

CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GREATER ALBANY

2010 YOUTH/ENGLISH MINISTRY REPORT

This year was significantly different from any since the inception of the Youth Ministry in 2001. It began under the leadership of Michael Davies and, due to his unexpected departure on April 30, I was requested to serve as temporarily leader until the Deacon Board determined the future of the Youth Ministry.

It was my privilege to have served in this capacity through December 31, and without question God blessings were poured out upon the youth and the Ministry during this 7-month period. It became obvious that the college/young adult group within CCCGA was raised up to assume part of the leadership and provided opportunities for book and Bible studies, social and spiritual fellowship events, as well as mentoring outreach to many of our younger members. This included the “coming of age” of the Praise Team that has become a major part of the weekly Youth Worship Hour.

During the past few months, one has been able to sense the Spirit of God moving among our youth as they have been seeking to know, grow and show the love of Christ who dwells within them. Recognizing this is not the work of man, but of God, may we celebrate this by praising and glorifying Him and committing ourselves anew to seek Him all the more in the year ahead.

I wish to spend the remainder of this report sharing a more personal view, believing it is important for this to become part of the CCCGA official record.

I announced my resignation as your Youth Minister in March 2008, for one reason: a strong sense that God was asking me to do so. This was confusing to us all and, although there was no other explanation to offer, I felt the need to be obedient to this call. It was many months after my departure, there came the realization that the Lord was preparing our family for multiple tragedies that involved major adjustments to our personal lives. The “loss” of two family members and other serious events had a significant impact upon our time, emotions and energy.

I believe that, if I had not resigned, our CCCGA Family would have allowed us to continue this work and supported us through these difficult times; yet also believe my absence during this “sabbatical year” was God’s way of allowing the Church to grow as the result of a different style of leadership during my absence.

A final personal observation: Though I found it awkward that Michael would ask me to preach for him the last two months of his tenure at CCCGA, I now believe it proved to place me in the right position at the right time to be available when he submitted his resignation. It was at this point I felt free to once again assume a leadership position within CCCGA and be available in the event its leadership was interested responding to your call.

It is my prayer that our sovereign God who rules the universe will continue to guide and bless this Ministry, working in each of our lives as we seek to glorify Him in the coming year.

In the wonder of His love,

Phil Woodrow