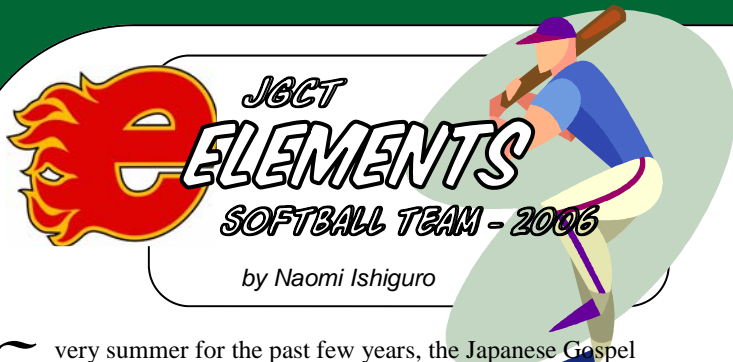


YOUTH IN ACTION

AN ATTACHMENT TO THE CJM REPORTER - Fall 2006



by Naomi Ishiguro

Every summer for the past few years, the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto has participated in the Chinese Christian Softball Association softball league. Our first year, we fielded a blended Junior team with the Chinese Grace Church, and had an amazing 10-0 regular season record. Since then, our participation has grown considerably as we fielded both a Junior and Senior team for the 2006 season.

One of the great things about the CCSA league is the devotion time. After each game is played, devotions are presented to both teams by the home team governor. The theme for the league this year was Community, an ever-appropriate concept as the way we carry ourselves in our different communities (church, school, work, family, social settings etc.) is challenging for everyone.



This year's Senior team, the JGCT Elements, was coached by Jason Ohashi (also Head Umpire), Fumio Ishiguro (Assistant Coach), and the governor was Naomi Ishiguro. We had a small team, an average of 9-10 players at each game, but despite that, we managed to pull off a fantastic 8-2 record! This was especially impressive as the year before, our inaugural year in the Senior division, our record was 3-7.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported us behind-the-scenes—we appreciate it!

Masao's Testimony



Masao Morinaga - (R)
with friends Kana Takahashi and Nick
Collier at Sunnyside Camp 2006

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1

These words were read at the CJM 60th anniversary dinner, and they remind me of the importance of testimonies. Over the years, testimonies by other Christians have allowed me to learn from other people's mistakes without actually having to experience them myself. The motto of the day is "How would you know that it's bad unless you try it yourself?" This was the lie spoken by the serpent to our first parents and this same lie continues to be perpetrated in the lives of young people in their schools and social settings. As with any convincing lie, there is partial truth to it. We might feel that we won't know that it's bad unless we "try it." But the problem is that life is not long enough for us to try everything, and everything has consequences.

Although I am now fulfilled in having assurance of everlasting life, I regret giving the best years of my life to Satan. I regret embracing sin and insecurity. Though it might be fashionable to say "I do not regret anything because I am who I am because of my past mistakes," I would disagree. I believe Jesus Christ was sufficient to save me. My unwholesome experiences contributed only to the problem, not the solution. If only I had enough humility to listen to the "great cloud of witnesses" earlier in life.

God says, "*From me* is thy fruit found" (Hosea 14:8). Let's continue to encourage one another to seek our Maker and Redeemer.

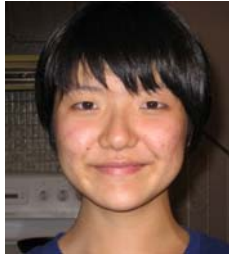
Masao Morinaga
Sunnyside Camp, Senior Boys Counsellor

Life's An Adventure

by Ai Yamamoto
Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

I was born and raised in a Christian home. From a very young age I had many opportunities to know about Jesus. My parents, however, did not force me to believe in God. They wanted me to meet God and seek Him for my own. I had some knowledge about God but I couldn't see the reality of God in my every day life.

This spring I came to Canada and started to go to the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church and there I could receive the Word of God and I discovered the joy of singing praises. Gradually I started to think seriously about who God is but I couldn't sense His Presence. At that time, I went to Sunnyside Family Camp hoping that this camp would give me a chance to be touched by God.



We had a good time learning about the "Amazing Race: Adventure of Faith". I didn't understand until then that there was One who gave His life for my sins because of His love for me. I finally was convinced that God is the Truth. I then realized that my parents and church members were praying for me regularly without me knowing. Because of their prayers, I could be certain that God always protects me and leads me even though my faith was unsure.

I cried when I thought about the love of the people who had prayed for me and the love of God. I could sense warmth in my heart when I was assured that I was loved and protected. I

was able to shed my unbelieving heart and make a confession of faith. This became the best way for me to show my appreciation to my parents who continued to pray for me to accept God. My parents understood that I needed to seek God on my own so that I could understand better the love of God. When I confessed my faith in God, Pastor Takeuchi, the camp speaker, prayed for me that I would be filled with love (my name Ai means "love") and that I would spread the love received from God to others. This prayer is the very same prayer that my parents wished for me and this is also what I am seeking. I would like to be used for God's glory because God loves me and also to be a person who always is filled by the love of God like Jesus.

Pastor Takeuchi said that our Christian life is an adventure because we always depend on God. I am not sure how God will use me or what kind of adventure is waiting for me. I can't help being excited!



Ai (center with camera) along with campers of Sunnyside Camp '06 about to witness the baptismal service.



Hi everyone!

My name is Naomi Ishiguro. I will be taking over from Shu-ichi to publish the YOUTH IN ACTION pull-out section of the CJM Reporter. I'm excited to see how God will move among the youth of our CJM churches. He has great things in store for all of us. Send me your updates on events, activities, studies & socials with lots of photos. Let me know what's going on in your world! I'll be waiting to hear from you. Naomi - naomi87@gmail.com
There's a brief bio of me in the main section of this newsletter.

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Some photos from Sunnyside Camp '06