

Youth In Action

For Christ

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Spring is the season of change, renewal and re-birth and so, perhaps it is fitting that at this time, a season of change has come to the youth group at the Japanese Alliance Church in Winnipeg. In February we sadly bade farewell (but only for a short time, we trust) to Yuki Yamada, one of the leaders of our group who has completed his university studies and has returned to Japan. He hopes to return to Winnipeg in a

WE'RE WINNING! - in Winnipeg

JAPANESE ALLIANCE CHURCH OF WINNIPEG



couple of years to further his education and our prayers are with him. It was Yuki's enthusiasm that was instrumentally harnessed and used by God to begin the "Nikujaga" youth group more than four years ago. Yuki was often the only young person to show up at the Friday evening Bible study. Up until that time the attempts at starting a youth Bible study had met with even more discouragement. Attendance was sometimes the two organizers only, but

at just the right time God placed Yuki in our church, and that was the beginning of what is today the "Nikujaga". As we look back on the past few months, one of the highlights for "Nikujaga" was the presentation for the church Christmas service. The group decided to present a slide show of the Nativity story, set in modern-day Winnipeg. All the slides were shot outdoors on one day in November (praise God it was unseasonably warm for Winnipeg that day) at the historic Forks site in downtown Winnipeg. The group had a great time planning and shooting the scenes and it was a great opportunity for many people who do not always attend the weekly Bible study to take part. Another highlight was a special retirement dinner in January for Rev. and Mrs. Matsubara prepared and hosted by "Nikujaga". It was a very small and intimate affair attended by nine people and the main course was Nikujaga (of course). Then, there was the farewell dinner for Yuki in February which was attended by nearly forty of his friends and "family". As we look ahead to



the future, we trust that God will continue to guide and provide. Already, the young people left here are working harder to pick up the slack and new members are being drawn into the group. For the summer, an outreach barbecue in conjunction with International Student Minis-

tries of IVCF has become an annual event and we are looking forward to that again. If anyone in the JCECS family will be coming through Winnipeg this summer, please drop by our church for a visit.

Tony Nakazato



YOUNG GENERATION

CALGARY JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH

Remember the Summer Team Ministry? Well, we have a new team called the YGC- Young Generation for Christ

lead by 5 leaders, Mark Hoshizaki, Candice Openheim, Kae Hamami, Jen Rose, and Myself. We also came up with a mission statement which reads, "In Christ, Through Christ, For Christ". Because STM was such a huge success, we wanted to continue our ministry with the youths into the Fall/Winter term. We'll still have Bible studies every other Wednesday lead by Mark, and its been good to see new and old faces attend. Please continue to pray for us leaders that we will continue to nurture the spiritual needs of our youths, and that the youths themselves would continue to seek and experience God's great love in their daily lives.

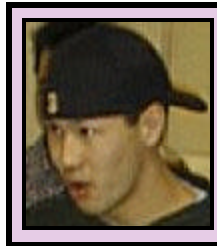
Marie Shukuda

God has continued to shower His blessings on the youth at our church! Some of the highlights as the 2001 year came to a close, were the Miles Ahead Crusade, and our annual Christmas youth party. New Year's Eve was a blast, as we had youth from a couple of other Asian churches from Calgary join us for an evening of praise, worship and fun!!!

2002 has gotten off to a great start with "Iron Chef 2" bringing the culinary skills of our youth to the forefront. Four teams raced against the clock to prepare a plethora of sweet and savory delights, which were judged and awarded accordingly by a panel of strict judges!

Looking ahead, we're getting excited to join the folks up in E town (Edmonton) for YC 2002 in April. Please continue to pray for our youth so that they can come to a full knowledge of the riches found only in Christ.

John Komori
A.K.A-Sheepdog



I deas for Youth Events

5 thi ngs about the Youth i n our Church



1. Popular food: #22 with extra beef balls and no tripe
2. The girls are the flower water of the church.
(Translate "flower water" to Japanese)
3. Orange TANG is the fuel for D.D.R.
4. A thumb in the nose is a skill.
5. For Calgary weather, a hoodie is a must.

Gift Exchange: You just don't know how creative youth's these days can be with only just \$5.00 to spend on a gift. At our annual Gift exchanges we have seen it all from a toilet seat to cat litter to a 2 cheeseburger combo from McDonalds.



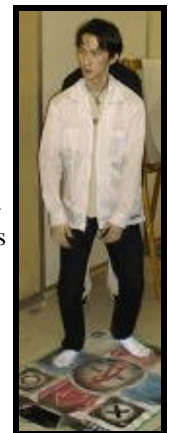
Penny Carnival: Now this is where it gets messy. Whip cream throwing, spaghetti eating, popcorn lobbing, cheerio sticking, olive blowing and trying to drop an whole raw egg, yolk and all, into some ones mouth. Need I say more?

Iron Chef: No joke, all you need is some youth brainstorming together with a limited amount of time, with one special ingredient and you can open up a restaurant with a full course menu. Delicious!!



Worship Night: All it takes is worship songs, personal testimonies, scripture reading, praying, snacks, a group of people and God will bless the night GUARANTEED!!!

Potluck Anything: The youth need their food and the parents of the youths know how to make food. What you need is a place, maybe music, food and people. Potlucks aren't always big feasts at Christmas service, they come in various forms. We have the potluck chips, potluck drinks, potluck veggies, potluck fruit, and potluck milkshakes. As long as there is some participants with imagination its all good. It's a good chance for the youth to bring old friends or introduce new ones and fellowship and get to know one another.



Shuichi Ishiguro Leon Kanno

FIRE BURNNING TORCHES

God has definitely been working in and through us at the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church! It is SO ENCOURAGING to see several of the newer Christians within the young adults completely on fire for God and longing to serve Him with their lives. In November, we rejoiced as Wolf Wikley and his mother, Gisela, were baptized, declaring their desire to be lights in this world! Whenever I get discouraged and it seems like my own relationship with God is plateauing, the Lord never fails to strengthen me through the lives and testimonies of my sisters and brothers. Especially for those like me who grew up within a Christian



forget that faith in Christ is indeed such an EXCITING ADVENTURE!! This past year, our church was burdened with the fact that there is a great number of Japanese non-Christians in our city. There is even an organization called "Edmonton Japanese Community Association" which hosts various activities and events for the Japanese community. So we have taken a hold of this amazing opportunity that God has given us to become a part of this association and show them God's love.

We have made numerous contacts through these get-togethers, including one guy who has been coming to Bible study and challenging us with his questions about life and God. Please pray for us as we get more involved within the Japanese com-

munity that the Father will show us how to lead his children back to Himself. Another completely amazing thing was our Christmas program -- there were over 100 attendants, and mostly young Japanese people!! Our church has been blessed with many members who have incredible spiritual insights. I have recently been given a renewed passion to give up all the "idols" that have blinded me to the fact that Christ must remain my one and only "first love." In the midst of all the studying, working or whatever busyness in our lives, we must continually be reminded that our lives are not our own -- we work for our Creator!! What a truly blessed assurance it is to know that we serve the one and only true God; but we must not hog this assurance!! We are to have a passion as God's chosen to share it with those living in darkness. Just as Jesus said, "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness," (John 12 : 46) let us be burning torches for the Lord!

Becky Lengefeld



www.ycgeneration.com
YC 2002
April 5-7
Edmonton, Alberta

YC has become Canada's largest, annual youth conference. It has grown from just 500 registrants in 1994 to nearly 14,000 as of April 2001. YC is a weekend where students from junior high to university age come together to be spiritually challenged and changed for the purposes of God. In the last 2 years alone, over 4,000 students accepted Christ as their personal Savior and thousands more made decisions to be bold in their faith and go deeper with God. Join us for the YC 2002 weekend as denominational differences are set aside and we become one in Christ.

SNOW DAYS!!

LETHBRIDGE JAPANESE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Up and coming events:



March 9th (Sat.) Sports Day

Youth are going to Fernie Snow Valley for some snowboarding.

April 13 (Sat.) Sports Day

Castle mountain for snowboarding if there is snow.

May

We are also planning to have a Spring Festival with a music and talent show.

June

Pray for Taka Sakai, a 18 year old Japanese student and his preparation for his Baptism at the Lake!! Way to go TAKA!!!!

July 19 to 21

Joint Kananaskis camp with Calgary and Lethbridge youth groups.

God bless, Makiko Nakao

Greatest Friends

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto

I have been a part of the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto for many years now, and I have become really close to the youth that attend this church. We have all become really close friends and I enjoy all the activities that we do together. However, as we get older, we will have more and more responsibilities and thus we will slowly drift apart. It is depressing to think that soon I will not see them as often as I do now, as I will be heading off to university in the fall of this year. I know many people in university that are friends of mine, but I hardly talk to them now and almost never see them. Most universities in Ontario are too far to commute to, and university can be very stressful. I will not be able to attend as many church events as I do now, and I will not be able to go to church every week. Therefore, it is almost inevitable that I will lose touch with my youth group. However, it is very important that I try my best so that this does not happen. I must make the effort to keep in touch. I tell everyone who is in the same situation as me; to make the effort. Whether it be e-mails, icq, or phone calls, try very hard to keep in touch. After all, your friends are worth the effort. No matter how stressful university gets, never forget your friends! Most importantly, never forget the greatest friend that you have, Jesus Christ. It is easy to lose touch with Him, but try your best not to. He is certainly worth the effort!



Seiji Shinoda

Summer Youth Ministries Summer of 2002

JCECS is planning a Summer Youth Ministry program involving 4 to 6 young people from Alberta and the same number from the Toronto area exchanging location for a 3 week period. The youth will work with JCECS affiliated churches and summer camps may be a part of the ministry involvement. Young peoples, 16 years of age and older are asked to pray for the Lord's leading to this ministry. Bilingual ministry abilities will be an asset. For further details contact your pastor or Nori Kanashiro (416) 321-5831 in Toronto.



Summer Ministries Coordinating Committee

Hi, to everyone again!
Shuichi and his team have put together another great issue of the Youth In Action! Good work, team! And thanks to all of you who contributed to make this issue another interesting, challenging and a God glorifying edition. All your photos too are great! Take lots of them, keeping the Youth In Action in mind as you do. I can see God at work in all your groups! Keep looking up and trust Him for all your plans, preparations and direction for the future.

Nori Kanashiro, JCECS General Director

Top 5 songs



1. **I Need You**.....Jars of Clay
2. **Camouflage**.....Plus One
3. **J Train**.....Toby Mac
4. **Entertaining Angels**Common Children
5. **Solid Rock**.....Russ Taff

www.air1radio.com

Youth Leaders Contacts

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TO CHECK OUT

WEBSITES

- www.intouch.org
- bible.gospelcom.net
- www.gospelcom.net
- www.teenmania.com
- www.air1.com/artists
- www.billygraham.org
- www.promisekeepers.org
- www.thebenjamingate.com
- www.heartlight.org/links/index.html

