

# English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on [www.tcbc.on.ca](http://www.tcbc.on.ca)

December 2010

G.L.O.W.

Peter Ko

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:1 to 9

## Incorporation of TCBC

As previously discussed, TCBC is considering incorporation. The main objective is to limit liability of our volunteer leaders. There will be a constitutional amendment forthcoming to make our current deacons the legal board of directors. There will be a legal constitution for the non-profit entity and our current constitution covering our internal operations will become by-laws of the corporation. Members will become shareholders. Given the age of TCBC we have a lot of inactive members and there will be a process to convert members to shareholders. If anyone has suggestions or questions, please contact any Executive or Deacon Board member

As you may or may not know, on Sunday October 31, Barnabas Fellowship and Crossroads Fellowship hosted an outreach event called G.L.O.W. The event stands for God Lights Our Way, and was directed towards letting the neighborhood families know that TCBC welcomes everyone. It was a spectacular success with trick-or-treating children and their parents showing up to the front steps, lawn and the steps of 76 Beverly to play games such as "fishing" (as in fishers of men), an obstacle course, archery and arts and crafts. It was also a place for the parents to come and sit down, enjoy some hot chocolate and chat about nothing in particular. I don't know what it was but something made me feel good that night. Maybe it was that there were new faces that always seemed to be smiling, maybe it was the old faces that also were smiling. Maybe it was that cup of hot chocolate that I had when my brain began cutting off circulation to everything except my vital organs. Everyone had fun that night. Personally I drew closer to God because it reminded me of the responsibility that we hold as Christians; to live the way Jesus did and to spread the word of God. If there's something that you can take away from this article, let it be that spreading God's love doesn't need to involve missions trips to a village in Indonesia, it doesn't even need to be a church setting. You can tell of God's grace through simple things like over dinner or even on your lunch break with your colleagues.

There are some interesting verses that basically describes what I was reminded of that night; Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

...to the glorious honor of God the Father.

-Phillipians 2:9b (The Message)

## Missions Committee – Planning for the 2011 Year

Grace Hui

The mission department of the Toronto Chinese Baptist Church promotes mission awareness within the church through our annual Mission Fund by: a) Engaging our members to pray, care and support our missionaries and evangelical mission organizations; b) Encouraging members to participate in mission education and missions opportunities, both local and foreign; c) Financially supporting future missionaries and mature Christians in their theological education.

In the fall of every year, the Missions Committee will meet to plan and draft the budget for the upcoming year. We review all the current missionaries and mission organizations to see if we should continue to support them, based on the criteria as set out in the TCBC Mission Policy. The Committee also reviews requests from new applicants. When evaluating new missionaries and mission organizations, our mandate is always to encourage new missionaries in their ministry and to obey their call to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15) The summarized 2011 budget is as follows:

Missionaries	\$91,000
Mission Organizations	\$28,000
Theological Seminaries	\$ 8,000
Short-Term Missions	\$11,000
Seminary Student Scholarships	\$10,000
Other	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$154,000

The total amount has increased by 8% from the 2010 budget. This year, when reviewing the proposed budget, the Committee felt that more money should be spent each year, as TCBC has been blessed with funds and we would like to continue to encourage new missionaries in their ministries. Decisions on amounts is a rather tricky process – while TCBC would like to spend more, we must also be responsible with the funds that we do hold. When our budget is set for the year, the amounts designated for missionaries, mission organizations and theological seminaries are fixed. This means, that in 2011, regardless of how much offering is collected, \$138,000 will be spent. If not enough money is collected, then TCBC draws down its Mission Fund for these purposes. When the Committee met to decide how much should be allocated for the following year, only about 55% of the 2010 budget had been received! Thus, we had to make tough decisions and only increase our budget by \$12,500. We will trust that God will continue to provide for the rest of 2010! The end and goal of world missions is that the nations might glorify God for his mercy. The aim of missions is worship. Missions exists because worship doesn't.

John Piper

## Help Wanted!!

We are currently looking for individuals interested in helping out with our monthly newsletter and possible taking over its publication. If you are interested in learning more about what's involved or have any questions about how you can help, contact Norman at:

norman.tang@gmail.com

The following is a entry taken from one of our member's blogs.

### Jesus calls Levi and eats with sinners (Mark 2: 13-17)

Jesus said he has not come for the righteous but sinners. He saw Levi, the tax collector, Jesus asked Levi to follow Him. When strangers come to fellowship/church, if they have a "weird" look, I admit that I will try to stay away from them, instead of welcoming them. I know this is not the right thing to do. First, I should not judge people by their look. And they have come to fellowship/church to learn about God, I should be welcoming them. I couldn't welcome them because I forgot what I was like before I came to know God. Yet, Jesus loved me so much that His love touched my heart and I became a Christian.

We are all sinners - there's no big sinner or small sinner in God's eyes. If God has given these people a chance, why can't I look at them just like I look at other "normal" people?

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The following is an update from Ted and Cecilia Paschke, missionaries supported by our church.

October 26, 2010

In Spanish-speaking lands, the Christian Church has grown tremendously. There's a need for continued evangelization, but many missionaries are finding the key need for Latin American churches is correct Bible training to strengthen the faith of those who already know Christ. This need exists in the life of tens of thousands of pastors, church leaders, and in the life of many millions of believers who make up Latin American churches. So, at Rio Grande Bible Institute, Ted leads the department developing and distributing theological education courses and materials for the Spanish-speaking churches around the world, courses and materials which Latino believers can study right where they are.

We're so pleased God allows us to be involved in this strategic missionary ministry producing and supplying valuable Christian training materials to believers all around the world. THANK YOU, for your partnership with us through financial giving and prayer. We'd value your prayers...

--That our materials help users become grounded in their faith, grow as believers, and then reach others.

--For wisdom for Ted as he leads and supervises a team of four students helping him produce courses.

--We're excited to nearly finish our newest course, "Theology." It should be completed in two weeks.

--A new resource. We're taking the first steps to produce a resource to teach the biblical Greek and biblical Hebrew alphabets.

--Missions Club. It's going GREAT! LOTS of students attend our bi-weekly meetings, to learn about how they can be missionaries, or how they can send missionaries from Latin America, to other parts of the globe.

Your missionaries, in Christ,

Ted Cecilia

Ted & Cecilia Paschke, your Missionaries at Rio Grande Bible Institute, helping build the Spanish-speaking Church worldwide

## WATT'S UP

November 2010

Newsletter of Graham & Jen Watt Serving Jesus with Campus for Christ, a division of Power to Change

PAID VS. AID... WHAT WOULD YOU DO? {revised from mycravings.ca}

(Graham and Jen are missionaries supported by TCBC)

The Beatles sang a song about money ...Money don't get everything, it's true... What it don't get, I can't use...Now give me money ...That's what I want ...

Few people would admit to taking such a calloused approach to money. Most people will acknowledge that money alone isn't enough to guarantee happiness. But when a person is faced with a moral decision involving money, how does that choice reflect one's desires? A contest for university students called "Paid vs Aid" seeks to highlight the difficult choices each person makes daily, but rarely take the time to think about: We make choices everyday. We make choices about our basic needs: What will eat? What will I wear? Will I have that second cup of coffee today? We make choices about relationships: Who will I befriend? Who will I love? How do I want to be loved? The winner of the \$1,000 prize in the "Paid vs Aid" contest must make a choice: Will you use \$1000 toward your university tuition? Or will you use the \$1000 toward building clean water wells? Or will you use it to help build housing in Haiti? Or will you support orphans in Tanzania? Drawing attention to the choices one faces with \$1000 will help stimulate discussions around cravings that lie beneath one's choices. What would you choose if you won, and why? Can you recognize how your own cravings, like for intimacy, destiny, and meaning, could impact your decision?

Here are a few highlights from the fall myCravings campaign. The campaign's impact across Canada is encouraging as we review the statistics and hear the stories of the responses to the campaign. Currently, this fall we have seen 86 students receive Christ across Canada. This is twice the number of students who indicated decisions to follow Christ last year at the same time. We are thankful for tangible evidence that the campaign has been effective-- that campuses have responded positively. We have received many encouraging stories from staff and students. Here is one from the University of Toronto: Sammy L. filled out a Paid vs. Aid form, part of the myCravings campaign, during clubs day at Trinity College. On the card, he indicated that he had a craving for justice, was unsure where he stood spiritually, was interested in a free magazine that explored the idea of spiritual connection, and was possibly interested in exploring more about Christianity. We met in Robarts Library. He explained that he was from Vancouver on a scholarship. Sammy described himself as somewhere between a Christian and agnostic. I asked him if he had a spiritual background. He explained that as a child he attended Awana (a weekly Bible club for children). I asked him if he knew the main message of Christianity. He stated that it was to be a moral person. From that point we were able to walk through the "Knowing God Personally" presentation of the gospel in the back of the "Uncover myCravings" magazine. At every point in the four point outline, he agreed, and at the end he prayed to receive Christ as His Saviour and Lord. We continued through the booklet and we were able to discuss assurance of salvation, his new identity in Christ, and how to grow as a follower of Jesus. I gave him a New Testament and encouraged him to read through and mark up the Gospel of John. He also took the book "Does God Exist" and was excited to read it. Sammy wants to meet up again and is interested in receiving and reading the Case for Christ. Please pray for him. ! -- written by Nick Hill, staff member in Toronto!