

# Youth In ACTion!

Attachment to the CJM Reporter - Fall 2014

## Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

### “Ki” Ministry

I have always loved and enjoyed running around and playing with the kids at church. Rambunctious and overly hyper at times, we'd cause (good) chaos at teatime after service. The thought of teaching Sunday school had NEVER entered my mind. It's interesting how God may call you to serve, or in my case, gently “nudged”, then “pushed!”

Quite hesitant at first, I shadowed Suni Arinobu last year as she had started and led the Kids Christian Education at LJCF since Oct 2012. Through this process, God used her and others to slowly impress upon me the absolute importance of children's/youth ministry. D.L. Moody once said, “If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God!” At the beginning of this year, I took on the Jr. High age group while Suni took the toddlers. At our AGM this past spring, I changed the name from Kids Ministry to “Ki” Ministry (‘tree’ in Japanese) stemming from Psalm 1:2-3 as well as 1 Peter 2:24 (ESV), desiring to be planted and abiding in



Ok.. we HAD to take a selfie...

clockwise from top left: Josh Akiyama, Nana Ueno, Shintaro Iwata, Pierce Ono, Aogu Onodera (staff), Faith Ono, Aki Iwata, Amy Akiyama, Mizuki Iwata (weekend camp)

Christ as well as holding on the cross (referenced as ‘tree’ in the ESV). ‘Ki’ also for Kingdom Impact!

I ask for your heartfelt and sincere prayers for this Ki ministry. Today's youth is constantly and increasingly getting lost in the digital mire, bombarded with information overload and pushing against a storm that wants to overtake their identity. We had a successful weekend camp at the end of summer.. analog style! It was a time of togetherness and fun - getting back to actual interaction and “real” activities, not through our iPhones and Androids. The ministry is serious, there's a real struggle in trying to engage this young generation to the things that really matter – the bible, growing in faith, our absolutely precious relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our children, our young people, are the future of the church and our society. Please pray for me and other teachers that the Word of God will be taught in a way that will speak to their hearts, that it will be relevant for the students as they live in a challenging world.

Honestly, even now I barely know what I'm doing. But I do know God is sustaining me and pushing me forward. If I'm doing anything right, I give the Lord all the glory. □

Nana Ueno  
Youth leader



Mimicking the ever ubiquitous ‘ice bucket challenge’



## Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

### Youth Report by Christopher Collins - Intern

Greetings from the teens at VJGC!

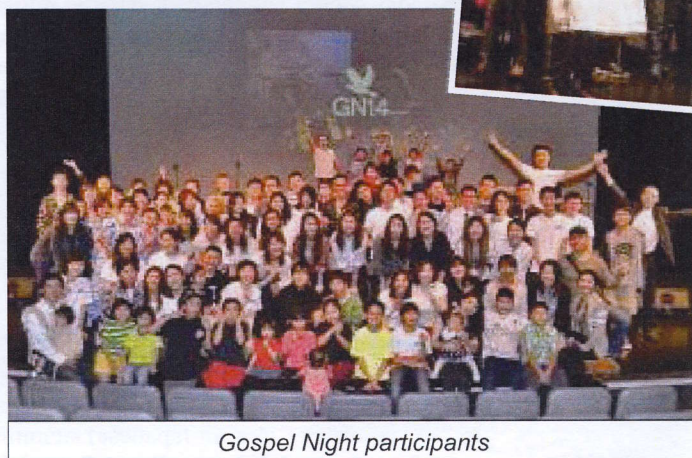
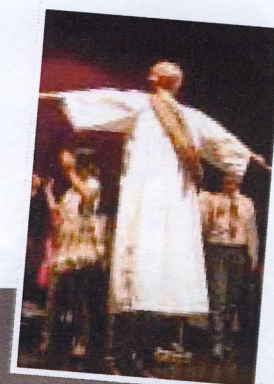
This past year at VJGC was an eventful one for all of us. Our Church School ministry continued alongside the regular school year and culminated in a kind of time capsule project that we have locked away in a secret place in the basement. We won't be opening it again for a few years. At the same time, we held various monthly events through our Teens' Club that ranged from sleepovers at the church to Risk (board game) tournaments and a trip to the largest indoor trampoline park in Canada.

At some point late in the spring, a number of the youth promised to conquer one mountain together for every month in the year. So far, we've been successful! In fact, in the summer, we even hauled a tent and camping supplies all the way up to the peak of a nearby mountain and spent the night there under the stars. However, I confess that I am growing concerned about this promise as

winter quickly approaches! We might need to change our definition of the word "mountain" so that we can survive through to next spring.



The most recent event in which the teens participated was VJGC's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gospel Night. Gospel Night is a worship concert and outreach to Japanese in Vancouver that involves all different kinds of music, dance, theatre, and preaching. It is without a doubt the largest event of the year at VJGC and requires months of practice in preparation. The teens wrote and developed their own skit for Gospel Night called "Sin Train. Through this skit, they were able to show that our Lord Jesus Christ stepped down into our sinful world and loved us when we did not love Him. The skit ends with Jesus ripping the doors off of a skytrain that represents our sin and leading all of its captives out to safety. We are eagerly looking to what this next year holds in store for all of us. God bless! □



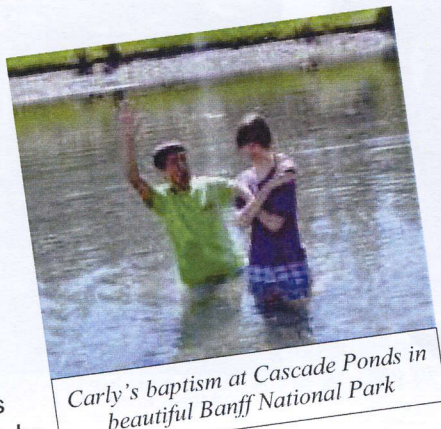
Gospel Night participants

## Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary

### Testimony of Carly Chislett

I started attending Crossover Japanese church a few months after the Tsunami in 2011 because I was only 14 and I couldn't go to Japan for support. I didn't know what to expect and was nervous because I hadn't met Japanese people before despite being so enthralled by the culture. God had put a burden on my heart for the people of Japan and given me the strength to have patience. Most often we have Japanese snacks or deserts, and periodically we have meals together. The fellowship and mentoring that I have received at Japanese church really has contributed to the person I am today. Every summer our church has a joint BBQ/Service in Cascade Ponds, this also presents the opportunity to be

baptized. I had long put off the personal decision to be a born again Christian, I wanted to be baptized in Japan because I saw that as the start of my mission, but I had realized that me not considering the present as time that God could use me for his kingdom was leaving me weak to fight my temptations. Idolatry overtook me and I was putting people before God, but as I allowed for God to become number one in my life I have learned how to love people with the love of God, not my own imperfect love. □



Carly's baptism at Cascade Ponds in beautiful Banff National Park



Crossover Church Youth group



# JAPANESE GOSPEL Church of Toronto

## トロント日系福音教会

### RIDE FOR REFUGE by Pastor Kevin

The Ride for Refuge is a North America-wide fundraising bicycling event that seeks to support charities that serve the "displaced, vulnerable, and exploited." This year our church had the opportunity to host the Toronto East ride site. On Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, over 350 riders came to our church to ride for various charities and organizations. This year our Student Ministries entered a team led by one of our youth counselors, Adam Shih. We rode to raise support for Rahab Ministry, a ministry that is serving our local community with a mission to empower "women and children in the sex trade to be liberated and restored." We had a great day of fellowship with all the other riders and event staff and it was a great opportunity for our students to be directly involved in supporting a local ministry organization.



Ride for Refuge

### FALL YOUTH RETREAT

Over the Thanksgiving long weekend, we were blessed with an opportunity to have Martin Ghent (OMF Missionary in Japan) come as our guest speaker. This was our first fully bilingual student ministries retreat and we had a wonderful opportunity learning about our own self-identity and what it means to be created in the image of God. □



Fall Retreat



JJ

Daniel

Grace

### JGCT SUMMER CAMP by Scott Ohashi

JGCT Camp 2014 almost ran into a major "issue": too many campers! The past few camps we were happy to see our numbers on the higher side, but this year God provided us so many campers that we almost exceeded our capacity!! But thankfully, God always finds a way and provided enough bunks and staff members for another successful week of camp. We were especially thankful that we didn't have to turn any campers away as we were once again blessed to have 10 Japanese high school students from the earthquake/tsunami disaster areas to join us during the week. This is the second year we have had the privilege of working together with the Support Our Kids program.

Though it was unseasonably cold during the week, we were able to demonstrate the warmth of God's love through fellowship and teaching His Word. For many of the newcomers and the 10 Japanese students, this was the first time hearing about God and Jesus. Knowing this, I feel blessed that God would use our camp to plant seeds into these young people. Their apprehension at the beginning is understandable but soon they were enjoying the daily activities and began to be open to the Word of God. Please pray for them as they return home that the seeds which was sown would be nurtured and bring forth fruit in God's time. □



High school students from Japan



Random photo of campers and staff



# Gracepoint Fellowship - Youth and Young Adults

English department of the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

Greetings from the Gracepoint Youth and Young Adults group! After a great summer of sunshine and fun in the sun, and let's not forget CJM Sunnyside Camp, our fall ministries kicked-off with our annual Fall Retreat at Camp Silversides, Alberta on September 26~28, 2014. This year a total of 43 youth and young adults from Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver came out, enjoying a time of awesome fellowship, learning from God's word, spending time in worship and personal reflection and playing a lot of fun games, like capture the flag in the shadows of night! Our speaker was Matt Moore, a student intern at First Alliance Church in Calgary. His message was centered on "The Call to Christian Living". It was great hearing from God through Matt's sessions and I am sure we were all challenged in our lives.



Rob Hasegawa  
GPF Youth and Young Adult Leader

We had a lot of fun just hanging out, meeting up with those we hadn't seen since Sunnyside, and playing a lot of fun games. God even blessed us with an evening show of the northern lights, dancing all around the skies of Alberta as we stood and sat by the lake shore, in awe of the amazing display of God's handiwork! God is Awesome!

Our Fall Ministry at GPF continues on with our weekly youth and young adults bible studies and monthly events. We look forward to God speaking into our lives, seeing lives transformed, growing in our love for Him and ultimately giving Him all the glory! □



Youth Activity night at Sunnyside Camp 2014



Fall Retreat 2014 at Camp Silverside

## TIMMY & SALLY



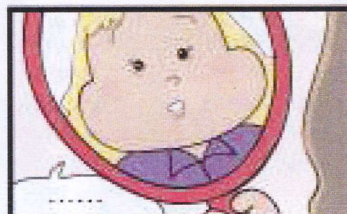
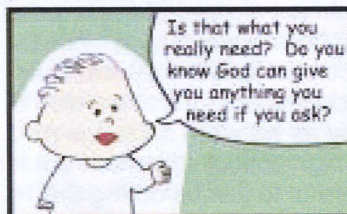
- What's your Christmas gift? -



Hazuki Eguchi

Skills: Graphic Design, Japanese Style Illustrating  
Church: Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto

Interests: Travelling, Eating, Drawing  
Contact: hazuki.eguchi@gmail.com



Hello Youth Leaders. Thank you for your contributions to this newsletter. It's so good to hear what is going on in your neck of the woods. We aim to put out the CJM Reporter with the Youth In Action attachment twice a year, spring and fall. Our next publication will be in April 2015. Have something for us then. Thanks you. YIA Editor