

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

June 2010

English Minister Search Committee Update : May 2010

I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O
Most High.

Psalm 9:2

Sanctuary Softball Team

After a couple years to "revive" and then using a year of "oracles", Sanctuary is officially back! TCBC's traditional team has returned home under the leadership of Ivan Lung (Head Governor and Head Umpire) and Jaynelle Leung (Head Coach). Kick off for the season was held on May 19, 2010 where members of the team got to meet each other. Practices began May 26, and will continue to be held each Wednesday from 1800 to sunset @ Silverview Park until the end of the season. Members of TCBC are welcome to attend practices.

CCSA's theme for the year is the 'Commitment Line', however Sanctuary's theme is based on EMERGENCY – what Ivan is most comfortable with. This year the leadership's focus is on health and challenging everyone to live out the simplest, and most often, the most difficult commands from God. The leaders' goals this year is to build a team, foster future leaders, and give tired leaders rest.

Challenges: This year has been challenging from the start. The lack of leaders has never been more evident. Thankfully, God has provided Jaynelle to support the efforts of Ivan who has been planning this year since the end of the 2008 season. Finding the time to play has also been a challenge. Between weddings and work, Jaynelle and Ivan had a difficult time to hammer out a season. Like all things related to softball this year, God has provided the necessary time and resources to ensure a great season – showing HIS commitment to us.

Thank you to all those who have been praying for the softball ministry! The weather has never been better at the end of May! Keep up the hard work, and we (Jaynelle and Ivan) look forward to seeing you on the bleachers!

The English Minister Search Committee is made up of the Personnel Committee plus 2 representatives from the English congregation as appointed by the English Ministry Committee. Our English reps are Davin & Carlin. As a group we are responsible for seeking out and hiring our next English Minister.

We have been fortunate to have Rev Frank Byrne as our part-time Interim English Minister. However, his term was to finish at the end of August. He has graciously agreed to extend his term for another year, starting in November after he returns from a teaching engagement in September and October.

We encourage everyone at TCBC to let the Search Committee know of potential English Minister candidates. So far, we have approached over a dozen people through referrals or as persons of interests. At this time, none of these ministers feel called to our particular ministry need. We have also been posting our English Minister need online at various Christian career sites. We continue to receive 1 or 2 applicants per month. Of these, most do not meet our education or experience criteria.

It is important to note that we are not a young, starter Chinese church. We are not simply looking for a Youth Pastor to work with our teens. We are currently seeking an English Minister called and able to work with all ages and stages represented in our English service, and such a person is not common.

So far we have called one applicant for an initial phone conversation. This call led to a second call with the entire Search Committee that took place just this past Monday (May 10). We asked questions such as "What are your devotional habits? Why do you feel called to an English Ministry position within a multi-lingual Chinese church?" Other questions were about worship, personal influences, and conflict resolution.

At this point, the Search Committee asks for your prayers as we assess what was shared during the call, as well as through other communications such as sermon samples, written submissions and reference checks. We ask for wisdom, discernment and affirmation so we can determine whether God intends this person to be our next English Minister. We need God's guidance to figure out whether or not we should get to know this applicant better through guest preaching and in-person meetings with church leadership.

Last but not least, we have come to realize more and more that we have not relied on our best and most effective search tool: our corporate, church-wide prayers to God for his sovereign, gracious and timely provision of our next English Minister. With this in mind, we come to you to seek God as a congregation for this specific need.

The English Minister Search Committee is accountable to all members of TCBC. If you'd like to know more, please contact anyone on the Committee, and we will do our best to answer your questions.

Youth Leadership Team

Bianca Mok

I've learned so much from being on the student leadership team this year. At first, I had my doubts of making such a commitment to this team but reflecting on it now, it was a well-worth experience. Being on the student leadership team allowed me to learn many valuable life lessons and definitely helped me strengthen my relationships with other youths in our youth group. The team consists of eight young youths assisted by three experienced counselors. We planned events such as monthly Barnabus fellowship, 30 Hour Famine, Youth Group Outings, and many more. With the work that is involved with planning these events, I learned to really rely on my teammates and work as one to get the event happening. We needed everyone's commitment to pull through and definitely learned to turn to God when we were planning as well, because through the power of prayer our events were all a success. Aside from planning all these events, we often had leadership retreats where we studied a book called Leadership 101. Recently we had a retreat called Solitude Retreat, where everyone went their separate ways for one hour away from everything that can distract them and spend that time with God. Our goal was to quiet down our hearts and really try to listen to what God is trying to tell us, and to cast our burdens on Him.

Being on the student leadership team is a very rewarding experience and will challenge you in many different ways. I'm thankful I had the opportunity to experience this and to strengthen not only my relationship within my youth group but with God by signing up for this team.

Missions Board Policy Update

The Missions Board has provided a draft of the updated Missions policy for our church. It was presented at the May Member's Meeting and will be approved in a future Member's Meeting. The changes included a process by which non-member missionaries, both short-term and long-term can be supported by the church. The key is the involvement of at least 5 TCBC members to endorse the applicant. So you are key to this process! For more details, please contact the chair of the TCBC Missions Board, Grace Hui.

Join forces with God?!
at TCBC'S Vacation Bible School
2010

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS
YEAR'S VBS?

This year's VBS will be taking place in the mornings with special programs including trips planned for the afternoon. Since our theme for this year is Hero Headquarters, the afternoon activities will act to reinforce what it means to be a hero for God. Furthermore, we are hoping to focus more on mentoring our volunteers through this entire VBS. They help the kids at VBS have lots of fun and learn about God, however we hope that this year, they will also learn for themselves what it means to be heroes for God during the training process.

REGISTRATION REMINDERS

- Participant early bird deadline is on June 6th. Final deadline is on July 4th.

- Volunteer deadline has passed.

Please speak with Esther Tiet or Mandy Ma if you are still interested. Interviews will take place during the first few weeks of June.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray that throughout the planning of VBS the Core committee will always remember to concentration on God.

- Please pray for our volunteers--that their hearts be open to their children and put forth their best in serving God.

News & notes in brief: The General Management department is responsible for all the equipment in our church. They have recently upgraded the A/V equipment in the upstairs Mandarin chapel. Their next project is to add A/V equipment to the first floor side chapel. We look forward to high-tech Sunday School classes in the future! Thanks to Kenneth Fung and his faithful ministry in this area.

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From University of Toronto Chinese Christian Fellowship...

Dear TCBC,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I write to you to thank you for your continual support and prayer for UTCCF this past year.

This past year at UTCCF, the vision has been "To Learn and to Live" and the UTCCF family has been on a journey to know God through exploring faith, hope and love as the fundamentals of eternal life. Throughout the year, Christ has been faithful through weekly large group of approximately 60 to 80 regular members and many ministry/small group activities during the week. The meeting location of the fellowship has changed various times during the year due to the University's new regulations. Meeting locations have moved from engineering buildings to OISE to the Multi-Faith Center but Christ has been faithful in providing a location for us to meet as a family each week. While often thought that having a large number means members do not get to share closely, this big family has grown to be able to share more comfortably with each other about what Christ has been doing in their lives. As our Lord has been working through this fellowship greatly this year in all different scales, I would like to highlight some things I personally am very thankful for.

During our annual winter retreat over the family day weekend, we invited our beloved UTCCF alumni Raymond Leung who now ministers at Richmond Hill Free Methodist Church to be the retreat speaker to speak on the topic of unconditional love. Within this three day retreat, Christ has moved in the heart of those who attended the retreat as lives were broken down before Christ and one another in open sharing. A brother who has been with us from beginning of the year accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour during the retreat and made the decision to be baptised this past Easter at Toronto Chinese Baptist Church as his public declaration of his decision. May I ask you to faithfully pray for this brother as he continues his journey with Christ in daily seeking the Lord as a disciple with the accountability of believers in the fellowship. From this testimony, I personally am very thankful and am humbly reminded of the heart of God that seeks after his children until they come home into the family of Christ. Other things to be thankful of includes a Coffeehouse with the theme of "True Love Stories" allowing members of the fellowship to share, through different media, their stories of how Christ has loved them. In developing leaders, Christ has used Campus Challenge 09 and Urbana 09 to prepare the leadership and members of UTCCF, setting burdens in our hearts and preparing us for ministry both inside and outside of UTCCF.

During the year, the leadership and I went through times of frustrations, feeling of burning out and struggling with time management and/or focus. I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for constantly humbling us, strengthening us and reminding us that what happens at UTCCF is the all work of His hands. In breaking down our pride, we are confronted once again by God's faithfulness towards the fellowship and we simple stand in awe and thanksgiving to Christ. In the coming year of 2010 to 2011, God is faithful and called a full committee to serve UTCCF who were voted in during elections night.

It has been my privilege to serve UTCCF this year alongside the supportive leadership and fellowship. I have not only learned to serve the fellowship but also to be served by this fellowship I call my family in Christ. Christ has humbled me, grown me and stretched me this year to prepare me for greater work that he calls me for in the future. As each of you has been faithfully praying and supporting UTCCF, I thank each one of you on behalf of UTCCF 09-10. I trust in our Lord Jesus Christ that as he has been faithful to UTCCF in the past years, he will continue to use UTCCF for his kingdom on the University of Toronto campus in the coming years. Will you join me in continue praying and supporting the new leadership of UTCCF, led by the humble servant of Christ Joshua Wang (UTCCF 2010-11 Chairperson), as they follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in completing the work that Christ has called them to for the following year.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." - Philippians 1:3-6

Brother in Christ,
Jon Fung on behalf of UTCCF 09-10

YAG serves at Horizons for Youth

Esther Tiet

On the evening of Thursday April 22, those of the Young Adult Group (YAG) arrived at the homeless shelter, "Horizons for Youth" and were ready and willing to serve. Having been here before, many of us were familiar with the setting, and routine tasks. The night began with serving the last few youth their dinner, followed by kitchen clean up. Then, some of us split up into groups to clear and tidy the donation room, food storage room and even made a fruit salad for dessert.

'Horizons for Youth' is a non-Christian organization that has been providing shelter for homeless youth since 1994. It offers food, shelter and programs for youth between the ages of 16-24, with the majority being 18 and under. Youth that enter the shelter come from all walks of life, but the biggest contributing factor is due to family breakdown. We had the opportunity to talk with a few of the youth and learn more about them. By the end of the night we even played some card games with them and had a good time.

YAG is hoping to have more opportunities to serve at this shelter in the near future. Please pray for us as we continue to serve the youth at Horizons. Pray for a time of fellowship and the ability to reveal God through our actions.