

Youth Ministry

Gimel Chan

As I finish my final year as youth deacon, I look back on 2010 with gratitude to our minister Tim Lo and the many parents who have helped out in various ways to support the youth ministry. In particular, I would like to thank the different youth core group parents who have served faithfully over the past few years.

In 2010, youth core group parents Lynne Wu, Binglin Xie and Sunny Tam finished their one-year participation. We had met regularly during lunch on Sundays and discussed issues such as the Friday night program, Sunday school curriculum, Sunday worship, helper recruitment, and other activities and programs. I would like to express appreciation for their time and effort and valuable input.

Starting in September 2010, the new core group parents are Ruth Chu, Tammy Wong, Lilia Ng, and myself. Even though I will not be renewing a second term as the youth deacon, the parent core group will continue to work with Tim Lo, our youth minister, in serving the youth ministry.

For youth Friday night, it was unfortunate that our helper Kevin Kao moved away. However, Lilia Ng was able to help out when Tim was on paternity leave (when he was blessed with his third child). Thank you to all the parents who brought food and helped Tim and Mindy in other ways during this time. Starting September, Tammy Wong is helping out regularly on Friday nights. This is a real blessing as we were sorely in need of a female helper for youth. Steve Tsou and Wendy Yee are also helping out, which means the youth are able to split into more effective small groups for discussion.

The Sunday school teacher recruitment efforts were fairly successful in 2010, with the following parents helping out:

1. Lynne Wu taught 7th-9th graders the book of John from Jan-Mar
2. Tom Perkins taught 7th-9th graders "Case for Christ" from April-Jun
3. Gimel Chan taught 10th-12th graders "Overlooked OT Characters" from April-Jun

(Tim Lo has archived any personal Sunday school materials used so that they can be a resource and reference for other teachers who might teach similar topics in the future.)

However, due to lack of helpers for the fall quarter, youth Sunday school had to be combined into one class taught by Tim. This was not a desirable situation as such a large group can lead to classroom management, attention span, group dynamics and other issues. Therefore the pressing need for the youth ministry is still for more Sunday school teachers and Friday night helpers.

I do encourage the parents of youth and other adults to be more involved in the youth ministry. With the wide age range in youth (12-18 years old), we need more helpers in order to have smaller groups that can facilitate age-appropriate discussions and learning. Please talk to Tim Lo if you are interested in helping out and he can show you the many teaching materials that can readily be used. Your investment in the youth will reap immeasurable spiritual benefits for them and will touch many lives.