

# Youth In ACTion!

Fall 2008 Edition

## Calgary Japanese Gospel Church: Let's Get It Started!

By Nicole Geddes and Ian King

Greetings to all in the Canadian Japanese Ministry! Following an incredible week at Sunnyside Camp, it's time to reassemble and prepare for another year full of fellowship and growth in our relationships with God. September 13 marked the first NOS (Needing our Sheppard) meeting for members of the youth in the Gracepoint Fellowship of the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church. We have decided to meet every two weeks alternating between bible studies and various activities, some of which include bowling, skating and volunteering/outreach work within our community.

This year we have decided to focus on expanding our knowledge of scripture and applying biblical principles to our everyday lives. The bible studies will be centered on evangelical topics in hopes that the youth can share their faith with those who do not know Christ. Sharing our faith with others can be difficult at times, but we find strength and encouragement in knowing that God has armed us with all the tools we need to spread His word.

As many may already be aware, two of our cherished youth leaders, Goro and Erin Hasegawa moved to Lethbridge this August. We understood that leading the youth without them was going to be a huge task and prayed that we could find a few

more "helpers". Sure enough, God faithfully answered our prayers as we have been blessed with the additions of Sherwin Fria (newly hired youth worker employee at Gracepoint,) and Carlee McKeating. The five of us are still a relatively young and inexperienced group, all currently juggling intense university schedules! Please pray for our wisdom in leading, and that we will have the desired time to devote ourselves to the youth group this year. Also, since our youth group consists of kids from all over the city, it is sometimes difficult for everyone to find transportation to all the events. Please pray that we can overcome our struggles with distance, and that all members of the youth will have the opportunity to make it out to the events.

We as leaders feel so blessed to have such a wonderful group of young people who are not only so much FUN to be around, but who also take their faith very seriously. God has been working in the hearts of all these youth and we are so excited to continue our journey with Christ this year! ☐



*Campers at Sunnyside '08*

# Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: Building a Family

By Youth Pastor Kevin Ueta

The recent celebration of the occupancy of our new church, along with all the excitement that has been a part of it, has been mirrored in our Young People youth ministry as well.

We started off an exciting season of ministry with our annual Fall Retreat. We were grateful to secure our old and familiar retreat grounds at the Willow Springs Camp in Stouffville, Ontario. This year, we were blessed to have Jason and Aileen Matta as our guest speakers.

With over 40 retreat attendees, we were able to enjoy one of our most successful youth retreats ever. Jason challenged us through God's word as we examined the passage in 1 Peter. The focus of the retreat was life transformation through a deeper relationship with God. With everything that's going on in the world, the concept of a truly intimate relationship with God, without limits, might be scary or even foreign to some of us. There are so many things out there that serve as distractions for us, clouding our perspectives and therefore our priorities in life. It's so easy to lose ourselves in the world but the passage in 1 Peter reminds us of the very special calling that God has for each one of us, that we belong to God not the world.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." – 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

It is my hope that the youth of today's world would truly embrace and cherish their God-given calling and identity. During one of Jason's speaker sessions, he reminded us of three things that we must do in order to enter in to a deeper relationship with God:

1. We need to have an eternal perspective.
2. We need a commitment to holiness.
3. We need to have a detachment from the world.

These things have become a part of my daily prayer for all the youth in our churches. May God raise up a community of youth in our churches who are willing to take a stand in today's world, confident of their calling by God, and ready to take on the world by being a part of our Lord's Kingdom work.



## Make It Happen 2009

OK guys, so here's the deal: **MIH 2009** is going to happen next year in Toronto! It's going to be an amazing event—summer will never be the same.

We need you guys to get ready for this—begin the hype! It will be a week of friendships, challenges, laughter, music, and memories. ***But most importantly, it'll be a time of learning and fellowship with a family of Christians.***

We're in the process of getting our schedules ready to give to your area rep, so keep on asking them about **MIH 2009** information.

Let's stay excited and committed—and let's **Make It Happen 2009!**

