

# Youth in Action

For Christ

AN ATTACHMENT TO THE CJM REPORTER



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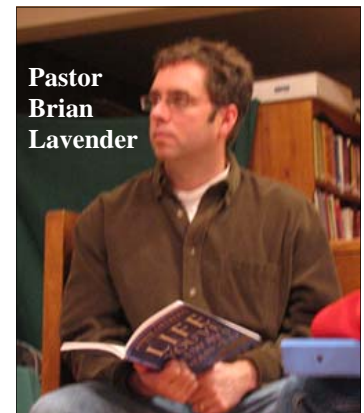
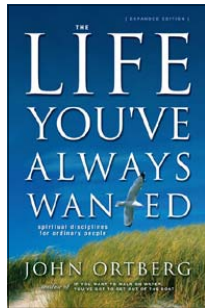
Reporting Team from churches

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.  
**2 Timothy 2:15**

**W**ith change there is growth, and the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church has recently gone through many changes. From a new Japanese and English pastor to ministry night every Wednesday night, God has been fulfilling His ultimate plan for our church. It's amazing to see the power of prayer and the evidence of how much God cares for our church. Our new pastors, Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi and Pastor Brian Lavender has brought a dynamic to both the

English and Japanese congregation that proves that God is alive and active in our congregation. Also, the addition of Ministry night (for all ages including adults) has been a new and enhanced experience of fellowship and study aside from Sunday service. **Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed** comes from 2 Timothy 2:15 and make up the word **AWANA**. The youth attend Awana which is a program to help the youth and kids get a better understanding of God and to do it in a fun manner. We have highly devoted leaders and teachers that do all that they can to make this night a night where the kids will meet God in amazing ways. This program is definitely an awesome way to bring kids that have never been to church before and let them learn about God and His word in a easy and exciting setting. While all this is going on, the adults engage themselves in a DVD series with John Ortberg called, "Life you've always wanted." The DVD and the discussions that come out of the book has been fruitful and challenging to all of us older folk. Some of the topics included in the book are; slowing down, prayer and confession and meditating on scripture. The combination of the kids, youth and adult programs has made Wednesday nights, a perfect reminder of how God is so faithful and His plans are simply amazing.....

**Led by the Lord's Commands**  
Calgary Japanese Gospel Church  
By Shuichi Ishiguro



**Pastor Brian Lavender**



**Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi**



**With a Purpose**  
**Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto**  
 By Kevin Ueta



It has been another exciting summer for our J.G.C.T. Young People. The 40 Days of Purpose campaign which happened earlier in the year, turned out to be a huge success. As a youth group, we were able to form amazing bonds of friendship within our small groups. Through the building of trust, honesty, openness, and accountability we were able to encourage and challenge one another in our spiritual walks. This campaign helped to build a stronger foundation for our youth group. This summer we were very excited to see how God called Jessica and Patrick to serve with OMF – Serve Asia in northern Japan. They spent four weeks ministering with the Ghent family in Itayanagi. It was evident that God taught them a lot during their time there and it proved to be a life-changing experience for them both. In other news, our junior C.C.S.A. team, the Judges, participated in another season of softball. It was an exciting season for us, with a good number of new players on our team this year. One of the highlights of the summer were the baptisms that occurred. Rachel and Amanda were baptized during

our baptismal service in August and Patrick was baptized at our annual summer camp. It was so encouraging to hear all their testimonies and to hear of how God has been working in amazing ways in their own lives. One of our youth leaders, our very own Michelle, has been called to minister in East Asia for an 11-month term. She will be involved in student ministry there and though she will be missed by all of us very much, we are all excited for all of God's plans for her time out there. Recently we have started with our Day 41 small groups. We're going through the Life Together (student edition) series written by Doug Fields. We'll be involved in these small groups over a 12-week period, with bible studies happening every other week. We're also planning ways for our youths to take what they'll be learning through these studies, and to put it into action. Whether that be ministry, evangelism, fellowship, worship, or discipleship, we hope to encourage the youths to find out more about God's calling for each of their lives and to find ways to use the gifts that God's given them for His kingdom work. There has been a building passion for missions in our youth group and we hope to one day have an opportunity to have the entire group be involved in a missions experience. Please pray that God would continue to guide the leadership of the youth group and that He would continue to work in the lives of the youths.



**Summer in Aomori 2005**  
**Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto**  
 By Jessica Tsuda & Patrick Dunlop

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**T**his summer we went on a

short term mission trip to Aomori, Japan to work with the Ghents through OMF International. It was an amazing experience as we were able to try new things and help out with various types of ministries, such as: teaching English classes, basketball ministry, concerts, children's programs, art classes, youth events, baking, bazaars, church services, testimonies, leading singing in the services, door to door flyer handout, manual labour, and much more. This experience really helped us with our evangelistic skills and opened our eyes to the calling that God has for Christians to spread the good news throughout the world. The Ghent family was a great Christian example to us as they showed us many ways of reaching out to the people of Japan. Many people think that Japan is such an economically sound country, but the underlying truth is that there is not much spiritual hope and many people are desperately searching for answers. We were able to make many life-long bonds and we were able to see God working in other youths from different parts of the world. The language barrier was not actually as tough as expected as all Christians speak the same language through Christ. Overall, this trip was very rewarding and we both believe that all should take a leap of faith outside their comfort zone to spread the Lord's word.



**Break Free**  
**Edmonton Japanese Christian Church**  
By Kimmie Rose

**B**efore I trusted in Jesus I knew

many things about him because I had attended a Catholic school in elementary, junior high, and some of my high school years. I didn't think God really wanted anything to do with some one like me. I was raised as an only child with a father who was and is an alcoholic. I remember him hitting my mother when I was 3 years old. When my parents divorced I felt torn apart and had to side with one parent and not the other. Later on when I became a teenager I had built up anger inside of me. I had an ultra low self-esteem which I think partially came from my parents divorce. I felt I was undeserving of love and that all my peers hated me. I was defensive when people made fun of me and I trusted no one. I figured if I couldn't have real friends that would like me regardless of what I had done or said, then maybe I could get a boyfriend to fill in my insecurity and loneliness. I also thought above

all else I would find true love. This was a big mistake because most of the guys I dated didn't love me. They only loved what I could do for them sexually and if I refused I was rejected and never spoken to after words. Sometimes I just gave in and other times I felt like saying "no." I couldn't win and I became very depressed because there were a lot of rumors about me. Eventually I came out of that phase when I turned to proper diet and exercise to boost my self-confidence.

But still deep inside I was searching for love and acceptance somewhere. When I moved away from home the first time, I did it to escape where my low self-esteem originated. I ended up at a different high school in grade 11 where no one knew me and hopefully wouldn't ever know me. There, I met a girl in my advisory class I got to know. I told her I had an interest in Japanese language and culture. When I mentioned that, she invited me to the Bible study at Tyranus House. I kept attending the bible studies and started to accept Jesus little by little into my life but I had trouble letting go of my hurts and desires that kept me from having a strong relationship with him. One night Pastor Yuri invited me to a YAC rally. There, I remember the guy using the illustration of how cheap imitation of Coca Cola wasn't as good as the real thing. He then said it was similar to how people try to have a fake spiritual relationship with God when you could have a real one with Jesus Christ himself. From that night I started attending the Japanese Church regularly and began to get a bit stronger in my faith. However, I new I was not strong because I was a "closet Christian". By this I mean, I didn't want to share



my faith. I remember times when I tried to share, my friends insisted that it was nonsense and that I was boring and didn't know how to have fun.

I remember having a boyfriend who was Russian, very attractive with dirty blond hair and icy blue eyes. Each time I tried to talk about my faith he would get angry and say "I'm not religious! I don't believe in that stuff!" So not wanting to be rejected, I stopped talking about God and put Him in a secondary place in my life. Many times when I was with this boyfriend, the cross on wall of my room would make me feel guilty as I knew I was deliberately disobeying Him and was nailing Jesus harder on the cross. I knew God wanted me to discontinue my relationship with him because he was very self-ish. I guess I wanted God to mold him into a Christian and make him the gentle person he would never be. In looking back, I think God hardened his heart to show me that I couldn't have my cake and eat it too.

One day, a Christian friend of mine showed me a verse in the Bible to encourage me. It was Proverbs 4:20-27. This helped

me realize God not only wanted to protect me from getting hurt in the long run but that he wanted me to give my life to him completely. After this, I began to understand more of Jesus' love when I read about him in the Bible. He loves me unconditionally, and anything I did in the past will be washed away by His grace, mercy, and forgiveness that He offers. Another verse I find encouraging demonstrates Jesus' true love for all sinners is 1 Peter 3:23-25. Jesus' resisted sin and calls upon God when he was stressed over the fact he was

about to be crucified also encourages me. God knows that we as humans are weak and will always need Jesus' strength through our problems. I fully trust Jesus because he has promised never to leave us or forsake us. He promised he would raise the temple again in 3 days, which meant his resurrection, and that he would be with us eternally if we accept him as our Savior. Jesus to me is the true friend I needed and always wanted in my life. Now I know what real love is. I want everyone here who has not yet accepted Jesus to consider how Jesus has changed my life and how he can change yours. There may be a deep dark secret that haunts you but Jesus wants to bring you out of that darkness into his light so you can start a new life with Him. Jesus has experienced many of the same things we all go through such as stress, temptation, disappointments and hurts. If there is anyone who can carry your burdens and pick you up when you fall it's Jesus. Jesus accepts everyone as we are. All you have to do is confess your sins from your heart and let him change your life. I tell you the truth, when I confessed my sins to him I felt my chains break free and now I am saved and I joyfully thank Jesus for that.





### Sunnyside Comp 2005

Friends, fun,, fellowship and food, FANTASTIC!!



### Note from Nori

Editor of the CJM Reporter

*Dear Young People of our churches:  
Congratulations again, for another great Youth In Action newsletter. The testimonies, your program and activities, your mission involvements are all very encouraging. Keep up your good work and keep your news flowing to other youth groups. I'd like to encourage all young people in our churches to take a good long look at the possible short-term missions involvement listed above on the right side of the page. Check out the websites and email the contact person for information. As you can see, CJM is planning another opportunity for your summer involvement too. Information in this regard will be out soon. God bless you all and keep up your good work for the Lord.*

# CJM Summer Youth Ministries SYM 2006

**A challenge to the Youth of our churches!**  
An exchange program between the eastern and the western churches for a 3 week period in the summer of 2006.

**Calling Youth 14 years of age and older!**  
Further info to come - Please see your pastor or youth leaders



Short term missions for 2006, contact:  
**John Tazumi:** johntaz@telus.net  
See www.send.org—SEND Summer 2006

Short term missions for 2006, contact:

**Serve Asia Coordinator:**

omfcanada@omf.ca

See www.omf.ca—Serve Asia program



Short term missions for 2006, contact:

**Don King:** don.king@kogawa.com

See www.whitefields.org—Short term Missions

Short term missions 2006, contact:

**Gary Burke:** gburke@vti.ca

See www.vti.ca - our Teams



Edmonton Japanese Christian Church  
2005 - 2006