

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

September 2009

Welcome Reverend Byrne!

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Welcoming Sunday

On Sunday, September 13, 2009, we will be holding a Ministry Fair after English service in front of the church with a variety of displays of the various ministries, fellowships and classes we have in English Ministry. In addition, leaders of these various areas will be around to greet people and answer questions about the different ministry areas. It will also be a chance for people to mingle and learn about all that happens at TCBC. If you are interested in helping out or finding out more about the fair, please contact: Claudia Li Tang ([claudlitang\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:claudlitang[at]gmail.com))

Softball Season Concludes

Oracles had a very successful inaugural season. Despite the challenges with regards to transportation, equipment, and the fact that they were a brand new team, the regular season went well with the team going 4-6 in the regular season and squeaking into the playoffs. In the playoffs, the team advanced to the second round where they eventually lost, although ending the season in a high note. Revive finished off the season with a 5 and 5 record.

We want to extend a very warm welcome to Reverend Byrne as our interim English pastor for the coming year; a warm welcome as well to his wife, Mrs. Byrne. We look forward to him ministering to us over the coming months and strengthening our pulpit, teaching, leadership and caring ministries. Praise God for bringing us together!

English Ministry Committee Update

James Wu

Members of the English Ministry Committee met on Thursday August 6 to discuss a number of important issues. One of the primary issues discussed was regarding the future and role of the committee itself with respect to the various leadership boards within the church. Numerous points were discussed and in the end, discussion had to be cut short and postponed pending the November EMC retreat. The ongoing Executive Board nomination process was discussed as well, specifically regarding the details of the nomination process of an English Ministry Chair. Finally, the committee discussed a few other items regarding Urban Promise and the search for an interim English pastor.

Executive Board Elections

Sam Wong

The Executive Board is the main decision-making body of church. Executive Board members administer the day-to-day activities of the church and as a board, bring motions to the monthly member's meetings for a final vote. The large and complex Executive Board may be thought of as ministries (English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Missions), supporting ministries (music, women's, children's, visitation, and library), administration (treasurer, accountant, renovations, GM) and coordination (chair, vice-chair and secretary). Thus all of English Ministry is a single (very large) "department" on the Executive Board. The only formally elected position on the English Ministry Committee is the "department head" of the English Ministry department. For the last many years, the English Ministry department head has formed an English Ministry Committee as a subcommittee of the Executive Board (just as many other Executive Board departments have their own subcommittee). The members of EMC are not directly elected but are affirmed through an Executive Board motion just like other departmental subcommittees. EMC committee members administer and coordinate the various ministries in our church conducted in English: fellowships, prayer, Sunday School, worship, outreach, etc. EMC is large enough that some areas have further subcommittees: e.g. Worship Ministry Leadership Team.

Executive Board positions are elected annually and normally subject to a three year limit. We thank Will Jin for going beyond the three years and he is currently serving his fourth year. Please pray for God's leading as we continue to build the leadership team for English Ministry. If you are interested in serving in any capacity on the Executive Board, including the chair of EMC, please contact the current chair, Will Jin, or the chair of the overall Executive Board, Yuk-Woo Lee.

FAST

FAST Student Ministry Update: "Welcome, welcome back, or glad you were with us all summer" to our college and university students! FAST (Feed A Student TCBC) restarts our monthly student lunches on the 3rd Sunday in September- Sept 20. Please join students and non-students alike for lunch at 1230pm in the basement. Lunches are free for students, as dishes are graciously donated by our church families :-)

Student sign-up: To receive updates on student-related happenings at TCBC, please add yourself to this school year's student email list at [fast.tcbc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:fast.tcbc[at]gmail.com)

Wanted: Students and non-students interested in helping our students get better connected at TCBC. Got ideas for supporting our student body? Know of unmet needs? Have creative solutions and ideas that would benefit our students? Spiritual, practical, social, service... We are down 3 people this year due to graduations and moves. As well, we are looking for a FAST lunch coordinator. If interested, please consider joining this year's FAST Team and/or the Student Ministry group. [fast.tcbc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:fast.tcbc[at]gmail.com)

Youth Ministry 2009-2010

Our theme this year for our youth is "I dare you" and will challenge our youth to cultivate intimacy with Christ and develop a deeper relationship with Him.

Our youth will also have the opportunity to visit the Royal Ontario Museum on Sunday October 4 to participate in a guided tour of the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit along with a discussion on the significance of the scrolls for us as Christians. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Tanya by September 13, 2009. Tickets must be booked in advance.

Parents' Luncheon

On Sunday, September 27, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the church basement, parents of students in grades 1 to 12 will have the opportunity to share a meal and learn about what will be happening in the coming year in Children's and Teens' Sunday School as well as meet their child's teacher.

Arrow Leadership Program

From September 19 to 25, Pastor Tanya will be away, participating in the Arrow Leadership Program. The 2 year program aims to develop character and competency, challenging a person to be led more by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus and to lead more to Jesus. Pastor Tanya was one of 24 individuals chosen across North America to participate in the program.

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The Gathering Spot

On Tuesday, August 11, a group of our youth participated in an outreach program, The Gathering Spot, a weekly inter-church event which caters to people seeking light, warmth and companionship along with a hot meal and activities. The event has been hosted by Walmer Road Baptist Church for the past thirty years and reaches out to those in the community that are socially isolated, homeless, with physical or mental disabilities. The afternoon started off with the group meeting Pamela, the program director of the Gathering Spot, at Sherbourne subway station. The group then went shopping to purchase food and other goods at a grocery store for that evening's meal. Back at Walmer Road Baptist Church the group began preparing for the evening meal while others helped with place settings at the tables. By 4 p.m., people began dropping in to enjoy some snacks, games and social time. Some of the youth in the group chose to mingle while others helped prepare dinner. Dinner was served at 6 p.m. and unlike a soup kitchen, the meal was a sit down affair, where meals were brought to each guest at the table and everyone ate together. After dinner, some of our youth helped with clean up, while others helped with the after-dinner social program which that evening was crafts. While some took part in painting picture frames, others sat and just mingled with guests. The evening's program ended at around 9 p.m. and was followed by a debrief with Pamela where our youth had a chance to share about their thoughts and experiences that evening.

Urban Promise Celebration

Urban Promise Toronto began in 1998, and was founded with the vision to see change in government-housing neighbourhoods. Through creating a safe environment for children between the hours of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. where they experience nurturing care and attention, through tutoring assistance, Bible studies, snacks and recreation, it has reached hundreds of children, youth and families across our city. Urban promise is currently serving in four communities across Toronto: Alexandra Park (Bathurst and Queen Sts), Jane and Finch, Kipling and Finch and Warden Woods. TCBC is currently home to the After School Program for the Alexandra Park area for children between the ages of 11 and 14.

On Tuesday, August 11, our church sanctuary was the site for Urban Promise's Alexandria Park annual celebration. There were close to a hundred people in attendance, made up of children, youth, their parents and workers from Urban Promise. The evening started off with a dance routine performed by children (ages 7 to 11), followed by a song presentation focusing on God's love for those that are abandoned. This was followed by a video presentation by the youth who had been given a video camera and had gone around the community asking passers-by the questions: What is Freedom? What is Peace? The video concluded with a biblical perspective on these two topics. A second video presentation prepared by the youth was shown based the story of David and Goliath. Utilizing the props available to them, the battle between David and Goliath was adapted to a ping pong show down, with Goliath being assailed by not a sling shot and stone, but a ping pong. One of the pastors from Urban Promise, Pastor Bill, then went on to give a message about the different roads that we often choose to take in life, roads leading to pride, anger, and bitterness. He encouraged us instead to take the right road, and open our hearts to God. The evening finished off with the introduction of Urban Promise workers, counselors and volunteers and with the presentation of certificates for each of the children and youth that participated in the After School Program.

Student Leadership Opportunity

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

This year, our grade 10 to 12 students will be challenged to take part in our first ever Student Leadership Opportunity. With a limited enrolment of eight students for the 2009-2010 school year, this opportunity will intentionally challenge students to take the next step in deepening their faith in Christ, discovering and developing their ministry gifts and being involved in leadership and leadership development. Those students interested in this opportunity will go through a formal application process and interview before being accepted. Beyond committing to spiritual, behavioural and leadership expectations, those accepted will commit to participate in a series of leadership retreats, leadership clusters as well as participate in a leadership role within Barnabas Fellowship. In addition to personal study and assignments, students will also be paired with an adult mentor. The heart of Christian leadership is servanthood and through the above activities, students will be able to study and experience the meaning of servant leadership. Beyond a minimal fee for an excursion to the ROM for the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, there is no cost for taking part in this opportunity. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tanya.

Mentorship Programme

This past March, Pastor Tanya led a pilot mentoring training seminar for potential mentors in preparation for the launch of the Mentorship training program this month. If you are a post-secondary student and are interested in walking along side someone who is a bit more experienced, this may be for you! Interested students will be asked to fill out an application form indicating their needs and will be paired up with TCBC approved mentors. Applications will be available during the Ministry Fair on September 13. If you are interested in being a mentor, it is not too late – contact Pastor Tanya for more information.