

# Youth In ACTion!

Spring 2011 Edition

## Gracepoint Fellowship: NOS (Needing our Shepherd) Youth Group

By Nicole Geddes and Ian King

Greetings to all members of the Canadian Japanese Ministries! We would like to thank you for your continued prayers as we lead the youth group here in Calgary. God has blessed our group abundantly and we are very grateful. Currently we are both in our fourth year of university and have been extremely busy with other extra-curricular activities. A number of individuals from the Gracepoint congregation recognized this and were kind enough to help us out with various youth group activities. Miho Hoshizaki, Glen Hasegawa and Brian Nakai have carried out bible studies which have been planned to cater towards specific age groups.



Gavin (L) and Thomas

Our role has been to plan fun group events for youth of all ages to participate in. Thus far, we have enjoyed movie night, games night, skating and bowling to name a few. At our most recent bowling event, we were quick to get money into the jukebox and show off our best dance moves while we hurled bowling balls down the alley!

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up  
—Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

We have had the pleasure of leading the Gracepoint Youth Group for four years and it is amazing how the friendships have evolved. Not only have the relationships flourished, but the individual growth amongst the teens has been incredible. This group has demonstrated the desire to know God and to live their lives for Him. They are becoming strong men and women of God. We have learned so much from them and truly appreciate our time with them. During the thick of midterms, immediately after a sporting event or exhausted after a day of school, it is always an absolute pleasure to be able to spend time with this great group of young people.



The Klumps!

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Please continue to prayer for the NOS youth group; that relationships would continue to grow and that we can provide accountability to one another. Please also pray for members of our youth who are in the midst of planning post-secondary educations for next year.

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
—Romans 15:13

## Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: Planting Seeds

By Pastor Kevin Ueta

*"God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose." — John Piper*

The past URBANA09 missions conference was a large influencing factor for two of our students, Stephen Chai and Clayton Wong, as they considered their God-given calling for overseas missions. God spoke to each of them in a way that



Stephen (L) and Clayton

brought a sincere passion for the nations that God lovingly seeks to redeem. Last year, visiting OMF missionaries from Japan, Martin and Ruth Ghent came to Toronto on home assignment. As they shared their stories of the need for workers in Japan, Stephen and Clayton took things to heart and began praying about their calling

to serve as short-term workers in Japan. On May 1, 2011, they left for Aomori, Japan to work as OMF Serve Asia workers for six weeks with the Ghents.

As a church family, our prayers go with them as they seek to minister to the needs of the people and the church in Japan during this very critical time in the wake of the recent tragedy in Japan. Keep up with their adventures by visiting their missions blog, [whatsnewintohoku.blogspot.com!](http://whatsnewintohoku.blogspot.com)

Another one of our young adults, Kevin Teh, has responded to God's calling for missions. He will be traveling to Haiti on a medical mission trip for two weeks to help with the work that is going on in that country with STIMMA (Short Term International Medical Missions Abroad). As we all know, the needs in Haiti are almost immeasurable and they are desperately in need of



Kevin at worship practice

God's provisions and His love. Kevin's story is one of faith as he responded to God's call to step outside the comforts of life here to help with the desperate needs of the people of Haiti. Please join us in praying that God will prepare the way for Kevin and the team he will be joining and that God would truly bless their work in Haiti.

I have also recently been challenged in the area of global missions. God blessed me with the opportunity to take part in the Perspective course here in Toronto. Over a time of fifteen weeks, many prominent speakers in the area of missions have come to teach about various aspects of a Biblical and global missions worldview and His message of reconciliations.

Lord willing, I will be leading another team of four other students to Japan this summer to continue with the work here. Please pray for us as we continue with preparations for this very exciting opportunity for our church.

# God Waited in Afghanistan

By Zion Kuriyama



Shion (Zion) Kuriyama

*From Lethbridge, AB is currently on staff at Discipleship Training School connected with the (YWAM) University of the Nations in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.*

I was a boy who defiantly enjoyed life. I loved myself and really loved to drink! I would go drinking every weekend with friends and receive bills that were never under 400 dollars, under that was a rare occasion, even when I was drinking by myself.

There was a void inside my heart, not just an emptiness but a void without form and full of darkness. When I realized this, God really

started to pull my heart to His direction. I started checking out Bible colleges with leadership training classes in late 2009. Nothing really fell into place, some colleges needed 2 years of committed church attendance, for me, this was a whole new world. I finally decided on Discipleship Training School (DTS), a Youth With a Mission (YWAM) school in Hawaii.

I came from a conservative background thinking that jumping up and down and praying in the open for people was a challenge, but nothing prepared me for what God had in store.

Afghanistan was where God waited and met me, a place where 70% of the population live in poverty.

They have been in constant war and bloodshed for decades. But I felt more secure there than anywhere else and I would love to call it



home. The people there exemplify servitude, they are joyful and loving. They will sacrifice everything they have just to be with you. Afghanistan has been in a drought for ten years. Three times a year it would rain, only randomly

God continued to challenge me I wanted to give everything to Him, and truly surrender all. I told Him I

want to give you 100% of myself and decided to pray an impossible prayer. I said "God, if you want me to follow you I will, but you need to show me that you are REAL". For a moment I paused and waited, the Lord said to me "I love you Shion, and to prove that I will make it rain for 30 days". That night a down pour of rain, thunder and lightning. It rained heavily for three days, twenty seven more days followed. I felt the love of God surpassing knowledge pour down on me.

God challenged me to no longer be a mediocre Christian living a life of compromise I dared to dream the impossible, pray the unthinkable, to see the unseeable.



At this time, I am preparing to go on staff at the Call2All Discipleship Training School in April 2011. My vision is to see revival across Japan and Asia and raising mighty men and women of God. I have a tremendous passion, desire, and

a heart for people to grow in a deep relationship with God and to have a lifestyle revolving around Him.

I humbly ask for your prayers, as this is the beginning of my new life.

Ephesians 6 v12-18; 2 Corinthians 10 v3-4



## HELLO to the YOUTH and the YOUTH GROUPS in our churches

We are looking for articles and photos from the youth and youth groups in our churches. It could be your personal testimony, events, or a missions trip you were on. Let's share it with others!

Sent it to me, YIA Editor: Naomi Ishiguro  
Email: naomi87@gmail.com

# Dear Young People of the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

As a small church we face many challenges with the lack of a pastor and teenagers in our congregation. Yet in the midst of all this, God has blessed us with you - the young people (mainly consisting of college and career) who are active in our church.

The contributions you all have made on the March 20<sup>th</sup> Special Service for the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami have been amazing. You worked behind the scenes in the preparations and set-up of the refreshments and fellowship area. Your efforts in putting up the PowerPoint display for the service were smooth. Your musical performances during the service and leading the congregation in meditation and a time of prayer were a blessing to us all.

Many of these behind-the-scenes roles, unfortunately, go unnoticed or even forgotten due to the busyness of the weekly service. Yet, as I sat up in the balcony with the sound and PowerPoint crew, I could not help seeing how faithful you are to make sure that everything went smoothly and well throughout the service. To the praise team members, Rui Nakao, Izumi Ogawa, Anna and Maya Hudon, and many others, thank you for leading in singing and providing the musical accompaniments. To Miho Hachisuka, a student visiting from Calgary, thank you for your service as a translator for that day as you went on standby for those who



needed the sermon translated into Japanese. To the younger children, I am humbled in how you helped the babysitters take care of the little ones throughout the service. It reminds me how no matter how old you are God gives each of us a purpose within the church to help each other. I guess this is what it means to work as a body, when each person takes on a different role, we all work together to glorify God.

Thank you all for faithfully serving the Lord in big and small roles. May God bless you richly for your acts of servanthood.

With blessings,

Sue Shigemitsu

An Appreciative Member