



Youth In Action for Christ



Inside this issue:

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church Crew	1
Megumi Baptist Church Crew	2
Edmonton Japanese Christian Church Crew	2
Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship Crew	3
Calgary Japanese Gospel Church Crew	4
Japanese Gospel Church Of Toronto Crew	4

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The ministry to our youth in the Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church (VJGC) has been somewhat a challenge.

In the past year, our church has been blessed with having Pastor Brown and Mrs. Brown joining VJGC. They have organized various activities geared towards the youth, the youth at heart and young international visitors. However, it has been mostly challenging because our youth have grown distant from the church over the years. Most of them, we see their faces during special gatherings like Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. Although presently we don't quite have a youth group, I feel this year will be fruitful and God will hear our prayers. I see the hard work, the energy and effort put out by our leaders. I see their faithfulness in reaching out to the youth to join together in fellowship. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus says: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." God is faithful and He has sent devoted workers to reach out to our youth and bring us back to focus our hearts to the Lord, our Savior. Although there has been little response from our youth, it has been very encouraging to see new faces seeking God's Light. After last summer's Camp Sha-



lom, my cousin had the desire to begin attending church and learning more about the Bible. She has begun a once a month Bible Study. As well, a Japa-

True Faithfulness on the Island

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church
By Shinobu Ueno

nese student has recently reached out to one of our leaders to begin an individual Bible Study. We are thrilled to see a large number of international visitors joining us for Sunday service every week. We pray that God will reach out into their hearts and give them the desire to continue attending church as they return back to their home country. I truly believe that with God anything is possible! I believe God will bring others alike to experiencing His Love. We will continue to pray and seek ways to have our youth and new seekers/ believers to come one step closer to "worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).



Hello to the youth of our churches!

Another job well done! Thanks to the Youth In Action editorial committee led by Shuichi. You have a wonderful team made up of John & Delisa, Janet and Leon. A big "thumbs up" to you all! It's GREAT to see all the youth activities going on in the churches—especially, when you can link up and do things together with other youth groups. You can be of mutual encouragement to each other. That's what it's all about! Continue to deepen your personal relationship with Christ and encourage others to do the same in your church and elsewhere. Then you will have a lot to share with us all!

Nori Kanashiro, CJM General Director

West Coast Worship

Megumi Baptist Church
By Masao Morinaga



It's been an unusually mild winter in Vancouver, but God's plan continues to unfold as usual. Our Contemporary Worship Nights,

led by participants from the Oakridge Mosaic Youth Group (English, Chinese & Megumi combined), have become regular monthly activities, creating new opportunities for fellowship and evangelism. Youth pastor Jeff Germo has been organizing weekly youth and C&C activities such as bible studies, ice-skating, a Sky train rally and a New Years Eve sleepover. There's even talk about a mission trip to China in July. It's been a long time since we had regular youth activities, so we're definitely seeing progress. We at Megumi are beginning to see many newcomers

led by participants from the

with young children. And recently, Isamu and Yukino professed their faith through baptism. In the summer, Jeff will be offering discipleship training to these young potential leaders. We pray that by the time our children grow older, they will be blessed with loving and passionate youth leaders. Until then, please continue to pray for our current youth, so that we can continue to mature in wisdom and in spirit. The Megumi worship band recently attended a workshop where we listened to an experienced worship leader for tips on how to improve. We've been leading worship for quite a while now, but we've come to a point where we need to re-evaluate ourselves. Routines become susceptible to mediocrity, so we find it a constant challenge to fine-tune our spirits as a WORSHIP band. The workshop



pointed out for us some areas that we need to work on. Other than that, we were invited to lead worship at the Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church last November. Pastor Brown from that church is the primary liaison between our youth groups. Who knows, if our youth groups collaborate more often, we might see a west-coast version of Sunnyside camp in the near future. That would be nice. Until then, we look forward to seeing you all at Sylvan Lake!!!



Church. For awhile now we have met so many youth who have committed their lives to God, it is so awesome to see the transformation of a person when they accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. The sad part is that most of these youths are students from Japan and are here to study english and have plans to go back to Japan. by the time you are starting to really get to know

them they have to go back home to Japan. but they aren't going home empty handed, for many people that is the turning point in their lives and that's when God reveals His plan and uses their gifts to spread the good news back in their home town in Japan. God is great and amazing and is working powerfully in our youth, may God bless you and reveal His plans for you.



To all the brothers and sisters in Christ. It has been a very eventful 2002, but the old has gone and the new year has come, and people come and go especially in our youth at the Edmonton Japanese Christian

God's plan is the best plan

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

By Robson Shukuda



What comes from the heart goes to the heart. The LJCF youth members had a lot of awesome and encouraging things to say about someone at LJCF. Mother Teresa once said, "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." I hope that you are inspired to encourage someone around you after you read this!

Emily: "Emily's smile says it all. Being with Emily is like getting a birthday present because the joy I receive from her is truly a gift."

Ayako: "Her desire to learn English and the joy she has in learning has encouraged me to be more positive in the things that I am doing."

Nana: "She has the willingness to serve and has creative ideas for any activity that is being organized. I love her motivation and excitement."

Lisa: "The best recipe for encouragement is thoughtfulness and humor! Lisa always says something nice in such a comical way!"

Takayuki: "When he got baptized and his decision to follow God and the change that I have seen in him as been truly encouraging."

Daniel: "When I get nervous for a test at school or get frustrated with some-

Kindness Is Never Wasted

Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

By Janet Hayashizaki

thing, Dan always helps me to know I will do alright."

Ken: "He makes me laugh and cheers me up. The person that he is and what he says is encouraging to me."

Janet: "She's organized, she works hard and she is becoming more independent. It has made me want to do the same."

Makiko Nakao (Pastor's wife): "When you talk to her you feel happy and cared for through how she talks to you."

Akemi Hayashizaki (Elder): "All the advice and support I have received has helped through some tough times. I appreciate her for the encouragement she's given me!"

Ray: "Hanging out with Ray (a.k.a. Abu) is like getting a truckload of skittles on your driveway. He always gives positive energy to the group."



Church Mice

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NOS Crew

Calgary Japanese Gospel Church
By Shuichi Ishiguro

that he was one of us, even though he was a leader he kicked it with us like he was one of the boys. Sometimes God calls us to be one of the boys, keepin check and being accountable. I've been blessed with an awesome group of youth (Needing Our Sheppard crew) that I love because God has made each one so special. Just the opportunity to be part of their lives is a true blessing. I've learned so much about myself through them and God has used them to show me new things. Sometimes I enjoy kickin it with them more than my own friends because they're so much fun.

Youth ministry is something that most of us have experienced throughout our lives. I remember Mark Hoshizaki (Green Green Marker Machine) watching over us back in the day, trying to keep us on the path and teaching us God's word. I don't remember what he taught us but what I remember is



Props go out to the other NOS Youth leaders for their love and dedication:

John Komori A.K.A Sheep Dog
Delisa Komori A.K.A The Queen
Jen Rose A.K.A Da Bomb

Some recent events this past year has been:

Laser Tag: Full out, no holds barred, Mongolian rules.

Ooey Goey Night: 4 different Youth groups, lots of grits to mess with, off the hook games, fellowship.

Ice Skating: Elvis Stoiko's got no game against our crew cause we all got skills.

Winter Retreat: Loungin while we max and relax being schooled by the vocab of God's word

Joint youth night with South Chinese Church: Canadian presentation of Momotaro retagged Peach Boy

Coffee House: Sippin on some chillatte, kickin some rhymes off.....freestyle



Godspeed!!

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto
By Kevin Ueta



"Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name" – Matt Redman

Blessed be His name, for we are called to be His children! My name is Kevin Ueta and I wanted to share with all of you a brief report on our Young People's group at the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto. God has blessed us with an amazing ministry and as a group we've been able to share in the joy that He has given unto us. Through our events, social gatherings, and bible studies we strive to grow as a community of youths, learning more about God, building up our own relationships with God and each other, and having fun along the way. Some key past events: Laser Tag, Karaoke Night, World Vision SoleDrive Charity Concert, Daily Bread Food Bank, MissionFest, and the Young People's Christmas Party. Please pray for our upcoming youth

retreat (May 16th – May 19th) at Willow Springs. We're having a missions theme for the retreat and we are all looking forward to what God has in store for us through this retreat. Our prayers go out to the other churches and youth groups as well and may God continue to bless your ministries. Go Team Godspeed!!

