

Youth In ACTION!

Attachment to the CJM Reporter - Fall 2019

VANCOUVER JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH *by Mari Fukusaku, Assistant Pastor*

At this time, our church has been blessed with our young generation groups including a Career group, College group, and High school students. We have leaders in each group and hold Bible studies, fellowship lunch/dinner and sleepovers regularly.

During the summer of 2019 we had a blessed time through many events. The VJGC family Camp was a real blessing, held on Aug. 23-25. In addition to our local area, campers also came from other CJM affiliated churches in Calgary and Banff. A total of 111 campers enjoyed camp and two teenagers accepted Jesus as their Saviour!

GN2019(Gospel Night) was also blessed by God on Sept. 13. Many teens and young adults committed to the United band led the entire concert. United band spends five months practicing and praying for this event. Our teens group did a skit on stage called "Everything".

Through this powerful skit, many in the audience were touched and left in tears. The young adult group also performed "Joyful



VJGC Family Camp 2019

Joyful" with dance, rap, and choir.

The guest speaker for the night was Pastor Tantan, from New Hope Yokohama, Japan. His message was really powerful and filled with energy as it was delivered to the young generation's heart. GN follow up event was held on Sep. 20th. There were 10 new teenagers that came to this event as new comers from GN. We are praying for their salvation and also would like to request that you would pray for their salvation too.

We have planted a lot of seeds in many hearts this summer and we are excited to see the Lord take care of them in his time.

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow".
1 Corinthians 3:6 □



Gospel Night 2019

JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH OF TORONTO *by Adam Shih,*

Research has continued to show a strong correlation between teen health – physical, mental, spiritual – and the number of social supports present in their lives. Social supports can be sports teams, caring teachers, family time, or other caring adults. Adult relationships are vital to healthy development for teens, and the church is a great source of caring adults who want to bless our teens. We want to see our youth healthy, and we want to be a part of their growth and development.

For the past few months we have been meeting with adults who want to be a part of student support groups. We are adapting techniques and ideas from Kara Powell's book, "Growing Young". We are excited for God to bless our church as we endeavour to make more intergenerational friendships with old and young people.



Students enjoy cooking competitions

Older adults are blessed as much if not more than the teens that they are supporting. Please pray for us and our youth as we mentor and disciple them.

Our main goal for this season of student ministries is getting to know each other on a deeper level. We don't want our youth group evenings to be something to be consumed – or just a program to attend. We want to be a family community. We want to be a family community who is known deeply by God and each other. We are framing many of our activities so that we can interact as much as possible and learn about



Students enjoying food & fellowship during weekly meetings

each other as much as possible. Deeper relationships are already forming, and we can lift each other up in prayer in more specific ways.

We praise God for placing us in His church family and the opportunity to know and be known. □

VICTORIA JAPANESE CHURCH by Rika Yasuda, Youth department leader

I would like to share a little story about our young adults meeting in July. It was also a farewell party for two of our members Maiko and Riki, her son, as they head back to Japan. They accepted Jesus as their Saviour at our church and participated in our gatherings for the past year. We went to a lake that used to be a quarry and enjoyed swimming there. We were there last summer and just couldn't resist going back there because it is such a beautiful spot to swim and to hike. God gives us a reminder that he is a creator of the earth every time we go into nature and we are so blessed to experience his wonderful creation here in Victoria.



A refreshing swim after an enjoyable hike

In the Bible study in this meeting, pastor Ishiguro gave us a short message and shared the Footprints poem. Also, everyone prayed for Riki and Maiko for the new chapter of their lives and I felt the presence of God among us. They are surely His gift and plan to our church and we could not have had such fulfill-

ing young adults meetings without them.

One of our prayer requests is that God will send us more children and younger generations to our church, especially since Riki was the only student under 18 who came regularly to our Sunday school. Surprisingly, a week after they left, a new family that just moved to Canada from the United States, began attending our church. Their son joined our Sunday school and the young adults meeting this month! I am convinced that God is working in a very special way among us at this time. The power of prayer is unfathomable. It made me realize that we need to pray for ourselves, for our pastor and for our church more than we ever have. I hope more people in our young adult meetings would learn and understand the importance of prayers. To be able to do that, I would like to do the Bible studies focusing on it more. □



Hiking is one of the most enjoyable activities for our youth

CROSSOVER JAPANESE CHURCH OF CALGARY by Shennon Sharma

FOCUS Ministry

We have been deeply involved with an ISMC group called FOCUS (Friendship for Overseas College and University Students). Just as the name suggests, it is a club for international students. They serve to enhance their short-long stay in Canada, help them connect and provide them with useful resources to improve their English language skills and their overall lives in Canada. It can be very stressful for the student who has just moved into a new country that speaks a different language and with minimal connection with others.

Since I began being involved as a vol-



At the Focus fund-raising dinner event

unteer 8 years ago, I and other volunteers have been inviting the students to our church. We sometimes serve them Japanese dish. We take them to hike in the Rocky mountains. Sunnyside camp is always a good opportunity to share the Gospel with the international students. We do all sorts of fun activities with them. This month we had a movie night with the students at our pastor's house, and it became a relaxed and heartening evening of fellowship. Sometimes it is hard for us to share Good News with them since they go back to their own countries within a short



Movie night at Pastor Taniguchi's home with international students

period of time. But we do our best to share God's love and leave it all to God. □

Hello Youth Leaders. Thank you for your contributions to this newsletter. It's so good to hear what is going on in your neck of the woods. We aim to put out the CJM Reporter with the Youth In Action attachment twice a year; our next publication will be in the Spring of 2020. Looking forward to your article then! Thank you! YIA Editor