

2007 YOUTH/ENGLISH MINISTRY REPORT

In the past year the Youth/English Department continued to grow in its ministry to the youth and families of the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Albany.

Active Youth

As of September 2007 there were 13 active members of the High School Fellowship, 12 active members of the Junior Fellowship and 4 members of the College Fellowship who attend regularly, while another 6 join us during the vacation breaks. Long distance ministry is also extended to this group including: regular phone contact and e-mail exchanges, contacting local pastors when necessary, occasional editorial assistance with term papers, resumes and scholarship applications as well as ongoing encouragement and prayer.

Preaching God's Word

We have been preaching from the Book of Romans since January 2006, our theme being: "Christian – Not a Name to be Claimed, But a Life to be Lived!" The messages during the past year began in January with Romans 6:1 – "What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" --- and concluded on December 30 with Romans 8:39 – "... nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

It is our ongoing prayer that the Holy Spirit will continue to bless both the messenger and our youth, opening our minds and hearts as we seriously consider and respond to the challenges contained in this letter that is as powerful today as it was when Paul sent it to the Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome.

Baptisms

We conducted two Baptism Classes, attended by 12 of our youth. A total of 7 were baptized; three at Easter, and four on Thanksgiving Sunday. They included: Jessica Chen, Luo-Xiao Li, Daniel Pu, Traci Sun, Frank Tan, Angela Wang, and Jing Zhang. May we continue to hold up each of these dear ones, asking God to empower them to become a mighty force for His Kingdom.

Activities

Listed below are the primary activities arranged for our youth during the year: Movie Nights on the 1st Friday of each month (at the Latham Wang's and Tan's). Word of Life Snow Camp Weekend in February, attended by 10 of our youth.

The 5th Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon attended by 31 youth and their parents. Graduation and Back to School Cookouts. Weekly Praise Team practices, including devotions and a time of sharing.

Praise Team

With three key members having graduated in June, our concerns over the future were answered by a number of young members who stepped up and filled these vacancies. In fact, our membership has grown from 6 earlier in the year to 11 at year's end. They have continued to grow in their commitment to this ministry and showing great promise for the future. Their ability to lead us in music of praise is an important part of our Sunday morning worship and we thank each of them for their dedication to this task.

Sunday School

In 2007, the High School Class read and discussed the book, "A Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel, and challenged by the arguments offered by a number of well-known atheists. In the second half of the year, they have focused directly upon the secret of growing in the faith: craving for and growing in the Word of God (I Peter 2:2).

The Junior Class concluded their study on "The Attributes of God" and, since September, has been studying through the Book of Acts.

We're especially grateful to Blossom for her teaching ministry among our youth, to Ying She for her willingness and joy to teach whenever called upon and, most recently, to Huiping Zhang for team-teaching with the Junior Class. Sunday School is a critical part of teaching our youth the principles of living for Christ.

Administration

Monthly meetings with Lam Wong, the Deacon Board's Youth Coordinator. Coordinate transportation and oversee weekly Praise Team Practice. Prepare and e-mail daily devotions based upon the Sunday message.

Communicate regularly with youth and their parents concerning ministry matters. Minister to families "in crisis" re: critical health, school and legal issues.

This is a brief summary of the Youth/English Department during the past year. We wish to thank all the families who have assisted us in the activities listed above and provided much-needed encouragement along the way. We also wish to recognize and thank the leadership of Clifton Park Community Church for allowing us to use their facilities, especially relating to the Clifton Park Chinese Fellowship who meet there each Friday Night for study and fellowship.

May Christ be pleased, praised and glorified,

Phil & Blossom

Youth/English Ministry