

# 2025 Youth Ministry Annual Report

Pastor Ivan Yu

**Mission:** *“To live life as disciples of Christ in four unique ways: Know, Grow, Show, Go”*

Dear CGCM family,

Praise God for another year in the Youth Ministry! We continue to see our youth grow as they had opportunities to study God’s Word, share their faith with others, practice discipleship, and serve. We also saw fruit as more friends of youth were invited to join our church. In this year’s report, we humbly share what we witnessed God doing in the hearts of our youth. We also thank our faithful coworkers who God uses to serve the youth and set an example for them.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ivan

## Youth Fellowship



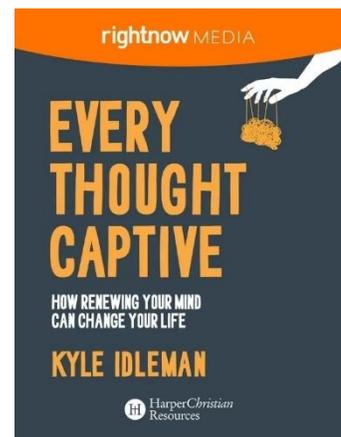
The Friday Youth Fellowships in 2025 continued with our usual format of games in the MPR, worship, sermon/lesson, and small groups in the English Sanctuary.

### ***Bible Study – Book of James***

After Pastor Ivan provided some training for youth on how to practice the Inductive Bible Study method the end of 2024, we began 2025 by moving to a Bible study format in our small groups. From January to June, we studied through the Book of James with the theme of “Wisdom from Above” (Js. 3:17) and learned about many practical applications of faith from dealing with temptations, to the way we speak and plan our lives. Youth continued to use notebooks to go through the three steps of making observations, interpretation, and application in Bible Study.

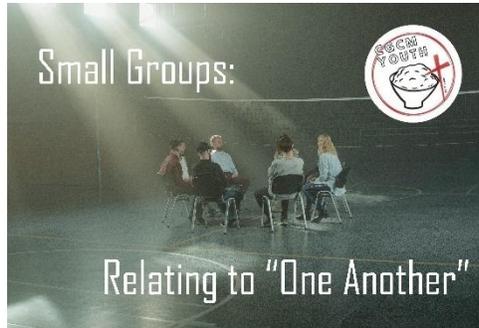
### ***“Every Thought Captive” – Video Series***

From July to August, we went through a five-part video series by Kyle Idleman called “Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life”. Romans 12:2 states, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” The way we live our lives are shaped and molded by the thoughts we think. Through knowing and thinking of God’s Word, we can transform our lives for Christ in our spiritual growth and overcome bad habits. These include how we respond to patterns that distract us from God and how



we respond to being offended. During this summertime with many traveling or on missions trips, we had our discussions in a large group instead of small groups (<https://bit.ly/4pv2GUZ>).

### ***Small Groups: Relating to One Another – Mini-Sermon Series***



As the new school year began, we welcomed 8 new sixth graders to the Youth Ministry with a welcome event on 9/12. We also introduced new small groups, divided by age and gender, instead of mixed age and gender as in the past years. Based on feedback from youth, it was discovered that many did not feel close in relationship with those in their small groups due to the background differences of members and having a focus on Bible Study. We decided to move our Bible Study time to Sunday School in the Fall and focus on discipleship and relationships during the Friday Youth Fellowship small groups.

Pastor Ivan provided training to our adult coworkers and had them adopt the role of “Small Group Counselors” to emphasize their focus as a spiritual mentor to the youth in their small groups. This school year, we were able to divide our youth into six small groups and have two adults counselors serve each group. In the past years, we mainly had two men serve in the Friday Youth Fellowship. Praise God that He led five fathers to step up and be trained to serve as small group counselors and be a role model for the boys.

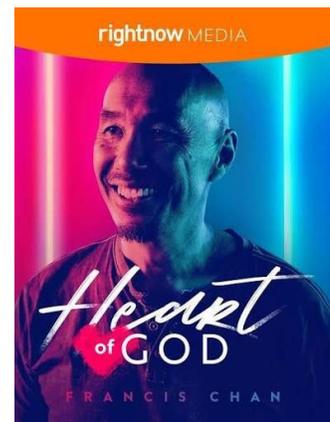


To present the vision and purpose of this new small group ministry model, Pastor Ivan preached a series of mini-sermons called “Small Groups: ‘Relating to One Another’”. Each message focused on a different “one another” verse in the Bible with practical applications in small groups.

- 9/5 – Love One Another – John 13:34-35 (Small Group Introductions)
- 9/12 – Encourage One Another – Hebrews 10:24-25 (6th Grade Welcome Event)
- 9/19 – Bear One Another’s Burdens – Galatians 6:1-2
- 9/26 – Forgive One Another – Ephesians 4:32 (Watched video: <http://youtu.be/X6LMo8E1agI>)
- 10/3 – Look to the Interests of One Another – Philippians 2:1-8

### ***“Heart of God” – Video Series***

While Pastor Ivan was on paternity leave, we spent the rest of the year from October to December to go through a six-part video series by Francis Chan called “Heart of God”. Many times, we may wonder what God is like, what he thinks about us, or what he wants for us. This



video series taught six characteristics of God’s heart: holy, merciful, gracious, loving, and faithful and helped the youth to know God better and love Him more. Discussions continued in our small groups for relationship-building and personal application (<https://bit.ly/49VMY9p>).

### *Special Events and Activities*

Aside from our usual New Years, Chinese New Year, Thanksgiving and Christmas events, the Friday Youth Fellowship had some other special events and activities.

- On 2/21, Pastor Xiao came to share about the South America Short-term Missions Trip a team from CGCM went on in March. He involved our youth write some letters and prepare gifts that were delivered to youth in a Chinese church in Argentina. These Argentinian youths responded with their own letters to us!
- On 3/28, we had a joint fellowship Worshep Night with the Lowell church (CBCGL), hosted by them, which involved small teams of youth leading different worship songs and prayer stations. Thank you to Minister Jin Kim for inviting us! (<https://bit.ly/4aN59qn>).
- On 5/30, Mabel Xu, a CGCM Youth Alumni, came to share with us about her upcoming misisions trips to South East Asia.
- On 8/8, CGCM hosted a joint fellowship with the Sharon church (CCMSB) with icebraker games, worship with reflection on our relationship with Jesus, and small groups to discuss Philippians 3:7-11, prepared by Pastor Angie Piao (<https://bit.ly/4svqyul>).
- On 11/14, Pastor Eric led the youth in a “Loss simulation exercise” he learned at a refugee care seminar. The game taught about awareness, and empathy/sympathy towards people who are in need from personal loss.



## ***Introduction of Programming Team***



While the Worship Team had been an opportunity many years for youth to serve, this fall, we formally organized a Programming Team to plan icebreaker games for the Youth Fellowship and other special events. In the past, this task was mainly put on one or two youth which was very burdensome. This new Programming Team is led by Uncle Qi Jun and involves meeting once a

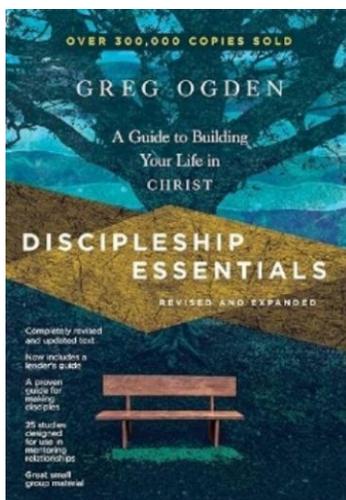
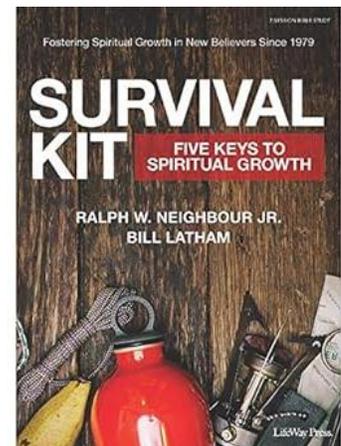
month for planning and training. Praise God that 8 youth stepped up to serve on this team for this school year!

## **Sunday School**

*Winter Semester (1/12-3/30) and Spring Semester (4/6-6/29)*

Four classes continued from the 2024 Fall Semester:

- 6th-7th Grade: ***“Survival Kit: Five Keys to Spiritual Growth”***  
– Taught by Pastor Ivan, Jingyang Wu, and Fu Li
  - A study that helped students understand five truths from the Bible that help with their spiritual growth.
- Two discipleship groups: ***“Discipleship Essentials”***
  - Baptized youth leaders disciplined by Pastor Ivan during the 2023-2024 school year continued to lead their own discipleship groups for their peers.



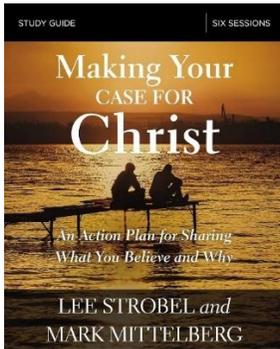
- 8th-12th Grade:

**Lessons from “Discipleship Essentials”**

- Since there was a need for more adult Sunday School teachers, for these semesters, Pastor Ivan gave opportunities for the senior baptized youth leaders who were disciplined to take turns preparing and teaching a Sunday School class to the 8th-12th graders. The content of the lessons was based on chapters from the “Discipleship Essentials” book.



- **“Making Your Case for Christ”** – Facilitated by Angela Shek, Jonathan Shek, and Zhai Pei



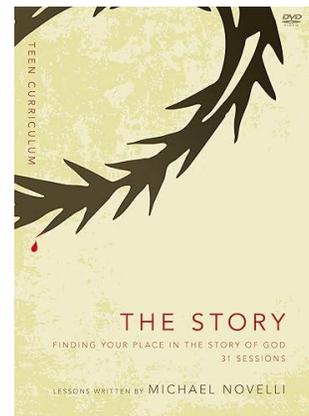
- For the latter half of the spring semester, the 8th-12<sup>th</sup> grade class went through a curriculum called “Making Your Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg which focused on evangelism and apologetics. Each of the six sessions included a half-hour video teaching and half-hour small group discussion led by the youth leaders from the discipleship class. The last two classes of the semester was spent watching the movie, “The Case for Christ” which is a true testimony based on the faith journey of Lee Strobel.

*Fall Semester (9/14-12/14)*

- 6th-7th Grade: **“The Story: Find Your Place in the Story of God”**  
– Taught by Weijun Huang, Fu Li, Yanxia Guo



- This study provides an overview of the whole Bible by showing how the smaller stories youth are familiar with relate to one another and contribute to the overall story or narrative of the Bible in 31 sessions. Each session involves a short video of a biblical story, followed by a skit reading of it, and small group discussions. This fall semester covered the stories from the Genesis Creation to the rise of David becoming king.



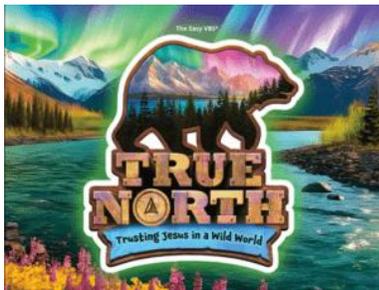
- 8th-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Inductive Bible Study through Mark** – Facilitated by April Chen, Angela Shek, Jingyang Wu, and Zhai Pei

- Since small groups for the Friday Youth Fellowship have shifted focus on relationship-building and discipleship, Bible study was moved to Sunday School in the Fall. Youth continued to use the Inductive Bible Study method to study through the Book of Mark. 8th-10th grade students were in one class while 11th-12th grade students were in another. A new approach we took was to



give opportunities for youth to sign-up to prepare and lead the Bible studies instead of just relying on the adults to lead. We were very impressed with how these students prepared and led their peers while adults provided guidance during the classes. These Bible study skills not only help the youth in their own personal spiritual growth, but also build the confidence in them to lead and serve others wherever God calls them to.

## 2025 Vacation Bible School – True North



VBS was held at CGCM from June 26-30, 2025. This year’s theme was called “True North” which features exploration in an Alaskan wilderness. Children were taught biblical truths about trusting in Jesus using stories from the Book of Matthew that emphasized Jesus’ faithfulness and power. Just as a compass always points north, Jesus provides consistent guidance and we can trust in Him in this wild world. There was a total of 41 children served by 31 youth and 21 adults during the VBS and afternoon program.

We built on the foundation from last year’s training of youth and adults to share the gospel with children. As a result, we continued one-on-one meetings between the crew leaders and each of their children during snack and lunch time to share the gospel with them. This year, we provided crew leaders with gospel bracelets that have five different colored beads representing



each part of the gospel message. Thank you to Ganfeng Wu, Luo Pan, Weijun Huang, and Kang Rui for organizing VBS!

**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/3NfJWvi>

**Slideshow Video:** <https://youtu.be/HdqWxcf523w>

**VBS Newsletters:** <https://bit.ly/45JC1wG>

## **2025 WorkCampNE**

WorkCampNE was held this year at a high school in Littleton, NH from July 6-12, 2025. CGCM participated with 22 youths and 4 adults alongside CGCW and other churches from different states. Youths were placed in 19 crews to work on different residents' homes including interior/exterior painting, deck building/staining, roofing, and yardwork. For our church day trip, we went bowling.



This year's theme for WorkcampNE was entitled "Exile", which was defined by the speaker as being away from home. Bible narratives including the Fall in Genesis, the Babylonian Exile, and the concept of being away from heaven while we are living life on earth helped us understand our role as a Christian while in exile. The memory verse was 2 Corinthians 5:20 which reminded us how we are to be ambassadors for Christ and reconcile others to God.

During our church group meetings in the evenings, youth shared that they had more opportunities this year to share the gospel with the residents they served. Two youth had discussion with their resident who was Jehovah's Witness. Another youth demonstrated self-sacrifice by skipping out on our Friday fun event to continue working on his resident's site with his crew leader to complete the job left unfinished. We praise God to see the fruit of how He was working in our youth. Thank you to April Chen, Jun Qi, and Mingxiang Xu for serving the youth on this trip.



**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/4blE1Pg>

**Workcamp videos:** <https://bit.ly/49Pe1d1>

## 2025 Taiwan Short-Term Missions Trip



In light of our church theme on world missions, the missions committee organized an opportunity for youth to participate in a short-term missions trip to Taiwan with the Village Gospel Mission's Bilingual Camp. The camps focus on spreading the gospel and teaching English to children

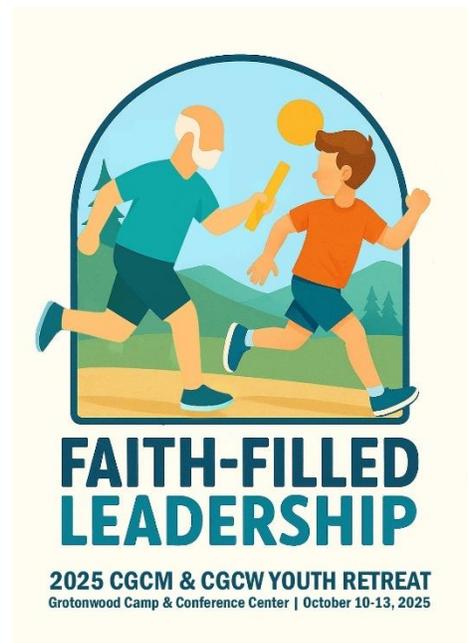
in rural areas of Taiwan's villages. Our church sent a team of seven 12th graders, two 11th graders, and three adults (Qi Jun, Lisa Wei, and Yang Min) during the week of July 19-26 to teach English classes, lead activities, and share the gospel with Taiwan students in Dachun. Read about their daily trip updates here: <https://bit.ly/45eB27G>



## 2025 CGCM & CGCW Youth Retreat

This year's Youth Retreat with CGCW was held from October 10-13 at Grotonwood Camp & Conference Center. We had 48 youth and 12 adults attend.

Pastor Mike Yeh from the Real Life Church in Chicago was our guest speaker who shared messages on the retreat theme "Faith-Filled Leadership". While acknowledging that we are called to be leaders in many areas of our lives, Pastor Mike taught us that as Christians, God is looking for faith-filled and faithful leaders who will take up the baton of leadership from the previous generation and run the race of faith. He shared five messages on Saving Faith (Luke 7:36-50), Evidential Faith (John 9:1-34), Reconciliatory Faith (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), Visionary Faith (Mark 10:32-40), and Enduring Faith (Romans 12:1-6).





Due to the benefits from last year's retreat, this year's small groups continued to be "Church Family Groups", which are our usual small groups on Fridays instead of mixing with youth from CGCW. The purpose is to discuss how we can practically apply what we learned from the retreat back in our own church ministries.

Furthermore, we had the adults mainly serve on the Worship Team, Programming Team, and Communications Team so that the youth can rest and focus more on God during the retreat. Thank you to all the adults who stepped up to serve during this time, especially Minister Sam, when Pastor Ivan had to fly to Taiwan early and miss the retreat due to the birth of his third child. We continue to praise God for how He provides and help our youth grow during our retreats!

- **Photos:** <https://bit.ly/456DOMd>
- **Retreat Handbook:** <https://bit.ly/49AFSNM>



## **2025 Events and Fellowship Activities**

- **1/1** – New Year's Fellowship at Wang Family's home.  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/4qC9Do9>
- **2/8** – Chinese New Year Celebration Fellowship at Qi Family's home  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/4jzPEo6>
- **3/28** – Joint Worshep Night Youth Fellowship with CBCGL  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/4aN59qn>
- **6/13** – Senior Celebration  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/3Z0kywd>
- **6/14** – Ablaze Worship Night at CBCGL  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/4powhzD>
- **6/19** – VBS Decorating  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/3L1bX9q>
- **6/23-27** – Vacation Bible School  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/3NfJWvi>  
  
**Video Slideshow:**  
<https://youtu.be/HdqWxcf523w>
- **7/6-12** – WorkcampNE  
**Photos:** <https://bit.ly/4blE1Pg>  
  
**Videos:** <https://bit.ly/49Pe1d1>

- **8/8** – CGCM & CCMSB Joint Youth Fellowship  
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4svqyul>
- **9/12** – 6th Grade Welcome Event  
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3LH9Ojg>
- **10/10-13** – CGCM & CGCW Youth Retreat  
Photos: <https://bit.ly/456DOMd>
- **11/29** – Thanksgiving Fellowship Potluck  
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4qRW44o>
- **12/12**- Christmas Decorating in the church  
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4syNWam>
- **12/12** – White Elephant Gift Exchange  
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4syNWam>

## Miscellaneous

- **Baptisms:**

Congratulations to Jacob Wu who was baptized on April 20, 2025 as well as Julia Chen and Aaron Zhang who were baptized on November 30, 2025!



- **Graduation:**

This year, 17 seniors from the Class of 2025 graduated High School. Congratulations to Terry Chang, Ivan Chan, Grace Chan, Tanya Clemens, Andrew Lam, Joyce Li, Ethan Liu, Vivian Pan, Selena Pu, Alex Qi, Andrew Wang, Sophia Wang, Emily Wong, Elliot Xu, Sophia Zhang, Timothy Zhang, and Jessie Zheng!



Photos: <https://bit.ly/3Z0kywd>

Class of 2025 - Video Slideshow:  
<https://youtu.be/I9mXKHv64dw>

## Selected Photos



New Year's Fellowship at Wang Family's



Joint Worship Night Youth Fellowship with CBCGL



Ablaze Worship Night at the CBCGL



Playing charades during Youth Fellowship



Playing "Noodle Whack" during Youth Fellowship



6th and 7th Grade Sunday School Class



Making Decorations for VBS



Group photo sent to youth in Argentina along with our letters



A group of friends



Worship during Joint Youth Fellowship with CCMSB



Senior Celebration group photo



Christmas White Elephant Gift Exchange