

Youth In ACTion!

Attachment to the CJM Reporter - Fall 2016

Victoria Japanese Church

Testimony: *by Ken St Cyr*



Ken giving testimony on his baptismal day, August

I was born and brought up in a Christian family. From childhood I loved the Lord and going to church. I had fun with the crafts, singing, and church outings. My parents were supportive of me and raised me in a Godly manner. Just because I was born in a Christian family however, it doesn't mean I qualify to be a child of God. At some age having matured, I believed that Jesus died for my sins and rose again on the third day. I believed it for myself, not because my parents or pastor was talking about it. On February 10th 2014, I rededicated my life to Christ

because I wanted to know an exact date to in which I was saved. There was a great sense of relief in knowing that I was forgiven and that God was on my side and wants what's best for me.

The reason I'm standing here today is because God opened my eyes one Sunday morning. That morning I witnessed a baptism at the church I was going to. I heard God telling me "Ken, why aren't you baptized yet?" which reminded me of Acts 22:16 "... what are you waiting for? Get up be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name."

Since being taught at a young age about the Bible, the secular education I've had to face in the education system didn't sway me at all. The evolutionary things they teach, would go into one side of my ear and out the other because I knew the truth in Creation which the Bible taught. This is thanks to my parents who taught me what's right since I was young.

Through the years God has really worked in my life. Everything wasn't easy and I've faced failures. During all those times I knew God was with me all along. I feel lucky living in Victoria because we get to experience first-hand, the beautiful sights of God's creation. When I walk in nature and breathe the fresh air I am astonished by the works of the Almighty

God. That Almighty God sent his only Son to the world to save me from my sins.



To me, Christianity is something worth standing up for and defending. In other countries Christians are being persecuted for their faith. I am glad we live in a free and democratic country, Canada where we can freely worship the Lord.

Like in the story of the parable of the lost son where the father ran towards his returning son, Jesus ran towards me. The lessons I learnt from the Bible and living the



Christian life have not always been easy to learn or understand, but each one has brought fullness of joy that nothing else could have given me. I plan to live for Christ for the rest of my life.

Lastly I would like to share a verse I look to which always cheers me up when I am feeling down.

Philippians 4:6-9. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you".

Gracepoint Fellowship - Youth and Young Adults

By: Rob and Marie Hasegawa



Youth Fall Retreat, Sept, 29 - Oct 2, 2016 at Camp Silverside near Bentley, AB

Greetings from the Gracepoint Youth and Young Adults group!

We are excited as our Fall ministries have started up once again. Our adult leaders this year are Rob Hasegawa, Marie Hasegawa, Brian Nakai and Miho Hoshizaki. We have been blessed to see this group grow in their faith this past year through weekly bible studies, fellowship during monthly activities, and our annual Sunnyside camp and Fall retreat.

September has been busy with our kickoff BBQ with over 25 youth in attendance. We also had an awesome Fall retreat from Sept. 29 – Oct. 2 at Camp Silversides, located in Bentley, AB. This has been our biggest retreat yet with 55 people participating. We had youth from Calgary, Edmonton, Banff and Vancouver come to enjoy fellowship, learn from God's word, worship together, and play a lot of fun games like Capture the Flag and bucket ball. Our speaker was Jon Caldwell, a youth pastor from First Alliance Church in Calgary. He spoke from the book of Daniel, encouraging us to have resolve in our lives

as followers of Christ.

Our youth group meets every Wednesday during Gracepoint Fellowship's Ministry night. This year we will be focusing on the book of Acts, following a study written by N.T. Wright. A few members of our youth (Will, Brandon, Jared and Kristopher) will continue to lead the discussions as we go through the

studies together. One of our desires has been to develop leaders within the youth. Through giving them opportunities to lead we have seen God use them in incredible ways. We have been encouraged to see the youth grow

in their knowledge of the bible and in their relationship with God.

Please pray for our youth, that through all of the struggles that they will go through this year they may come to know God's incredible love for each one of them. Also pray that as we study the bible together that they may be firmly rooted in his Word and confident in their faith. We look forward to all that God has in store for us this coming year!

**We had an awesome Fall Retreat
..... biggest retreat yet
.....youth from
Calgary, Edmonton, Banff and
Vancouver**

CROSSOVER JAPANESE CHURCH OF CALGARY



by Agasa Taniguchi



Arise Night at the Taniguchi's

Greetings, from Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary!

Arise Night is not an event only with Crossover, but an event with multiple Alberta churches. We have been praying for all Japanese churches in Alberta to come together for a long time. Arise Night, which began for this purpose is a young people's gathering in the interdenominational settings. Pastor Enoki has been given the vision from the Lord for the support of the growth of young adults who will be the leaders of next generation.

The first gathering was held on May 22nd at Pastor Taniguchi's house in Calgary. A total of 40 people attended from Gospel Church, Crossover Japanese Church, and Grace Japanese Christian Church of Banff. Pastor Enoki, the speaker at this event, shared the importance of being a true worshipper. The program consists of worshipping, a short message, group prayers, and a fellowship time by eating dinner together.

The second Arise Night was in Canmore at the home

of Pastor Enoki. The speaker, Pastor Taniguchi mentioned about the tragedy of 9.11 and talked about the importance of abiding in Jesus and giving the emergency prayer (one breath prayer) in any difficult situation.

We also had a big blessing that Tadashi Ishidoya accepted Jesus into his life during this gathering. We hope to continue to have this gathering to equip young people to know more about the Christ.



Prayer Groups at Arise



by: Pastor Kevin Ueta

This past Thanksgiving Weekend, October 8 - 10, our Student Ministries was blessed by the opportunity to be part of a retreat that was organized and led by our Young Adults Ministry team. The theme of the fall retreat was 'Be Still...'

Various members of our Young Adults Ministry team led the four main workshops: Reflect – the importance of spiritual friendships and conversations, Refine – how to welcome the presence of work of God in all areas of life, Receive – the importance of spending intentional time with God and the practice of journaling, and Surrender – the importance of

living a life of service and surrender to God that is motivated by the Gospel.

It was such a blessed time of learning and growing in our walks with God and each other! We are looking forward to further opportunities such as this to help nurture a culture and environment of discipleship and mentoring across age groups.



Preparing for team-building Egg-Drop Activity

WILLOW SPRINGS CAMP
 Welcome Teams
 FRIENDSHIP
 Surrender
 Mentoring
 RETREAT
 Missions
 Walk Scriptures
 YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

WILLOW SPRINGS CAMP



Can you believe it? Pie-baking competition with mystery ingredients?

WILLOW SPRINGS CAMP
 HARVEST Autumn
 FOOD Leaves FALL
 Love Family
 Thanksgiving
 friends
 pumpkin
 BLESSINGS
 Together
 Home
 football
 GRATITUDE

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 Spring 2017. Looking forward to your article then! Thank you! YIA Editor