

English Ministry Update

Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

also available on www.tcbc.on.ca

March 2008

Calendar of Events

- Mar 2 Communion
 Mar 9 FAST Student Lunch
 Mar 9 Daylight Savings Time
 Mar 10-13 Teens' Conference
 Mar 21 Prayer Service 2 to 4 p.m.
 Mar 21 Good Friday Service -
 "Colours of Grace" @ 7 p.m.
 Mar 23 Easter Sunday
 Mar 29 Rev Tam's Induction Service
 Speaker: Samuel Tang

Rev Andrew and Mrs. Wong
 Recognized

In recognition of their leadership in establishing Chinese Baptist churches across Toronto, Rev and Mrs. Wong were honoured at Mission Expo 08 on Saturday evening, February 23. Our combined choir was on hand to sing, and Dr. Rene Padilla, a well known author and speaker, presented Rev and Mrs. Wong with a figurine of the woman from the Parable of the Lost Coin.

Ministry Tips

If you have an account code there are photocopiers in the main basement and the back of 78. The cost is actually quite high, so for bulk copies, do consider sending it out. We do for the bulletin and newsletter.

News and Notes in Brief

Madelyn Lee
 Born to Pam and Nolan Lee
 February 14 at Mount Sinai Hospital
 6 lbs., 7 oz

TCBC Annual Meeting

After an opening medley of songs for singspiration, Rev Tam shared with us his ministry vision for TCBC. He started with an inspirational quote from the missionary William Carey, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God". He explained that given there are already 2 full-time pastors for the English congregation, he only expects to spend 20% of his time with the English. Some quotes from his presentation on priorities includes:

- Install a discipleship program to develop disciples/leaders starting at the pastoral level
- Encourage pastoral staff to participate in short-term missions
- Equip and motivate members to practice personal evangelism
- Work in order to build a balanced demographic cross-section for all 3 congregations
- Explore and capture opportunities in student ministries in all 3 languages/dialects
- Formulate a coherent strategy plan to develop leadership resources to share vision
- Lead the pastoral team to be the example, to become faithful servants in the house of the Lord

Pastor Tanya shared on EM's focus on prayer, including the retreat day in January and the planned prayer time on Good Friday. Pastor Joseph Chan shared about the planned Praise and Worship for Mandarin Youth on Friday night. There was a 2 page handout on this new program and its purpose is to "connect to the root of their (Youth Mandarin) culture; deliver the Gospel in the language and culture most familiar to them; and promote integration with the mainstream culture".

Yuk-Woo Lee, chair of the Executive Board then reflected on the blessings of the past 40 years and 2007 specifically. Some quotes from the presentation on 2008 objectives include:

- Nurture a Christ-centric culture, emphasis on building lives through serving in ministry
- Enhance pastoral guidance & involvement in ministry planning
- Ensure that interests and development of the 3 congregations are served in a co-ordinated manner under the identity of TCBC
- Reduce time commitment without compromising effectiveness
- Maintain transparency and effective communications with members
- Develop leadership

Yuk-Woo then shared his plans for restructuring the Executive Board to focus individual months on different areas: Finance Group, Ministry Group, Building Group and Support Group. He also plans to focus the Member's Meeting more on the big picture of TCBC ministries.

We then had congregants pray for our church: Ted Ma, Su Zhang and Rebekah Tiet. We also had a silent time of prayer closed by Rev Wong. We then moved into the business portion of the meeting after a song, covering the 2008 budget, calendar and committees. Our constitution is such that there is also a monthly Member's Meeting right after the Annual Meeting.

Of note in the February Member's Meeting is we decided to give a one time token gift of \$200 to UTCCF and Trinity CCF to support their separate retreats.

Youth Corner

The Blizzard Winter Retreat for our high school students took place up at Muskoka Woods Sports Resort at the beginning of February. Eleven students attended along with two leaders, Hanson and Brennan, along with Pastor Tanya. If you're curious about what the focus of the retreat was, just ask one of our teens about the HEART. ♥©

For Family Day on February 18, a group of teens along with Hanson and Pastor Tanya hit the slopes just north of Ajax at Dagmar Ski Resort, for some downhill skiing. Kudos goes to Jeremy Yeung, who helped to organize and contact people and was able to invite enough people to meet the fifteen persons required to get the group rate at the ski resort.

Good Friday Prayer Service: The Cross as a Journey

Romans 6:8-11
 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The journey that Jesus makes to the cross is not easy. Most such journeys of faithfulness and servanthood are fraught with great risk. There is suffering, and the death is real. It is not the end of the story. But it is part of the journey. If we are to remember the cross honestly, we must remember the entire journey, honestly. There will be a Sunday morning, and we cannot forget that part of the story. But not yet. The journey of the Cross winds through Holy Week, from the singing crowds on Sunday to the darkness of Good Friday. Sunday will come, but not without the journey through Good Friday and the Cross. The journey from Sunday will have little meaning without the journey through Good Friday.
 Come to our Good Friday Prayer Service 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

FAST Update

FAST (Feed A Student TCBC) is our church's hospitality ministry for college and university students worshipping with us. Although officially accountable to the English Ministry Committee, this ministry is in fact for ALL college and university students that have chosen to call TCBC their church home- no matter which services they attend or languages they best communicate in. It just so happens that the majority of our student population attends English service. (FYI- Between the 3 services, we have over 100 college and university students regularly worshipping at TCBC. That is a significant portion of our approximately 500 service attendees!)

Thankfully, most of the students who worship at TCBC also attend campus Christian groups; however, this equates to a lack of space and place for students to call their own here at TCBC. To help address this, FAST became a way we as a church could be student-friendly, and keep our students in mind and prayer- OK, and occasionally fed too!

To help students feel more at home, the FAST Team organizes a monthly free lunch for students. Lunches are held every second Sunday of the month. It is a time when students can get to know each other better, while enjoying the hospitality of our church family. It is by the generosity of people from all 3 congregations that we are able to host a pot-luck lunch for 70 people monthly from September to April. It is from the care and welcome extended by TCBC hosts at the lunches that makes TCBC less of a place to just come for worship, and more of a church home- where despite being a big church, a person has a chance to actually get to know others. It is from the enthusiasm of the students themselves that reminds us all of hopes for better futures.

We would like to acknowledge the following for being so supportive of the meals and special mailings/treats: Rev & Mrs Wong, Linda & Deacon Anthony Hui, Mrs Yuk Fun Wong, Ruth & Ming, Deaconess Margaret & Henry Hung, Marigold & Tommy, Mary Yuen, Katie & SiuLun, Jim & little Vanessa, Sue & Simon, Vivian & Steve, Cissy & Long, Jasmine & Ivan, Kim & Will, Claudia & Norm, Rev Nolan & Pam, Pastor Tanya, Mary & Jeff, Cindy & Bill, Kendrick, Joyce, Amy & Tim, Grace H, Yuling, Renee, Philina, Robert & Fenn, Elizabeth & Simon, Raymond C, Tammy Ko, Krista, SunChing, Eva, Mike, Hugo, Virginia, Rev & Mrs Tam. (Apologies if we missed anyone)

In addition, FAST Supporters are regularly updated on FAST and student special activities, as well as prayer requests. These FAST Supporters form a TCBC pray network for our students! People from all three congregations and all generations makeup this group. Although often unseen, they are the spiritual backbone of the FAST Ministry.

News: In addition to the regular FAST lunch on March 9, there will be a special FAST venue for March: Easter Sunday dinner at home. For details contact Cynthia at [fast.tcbc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:fast.tcbc[at]gmail.com)

NB: April 13 will be the last FAST lunch of this schoolyear. We hope to have different gatherings during the summer.

To be added to/taken off the FAST Supporters or FAST Students email list, please let us know at [fast.tcbc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:fast.tcbc[at]gmail.com)

Thanks on behalf of this schoolyear's FAST Team-

Aida Mok (UT Trinity CCF & TCBC choir)

Chung Tsao (TCBC teens worker)

Ming Khor (summer student missions trip to China)

Tammy Yuen (McMaster CCF)

Cynthia Ho (new grad & busy new-working person)

Cindy Fong (busy new-mom)

Alicia Chin (busy not-so-new mom)

*Joyce Chow (special thanks for more than regular help with FAST while also being a new working person- anyone interested in an accountant?!)

Marriage Lunch and Learn

On Sunday February 3, a group of five couples led by Rev and Mrs. Wong, had the opportunity to share lunch and also to look into God's word and reflect on His intentions for marriage.

Husbands led by Rev Wong, and wives led by Mrs. Wong, focused on the Ten Commandments. They discussed and shared how each of the commandments could be applied and used as Ten Commitments to their respective spouses. Husbands and wives then discussed and shared together what they discovered.

For example, in the case of the first commandment, You shall have no other gods before me (Ex 20:3), the group felt that it challenged spouses to develop a closer relationship with God, and to focus on their commitment and devotion to their partner. No other objects or people should come in between a married couple. The group thoroughly enjoyed the time of discussion. They were especially thankful that Rev. and Mrs. Wong could share their experience and lives with the rest of the group.

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Pastor Timothy Tam

If you are interested in improving this newsletter, contact Norman: [norman.tang\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:norman.tang[at]gmail.com)