

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

March 2010

2010 Annual Meeting

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Psalm 5:11

February EMC Meeting

The English Ministry Committee met on February 4, 2010 as part of their regular monthly meeting. The meeting started off with a devotion led by Sam Wong who read an 1887 article from the Toronto Daily about the opening of Beverley Street Baptist Church. The article mentions the focus of the church continues to be "saving souls" (see TCBC website for article).

After opening in prayer, the details of the Special Edition newsletter were discussed. We then discussed the possibilities of holding a Teens camp once again this summer for our youth. Two sites have already been booked at Pinery PP from June 30 to July 4, 2010. With possible conflicts with other events at TCBC, this event still needs to be confirmed.

The next item discussed was our softball ministry and the need for leaders for both junior and senior teams. The deadline for registering a team with CCSA (Chinese Christian Softball Association) is the end of February. Teams will go ahead if there is leadership available. Davin then went on to give a brief update on the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu sports ministry. Since University Settlement is no longer available, this ministry will be restart on January 31 at Hayden Secondary School between 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We then went on to discuss updates on the new Child Protection Policy, joint TCBC/UTCCF initiatives and Urban Promise. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

The TCBC Annual meeting was held on Sunday February 28, right after a lunch. We opened with a hymn and then a prayer by Rev Byrne.

Rev Tam introduced our 2010 theme, "Equipping Disciples, Expanding God's Kingdom". He elicited chuckles by commenting that even though he's a dual citizen, he's rooting for Canada at the Olympic hockey gold medal game. Our theme is based on the Great Commission in Mt 28:18-20, Acts 1:7. We are to go to expand God's kingdom. GTA is our Judea; Ontario is Samaria, Canada and the whole world is the ends of the earth. We are to expand through personal evangelism, Gospel Sundays, Mission Sharing, Mission Sundays, etc. We are to equip through discipleship training. On the Cantonese/Mandarin side, they are using materials called "Masterlife" and the English congregation is considering similar materials. Daily devotions are encouraged as is service in church to live out the priesthood of all believers. Rev Tam referenced "the Five Disciplines" as explained in the annual report.

Deacon Anthony Hui presented on the process of incorporating TCBC as a not-for-profit corporation. As a non-share capital corporation, we would have members instead of shareholders and the shareholders can either be every member or just the trustees of the church. The key benefit is to indemnify the trustees from liabilities of the church. We will likely have a board of directors elected for a set term. There will have to be a constitutional amendment to change references from property trustees to a board of directors. Deacon Margaret Hung and Sam Ma will lead this effort. We expect our process to be more complicated than our sister churches because of our complex history. (For example if we ever tear down the building, we don't own the land on which the wall on next to Sullivan Street is built! Likewise, we apparently still own the building of our independent daughter church in Windsor.) We will have to have annual meetings, make public filings with (modest) filing fees and be subject to an external auditor. Deacon Anthony emphasized that the main role of the Deacon Board is not to incorporate but to assist the pastors, help recruit new pastors and new deacons.

Our TCBC treasurer has challenged all departments to use our financial resources to do more ministry that relates to our church theme, Equip Disciples Expand God's Kingdom. Each fellowship and cell group, as well as EMC, now has substantial extra funds budgeted and are encouraged to look for creative ways towards materials that will better equip us as disciples. Contact our EMC treasurer, Bobby, if you have ideas. Although the 2010 budget is expected to be a deficit, ministry inside and outside of our church, including personal spiritual development should not be skimmed on. Moreover, we have healthy reserves to fund this challenge to expand God's kingdom. Jimmy Leung our Executive Board chair gave special thanks to Joyce Chow for all her hard work in pulling together our 2010 budget.

Our 2010 calendar was approved as were the committees of our various departments. See our Annual Report for the complete listing. EMC submitted photos of all our members (see our special edition newsletter) and the congregation was appreciative of getting to know us a little better. Jimmy thanked all those who were serving in various committees and especially those who are serving on fellowship staff, choirs, ushers, teachers, counsellors, etc that aren't listed in any official reports. Rev Wong closed the meeting with prayer and we moved immediately into the February Member's Meeting.

Urban Promise Update

For the past few years, Urban Promise has been partnering with TCBC in their after-school program for youth in the Alexandria Park area. The program at TCBC was led by Duane Forrest who met with youth several days each week helping them with homework, teaching them how to play various musical instruments along with other activities, but ultimately, building relationships with these youth. Unfortunately, due to a cash flow deficit at Urban Promise, the Alexandria Park after-school program has been cancelled. The last day was January 29, 2010. Please pray for Duane and the youth as other possibilities are explored.

Update from the Paschke's

Ted and Cecilia Paschke, missionaries that TCBC supports are planning to visit in May for about three months. They are looking forward to seeing us, and hearing of God's work in and through us. They're looking forward to meeting with us and being an encouragement to each other during their stay here. They are also looking for a place to stay during their visit and for a reasonably priced car rental while they are here. If you're able to help, please contact Sam Wong.

Blizzard 2009

Justin W

On the 29 of January around 20 of our teens and 4 counsellors made the two and a half hour drive up to the Muskoka Woods Sports Resort for a snowy weekend of fellowship, worship, and growing closer to God. A total of around 350 youth from churches all over Ontario attended the weekend organized by CBOQ youth. Worship was led by the Mike Janzen band while Kevin Loten spoke from God's word. It was the first time at Blizzard for me and I was completely blown away. Just being there and to be able to forget about all worries and to worship and refocus on God was amazing. The speaker Kevin Loten shared a very powerful message that not so much condemned our lives but instead opened our eyes to God's amazing love for us and the new life that Jesus offers. It was also a great time of fellowshiping and growing in faith together; a bond in our youth group was formed. The weekend truly brought us closer to God and also to each other.

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/hr. 35hrs/wk. See TCBC website for application and deadline.

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Eva's Communique

The following is an excerpt from the February 2010 prayer letter of Eva Sham, one of the missionaries that TCBC supports. She is a Campus minister for Graduate Students and Faculty with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. She is based at University of Toronto, St. George campus.

The Christian Graduate Connective (CGC) Inter-Varsity's CGC gathers for mutual encouragement to grow as Christ's followers in the university. During this term, the Monday group is studying passages from the Old Testament book of Daniel. We are asking certain questions like: What distinguishes Daniel and his friends from their fellow students? How is Daniel's prayer life compared with that of Jesus? In what ways is Daniel's life fruitful? Bible studies and talks led by fellow graduate students (Daniel and Scott), professors (Dr. Robert Holmstedt and Dr. David Lyon) and guests (Virginia Shipmaker and Ketsia Ernest) challenge us all to think and live Christianity.

Christmas gathering, CGC community and friends At Urbana, one of the students, Jackie, was inspired to start a small group in her department. So, now, there is a small group that meets every two or three weeks for bible study and prayer in the department of occupational therapy. A small group has emerged at the west end of our city. It consists of a former UBC graduate student (who has been involved in the ministry of my colleague, Gord Carkner) and a York U PhD student and I. Since they have young children, our meetings are short and informal. We are now meeting monthly to read and discuss the spiritual disciplines of prayer, community and ministry based on the writings of Henri Nouwen. So, our ministry among graduate students is growing in different ways. God is indeed working among the graduate students at U of T as well as at York U. Let us continue to pray that we co-work well with God. Please pray for the growth of individual graduate students in their relationship with Christ. Do pray that the emerging leaders and scholars of the CGC will grow in the power of the Spirit of God. Some of these students have significant conversations with their peers about God. Please pray that God will provide them with the ability to listen well and the wisdom to speak whatever that is appropriate. Do pray for wisdom as we plan for future gatherings. May these gatherings be meaningful and helpful to us as faithful followers of Christ in the areas of study and work that God has called us to.

Gathering of Christian Faculty and Graduate Students, Saturday, March 27 This will be a half-day conference that brings together Christian faculty and graduate students. We have modified these annual gatherings slightly by meeting on a Saturday this year. By doing so we hope that we could draw together a good number of faculty and graduate students from different disciplines. Dr. David Lyon of Queen's University will be our keynote speaker. He will speak on a Christian response to surveillance. Please pray that God will guide Dr. Lyon as he prepares for the talk. May our small group discussions be fruitful. Please also pray that we would be able to listen well to what future ministries could emerge from these annual gatherings.

A Word about Finances Thank you so very much for your support through your prayer and financial support. Some of you said that you could only contribute very little. However, every amount (whether large or small) is important and much appreciated. God multiplied the mere five loaves and two fish in Jesus' time to feed thousands of people. Thank you all again for your partnership of this vital ministry!

Blessings, Eva

Blizzard 2009

Peter K

Blizzard (for those of you who do not know) is a program sponsored and hosted by Christian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec. CBOQ Youth choose Muskoka Woods Sports Resort for the isolation it provides from your normal distractions and struggles. This year though, CBOQ Youth went about its business and chose a theme which was "I Dare You..." Since this is my fourth year at a CBOQ Youth program, I wasn't really expecting much. I knew for a fact that their themes always have some hidden meaning in them. However, this year we, the youth, got probably one of the, if not, the best speaker in humankind. All we got from him was that his name was Kevin who was also coincidentally the band's bass player. As he would put it "The Invisible Bass player". This got all the tension to go away. About fifteen minutes into his first sermon he talked and talked but the real faith began when he said "REMEMBER that Jesus loves YOU" He got us really thinking Jesus loves ME?? How could this saviour love a sinful person like me?? So the second sermon came and we got another powerful sermon about, again, love. After that sermon, TCBC got singing and jumping. Kevin made us realize that Jesus doesn't love him, HE LOVES YOU! After those few words, TCBC started to sing along with the band. So after lunch, we went through our activities then went again to the Hanger to have ourselves another great sermon. This time the sermon was about sin. Deep is too shallow a word. There is no word powerful enough to describe the feelings I felt along with the TCBC Youth for after the sermon was over we had a communion. This is a tradition at Blizzard. After we took communion the band came back on to sing some very familiar but amazingly inspiring songs. The English congregation worship was brought to its knees as we sang. None of us had ever been closer to God than that point. I am not speaking about TCBC, I am talking about the entire audience of Blizzard 2010. Everyone had their hands up in the air and was singing songs long after we had lost our voices. No one in TCBC I know can sing for 30 minutes at the top of their lungs and still be able to demand not one but three encores. Heaven is supposed to be a place to worship God 24/7. I believe that Blizzard 2010 had a taste of heaven. We all felt like we could keep worshiping Him forever. Yes we were engrossed with God. We demanded THREE encores. It was at that point that I made a promise to myself which I will reveal in due time. After these two days which seemed to be an hour we returned to our cabins and even then were pumped up and ready to worship His Holy Highness again. In the Evening, most of the youth went outside to have some fun. It is impossible to say everything that was done at Blizzard but if there was one, then it was the decision to say "Yes Lord. I know you"