

# English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

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July 2010

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Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

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Parents of our grades 5 & 6 Sunday School students recently received the following:

Dear Family:

Today we began a new unit in church school. For the next several weeks we'll be challenging each other to tell others the good news about Jesus. We'll be learning how to tell the story of our own faith and how to gain the courage to tell that story to our friends - even when it might make us unpopular.

Telling others does not come naturally to most young teens. So please do what you can to encourage your middle schooler as he or she faces a series of four challenges during these weeks. Take time to talk about your own faith stories as a family. And pray for your young teen and our class during these next four weeks. Pray that we'll lighten up the world with the good news!

Welcome to our 2010 Summer Interns

We appreciate the time Hannah and Ian, our summer interns, took to answer a few questions and share a bit about themselves. Thanks Ian and Hannah!

Hannah, tell us about yourself (What are you studying? What hobbies do you have?

I'm studying civil engineering at U of T, going into second year. Hobbies? Hm..I love to run, eat apples, PLAY soccer (and not watch), and play piano.

How long will you be with us?

June to beginning of September

What will you be doing or how will you be involved with the youth this summer?

We've just returned from an amazing and crazy time with over 40 teens at Teens Camp. Next on the list is VBS planning!

What do you hope to learn from this experience?

I hope to learn how to serve God and no other with a humble heart.

Ian, could you also tell us about yourself?

I am originally from Ottawa, Ontario and am at the University of Toronto for my post-secondary education. My studies are in the life sciences and social sciences, with the hopes of entering teacher's college in the future. My hobbies include cooking and reading, with the occasional sport on the side.

How long will you be with us?

I will be serving as a student intern with TCBC from mid June until early September.

What will you be doing or how will you be involved with the youth this summer?

Myself and Hannah Wong, who serves as the other student intern, have been assisting Esther Tiet in coordinating events and programs for TCBC's youth this summer. Last week with Teen's camp at Pinery Provincial Park, we both served as camp counselors alongside seven other gifted counselors overseeing 40 youth. We are also helping coordinate the summer curriculum for the Children's Sunday School which begins Sunday, July 11th! Last but not least, we are involved in the Vacation Bible School for TCBC later this July.

What do you hope to learn from this experience?

I have already learned so much from the youth and counselors at Teen's camp 2010! Although I am entering my 4th year in University, the youth treated me as one of their own despite my shyness of being new in serving the youth. I have learned of their generosity, openness, humility, humor, and their love of fellowship and of God. I hope to learn and apply it to my own walk with Christ. With Summer Sunday School and VBS just around the corner, I am sure that I will have more opportunities to learn!

Join Forces With God

at TCBC'S Vacation Bible School 2010

WHAT ARE WE UP TO AT HERO HEADQUARTERS?

We are busy planning and co-ordinating all the different aspects of VBS - VBS in the morning, trips in the afternoon, and volunteers' devotion and sharing time. To date, we have 47 campers registered. Most of our volunteers have gone through the 3-day training. Thanks again to those who have planned and presented at the training, and those who have attended. We had our Kick-Off on July 10<sup>th</sup>. July is just an action-packed month for us!

COUNT DOWN OF IMPORTANT VBS DATES

- Decoration and Group Planning/Preparation - July 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>
- VBS decoration day (after church) - July 18<sup>th</sup>
- VBS Week - July 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>
- VBS Friday Night Parent Workshop & Performance - July 23<sup>rd</sup>
- VBS Sunday for all campers and volunteers to return to TCBC - July 25<sup>th</sup>
- Volunteer Debriefing Session - July 25<sup>th</sup>

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for campers' and their families' openness and acceptance to God's love and Christ's sacrifice for all to be saved.
- Please pray that the volunteers would experience God in ways that challenge and deepen their faith and bring them closer to Him and those around them.
- Please pray for VBS planning & programming as listed above.

We would like to challenge you to pray for us every day this month. If you would like to have more specific prayer items, please contact Kim Chan. Thanks.

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## Quorum at Member's Meeting

In the May monthly member's meeting, it was suggested that our member's meeting have a quorum requirement. Constitutionally, the monthly members meeting is the highest authority in our church and all significant church actions are approved at that meeting. Unfortunately it is poorly attended and thus little meaningful discussion occurs at that meeting. If you have an opinion on whether a quorum should be imposed, please contact any Executive Board Member. The chair of the Executive Board is Jimmy Leung. The English Ministry representative is Sam Wong.

## Duane Forrest Update

Many of you may know Duane from his work with the youth of Alexandria Park through Urban Promise's after-school program. This program was held at TCBC during the weekdays for several years, and through the program, Duane and other workers were able to reach out to the youth in the surrounding community – helping them with homework, teaching them music and building relationships with them and leading them to Christ. On June 5, Duane debuted his album, *Apple in the Tree*, at Walmer Center. He held two concerts that evening, playing music from his extensive repertoire.

Proceeds from the concerts and from the sale of his album went towards his mission trip to Honduras.

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## Eva's Communique

The following is an update from Eva Sham, one of the missionaries supported by TCBC. She is a Campus minister with Graduate Students & Faculty Ministry (GSFM), Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, based at University of Toronto, St. George campus

On Friday, June 11, I returned from Inter-Varsity's national gathering of campus staff (high school ministry, undergraduate student ministry, international student ministry, graduate student & faculty ministry) encouraged but with a strong sense that we need much prayer in the midst of the challenges of ministry among graduate students and faculty. This is a very busy time of the year for many of you as you prepare to slow down during those long humid summer days. Therefore, I thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and to pray for the vital ministry among graduate students and faculty. City Script (May 1-7)

With over 100 students and staff, I spent seven days immersed in the study of Scripture. I was part of a group that studied the first part of the Gospel according to Mark (Mark 1). There were other groups which studied Mark 2 and Genesis during City Script. That event was not only a "refresher course" for me in the manuscript approach to bible study but also an opportunity to study the Scriptures in community. I was also encouraged to meet and dialogue with undergraduate staff and graduate students from two campuses in which graduate student groups have emerged. Please pray that what we have learned will become God's wisdom that is life transforming. Pray too that God will provide GSFM staff for emerging graduate student groups. Without staff support these groups will not continue and staff are required to nurture potential leaders among the graduate students. The number of students moving on to graduate studies is growing rapidly!

## The Christian Graduate Connective

We thank God for the small groups that have met even during those cold winter months. Despite the challenges of illnesses, academic and family responsibilities, there are three of us who meet to reflect on an article (based on Luke 6:12-19) written by Henri Nouwen about solitude, community and ministry. A small group of Occupational Therapy students met to discuss what it meant to be followers of Jesus Christ in their profession. They plan to resume their meetings in the fall. The Monday group brings together academic and professional students from various disciplines. Lectures by and conversations with Dr. Mary Poplin (Veritas Forum at U of T, March 10-12) and Dr. David Lyon (Gathering of Faculty and Graduate students, March 27) have encouraged the students in different ways. These Christian faculty members are exemplars for these graduate students as they seek to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ in their chosen vocation.

On May 10 and 17 we launched our Monday supper gatherings for the next few months with two bible/manuscript studies on the first two chapters of Peter. We were reminded that as Christians we have been born into the living hope made possible through Christ's resurrection from the dead. We were also encouraged to consider ourselves to be "free" in the midst of our trials which are inevitable as followers of Christ. Our plan for subsequent biweekly meetings is to read and discuss stories written by men and women Christian leaders published in the book *Finding God at Harvard*. Please pray that reading, discussing and applying what we have learned from the stories of these Christian leaders would inspire us to grow to be "living stones" (1 Peter 2) in the university. Pray that we shall experience God's presence at the CGC retreat on June 26 as we seek to learn to listen to God in the midst of the noises, the pressures and the tensions of academic and city life.

Thanks again for your prayers and support in so many ways. For those of you who are planning your summer reading, I recommend James Choung's book *True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing In* (InterVarsity Press, 2008) Have a great summer! Eva

## Sunday School Year End Celebration

On Sunday June 20, the Sunday School youth and their teachers celebrated the end of the school year. Each class had an opportunity to present a skit they had prepared on what they had learned over the past school year studying the books of Hebrews, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.

We also recognized several of our graduating students, and each received the book, *66 Love Letters* by Larry Crabb, a book that describes each book of the bible as a love letter to each of us personally. We then went on to enjoy a pizza lunch. Afterwards, parents had the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to discuss the past year and the coming plans for Sunday School in the summer.