

# Youth In ACTION!

Spring 2010 Edition

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

(English department of the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church)  
by Nicole Geddes and Ian King

Greetings to all in the Canadian Japanese Ministries!

The youth at Gracepoint have been busy, we are continuing to meet on a monthly basis and though this doesn't seem like much, we do a great job of taking advantage of the limited time we spend together in fellowship. As we continue to go through a DVD series by David Nasser, the youth are being challenged by tough questions that a number of Christians have. Some of these include 'Was Jesus God or just a good man?', 'Were Jesus' miracles just an illusion?' and 'Is Jesus the only way to heaven?'. There have been many opportunities for sharing in these sessions and we are continually amazed by the spiritual maturity in our youth group.

Christmas time also marked a time of great fun in Calgary, the youth decided to celebrate by having a small gift exchange and even though the spending limit was \$5.00, there were some really



good items! This event was a reminder of how close the youth have gotten over the last few years and how much encouragement everyone has given to one another.

Recently we enjoyed a trip to Kananaskis where we were able to take part in a snowshoeing led by John Komori. The event led to some great stories, many laughs and of course the odd fall here and there! We are so lucky to have individuals in our church who are willing to be involved in youth ministry.



In closing, we ask that you continue to pray for our youth as they grow as Christians and strong men and women in today's society. Please also pray for our

continued struggle with getting everyone together despite far distances.

Lastly, please pray for us leaders that we too can grow in our

faith and sustain strong relationships with the youth.

Thank you for your continued prayer



and support in this regard, we are so blessed!



# Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto:



by Pastor Kevin Ueta

*"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood."* John 1:14 (The Message)

This was the theme verse for the Urbana 2009 conference held in St. Louis, Missouri.

Last year, the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto was blessed to send a team of 24 people to the conference. Urbana is a 5-day missions conference held every three years with a focus on world missions. Due to the success of our prior trip in 2006, we managed to gather an excited team of 24 individuals from all walks of life to engage in God's calling for our lives and to eagerly anticipate what God had in store for us at the Urbana conference.



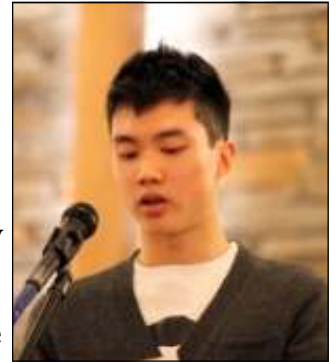
From the very first day we were immersed in speaker sessions, Bible studies, prayer sessions, and music worship meetings, all with the intent of challenging us in the area of world missions. It was an extreme experience for us all and an experience full of vision.



For me, the most encouraging part of the trip was hearing the stories of how God spoke to each person in our team in a uniquely special way. Each person was challenged in their own way and I remember coming to tears listening to everyone's stories during one of our last debrief sessions in the final days. I was thinking to myself, *How truly amazing is our God – that He could instill such conviction, power, and passion in each individual!*

I know that the challenges that God gave us at Urbana will have an impact on us for the rest of our lives. For some, a realization of their God-given calling to cross-cultural missions, for others a calling to submission to God's will for their lives and careers, for others a God-sized vision for the church and His kingdom, and for others, simply a time to re-commit their lives to Jesus Christ after being distant from Him.

For one individual, God spoke through the Urbana conference to challenge him to take the step of faith of baptism at our church. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, one of our university students, Adam Shih was baptized during our first baptism service held in the new church building. He shared a powerful testimony of how he came to know the Lord and he shared how Urbana helped him to make this commitment in his life. Incidentally, this was also the first baptism that I had ever performed. I felt so honoured to be asked by Adam to be a part of this very special event.



It was surprising that even with 24 people on the team, we all still found time during each day and night to re-connect with each other. As we spent the intense 5-days together at the conference, God was at work to strengthen the bond of love and friendship that we all shared. Even now, some of us continue to share our memories and stories of our experiences at Urbana and we wait with the lingering excitement for Urbana 2012.