church.”

# OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET BRIAN

## SUNDAY, MAY 19

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**

Brian S. Chan preaching in the Sanctuary

**11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Meet the Candidate Q&A in the Lower Auditorium  
Hosted by Legacy Builders and Bereans

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

**7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Meet the Candidate Q&A in the Sanctuary  
Hosted by Worship & Music Ministry  
*(childcare provided: infants – 5th grade)*

## SUNDAY, MAY 26

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**

Brian S. Chan preaching in the Sanctuary

**11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Meet the Candidate Q&A in the Lower Auditorium  
Hosted by Cleavers and Koinonia

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Meet the Candidate Q&A in the Lower Auditorium  
*(final opportunity)*

# CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

## SUNDAY, JUNE 2

**11 a.m.**

In the Sanctuary