

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

September 2008

Farewell Pastor Nolan !

Pastor Nolan, Pam, Shannon and Madelyn are off to West End Baptist Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We thank him and his family for serving us here at TCBC over the past eight years. We thank God for using him and his family during his time here to minister to us and for all the experiences and memories we've shared. We will continue to pray for you and your family as you all embark on your new journey. Wishing you God's blessings.

In case you may not know, we will be holding a farewell reception for Nolan and Pam on Sunday September 14 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at TCBC. There will be a catered lunch between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 (roast beef or chicken) and the last day to purchase them is Sunday September 7. There will be a "toast and roast" time at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary with desserts and a time to mingle afterwards. If you or a group of friends would like to participate in the "Toast / Roast" time (sharing something about Pam or Nolan or the kids please email Alicia at [alicia-chin\[at\]rogers.com](mailto:alicia-chin[at]rogers.com) or Deacon Tom at [jeremyeung\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:jeremyeung[at]yahoo.com). As well, if you cannot make it on September 14, but would like to share, we can also show your video submissions.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8-9

Urban Promise Celebration

On Tuesday August 12, the leaders, volunteers and student participants of the Urban Promise After School Program along with the students' parents gathered to celebrate their achievements over the summer at TCBC. There were about seventy to eighty attendees in our sanctuary. The evening started off with a brief introduction from Duane Forest, the director of the program who reminded us of the irony of how the media focuses on shootings and negative things happening in our city, and fail to notice and celebrate the achievements and talents of our youth. It was an evening of celebration, filled literally with song (sung by the students) and dance (by students who were choreographed by leaders). This was followed by an awards ceremony, recognizing individual students who participated in the After School Program. The highlight of the night was the presentation of short films that the students and Duane produced on a modern interpretation of scripture passages on the characters of Joseph, Daniel, and Esther. The students used their environment and their experiences (including TCBC, Alexander Park) in creating these short films. The evening closed off with refreshments and a time to mingle.

What was touching was the commitment of the volunteers serving food during refreshment time and cleaning everything up in the basement after the event. Overall, it was so amazing to see these children come and not be afraid to step in a church and see them use and develop their different gifts in music, drama and dancing. Even more amazing was to see the way our church building was used this past year in this ministry and to envision potential ways in which God can use it in the future.

Help Wanted!!

English Ministry Chair

Nominations are currently being accepted for the English Ministry Chair position on the Executive Board for the 2009 year. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to lead the English congregation. For more information, please contact Will Jin ([willandkim.jin\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:willandkim.jin[at]gmail.com)).

Feed A Student TCBC

FAST offers our post-secondary students a potluck lunch every third Sunday during the school year. We're always appreciative of people who donate dishes to this event. No commitment beyond dropping off some food is required though more involvement is always welcomed. Contact: [FAST.TCBC\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:FAST.TCBC[at]gmail.com).

EMC Prayer Coordinator

As a member of the English Ministry Committee, you will encourage and focus the congregation on prayer, setting themes and opportunities for prayer. Specific responsibilities include coordination of the quarterly English congregation prayer meetings and work with other ministries to gather and share prayer needs. Contact the EMC chair, Will Jin, for more details.

Worship Ministry

We are currently planning our worship team rotation for September and beyond and are looking for individuals interested in helping out with worship ministry. We're seeking musicians, help with the power point presentation during service, sound room help, individuals that can help manage the filing system of worship songs, those wanting to be part of discussions with anything dealing with worship or if you're interested in taking a leadership role in the worship ministry itself. Please contact Toby ([toby.chang\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:toby.chang[at]gmail.com))

Calendar of Events

- Sept 11 Nomination Meeting
- Sept 14 Pastor Nolan and Pam's Farewell Reception
- Sept 21 FAST (Feed A Student TCBC) Scavenger Hunt Mixer
- Sept 28 FAST Student Lunch (free for students!)

TCBC Softball Tournament Upset

On a sunny Monday, August 4 during the Civic long weekend, a group of fifty to sixty people descended upon Coronation Park at the foot of Bathurst Street and Lakeshore Avenue for an afternoon of softball. This year there were four teams made up of people from TCBC and their invited friends: this year's senior team, Revive, the good old Classics from previous years' tournaments, and two teams that really didn't have names at the start of the tournament but became known as the Unwanted and Tricks, the "Beer League" team. Tricks came in first this year, but the real upset this year was the Classics team which came in second having beaten a depleted Revive squad and the Unwanted. The tournament wrapped up around 5:30 p.m. and was followed by a delicious meal organized and prepared by Alicia and a time to mingle and chat.

Prayer requests from our missionaries, Ted and Cecilia

A student of mine needs prayer. "N" is from Central America. He's a pastor's son. But, as a youth, he was deep into varied sins, on the streets. He wound up in a jail cell in another country. His life was a disaster. But, he got saved. Now, at age 28, he has come here to study at the Institute. Studying is clearly quite hard for him. Other students read Genesis in six hours. It took him seventeen. And, this morning, during a test that took other students an hour, he turned in his paper after just ten minutes---without answering most of the questions.

He told me he "freezes" in tests, and forgets all he studied. There are some other issues he needs to address too. This all may be the result of using drugs as a youth, or there may be another root cause. In any case, I'd appreciate you praying for him a little. Tonight I'm going to pray with him, try to befriend him, and let him finish taking the test. This is unconventional. But, my goal is to not just give information to students. Training people for Christian ministry goes much further than that. I want to be used by God to help change students' lives so that when they finish their theological studies here, they, in turn, can be used by God as pastors or missionaries as channels of blessing for many others. Some students come to Bible school and seminary already quite mature. But, for others, God really needs to work in their life. I am hoping N is a "diamond in the rough", but it will take God's power to help him shine. May God give me wisdom as I try to help him, at least a little.

Yours in Christ,

Ted & Cecilia Paschke

Contacts:

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If you are interested in improving this newsletter, contact Norman: [norman.tang\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:norman.tang[at]gmail.com)

Youth Corner

Youth Sunday School is starting up again. This term, we will be focusing on the books of Joshua and Judges and what it means to walk in obedience to God.

This year's Parents Luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 21st, 12:30 in the church basement. This lunch is for all parents of children in grades 1 to 12. Come to hear about the things happening this year in Sunday School and meet your son or daughter's teacher.

Sunday Youth Fellowship officially resumes Sunday, September 28th at 12:30pm.

To start off the new school year, there will be a Youth Kickoff Event on Saturday, September 27th 6p.m. to 8:30 p.m. TCBC. You won't want to miss this fun night of mayhem.

!NEW! Friday Night Youth Fellowship! This new evening of fellowship will start on Friday, September 27th from 7-9pm.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Tanya at [tkrahn\[at\]tcbc.on.ca](mailto:tkrahn[at]tcbc.on.ca)

Vacation Bible School - Chronicles of the Kingdom

We thank Brennan Rabbets for taking the time to answer a few of our questions about this summer's VBS.

What was the theme for the Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year? What kind of things were done over the week?

The theme this year was Chronicles of the Kingdom. We focused on the parables of Jesus, and the teaching and crafts reflected this. Throughout the week, the children had a set schedule in the afternoon of teaching, games, arts and drama. For everyday there was a main parable which the teaching and the arts surrounded. For example one of the days focused on the parable of the Lost Sheep, the parables that day focused on God's love and the craft was making a small pen with sheep in it and one escapee.

How many people were involved and in what roles?

This year we had about 40 students/helpers to run VBS. There were five main categories. The first was the main teachers. We were blessed to have a lot of present and past Sunday school teachers able to help. They did the core parts of the teacher. The second group and the biggest group were the teacher's assistants. These people were there to help the main teachers in any way possible. They were key in helping keep focus on the activities. The next three groups were arts and crafts, games, and drama. Besides these main five groups, there were also others helping directly with the music performance, and the ladies who ran the registration table.

What were some challenges you faced in organizing and carrying out the VBS?

One of the biggest challenges I had was just having enough energy for everyday. The days were very long with stuff happening all the time. There were opportunities to sit back and relax, but they were far and few between. Another challenge was that we did not use a curriculum this year. Everything was thought up before hand. It took a lot of effort to get everything ready, and in hindsight, I wish I had spent more time getting the material ready for everyone. It was very hard to make teaching material for all the teachers from kindergarten to grade 6. In the end the material was best suited for the middle grades and the lower and higher grades needed to change what I had written. Much thanks goes out to the teachers who took this material and really made it work.

Also thanks goes to Martin Tam who spent a lot of time on this with me.

How did God work through VBS this year?

One of the easiest ways to see God in this year's VBS was the sheer enjoyment that the children and the helpers had in this week. We were able to provide a safe and uplifting place where these children could learn and do it with a smile. Many times I heard from the children themselves about how cool their teacher had made a lesson, or how wacky crossing guard Chad had been in games.

Another way God worked was through our devotion times. This year our volunteers were primarily new and younger than usual. This then gave us the opportunity also to teach them. However, I believe that these volunteers got a lot out of helping these children more than they got from the devotions we held. Helping and teaching others really instills the message into our own minds.

New and notes in brief

The Scarborough Couples' Group had a retreat over the Labour Day long weekend in Niagara-On-The-Lake. Five couples along with their children enjoyed a time of fellowship and sharing over the weekend. The group will be resuming meetings in September. For more information on our first meeting, please contact: [samwsamw\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:samwsamw[at]gmail.com)