

Youth In ACTION!

An Attachment to the CJM Reporter—Spring 2009



Youth Ministry:

As spring comes upon us, I am reminded of the familiar images associated with the coming of the season: flowers in bloom, warmer weather, and the feeling of excitement in the air as students anticipate the end of their school year. Spring has also been a very busy season for us at the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto. With the formation of the new Building Maintenance Subcommittee, we have started the maintenance work in and around the church in full-force.

Through all of this, I have personally been challenged in the area of service. God has taught me more about the characteristics of the Servant King and He has challenged my heart in this area. I've learned that so much can be said of Jesus Christ's prime example as a servant. The stories in the Bible bring light to his character, full of compassion, humility, love and selflessness.



(L-R) Adam, Stephen, Jason & JR hard at work to set an example for posterity. How cool is that!

The Youth Ministry has been heavily involved in our efforts to be stewards of the church building that God has blessed us with. They have been learning lessons on stewardship, fellowship, service, and worship by working together with the congregation to look after our church.

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Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

NOS Youth Group:

God has been very faithful and has blessed both the youth and the leaders of NOS (Needing Our Shepherd) immensely over the past few months. Ever since the new year, we switched from having meetings every other week, to just once a month right after church on Sunday. We've found that this switch has made it easier to organize the events, keep everyone informed, and also that more kids are able to make it out to the events (since they are usually already at church in the first place!) We're very happy that we made these changes, and are thankful to God for guiding us in doing so.

Our meetings usually begin right after Sunday service with a gathering of kids mostly in grades 9-12, for some lunch of fellowship... And by lunch and fellowship, I mean the savage devouring of a couple pizzas and bottles of pop! After eating and a few ice-breaker games, we like to get together as a large group and one of the leaders will discuss the theme of the Bible study, and introduce the specific passages that we will be looking at. Usually we like to split off into separate small groups to discuss the passages and relate what we find in the Bible, to our own circumstances. It's pretty incredible to see how passionate these kids are about reading the Bible, and to hear some of the profound points they make on the scriptures.



Great times together - Sunnyside Camp 2008

The biggest news that we currently have to share is that many of the youth and some of the leaders in the NOS group will be joining a group from Gracepoint fellowship going to the Philippines in June for a short term mission trip! In light of this exciting opportunity, our upcoming meetings will be centered on learning how to share a testimony, as well as what it means to be a missional Christian.

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In the month of April, the church organized a Spring Cleaning event to work on preparing the ground around the church for sodding and seeding. We were all encouraged by the turn-out with volunteers of all ages. It turned out to be tough work as we



Good job, Jennifer!

removed debris and heavy stones all day but through it all there was a strong sense of unity and drive among us knowing that we were doing all this for God.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as

a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” ~Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)

Pastor Kevin Ueta



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We ask for prayer for the youth going on the trip as they prepare spiritually, physically, and perhaps financially for this quest that they feel God called them to. We also just ask you to pray for the general safety and well being of everyone going on the trip during their travels and work in the Philippines. Lastly, we ask for your prayers, not only for the kids going on the trip, but that each individual in the youth group will develop a passion for sharing God’s word with others, whether it be across the ocean or under their own roof.

As leaders we feel so blessed to have such a great group of kids to meet with and learn from, and can’t wait to see what amazing people of God they become. Stay tuned, I’m telling you, there’s going to be a lot of good things coming out of Calgary soon!

Ian King

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Few photos from the JGCT Youth Retreat, May 15-18, 2009



Make It Happen 2009:



Sorry, we could not make it happen in 2009. The planned, youth leadership development conference was to be held in Toronto. The intent was to bring the youth from the CJM related churches from the west together with the youth from the Toronto churches for a great time of fellowship and learning together. Perhaps the Lord will allow sometime in the future.

Nori Kanashiro, on behalf of the organizing and hosting committees