

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

April 2010

A Taste of Hunger

Julie Yu

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." Matthew 28:5-7

Farewell Pastor Tanya

On Sunday March 7, a farewell party was held for Pastor Tanya. A catered lunch was held from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. This was followed by time in the upper chapel to fellowship and share memories of the close to five years that Pastor Tanya has been with us.

The youth worship team started off the time with a worship set. After this, with Tammy Ko as our MC, the mic was opened up to those that wanted to share some thoughts and reflections. From youth, to the parents of youth, Reverend Tam, Reverend Byrne and other members of the congregation coming to the mic, it was a great time of celebrating Pastor Tanya's stay with TCBC. We were treated to a picture/video collage with snap shots from the various ministries and also a video greeting from Pastor Nolan.

The English Ministry Committee then presented Pastor Tanya with a few items for her future endeavors, some of which included: a piggy bank (because Jesus saves), a penny (so she'll never be broke), fishhooks (to be a fisher of men), marbles (to replace the ones she's lost) and a can of nuts (to remind her of us).

Pastor Tanya then had an opportunity to express her thanks and thoughts. We then concluded in a time of open prayer. The afternoon finished off with desserts and drinks.

Farewell, Pastor Tanya - we'll miss you!

Hunger is a feeling that many of us experience on a day-to-day basis. Whether it is missing a meal or craving a snack after an exhausting day at work or school, this kind of "need for food" is easily satisfied by making a trip to the nearest convenient store or to our own kitchen. However, true hunger, the kind that cannot wait, and is unknowing of when the next food will come from, is what many children suffering from poverty are experiencing right now. Over 29,000 children die everyday from hunger and other preventable causes.

30 Hour Famine, a countrywide youth movement to fight hunger will be hosted by the teens at TCBC for the 3rd time in a row. It will be held from April 23-24, 2010 as an overnight fellowship event to educate and experience what real hunger feels like first hand. Founded by World Vision, a Christian charitable organization that aims to feed children, help girls go to school, and care for certain diseases such as AIDS, the money raised from this event will go towards fighting poverty and injustice in third world countries.

Last year, through 30 Hour Famine, TCBC youth raised over \$2000, and are planning to fundraise past \$2500 this year. Over the past 2 months, the TCBC Youth Leadership Group have been organizing ideas and planning famine activities for those involved in the event. Many long discussions and countless meetings have been put together to establish fundraising ideas, plan games and worship, and organize bible studies and devotions for the participants. This year, the youth have prepared an enriching prayer walk aimed at reaching out and getting to know the rougher areas of the TCBC neighbourhood such as Alexandra Park, Chinatown, and Scott Mission. Their goal is to spend time together in prayer addressing certain issues such as drugs and alcohol, homelessness, theft, and more. The teens are also setting up a bake sale/donation table on April 11, 2010 at 11:00AM to involve the congregation in the fundraising for the 30 hour famine. This is the first year the youth ministry has had a Leadership Team and through their hard work along with help from the youth counsellors and leaders, the famine is expected to be even better and more rewarding than previous years. By focusing our time on God and with each other through worship and devotions on an empty stomach, we hope to raise awareness and make a difference from this powerful experience.

SMALL GROUP/FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Whether you are exploring the idea of joining a small group/fellowship at TCBC or you just simply have a desire to know what's going on in the same community, hopefully you will discover what you're looking for here.

This month, you will be introduced to two of our relatively newer groups. E-mail Jasmine <jasmine.ng@utoronto.ca> for more information.

Semper Reformenda is a Bible Study small group meeting bi-weekly on Monday nights in Scarborough. Currently, we are studying the book of Mark, but as the needs and desires of the group change, the subject of study probably will change. We always welcome anyone who is interested in studying with us. Rides and transportation can always be arranged! Please talk to James if you are interested. I'd be happy to answer any questions!

The North York Neighbourhood Group meets twice a month on Thursdays. Dinner starts at 7:00pm and the study at 8:00pm. We are currently doing an IBS which covers several Books in the Bible: Joshua, Ruth, Judges. We welcome everyone who is working; a few of our members are married, but most of us are single. Talk to Andrew Wong (the super tall guy) if you're interested!

Summer Student Positions

There will be two positions for college and university students with an interest in ministry to children and teens this summer: VBS prep and management of volunteers, Friday night and Sunday children and youth, Sunday school, CCSA Jr Team support and children's programming at summer retreats. The positions will be for nine weeks (or possibly longer). \$10.25/hr. 35hrs/wk. See TCBC website for application and deadline.

March EMC Meeting

The English Ministry Committee met for their usual meeting at the beginning of March. The meeting started off with a devotion by Reverend Byrne on an article by Philip Yancey on what one looks for in a church: Diversity (Who makes up the congregation?), Unity (Does not mean uniformity in the church) and Mission (Church is created by God not for its members, but for its non-members). He went on to discuss the importance of closing the circle in our ministry areas (FAST, GLOW, VBS, Advent Conspiracy), and how we can follow up on these ministries and build better bridges with the contacts we have made. After the devotion, we went on to discuss updates on the softball ministry, the 30 hour Famine and other youth events, Youth Sunday School, English ministry small groups, the TCBC 43rd Anniversary celebration and an update on Urban Promise.

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You Give Them Something To Eat

Ruth Wong

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17.

There recently came a boy to our Friday Night Children's Program who was about ten years old (Grade 4) and who I will call Larry. He was in general not quite interested in being there and liked to attach himself to other disruptive kids during singing and Bible Story.

Something happened one recent Friday evening though. I was telling the story of Jesus' Betrayal and Trial before the Jews. It was not well told for in the middle of the story I started feeling unwell and had to end the story quickly. But the children seemed to want more and had many questions. Larry was one of them. He wanted to know if Peter had not denied knowing Jesus, what would have happened to him. I just quickly answered that probably nothing, that Peter was just afraid. We usually end our story with a prayer and as usual a couple of kindergarten-aged girls volunteered to pray. To my surprise, Larry also wanted to pray. So, I said, "Greta, Penny and then Larry. Let's pray." Greta and Penny, as usual, thanked God and prayed for many things. But when it was Larry's turn, all he said was, "Thank You Jesus." I knew right away that something had changed. Faith had happened from hearing the message of Christ.

As Christ went around Palestine preaching His life-giving message to the people, He also showed compassion to them and ministered to their immediate needs. There were two children who I walk home after every Friday program. They always have a lot to tell me about their lives especially things that matter to them lately. Sometimes, it would be about fun things they had done, but usually a lot of stories from TV programs they watched and electronic games they played. I have heard so much that I have come to know the characters in those games and how to "control and use" them. But one night, as we were walking home, the older brother said, "Actually sometimes, I feel that those video games are boring. They are not that interesting after all." Inside, I jumped, "YOU are saying this!? You, who almost had even me convinced that electronic games could also be a meaningful tool in bringing joy and inspiration to kids!"

As I was walking home and trying to sort out my thoughts about this, I heard Christ's words come to me from a long time ago, far away in the countryside of Capernaum, when His disciples urged Him to send the people away to get food, for it was late. Christ's words were, "You give them something to eat." In this case, the need here was not for food, it was for play.

Just as children consume junk food after coming home from school for lack of healthier choices, playing electronic games is the only thing to do when there are no other ways to have fun. Yet, there is a deep hunger among children for fun and company.

"Lord," I prayed, "I only have five weekdays and two weekend days and they are already so filled. How do I find time to create play and fun for kids in this community?"

"Is your time as little as the five loaves and two fish that one young boy got for the five thousand?" came the answer.

Having recently obtained the approval and support of the rest of the church body, our church's Mandarin Department will start a Scouts program in our church on Friday evenings beginning in April 2010. Scouts Canada is an organization that educates and develops children and youth using a structured play and fun program on one hand and requires the sponsor organization to teach spiritual truths on the other. I feel sure that God will guide and provide for us each step along the way as we "let the little children come to Christ" through God's word and play.

TCBC Vacation Bible School 2010

Theme: Hero Headquarters
Age: Grades 1 to 6
Dates: July 19th to July 23rd, 2010
Website: www.vacationbibleschool.com/tcbc
Contact: Esther Tiet (416)-596-8376
Mandy Ma

We are now accepting registration. Please check our website for more information and for online registration. Registration forms and a coloring page are also available at TCBC.

Volunteer information and applications will be available in mid-April. More information will be provided through church announcements and the bulletin.

Our Objectives:

- Provide Christian-focused teaching and environment for VBS participants
- Outreach to children and their families within the TCBC community and neighborhood
- Provide training and support to VBS teachers, counselors, and volunteers.
- Foster mentorship and peer support within the VBS team

Our Prayer Requests:

- The VBS ministries in our neighborhood this summer
- Spiritual receptiveness of children and families who will be attending VBS
- The planning, organization, and running of this year's VBS
- Positive experience with God and between staff, volunteers, and campers