

# Youth In ACTION!

Attachment to the CJM Reporter - Spring 2022

## VANCOUVER JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH *by Mari Fukusaku, Assistant Pastor*

At this time, the following four ministries are involved in the youth activities of our church.

1. YYL (Youth and Young Adults Leaders' Group) Ministry Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7 pm on Zoom. Guest speakers are invited each time we gather and our leaders learn from them. The group reports monthly about their activities and share their prayer requests, followed by a time of prayer.
2. VJGC Career Group Meet once a month for a time of fellowship
3. IYG Student Group Meets several times a month and have Bible studies, invite guest speaker or testimonies, have game nights, and sometimes have outdoor events.
4. VJGC Teens Gather several times a year for fellowship and events with Japanese exchange students.

Pray that the Lord will bless and guide these youth gatherings. One student was saved through these ministries and a baptismal service is scheduled for April.

Please join us in pray that even more young people will believe in the Lord and be saved.



*A recent "Coming of Age" ceremony - a traditional ceremony in Japan*

## GRACEPOINT FELLOWSHIP (ENGLISH DEPART. - CALGARY JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH) *by Jamie King*



*Jamie King*

The Youth Group has been meeting every Wednesday night (aside from the first Wednesday of the month) since October 2021. It has been a great group of boys and girls who are motivated to learn about God.

We started our Youth Group with the study of Philippians by N.T. Wright. Through the study, we learned to rejoice and be thankful in all circumstances regardless of the trials and tribulations

we may be going through. It was encouraging to read about Paul and how he was able to find joy, peace, and humility during his time in prison. This was a good example for many, me included, to continue to find that same joy during the current times of uncertainty with the pandemic and other family situations.

We are now studying the Book of James by Francis Chan. So far, we have learned that although we go through trials and temptations in life, we should draw near to God and allow him to use us for righteousness and to grow from any trials we are going through. We have also learned that faith without action is pointless. It is easy to get caught thinking that going to church is enough, but that is a lie we often tell ourselves. So, the chal-

lenge our group has accepted is to make sure we act on our faith and allow it to make a difference in our lives.

I am always encouraged with this group, and I am so happy to be a part of it. We have an amazing group of youth in our church, and I continue to pray that God will guide us and allow us to grow closer to him.



*Out with some youth on Scotsman's Hill in Calgary*

# JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH OF TORONTO by Adam Shih,

At the end of 2021 we were able to open our youth ministry for in-person meetings again. It was really refreshing to re-connect face to face. Even though we were consistently able to meet online, conversation and sharing flowed better when we sat across a table from each other. When the Omicron variant of COVID came on the scene, we once again moved over to virtual meetings. We have just recently come back to in-person meetings at the beginning of March.

Over the past two years, we have done lots of biblical study and practiced biblical interpretation online. For the students – and myself – it was hard to find ways of how to apply the principles during lockdowns. Now that our province enters into a little more normalcy, we have found opportunities to use what we have learned for the kingdom of God. One such way is our youth Easter worship project. For our Easter worship gathering on April 17<sup>th</sup>, all aspects of worship will be

handled by the youth ministry. We aim to have everyone use all areas of giftedness for the purpose of worship. For those who play music, they will be leading music worship. For those who paint, their pieces will be showcased to add another dimension of reflection. For those who are technologically savvy, they will be able to handle sound engineering and visuals. We pray that this project will give them the confidence to say they have an important part to play in the faith community and that their contribution matters to God and to His kingdom. So far, our practices have been dynamic, and our lunches together afterwards have been intimate and open. I get the sense that the students may want to continue doing this going forward which is very exciting.



*One sample of an Easter montage, an Old Testament narrative. Rotate clockwise 90 degrees and you will see a picture of Jesus' face.*

Please continue praying that we can continue building relationships with the students and build them up as leaders in our faith community.

# VICTORIA JAPANESE CHURCH by Akira Yasuda - Youth department leader



*Akira Yasuda*

Our young adults' meetings have not been very action packed for obvious and jaded reasons that restricted us from physically getting together, but through it all, God has been good to us and we are reminded every time that He continues to take care of us.

We did many engaging studies from the Old and the New Testaments. Many testimonies were shared also during our fellowship, through which we gained deeper understanding towards each other.

When we were able to, we did hikes in the woods, saw salmon run by a river, visited some water falls, appreciating and getting reminded that whatever human shenanigans go on in the society, which many of us have been very weary of, nature unchangingly points us to the creator and glorifies Him. This is a great reminder of God still being in charge, no matter what we may be going through, goes unnoticed too easily, which only make us more vulnerable to be affected by the world and the evil within it. For that reason also, we are so thankful to be able to do outdoor activities surrounded by spectacular nature.

*"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"*  
Psalm 8:3-4.

Though some had to leave our group to go back to Japan, we are thankful for some new faces joining or checking out the group, despite the decrease in physical gatherings. We pray that more new people will come to the gatherings toward the summer and that God will make us grow in numbers and in faith.



*Enjoying post-hike snacks before Bible study*

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; our next publication will be in Fall 2022. Looking forward to your article then! Thank you! YIA Editor