

# Youth In ACTION!

Fall 2010 Edition

## Gracepoint Fellowship: NOS (Needing our Shepherd) Youth Group

By Nicole Geddes and Ian King

“Hello!” and “how’s it hanging?” to all members of the Canadian Japanese Ministries!

We write to you full of excitement and in awe of the incredible ways God decides to work in our lives in light of our recent return from a short term mission’s trip to the nation of Haiti. As many of you remember, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti on January 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, killing hundreds of thousands of people and leaving 1 million people homeless. During this time, the news was flooded with story after story about the struggles going on in Haiti. After seeing all this, we both reached a point where we couldn’t ignore an extremely strong calling we felt upon ourselves to go there and help out. However, the more we looked into it, the more an opportunity to volunteer in Haiti (without being a doctor or trained emergency relief personnel) appeared impossible.

Just as we began to accept this impossibility, we were abruptly reminded what “impossible” means to God, as in a matter of a couple weeks we aimlessly came across “God’s Littlest Angels Orphanage,” received a response to our applications, and had our flights booked! From August 15<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, we served at the orphanage which was located just outside the capital city of Port au Prince. We spent about half the time doing manual labour comprised of sorting through donations, organizing supplies and some landscaping. The other half was spending one-on-one time with five children assigned to us (aged 7 months- 2 years,) helping them with specific developmental goals, playing with them and simply showing affection to them. This time with the children was especially rewarding as over

the course of only two weeks, we witnessed enormous improvements in several areas with each child we worked with. We also had the opportunity to travel down into the capital and see some of the aftermath of the earthquake. There were many people still living in tents, bathing on the streets and struggling for their basic needs. While there was still clearly a lot of hardship in these areas, we also felt a great sense of hope among the people and were informed many times that the earthquake had brought attention to many issues that have been going on in Haiti for years.

Overall, our time in Haiti was an awesome reminder of the hope and peace we can find in God when we rely on Him in any circumstance (as demonstrated by the people we encountered), and also what a great difference that compassion and attention can have in one’s life (as we saw working with the orphans).



Nicole with one of her “little angels”

We also realize that our attitudes toward serving others and keeping God’s will in mind are not restricted to two weeks in a faraway place, but apply just as much to our everyday lives. We intend to look back on our experiences in Haiti, not just as fond memories, but as reminders of what our focus and attention should

primarily be on, even amongst the distractions that busy lives in Calgary can present. We ask for your continued prayer for the nation of Haiti, and the God's Littlest Angels ministry (For more information, visit [www.glahaiti.org](http://www.glahaiti.org).)



Ian with his "little angel"

We also ask prayer for the upcoming year with the NOS group, that we can continue to build strong accountable relationships with each other, and orchestrate timely events where we can meet together and learn from God's word together.

## Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: Planting Seeds

By Pastor Kevin Ueta

*"Jesus planted the seed of the kingdom of God with his ministry, death, and resurrection and then gave to the church, the body of all who submit to his lordship, the task of embodying and living out this distinct kingdom."* - Dr. Gregory A. Boyd



The theme of the 2010 Youth Fall Retreat was entitled "Thy Kingdom Come." We met over the Thanksgiving

weekend as we engaged with scripture and learned more about the topic of God's Kingdom. We learned what it means to be part of God's kingdom plan and be a part of God's mission here on earth. We were blessed to be ministered to by Martin and Ruth Ghent (OMF Japan Missionaries) and Alex Philip. Martin challenged us to re-examine what it means to be on God's mission. Alex Philip challenged us with perspectives taken from Jesus' sermon on the beatitudes.

We had about 30 student attendees over the weekend with a number of adult and children visitors as well. Challenging messages, intense cell group times, afternoons of personal and corporate spiritual disciplines, fun fellowship and games, and of course our annual retreat turkey dinner were all elements of an amazing retreat weekend!



It was also wonderful to see God at work over the weekend as a number of students committed themselves to pray about their involvement in our upcoming Japan Summer 2011 Missions Trip.

## Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: Campus Alpha

By Naomi Ishiguro

The Young Adults group at JGCT has been looking for a way to outreach to the twenty- and thirty-somethings in our community. On Sept 10, we started the 7-week Campus Alpha program, featuring Jamie Haith. For four weeks now, over 20 young adults (and some adults who are young-at-heart!) have been meeting for dinner, worship, and discussion every Friday night. It's been amazing to see the response and commitment to the material and to each other. The entire Campus Alpha study is available online (which is a huge blessing) at:

<http://alphausa.org/Groups/1000057989/VIDEOS.aspx>