

# YOUTH IN ACTION FOR CHRIST

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## Back to the Basics

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto  
By James Ishiguro



After a summer of softball and another successful camp, the youth at the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto

saw a huge increase in numbers attending Sunday school. While the group got things off to a slow start, not holding regular events for the first two months, things were started off with a bang with a great Fall Retreat. A weekend away from the city and schoolwork spending time in fellowship and just having fun was a perfect way for the youth to get to know each other. Blessed with a great speaker, we learned how we can live more Christ-like lives, and no one can forget the great session where we learned how the music we listen to can have an affect on the way we perceive the world. After the retreat, the youth began to meet weekly, getting together for barbeques, Bible studies, a Christmas party and a New Year's Eve bash. In February the group headed down to the Air Canada Centre to watch the Raptors play some ball. Although they lost to a good New Jersey Nets team, everyone had a good time as it was fun just going there as a group. As for Sunday school, we have gone back to basics and have been doing a survey of the Bible, starting right at the beginning with Genesis and touching on major themes and events throughout the Bible. The highlight of this series of lessons was our outing to see the Passion of the Christ together. After discussing Jesus' life and ministry in class, we went to watch this

powerful and influential movie, getting together for a time of discussion following the picture. The past few months have been a great time of growth for our group and we look forward to what the future holds. We have just started a Bible study series on Acts and the youth continue to come out in droves (well, compared to before). Please continue to pray for our group as we prepare for another retreat.



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Recently, I cried out to God that it was time for me to place Him in the center of my life; before work, school, family and friends. I wanted to follow Him and I prayed for Him to show me how. I asked God to help me be a humble servant and that He use me in ways that I could serve Him wholeheartedly. In mid-February, I attended the "Reaching the Japanese for Christ" Conference at Bothell, WA. This was my first ever Christian conference where I learned many important things about witnessing to the Japanese visiting Vancouver. This conference helped me gain confidence and not fear when I have the desire to share the gospel to the non-believers. I used to not be able to say it well in words how God meant to me to my friends and relatives. I used to hope that they would see my actions and be attracted to a light that comes from God



shinning within me. The RJC conference reminded me that I must surrender to God and rely on Him. Now, there are two things I do when I have the desire to share with my non-believer friends both Japanese and Canadians: 1) I pray to God and ask Him to open the person's heart so that they may be more receptive; 2) I pray and ask God to be led by the Holy Spirit in my words as well as my actions. Now, each time I do these two things, it feels so natural to share because it's God doing the work. I am just a tool. The RJC conference had a great impact on me that I was eager to attend another Christian conference. On the first weekend of March, I attended the "Train Vancouver- A Children's Ministry" Conference at a local church in Vancouver. This conference was packed with tools that I could apply when interacting with the kids in Sunday school. The two conferences helped me be more confident in witnessing to the non-believers both adults & children and growing together with the believers in our faith in Jesus. God has led me to be involved in the College and Career Group Committee that has just started this year. One of our first events was watching "the Passion of the Christ". As well, some mothers at church expressed their concerns for a certain pre-teen who had stopped coming to church. I wanted this individual to be excited about coming to Sunday



School. The problem was she didn't have any other girls that were in the same age group as her. So, I organized an activity for the 4 girls (ages 6-12) at our church to get together and bond with one another. We watched a movie and eat at McDonald's during their Spring Break. The girls enjoyed themselves

## I will Follow

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church  
By Shinobu Ueno

even with their age gap. They wanted to get together once a month from now on. Maybe this is the beginning of a Pre-teen Group?? In 1 Peter 5: 2-3, Peter is addressing to the elders and young men saying: "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers ---not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy of money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." I realized that by willingly being an active member at church, I am



setting a good example to those around me; but more importantly, I am pleasing God!! I'd like to finish off with the lyrics of the song "May the words of my mouth" by Tim Hughes: May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart. Bless Your name, bless Your name, Jesus. And the deeds of the day and the truth in my ways. Speak of You, speak of You, Jesus. For this is what I'm glad to do. It's time to live a life of love that pleases You. And I will give my all to You. Surrender everything I have and follow You. I'll follow You.. Lord, will You be my vision, Lord, will You be my guide. Be my hope, be my light and the way. And I'll look not for riches, nor praises on earth. Only You'll be the first of my heart.. I will follow. I will follow. I will follow You.



### Letter from the Editor

*Another job well done! A big thanks again to Shuichi and his reporting team for getting these excellent articles for your paper. I know there is always excitement in the air when the youth groups receive their copies of the Youth In Action. A pastor of a CJM affiliated church emailed me after the last issue and stated that the Youth In Action gives a sense of energy and new determination to their youth leaders to keep pressing on. That's what it is all about! God works through your testimonies, reports of your exciting events and ideas of what you are planning. Keep up your good work, everyone! Lets keep encouraging one another. God has greater things in store for us all!*

*Nori Kanashiro, CJM General Director*



How does steaming hot ramen topped with pork, shitake mushrooms, chopped green onions and showered in sesame seeds sound to you? Is your stomach grumbling yet? After a day of fishing led by mad fisherman guru, Kaz (Elder in Church), the church held a "Ramen Taikai/Party", which was held in February. It was a great opportunity to meet new people, to fellowship and do outreach (majority present were non-Christians). Over 35 very hungry people came to eat some mouth-watering ramen! The youth were the driving force of making this day happen, whether it was from cooking, setting up tables & chairs, bringing the bowls and chopsticks out, cleaning up, they did it all. Of course, they made sure everyone was having a great time. Their display of action reminds me of 1 Peter 1:8 "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." A job well done on

## Sapporo Ichiban

Lethbridge Japanese Christian fellowship  
By Janet Hayashizaki



### Paparazzi Janet (Seen & Heard)

**Ray** (seen): caught at the University gym everyday...work those cardios  
**Ken** (heard): His new job: The pooper scooper  
**Lisa** (heard): Wishing life in Calgary was in Lethbridge  
**Nana** (seen): Through the storm on icy roads, Nana goes to the Lighthouse Restaurant and buys sushi for her birthday  
**Emily** (seen): Destined to live in Lethbridge forever  
**Takayuki** (seen): On pre-reading break & post-reading break  
**Daniel** (seen): 'stretch', 'yawn', wash face, morning starts at 10:00 p.m.  
**Ayako** (heard): 'stretch', 'yawn', wash face, morning starts at 11:00 p.m.

#### Past Events:

Nov '03: Udon Party      Dec '03: Snowboarding  
 Feb '04: Ramen Taikai/Party

#### Upcoming Events:

Mar '04: Movie Night: "Passion of the Christ"

to serving God and showing His joy!  
 What's next on the menu?



We continue to thank number of youths participat- is now also more mixed being students from Korea and guage, as well as many Cana- this can sometimes be a challenge since EJCC is a "Japanese Church." As a result, the vision of the church has also been expanded to reach other groups from other cultures. Though some may attribute this growth to all the great food (potlucks

## Cultural Potluck

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church  
By Ryan Hamilton

and such), we have attempted to establish a community, a family, that is comfortable with each other, and that welcomes newcomers, whether they share the same beliefs or not. Personally, I believe that is just as much a reason as the food...though the food is awesome, not to mention incredibly healthy. One of the events we have coming up is a movie/ games night, which is nothing new, but we would like to use that time to draw closer as a group and also invite others. Though we don't always realize it, there are a lot of lonely people out there who are craving meaningful



relationships. It's our prayer that we can give even a few of those people those meaningful relationships through our church family, which includes the most important relationship of all: relationship with God, who never forsakes us. Some other ideas we had for future events were an air band contest, a picture rally, and "Where's Waldo?" in the mall. Right now, these are just ideas. Who knows how they will actually turn out? As for what's hip and hop with youth...well, that's almost impossible to answer. Which one? Maybe neon hair...but no-one at our church. There's not necessarily a particular fad. It's not our taste in music or fashion that brings us together, but our desire to grow and be grounded in Christ.....

**50th anniversary JGCT Summer Camp**

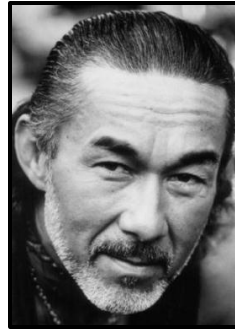
Fair Glen, near Beaverton, Ontario  
 August 29th - September 4th, 2004.  
"Rickshaw Rally" theme.



**52th Sunnyside Family Summer Camp**

Sylvan Lake, Alberta  
 July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Focus on the Life of Christ" theme.

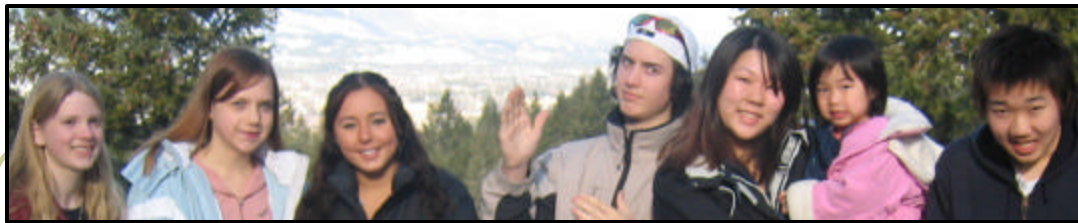
Oriental theme for the week called "Rickshaw Rally" One of our dress up evening meals will be based on this Asian theme. Also, our electives will include "origami picture frame", "bubble tea", "taebo", "flying fish wind kite", and "oriental snacks". One other dressup evening meal will be a "disco" theme.



Japanese Speaker  
 Mr. Arthur Hollands  
 from Campus Crusade for Christ Japan and Mission Barabbas  
 (An Christian team of ex-yakuza)



English Speaker  
 Brian Siewert  
 from Focus on the Family.



**Hippidy Hoppidy** Calgary Japanese Gospel Church By Shuichi Ishiguro



Needing Our Sheppard 2004 brought changes. Youth graduating up, new recruits moving up, kids stepping up, and up up up and away.....God brought dynamics to our group which fits the group we have this year. This hippidy hoppidy generation of youth needs discipleship, guidance, discipline and the reality of the Christian perspective on life which is so easily clouded by the lifestyle of our surroundings. Every time we meet it's not just a straight up bible study or a cracker jack youth activity but a time of fellowship between Christian brothers and sisters lifting each other up and letting God use each of us to school each other. I get lots from every activity we have. Its all about building relations and it takes time and effort to build that. If you don't got time, give it to God, He will make time. If you don't got the juice, give it to God, He will kick it up a notch. Lots of activities started off the year 04. Christmas time is always busy with parties and potlucks. This year we had a progressive dinner which involved 5 houses, MAD GRITS!!! In Feb, we jammed to the mountains for a winter retreat which was a nice get away from the city and good times with the crew. A lot more to come, we only getting started. You got to love what you do and that love only comes from God.

