



Youth in Action

Spring/Summer 2007

An attachment to the CJM Reporter

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Edmonton Japanese Christian Church: The Young and the Restless

Just thought we'd introduce some of the young and the restless at the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church.

Anna Hudon-Kaide and **Tamara Virag** are best friends. They have recently decided that they can give of themselves in worship to God by using their voices in praise to Him. They have recently joined the Praise Team! They are both in junior high.



Anna Hudon-Kaide



Tamara Virag

The rest of the gang perhaps are on the border line of the category "young," but certainly are young at heart and restless in their desire to serve God and be ambassadors for Him!



The Praise Team: Where the young meet the young at heart!

We are taking an active role in the Edmonton Japanese Community Association and we are trying to get a youth group going through J.A.G. (Japanese Active Group). We meet once a month for a social time. It's one way to get to know other people who are interested in Japan.

Please continue to pray for Edmonton. We are a small group but we want to make a BIG difference!

By Yuri Nakano, Pastor

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Naoya Duffy was saved and baptized last summer at Sylvan Lake during the Sunnyside Camp. He's our restless Grade 10 drummer and is active in all the church activities.



Drums up!

Word Up!

Learn useful (and not so useful phrases) in Japanese!

Why do you like pro wrestling?

Nande puroresu nanka suki nano?

Watch for an exciting announcements in our next issue.

Wesley Chapel Youth: Music and Lyrics

Since last fall the youths of our church have formed a band and led our half hour Praise Time to invite the Holy Spirit and His Presence before our 10:30 Japanese Worship. They are **Mabuta Kameyama, Daniel Yoshizawa, Itsuki Watanabe, Yuko Carter** and **Jonathan & Emiko Tang**. While Yuko sings the Praise songs, Emiko plays her tambourine and joins Yuko in the vocal. The boys strum their acoustic, bass and electric guitars. Their music is so uplifting that even seniors like Sister Morikawa (88) comes each Sunday much earlier than the Worship time to join in on the singing. Not only does Praise Time exalt the Lord, but it also keeps some of the early birds from chatting with one another before the Service!

The leading guitarist is Mabuta. With his natural music ability, he learned to play it rapidly. Not only does he teach the others, but through his influence they have composed their own tunes & lyrics for the new pieces they sung during the Christmas Service. The gifts and grace of God in him are amazing. (He is a top foreign student in the private Christian high school where he attends) Even though he misses his family of two siblings and a mother in Tokyo, he is determined to complete his college education here in Toronto. To dream that Mabuta would ma-



"To God be all the glory!"

ture to be a young man like he is now ten years ago might have been unthinkable. He arrived with his family (an older brother, Kanta, younger sister Rika and his mother's boyfriend) in 1997 because of marital difficulties caused by Mabuta's natural father. They came as tourists, but really fell in love with Canada. They wanted to remain permanently, but temporary work permits were difficult to obtain. During this time, the family attended both the mid-week Bible Study and the Sunday Service. (Even the children came to the Bible Study because they were not allowed to enroll in a regular public school—no immigrant status). They were led to accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour and were baptized at Wesley during the Christmas Service, 1998. They became an inspiration and a blessing not only

to our church but the whole of the Nikkei Christian community. Therefore, the community prayed for them to obtain their permit. But that was not His divine purpose. They had to return to Japan.

In Japan the mother and the children went on with the Lord. In fact they lived in a residence owned by a large church. Early prayer meetings were part of their daily regimen. When the mother felt called to attend the Missionary Training Centre in Nasu, she took the whole family—save her second husband. Upon graduation from the center she wanted to take the whole family and serve the cause of missions aboard the MS Logos, the international ship ministry of Operation Mobilization. She would have been accepted were it not for the children. So with this kind of faith and fervor perhaps it may not be unthinkable to see Mabuta helping and serving his Lord as he does today. (His current challenge is to pass the difficult entrance exam in English at one of his chosen universities in Toronto. He asks for our prayers). To God be all the glory!

By Pastor Edward S. Yoshida

Random Verses



Meet the Artist!
Name: Scott Hide Ohashi
Birthday: May 26
Church: Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto
Interests: Jpop, anime, manga, sports, movies, food, animals
Email: faboo95@hotmail.com

 <p>STICKMAN</p> <p>Random Verses</p> <p>by Scott Ohashi</p>  <p>PANDA</p>	<p>The Bible says that faith can move mountains!</p> <p>Yeah right...</p> 	<p>Do you doubt the power of faith?!</p> <p>No, I just don't think it can do the impossible</p> 	<p>Yeah? I'll show you the power of faith by crossing this busy street!!</p> <p>WHAT?!</p> 
	<p>I have total faith that I will cross safely!</p> <p>Oh dear...</p> 	<p>BAM!!!</p> <p>honk! beep!</p> <p>Ahhh!</p> <p>*sigh*</p> 	<p>I'll try to get an ambulance</p> <p>...I have faith in you</p> 

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church: IYG



My name is Yurie Takashima and I am writing this report on behalf of the International Youth Group (IYG). I am a new Christian who was baptised in Aug. of 2006. Although I am young and still a student, I've come to realized that there are lots of things I can do for the Lord and I am eager to grow spiritually. There are a lot of young people like me in IYG. So, what is IYG? It is a youth group of the Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church. We have Japanese students, others with working holiday visas, and Japanese Canadians in our Group.

We all come from different backgrounds, situations, and viewpoints, however, we have close fellowship by focusing on the Lord and

sharing opinions and questions with each other. As for our regular meetings, we use "Purpose Driven Life" as a bible study text and share our thoughts. Most Japanese don't feel like coming to a church, but by going through a small group which fits your age it becomes a lot easier to get involved in a church activity.

We have quite a few non-Christians coming to IYG and I was one of those who thought "Who is God?". The more time I spent with IYG, the more I felt that I got closer to God. The reason I came to know the Lord is because He worked through the Holy Spirit and I also felt God's love through fellowship in IYG.

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth".
Ecclesiastes 12:1

Other than our regular bible studies, we have a great vision of reaching young Japanese for Christ in Vancouver. We've done an all night bible study, Worship Night, and a Gospel Night with a Korean Church

when we rented a theater of a college. One by one God has led new person to IYG, I felt God's awesome work on members of IYG and He's alive and answered our prayers.



It's been two years since IYG has started, there are eight people who came to know the Lord and were baptised. There is another member of IYG who is getting baptised this Easter. I thank the Lord who is with us always to lead IYG. I pray that IYG will grow abundantly in His rich blessings.

By Yurie Takishima

Things To Learn by Graduation

An excerpt from Jason Boyett's article **10 Things To Learn by Graduation:**

1. How to get out of bed. We've all scheduled those 8 a.m. classes with good intentions. *Sure, we can wake up on time! A little coffee, a little fresh morning air ... it'll be great!* Two weeks later we've dropped the class, because 8 a.m. is too *freaking* early to be studying empirical economics. And that's OK, because if you can't be disciplined enough to attend the class, there's no reason not to pursue other options. There's only one teensy problem. In the real world, *every day* is an 8 a.m. class. Why? Because that's when the workday begins. A graduate who hasn't learned to get up on time will be in for, um, a real wake-up call.

2. How to handle stress. If there's one thing college prepares you for, it's stress management. You've got lab projects to finish and

papers to write and MySpace friend requests to approve, all while fighting chronic sleep deprivation. College life can be hard. Bad news: It doesn't get any better. Good news: You can handle it. Prioritize. Tackle small tasks one at a time and check them off. Try to think positively. Get some exercise. Watch *The Office* and decompress with a giggle or two. And take care not to overburden yourself with too many responsibilities, which leads us to ...

3. How to say no. Despite your mad stress-busting skills, the post-grad life will still be tense. Graduating from college, moving to a new city, starting a new job, finding a new place to live—each of these post-graduation stressors are serious. Piling unnecessary responsibilities onto these things will only hurt. Unfortunately, new people in new situations often try to soothe the transition by being overly nice (relationship-wise) and overly eager

(job-wise). The result is that we end up trying to do too much, saying yes more often than we say *no*. Know your limitations. It's OK not to be all things to all people.

4. How to get organized. One of the hallmarks of adulthood is responsibility, and one of the best ways to tell if someone is responsible or not is to evaluate how organized he or she is. It's almost impossible to make it through college without some sort of organizational system to keep track of class schedules, assignment deadlines and test dates. Whether you keep up with stuff on your laptop, PDA or an artful arrangement of stickie-notes, you'll need to be able to translate that system to the workplace once you graduate. Being organized minimizes stress, makes you a better employee and helps keep your iPod playlist in order.

www.relevantmagazine.com for the full article.

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: Urbana '06!

When I first found out about Urbana it seemed like any other exciting road trip. The long bus ride to St. Louis with some other members of JGCT (**Adam Okashimo, Jesse Nakayama, Jessica Tsuda, Kevin Ueta, Matt Tsuda, Michelle Osakabe, and Steve Chai**) was bearable, but tiring. Watching movies, laughing, and sharing; we began what would be an inspiring journey.

Each day was filled with amazing worship, intense bible studies on the book of Ephesians, seminars, prayer ministries, and thoughtful evening sessions. There was also a great focus on HIV/AIDS, and a huge New Year's communion celebration. For the majority of our group, if not



all, the worship was one of the most awe-inspiring parts of the whole trip. Witnessing 22 000 people sing praises to the Lord with all their heart was a very powerful experience. Jessica and I also had the opportunity to join the Unity Choir and perform 3 songs; again, providing another incredible chance to lift up our voices and sing praises to Him along with 300 others who also wanted to use their talent to glorify God.

Many of the special seminars,



L-R: Steve, Kevin, Michelle

prayer ministries, and even evening sessions focused greatly on using our talents and gifts for God's purposes. Ephesians 4 1:3 says "As a prisoner for the Lord then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." This was our theme throughout the entire trip. During our time at Urbana, we all continued on the journey of finding our place or role in the world.



L-R: Matt, Jessica, Jesse, Adam

Another exciting aspect of the conference was the New Year's celebration. Partaking in communion with

22 000 other believers was an incomparable experience. The worship team also led some upbeat energetic songs. We rang in the New Year in a completely different, but completely encouraging and enthusiastic way.

*"As a prisoner for the Lord then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
—Ephesians 4:1-3*

At the end of Urbana, we all received commitment cards, where we recorded different actions we each felt led to fulfill in the upcoming year. Despite the trip being over, we are all still continuing to thrive on the blessings God has given us. It was truly an amazing and fun experience.

By Jen Tse



For more information on Urbana, please go to www.urbana.org and consider attending the next Urbana!

For More Information:

Calgary Japanese Gospel Church: www.calgarygospel.com
Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto: www.jgct.com
Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church: www.japanesegospelchurch.com

Submissions & Suggestions:

Please e-mail Naomi at naomi87@gmail.com. For more information on CJM and all of the member churches, please e-mail Nori at nbkan@sympatico.ca