

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

October 2010

The Recreation Club of the Cantonese Ministry

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 1

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[at]gmail.com

From the EMC chair:

Thanks to Norm for his faithful ministry in publishing a monthly newsletter. For those of you who have ever been involved in the literature ministry, you know a monthly newsletter is an absolutely gargantuan task. Norm & Claudia are expecting soon. Congratulations to them! We would very much like to give Norm a paternity leave from this ministry. Please do contact myself or Norm if you are able to assist in this ministry.

Sam Wong, 2010 EMC Chair

Ken Ko

The Recreation Club of the Cantonese Ministry had humble beginnings. About two years ago, a sister started a class sharing her knowledge in brain exercises and breathing exercises during Sunday Deacon board meetings. Then another brother was also teaching Tai Chi to whoever was interested. Later on I started my own Tai Chi class of a different form and shared it with a few people. Late last year I was also approached by brothers who were willing to teach Chinese penmanship. As more people were retiring or planning to retire soon, other people also approach me suggesting that the church should have more activities for members. I must admit that I was also encouraged by the success of the sports ministry of the English congregation that lasted for so many years and reaching out to many non-Christians. Reverend Tam was consulted on this idea and the answer I received was that "many movements come and go because they lack commitment and perseverance."

After many prayers I made a commitment and I challenged the sister who taught brain exercises to write up a proposal to show her commitment. She not only had the proposal within a week, but also solicited many volunteers as instructors for other activities. She was the one that actually created these programs, and all of this is now history.

The Recreation committee of six people was established in February 2010, and was officially approved by the Executive Board in March. The mandate of the Club is to provide activities for members and their friends. The hope is that it will gradually expand to include the neighbourhood.

Four activities were started in May:

- Learning to speak Mandarin
- Tai Chi in Yang's style 24 form
- Low impact stretch exercises and breathing exercises
- Chinese penmanship.

Starting in September two classes will be added:

- The joy of singing
- The Gospel Chinese opera singing.

As always all programs need prayer support. Here are some prayer items – if you can keep us in your prayers:

- The continual commitment of available instructors.
- The participation of Congregation members and their friends.
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Prayer Requests

The following are prayer requests from Literature Department on the various ministries occurring at TCBC. Please remember these in your prayers.

- Over 10 youth participate in the Friday night scouts program, an ongoing project initiated by TCBC Mandarin ministry and Scout Canada – please pray for God's blessings over this ministry
- The Senior Department has started a number of activities each Thursday: Mandarin language lessons, Tai Chi, Chinese Calligraphy and Singing Classes. Pray for more attendees and that the gospel be shared during these programs.
- Pray for the "EASE" group: retirees/semi-retirees, that with God's grace, they would be able to serve God in Fellowships, Departments & Ministries, to be the Salt & Light of the church.
- Harbourfront Initiative, an ongoing outreach ministry proposal in cooperation with 3 churches TCBC, RHCCC and NAPC. Pray that God will call and provide individuals to serve in this area and that they would be able to reach out to the Harbour Front Community.
- Approximately 50 children attended the Vacation Bible School during the summer. Pray for the children that attended who don't normally attend TCBC, that they would feel welcomed to return to take part in regular programs at TCBC, and that they would come to know Christ.
- Seven of our members plus ten members from other churches completed the March Evangelical Training with the Toronto Short Term Mission. Pray that they will use their skills to bring the Gospel to the lost and glorify God.
- Pray for the revitalization of members' monthly meeting.
- As we continue our English Pastoral search, pray that God leads and helps our current pastors and congregations to carry out the Great Commission in harmony and love.

Eva's Communique – September 2010

Eva Sham is a missionary supported by TCBC. She is based at the University of Toronto, and ministers to graduate students through Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada. This is a busy time of the year for us as campus ministers, participating in Orientation events, organizing student gatherings and meeting new students. At the Christian Graduate Connective (CGC) kick-off event, a couple of friends who are professional occupational therapists spoke about what it meant for them to be faithful followers of Christ in their workplace. Many new students turned out for the two first two events of the CGC gatherings. Let's hope and pray that the newcomers will find our campus community hospitable and supportive during this stage of their lives. The student leadership teams are becoming a reality. Regular gatherings during the summer months have strengthened the relationship among a core group of students from which a leadership team is emerging for the CGC. Pray for Michael, Danielle, Daniel, Lisa and others who will help to organize the CGC group this year. A small group of Occupational Therapy students will meet on another day and time of the week. Jackie will co-lead this group with Matt. May these emerging leaders be filled with wisdom, strength, creativity and joy as they serve their Lord and their fellow students. Other requests for prayer are the following: wisdom and strength as I reach out to the new graduate students; guidance in reaching out to Christian faculty; the preparation for a mini-conference (Saturday, November 20) on "Vocation and Transition." Thank you all for your support. In Christ, Eva

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Reflections on Haiti Mission Trip

This is excerpted from Polycarp Tam's reflections on Facebook, on his mission trip to Haiti.

This is the first real written sharing that I have done post missions trip from Haiti. If I have spoken to you already, it was probably impromptu, and I didn't get to fully share what I did, and what God showed me in Haiti. Many people are already asking me how it has changed me, or what I learned. These lessons and life changes are not observed or learned over a period of days, or weeks, but over a lifetime. Well, I am going to get right to it, and realistically, there is way more going on in my head than what I can put down on paper right now.

This past Christmas season, I had the opportunity to attend Urbana. It was truly a worshipful, challenging, and God-centered. It had been such a long time since I attended a "retreat" or any conference, and Urbana was definitely like none other. For all of you that don't know about Urbana, it is a missions conference held by Inter-Varsity every 3 years. I had the opportunity to listen to many challenging speakers and more importantly it allowed God to speak to me clearly and without distraction. As I left the conference, I knew in my heart that God was calling me to a short term missions trip this summer. I came home and with the mountain of books I had purchased, my dad picked out this book called "Following Jesus Through the Eye of a Needle", which I also highly recommend. It is about a missionary that went to Haiti, and how to live life fully and dangerously. As I told my dad about my conviction for a short term missions trip this summer, he asked me to consider Haiti, as it was close, and immensely poor. I pushed that thought aside with plans of my own to go to Africa, or South-East Asia. In my own heart, I was thinking "Haiti? Who wants to go to Haiti?" Within a week of coming back from Urbana, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, causing devastating destruction in an already impoverished nation. I found myself with tears flowing down my eyes, as I prayed with my mother, asking for Jesus to come to the country of Haiti. It was in that moment that God told me "I want you to go to Haiti".

I began to search for a missions trip to Haiti, and with all the confusion and mass hysteria, many missions organizations did not have anything planned for Haiti. It was too much of a mess to even consider. I finally found a missions organization called "Believers World Outreach" about 2-3 months later that was sending short term missionaries to Haiti. With the belief that God would take care of things, I applied, got accepted and started to fund raise and prepare myself for the trip.

For brevity's sake, I will fast forward to the actually trip. There were 22 of us that had flown into Miami for briefing, and even that was a feat in itself. There were missed flights, many transfers, but we all made it to Miami. We had a short briefing about exactly what we were doing, praise, prayer, and we proceeded to pack lunches and supplies for the trip.

On Saturday, August 7th, we took an early morning flight into Port-Au-Prince. As we landed, I marveled at how beautiful the island was and I was surprised at the amount of military aircraft on the island. Our final destination for that day, and for the trip, would be the city of Jacmel, which is about a 3-4 hr bus ride from Port-Au-Prince. Our team was split up into 3 groups, construction, medical, and outreach. Our typical schedule each day would consist of a 5:30 AM wake up, devotions, breakfast, chores, ministry, lunch ministry dinner and more ministry. After a large lunch, the men and women separated to our perspective ministries. The men would run a VBS, and the women would run a women's outreach. We were already pretty exhausted from the trip, but feeling an extra portion of energy. The men went out to meet, serve, and fellowship with the Haitian children at a local church. We sang traditional Haitian children songs, Christian songs in Creole, and also played many games. Aside from VBS, I had the chance to play soccer and basketball with the local Haitians, and after we ran a sports ministry, we would gather the kids and present the gospel. At night we would have the opportunity to go into open fields, and show an animated film about the Creation story and Jesus. These films would be shown in places that were nearby churches, so that anyone that received Christ would have a church to go to. For the construction portion of the trip, we built work tables, church benches, bunk beds, and other various things. The timing of the trip was not right for us to put up a church, but we would build benches that people would come to know the Lord in. Building benches in 115°F heat would prove to be very tiring and exhausting. It definitely was a wonderful feeling to put your body to work making something physical for the body of Christ. These church pews would be placed into a church they built this past week.

I also had the opportunity to visit an orphanage on the last day and play with kids that were not able to be adopted. This is because in Haiti, if you have one surviving parent, you are not able to be adopted.

On our days off we had the chance to visit the beach, as it was only about a 10-15 minute hike from our house. It was gorgeous there, and the water was beautiful. We would go on Sundays after church, as that was our day off.

Throughout the trip, God had opened my eyes to how big his heart was for the world. These were all God's people and children that I had the privilege to meet, serve, and break bread with. Haiti is such a broken place, but there is revival in their church. Churches have been overflowing with newcomers and people turning to the Lord post Earthquake. Praise God that the Calvary Chapel Haiti Initiative team have been building churches, and loving God's people ever since they have started in Haiti.

Haiti is probably one of the poorest and broken places I will ever visit. I thank God for all the lessons he has taught me thus far, and continues to teach me. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27