

The 2008-2009 school year brought about many new and exciting opportunities for the youth ministry. We started preaching in the gospel book of Mark to overview the life and ministry of Jesus. In Sunday school we taught and the youth were tested on the book "How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth" (Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart), on the topic of how to read, study, and understand the Bible.



On Friday nights we used the "Revolution" series by Doug Fields (youth pastor at Saddleback Church), tackling issues such as guilt, anger, and doubt. We also invited an American born Chinese student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Ben Pun, to come preach several times as a guest. And there were special activities which brought in newcomers, such as a mall scavenger hunt with 17 participants, and a club night corresponding to the adult life plaza series with 30 visitors (and 10 regular youth).

Some of the ministry events remained as constants in the ministry: students serving on praise team, lunch service for the church each Sunday, and the Winter Teen Conference, joined along with the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church and the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell. This year marked the largest conference yet, with almost 250 youth and adult helpers packing out the Brookwoods camp up in New Hampshire. Twenty-two were from CGCM and fifteen were from WCGC. Fourteen youth also participated in the 30 Hour Famine as usual, raising hundreds of dollars to be used by World Vision to minister to needy children and families around the world. This year we did the fast with other students at the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston, and we also visited their church several Friday's for their "Passion Night" series of praise, worship, and prayer.

Our summer programs also had new elements along with the old staples. We sent Christina on a very selective ministry training and service project called Compass, run by the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and also had Attrace and Ruisi join the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston and thousands of other high school students at DCLA, a huge Christian evangelism conference and rally, held only once every three years. Of course we also did the Boston Project (Crystal, Attrace, Nathaniel, Kevin, Jane, Ronnie) for the ninth time in ten years, serving the needy in Dorchester, and joined with the children's ministry in helping to run VBS.

We rejoiced that three youth, Mary, Erin, and Attrace, were baptized this year, each testifying to how God moved in their lives and brought them to know and commit their lives to him. We are also very thankful for Sunday school teachers like Francis Chan and Lynne Wu who have begun to help teach the current school year, and Friday counselors from this past year, Kevin Kao and Angela Huang who have since moved on. We graduated five youth in 2009, but welcomed in nine incoming 7th grade students (class of 2015)! In many ways, these are transitional years (2009-2011), as more children from the English congregation and Morning Light Fellowship enter into the youth group, and as more children from the Renewal and Cantonese Fellowships graduate. We look forward to the different dynamics and generations of youth with great anticipation, as we see where God will lead all that we learn and do.

The youth ministry continues to be led by the youth core team, which is made of the youth minister Timothy Lo, youth deacon Gimel Chan, and advised by three parents: Sunny Tam, Binglin Xie, and Lynne Wu. We meet regularly to discuss the youth ministry, and try to tackle some of the continued challenges that we face: the need for a larger vehicle like a van for transportation, the expanded room usage as our attendance grows, and the constant need for qualified Friday counselors and Sunday school teachers. Please pray for the youth ministry, our program, and our needs, as we continue to challenge teenagers to experience Christ and grow into maturity.