



Youth in Action

Fall/Winter 2007

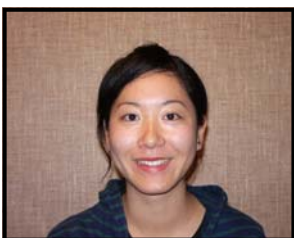
Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church: Mission Minded

When I think of the young adults that make up most of our congregation in Edmonton, I see many mission-minded people. I'd like to introduce two of them in particular.

First of all, I'd like to introduce Joyce Hikari Aita. She grew up in the Japanese church and has always been very involved in many different ways. She graduated from Taylor University College in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and then decided to go to Japan as a missionary/English teacher. She went to Yonezawa Kojo Church which is in Yamagata prefecture and taught English classes to people of different ages.



Joyce Hikari Aita

Joyce served there from spring of 2004 to spring of 2007. She returned to Edmonton to further her studies at the University of Alberta in the Education department. As a church, we are so glad to have her back! Her passion for the Lord is so evident in all that she says and does. She currently teaches Sunday School and is part of the praise team at our church. We appreciate her so much!

Another person who is mission-minded is Becky Lengefeld. We lovingly call her an "egg" because she's white on the outside and yellow on the inside. She's American but was born and raised in Japan! Becky is totally bilingual and even speaks perfect Japanese in a Mie dialect! She grew up as a M.K. (Missionary Kid) and came to Edmonton to attend Bible College at Taylor for 4 years. Upon graduation in 2003 she went back to Ja-

pan as a Determined-Term Missionary with the North American Baptist Conference for 4 years teaching English. She de-



Becky in the middle, amongst friends

cidated that she wanted to stay in Japan as a career missionary and take over from her parents' role as managers of the Tsu English Center. To be accepted as a career missionary she was told that she needed seminary level training and she decided to come back to Edmonton again to attend Taylor Seminary. We were so happy to have her come back! She's very gifted in music and leading worship, so for the two years that she is with us, we will surely be blessed!

Joyce and Becky are two students who are on a 'mission' to reach more for Christ. They are studying now to be better prepared. The Edmonton church is very blessed to have them!

Submitted by Yuri Nakano

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church 1

Calgary Youth 2

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto 3

Random Verses 3

Make It Happen 2008 4

Word Up!

Learn useful (and not so useful phrases) in Japanese!

Have I seen you here before?

Mae ni atta koto ga aru?

Calgary Youth: Experiencing Grace, Home and Away

Hello there,
These last few months have been full of God's grace. Personally, I've been blessed with many opportunities to share about my time spent in Africa this summer; first at good old Sunnyside Camp, and also at the annual Whitefields luncheon.

As many of you have already



heard (and I'm sorry if you're getting sick of me talking about it!) I had the incredible chance to spend a course of 20 days visiting church planters in South Africa, Ghana and Zimbabwe! While I did witness some devastating poverty, and unbelievable economic crisis (things you would expect on an Africa trip), none of it was anywhere near in comparison to the amount of encouragement and faith I saw/felt in the people! I've never seen such vulnerable and pure trust in God before in my life, and I was so humbled at



the sight of their commitment. Among the seemingly endless things I took away from my trip,



was the very comforting realization of how universal God is.

After the long (I'm talking long) plane rides, and the miles and miles I was away from home, God always stayed faithful and kept me safe. (for the most part ha ha) It was great to see that the God who works in our lives, is the same God that works in the hearts of people who live so differently, and know such a different world.

Then, shortly after my return to Calgary, I was even further encouraged with the renewal of the NOS youth group at the Calgary



Japanese Gospel Church! At the end of Sunnyside Camp, many of the youth realized how important and precious fellowship with common believers is, and decided to support each other through the spiritually testing time that "youth" can offer. The kids in the NOS group (Needing Our Sheppard) range from the junior high to high school age, but really it's a very open group, and lots of

the kids have brought their friends to the events. We've been meeting every other Saturday, alternating between bible studies and fun events. The bible studies have been centered on testimonies from one of the leaders, with a reference to some meaningful scripture. So far we've been able to hear from both Goro and Erin Hasegawa, who have shared some uplifting stories about rejoicing in our sufferings, and making choices in life. We have the rest of the fall and winter schedule planned out, and hope to engage in some community outreach ministry beginning in the New Year. It's so awesome to see this group start up again, and I know personally, it was always a form of spiritual refuge for me. Please pray for this group as we're still just getting started.

Submitted by Ian King



Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: It's Finally Started!

We have finally started! This summer, the JGCT broke ground at our building site, and we started construction for our first-ever church, a



project 50-plus years in the making. Armed with a fantastic project manager, David Noble, and scores of volunteers, construction has made great progress to date. Volunteers have seen and helped with every single stage of the project, and we have had a wide range of people coming out. From young people to the young-at-heart, the site is always home to workers.

Even those that aren't helping with the actual heavy lifting are helping out in other ways. The GAS team has been coordinating food service for the volunteers, every day since the begin-



L-R: Jesse, David, Adam, Steve, Paul

ning of the project. Workers have been treated to some yummy meals, and every Saturday has everyone looking forward to the BBQ lunch -



Street party!

who knew cheese-filled hot dogs were so incredible?

To date, the framing for the church has gone up, and now the trusses for the roof are being installed. Soon, volunteers will be arriving to help finish off the roofing, and the Building team hope to have the structure closed off in time for the cold weather.

The Building team, and all of the JGCT volunteers have shown great dedication and enthusiasm thus far. There's still a long way to go before our beautiful church is completed, but when it is, we hope that you all come out and visit us! Please remember us in your prayers, especially for the safety and health of all of our workers.



Random Verses

Meet the Artist!



Email: faboo95@hotmail.com

Name: Scott Hide Ohashi
 Birthday: May 26
 Church: Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto
 Interests: Jpop, anime, manga, sports, movies, food, animals



Make It Happen 2008

2008!? Is this the wrong article? Nope! I am very excited to announce that next year, Toronto will be hosting the first ever Make It Happen 2008 conference!

Ever wondered how you could start up your own urban ministry, whether it be at home or away? Ever wanted to share your faith through other passions in your life, be it sports, music or politics? Well then Make It Happen 2008 is the conference for you! Next summer, from July 11-18, we are organizing a conference where you will become equipped with theoretical AND practical knowledge regarding spiritual leadership.

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

It's going to be an awesome week-long intensive training session in Toronto, where awesome leaders from major Asian-Canadian ministries will be your mentors. We'll learn how to get really grounded in faith, and how to start up, plan and execute urban ministries like a Christian softball league. Participants will also be working together during the week for an unbelievable end goal: you will help plan and execute a **huge worship concert** to be held in Toronto, on the Friday, for all of your peers! It'll be the concert of the summer. Live out your rock-star dreams in T.O.!

Here are some more details on the conference:

Date: July 11-19 (either week-long or weekend option)

Where: Toronto, ON

Who: students, high-school age and above

What: Learning theoretical and practical leadership skills to help grow ministries

How: Keynote speakers and practicum leaders will be leading workshops to fully equip all participants



Toronto Hosting & Planning Committee hard at work. Naomi (L) Michelle & Kevin. Nori taking photo.

Our speaker lineup includes:

1. Reverend Tim Tang, East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church
2. Sylvia Seo, founder of Ishskwaday, Native missions
3. Aaron Tsang, administrator for the Chinese Christian Softball Association (CCSA)
4. Colin Owen, worship coordinator at Tyndale Seminary
5. Kevin Ueta, intern youth pastor at JGCT
6. Aileen Lombardo-Matta, Juno-award winning singer
7. Jason Matta, AMG International

Isaiah 40:29-31

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

For more information, look out for our registration packages coming soon to your church. Also, feel free to contact your area representatives for more details about the conference. Email addresses below.

Vancouver:

Pastor Robert Brown - reverend2u@shaw.ca
Masao Morinaga - mtwo@shaw.ca

Edmonton:

Cathy Nakao - catito@shaw.ca
Taiki Mabuchi - taikimabuchi@hotmail.com

Calgary:

Pastor Brian Lavender - blavender@shaw.com
Tina Sakon - sakonb@telus.net

Lethbridge:

Pastor Satoshi Akiyama—sakiyama@telus.net
Daniel Hayashizaki

Winnipeg:

Cory Giesbrecht - corygie@hotmail.com

Toronto:

Pastor Kevin Ueta - kyoura@hotmail.com
Michelle Ueta - michosakabe@gmail.com
Naomi Ishiguro - naomi87@gmail.com
Nori Kanashiro - nbkan@rogers.com

It's going to be one amazing, blessed summer. Make It Happen.



*“Don't close your eyes, don't close your eyes
This is your life and today is all you've got now
Yeah, and today is all you'll ever have
Don't close your eyes
Don't close your eyes*

*This is your life, are you who you want to be
This is your life, are you who you want to be
This is your life, is it everything you dreamed that it would be...”
Switchfoot, This Is Your Life*

Let's Get Digital:

Calgary Japanese Gospel Church: www.calgarygospel.com

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: www.jgct.com

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church: www.japanesegospelchurch.com

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church: www.telusplanet.net/public/ejpc

Submissions & Suggestions:

Please e-mail Naomi at naomi87@gmail.com. For more information on CJM and all of the member churches, please e-mail Nori at nbkan@rogers.com