

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

October 2009

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

Philippians 2:1-2

Personnel Committee Update: October 2009

English Minister Search Committee (EMSC): English congregation rep vacancy! EMSC consists of the regular Personnel Committee + 2 additional representatives from the English congregation. Davin Yu & Andre Donais were the 2 English reps; however, Andre is away for this school year, so has stepped down as the 2nd rep. If you are interested in helping TCBC find its next English Minister, please contact Davin Yu for details: [tigerztail\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:tigerztail[at]gmail.com)

Interim English Pastor: Rev Frank Byrne. 1yr PT, started September 2009. Pulpit ministry, English adult Sunday school teacher, leadership accountability and discipleship. Also available for Pastoral care.

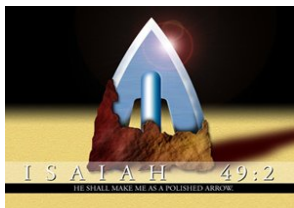
Assistant Child-Youth Worker (1yr position): Position available since Spring 2009. 2 applicants are currently being screened by the Personnel Committee. Pray for wisdom as we consider the applicants and the support of our Children & Youth ministries.

English Minister (permanent FT position): Position available since summer 2008. No candidates to report at this time. Please pray for God's leading and provision in this area.

Children' Minister (permanent FT position): Position available since Dec 2008. No candidates to report at this time. Please pray for God's leading and provision in this area.

Arrow Leadership Program Reflection

Pastor Tanya



Arrow's objective is "to develop Christian leaders in churches and Christian organizations throughout the world, so that they might be led more by Jesus, lead more like Jesus, and lead more to Jesus."

September 19-25 I had the privilege of attending my first of four residential seminars on Keats Island for the Arrow Leadership Program. You can learn more about this program at www.arrowleadership.org so I won't go into all the details about it here but instead share just a tidbit of what I experienced this past month. I was challenged, encouraged and refreshed in my calling and ministry as a pastor and Christian leader.

I was challenged through physical activities of rock climbing, trust fall and blind hike up a mountain. I was challenged by great seminar speakers: Mark Buchanan, Carson Pue, Mitch Whitman and Steve Brown in areas of my relationship with God, my leadership style and my calling and vision as a leader. I was challenged by my Leadership Partner, Christa, who I met with one on one throughout the week as I was processing what I was learning. She asked tough questions and didn't let me get away with anything!

I was encouraged by my fellow Arrow students as I learned their stories of successes and struggles in ministry. I was particularly encouraged by my Leadership Cluster comprised of 3 other fellow students that I met with 3 times throughout the week for discussion and prayer and with whom I will meet in between seminar weeks for accountability and support.

And I was refreshed by the opportunity to retreat to a breathtaking, beautiful mountain-surrounded island where I could slow down, reflect and learn to listen again to the voice of my Lord.

This 2 year Arrow journey will include reading and exploring various areas of leadership, meeting with a mentor once a month, meeting with my leadership cluster and working through a leadership plan designed to help me deepen in my character and skills as a Christian called to lead. I am so excited to be part of this journey and know that it will challenge me to become a better servant of Christ and leader.

Student Ministry / FAST Update: TCBC welcome to university and college students!

FAST Student Facts:

*75% of our students attend UT. Others attend Ryerson, York, OCAD, Mitchner Institute, Centennial, Glen Gould, McMaster. 2 students are even preparing to go to U Sydney (Australia)!

*75% of our students attend campus Christian fellowship groups- mainly CCF, but also IVCF. *50/50 gals/guys

*approximately 30% of English service attendees are university or college students!

Our welcome-back FAST lunch was enjoyed by approx 75 students and 15 hosts. Thanks to the following for their contributions and help with set-up/clean-up: Rev Frank & Jane Byrne, Marigold & Tommy, Linda & Deacon Anthony, Nancy & John Tiet, Deacon Margaret & Henry, Mary & Jeff, Rev Andrew & Linda Wong, Natalie, Myra, Tammy, Ray, Philina, Josh, Ruth & Ming, Esther, Carlin, Derek, Jasmine & Ivan, Cissy & Long, Cindy & Bill, Kim & Will, Janey, Claudia & Norm, Saana, Rani & Philip, Mary & Jeff, Alicia & Sam, the grade 9-11 guys (for setting up the tables and chairs before they dashed off to Sunday school. NB: they were really there eyeing the shrimp chips... and wondering when they get to join the lunches!)

Student Opportunities:

1. Thanksgiving dinner with a TCBC family. Stuck in TO for the holidays? Don't spend it alone- join other "stranded" students for a meal with a TCBC family. Monday, Oct 12, dinner. RSVP [fast.tcbc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:fast.tcbc[at]gmail.com)

2. Mentorship. Looking for a mentor from TCBC? Interested in training to be a mentor? Contact Pastor Tanya Krahn at [tkrahn\[at\]tcbc.on.ca](mailto:tkrahn[at]tcbc.on.ca)

3. Urbana 09. North America's largest missions conference returns this year (so large it only happens every 3 years). TCBC subsidies are available for students. Contact our Missions Dept.

4. Want to help connect and support our students at TCBC? Join the Fast Team or Student Ministry Team! [fast.tcbc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:fast.tcbc[at]gmail.com)

In Christ, the 09-10 FAST Team (Tammy Y, Ming K, Joyce, Alicia)

A Note to Parents

Recently, parents of Sunday School students in grades five and six received a note regarding their children....

Dear Family:

Today our church school group started a new Walk With Me unit on tough choices. Your child is beginning to encounter situations in life that don't have easy answers, that may not have a clear "right" or "wrong" solution. Together we'll be looking at some tough questions and situations and talking about how we make decisions as Christians. Through our discussions of Bible passages and stories, we'll look at biblical guidelines that can help us make choices - even when the answers are far from obvious.

We'll also be talking about the role of love in the decisions we make, about the importance of prayer and Bible reading in our decision making, and about Christian adults and friends who can help us when we're struggling for answers.

Please pray for our group as we look for ways of understanding and addressing life's tough choices.

Contacts:

Will Jin (English Chair):
willandkim.jin[at]gmail.com
Bill Fong (Vice-Chair):
williamfong[at]hotmail.com
Toby Chang (Vice-Chair):
toby.chang[at]gmail.com
Alicia Chin (Student Ministry, FAST):
alicia-chin[at]rogers.com
Jasmine Yu (Fellowship/SG):
jasmine.ng[at]utoronto.ca
Ron Eng (Adult SS Coordinator):
rke111850[at]gmail.com
Pastor Tanya:
tkrahn[at]tcbc.on.ca
Senior Pastor Timothy Tam:
timothytam7[at]gmail.com
If you are interested in helping and improving this newsletter, contact Norman (Vice-Chair):
norman.tang[at]gmail.com

PASTORS...with A CLASSROOM AT HOME... September 2009

-an update from our missionaries, Ted and Cecilia Paschke

Imagine... Years ago, after you came to Christ, and after you grew in the faith, God called you to pastor a church. The church you'd attended needed a pastor, and members wanted you to be their spiritual shepherd. It's been a blessed time. You've seen God use you to lead folks to Christ, to encourage others in their faith, and to lead the church. Yes, there have been challenges, but God has provided and helped. Week after week, you prepare sermons and lessons. You enjoy studying the Bible, to the best of your ability, and the challenge of teaching others. But, sometimes it really stretches you. You've never studied at a Bible Institute or seminary. You would have liked to. But you never have, and probably never will. You're married, with kids, and--like many in Latin America--just don't have the funds to uproot the family and go study somewhere for two or four years. And, who'd care for the church if you left to study? So, here you are, working on another sermon. And, though you do the best you can, you're not sure you understand the passage correctly so as to teach it to the brothers and sisters. And, you wonder how many times you may have preached or taught things which were biblically-incorrect without even knowing you did it. Not intentionally. But, because you yourself have never been trained how to study the Bible correctly so as to accurately understand and apply challenging passages. Also, beyond studying the Bible, sometimes you simply wish you could've been trained how to craft effective, clear sermons...sometimes you ramble, and you realize it. Then, there's counseling. The brethren of the church, and even unsaved people, come to you for advice. So many challenging situations, so many hurting people: a child lost in a tragic accident, many at church are unemployed, a rebellious child, marital strife. All these problems and more--people seek your counsel. You do your best to comfort and guide, using your Bible. But, a course might have helped you counsel even better... So, there it is... You love pastoring, and pour your heart into it. You do the best you can. And, God has blessed. Still, you really wish you could've been taught how to study the Bible, how to prepare sermons, how to counsel, and all the many other things one studies at a seminary or Bible institute, things you have to do as a pastor. But, it will never happen...This is the situation of many pastors in Spanish-speaking countries. In North America, our pastors generally undergo rigorous, systematic training to prepare for church ministry, but such is not the case for large numbers of Latin American pastors. Many of them in Spanish-speaking churches have never had Bible institute or seminary training. Such training would help them greatly in their ministry, and protect them from pitfalls and doctrinal error. And, it would help Spanish-speaking churches grow even more, and be healthier. But, what can be done? The Bible Institute's president has asked Ted to head up producing Bible institute courses that pastors, missionaries, and church leaders throughout Latin America can study right where they are. Courses on DVD, with accompanying texts. Years ago, the Institute had an effort to do this, but it stagnated. So, Ted's been asked to undertake it. He's begun work developing Bible institute courses on DVD, along with the accompanying textbooks. The goal is to make theological training available on DVD for many pastors, right where they are, helping them serve God more powerfully in their ministry. To give pastors a classroom at home... The need and demand are there. In the last few weeks, Ted has communicated with Spanish-speaking pastors and believers in southern Mexico, Argentina, mid-Mexico, Delaware, in the U.S., and Manitoba, in Canada, with them desiring information about theological courses they can study at home or in their church.

To have God's blessing, we need your prayer. Our current prayer needs are:

--For Ted, as he works to complete three DVD extension courses that others began previously, but never finished.

--For God's help as Ted supervises three others who proofread material for the courses.

--For God's blessing as we make the courses known throughout the Spanish-speaking world. October 20-26, Ted travels to a conference in Mexico City, to promote the courses.

--The United States and Canada are delving into great spiritual darkness. Let us believers not be discouraged and critical. God wants to use each of us to impact our nation for Christ. Join us in seeking to live a life faithful to Christ, praying for our land, and then actually speaking to others about Christ.

--October 11th is Clergy Appreciation Day. Pray for and show your appreciation for your pastor, on October 11, and all year.

--For God to bless and provide for those who contribute financially to fund our missionary work. Our ministry depends upon the generous voluntary giving of people like you.

G.L.O.W.

GOD LIGHTS OUR WAY

On Saturday, October 31, TCBC will host an alternative Halloween event. This is an opportunity for us as a church to connect with families in the community and express the love of God in a tangible way.

Last year was a great success with many people joining to lead games, crafts, hand out treats and serve hot chocolate.

If you are interested in being part of the leadership of this year's event or volunteering, please sign up with Pastor Tanya today!