

# Youth In ACTION!

Attachment to the C.JM Reporter - Spring 2016

## Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary

### Ukrainian Egg Painting

By: Mana Taniguchi

One of our church members is from Ukraine and we had a privilege of learning Ukrainian egg painting this Easter from her. Her name is Olha Sakuma. She taught us how to paint on eggs and also the Christian spirit behind it.

The word "Pysanka" comes from the verb pysaty, which means "to write". The designs are "written" in hot wax with styluses with different colours, usually starting with yellow colour, then orange, green, red, brown and black.

In pre-Christian times, Ukrainians worshipped a sun god because sun was important warming the earth, giving a source of all life. With the acceptance of Christianity in the 10th century, the symbolism was changed to represent the resurrection of Jesus. They draw cross, doves (symbol of Holy Spirit), triangle (symbol of Trinity), grape vines (symbol of eternal

life), 8-corner stars (a new life, a symbol of Christ's Kingdom) etc. The colours on pysankas also carry their meanings. Red is the most important colour, as it symbolizes resurrection, goodness, Christ's blood, as well as joy of a new life and happiness.

Egg painting is not just a fun activity. It involves more spiritual process. They draw with prayers. We enjoyed the holy quiet time with our God when we were painting all sorts of symbols of Christianity on our eggs. We really thanked Olha for teaching us this blessed activity to our English Speaking group.



# Gracepoint Fellowship - Youth and Young Adults

By: Rob Hasegawa

Hi fellow churches across Canada!

My name is Rob Hasegawa, the youth and young adults leader at Gracepoint Fellowship. 2015 was a great year for GPF Next!

The adult leaders are myself, Brian Nakai and Marie Hasegawa. We continue to develop a core GPF Next leadership team comprised of William Hoshizaki, Brandon Okawa, Jared Hoshizaki and Nicolas Okawa. These four outstanding leaders, and future church leaders J, lead their small group bible studies each week and help in the planning and organizing of monthly events.

Our weekly bible study is attended on average by 12~14 youth and young adults. From January to April we completed our study on "Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples", by author Francis Chan. The studies are focused on what it means to be a disciple ourselves, our call to be disciple makers, the call of the family/church in our lives, how to study the bible and going through a survey of the Old and New Testament.

Beginning from October we began a study on the book of Matthew. Using N.T. Wrights, "Matthew of Everyone", bible study guide, we have been journeying through this first book of the New Testament, understanding and learning about the message of the Messiah and the coming of God's Kingdom through Jesus. We are learning what Matthew wanted to tell his readers and what it means for us today. It has been an exciting and challenging study. We have continued on this study through the first quarter of 2016.

I love how this group just enjoy spending time together, from the young grade 7's to the university aged ones. There really doesn't need to be a "planned" event. As long as they get a chance to be together, there is so much joy! One can sense the love, unity and joy of the Holy Spirit upon them!

CJM Sunnyside Camp in July/August, as always, was a highlight for our youth and young adults! It was exciting to see our youth and young adults take leadership roles as captains and counsel-

ors once again! We also had the awesome privilege to witness the baptisms of 10 of our youth and young adults: Nicolas Okawa, Kristopher Hoshizaki, Isaac Tada, Tiffany Okura, Noah Lavender, Ethan Lavender, Rachel Tano, Justin Lee, Courtney Ingram and Chris Wamana! I was super blessed to be a part of their baptisms too!

Fall Retreat was also a big highlight in October 2015, taking place at Camp Silversides. This year a total of 38 youth and young adults from Calgary and Edmonton came out, enjoying a time of awesome fellowship, learning from God's word, spending time in worship, personal reflection and playing a lot of fun games, like capture the flag in the shadows of night! Our speaker was Tim Bergmann. It was great hearing from God through Tim's sessions and I am sure we were all challenged. We had a lot of fun just hanging out, meeting up with those we hadn't seen since Sunnyside, and playing a lot of fun games.

In March 2016, we hosted our first Spring Retreat at Rivers Edge Bible Camp. The retreat was attended by 25 youth and young adults from Calgary and a couple from Edmonton! It was great to get together once again. We went through David Platt's "Radical" DVD series, in which he challenged us to take up Jesus' call to "take up our cross and follow Him". In the midst of personal struggles, family struggles, economic downturns and worldwide fear, I am thankful to see this group of young people coming to know the God who loves them, cares for them and to whom they can trust and have faith in during difficult times. They also share an awesome unity of brotherhood and sisterhood, coming together as family. Us, leaders get to see them pray together, play together and serve together. There is no greater joy! We praise God, giving Him thanks, for it all!

GPF Next at Spring Retreat – March 2016





By: Marie Fuki

Greetings from the Japanese-Speaking Young Adults group at the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto!

I am deeply privileged to share and update you on the ‘buddies’ ministry here in Toronto. For those of you who are not familiar, this particular ministry focuses to serve and introduce Jesus to the Japanese young adult population in the Greater Toronto area and get them connected to a church community. The name ‘buddies’ was chosen intentionally for two reasons. First, it stems from the idea that we all start as a ‘bud’ in our spiritual journey. Through this ministry, we hope to grow and ‘blossom’ through the Word of God that gives us life. Secondly, we hope to have good fellowship and build strong friendships in Christ! We meet at Pastor Sato’s home every month. Many of the members also participate in ‘Seed’, a bible study for newcomers and non-believers on Sunday after service as well as ‘Aqua’, a bible study to equip Christians in their walk.

At ‘buddies’, we have been so blessed to meet many new friends, worship, share the good news, pray, play games and also enjoy delicious home-cooked Japanese food prepared by Yoko Sato san. Many of our members and participants are here in Toronto temporarily as either students or on working holiday. Even though there are many people that come and go, God has continued to provide faithful leaders to serve in this ministry. For example two of our former leaders, Hazuki Eguchi and Aaron Ghent left to Japan last summer and praise God as they are doing wonderful work there! Currently, there are four leaders (Jyri Maeda, Shuji Kato, Emi Tamashiro, and myself) that meet to pray and prepare for this monthly meeting. It has been really exciting for us to see our new friends learn about Jesus and bring more friends to church!

Since last fall, we’ve celebrated multiple birthdays, life events, going away parties, and overall develop deep friendships with one another. Please continue to pray for us, the salvation of those who attend this ministry, the city of Toronto, this country, and the world! We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us for the rest of 2016.



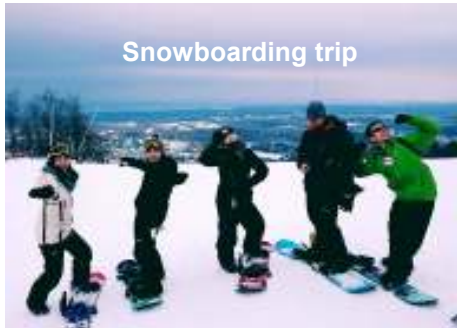
February buddies at the Sato’s Home



Worship time!



Enjoying delicious meal



Snowboarding trip



Small Group discussion at buddies



Supporting Hideki and Eriko’s performance with the Toronto’s Mass Choir Workshop

# Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

By: Christopher Collins

Greetings from Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church!

How are you all doing, my brothers and sisters? I want you to know that I am sincerely grateful to our Lord Jesus for saving you and giving you new life. It is a wonder to me that we have this connection because we may have never met but will one day we'll meet in the courts of our King. I hope you are all keeping well and that He is revealing Himself to you more and more and that He is satisfying your heart with joy.

Our youth group, "The Way," has been very active over the last few months. We continue to meet every week on Wednesday night for Bible study, discussion, and games. We've also managed to fit in a few Friday night sleepovers along the way. Most recently, a group of almost twenty Japanese and English speaking youth went out for Bubble Tea and played board games together and then return to VJGC for a sleep-over during which little sleep was actually obtained by the participants! The next day, not long after waking up to attend the Saturday morning prayer meeting, you could find the unconscious forms of exhausted youth laying here and there throughout the church.

This Easter, our Teens' Sunday School Class embarked on a project quite different from what we experienced in the past. The teens decided to volunteer their time to help refugees in our community under the supervision of the New Hope Community Services Society (NWCSS) in Surrey, B.C. This involved trav-

eling to an old apartment building where we cleaned up, moved furniture, and did extensive work to restore the surrounding gardens to a state of order. Jamey McDonald, the director of the NWCSS, was our gracious host and guide. He explained the term "refugee" and helped us to understand the difficulties that refugees encounter as they adjust to their new lives in Canada. Since most of us come from East Asian ancestry and were influenced by one or more East Asian cultures in our upbringing, we are familiar with what it is like to feel different in Canadian society. But what Jamey taught us about refugees showed us a whole new level of what it means to feel "different" in Canada.

We took footage of all that we accomplished together, recorded the impressions of the youth at the end of it, and compiled these into one video that we showed during VJGC's special Easter Service. Well, that's it for now -



Chris Collins - Youth Pastor  
with wife, Wanda



Enjoying Bubble tea



Volunteering with NWCSS

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 2016. Looking forward to your article then! Thank you! YIA Editor