

Issue No. 18

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As in the previous years, we are excited and encouraged to have many sharings from our short-term mission participants to Ouje in June. May we feel what our young people feel and be passionate about sharing the gospel to the needy around us.

There is an exhortation from Pastor Francis and sharing articles about the recent Youth, Mandarin and Cantonese Retreats. They help us to refocus our minds on God and His mighty works among us. The individual sharings from brothers and sisters reminds me the purpose of this magazine – to enable the church family to read about the things close to your heart...

Last but certainly not least, we are thankful to read the many baptismal testimonies in this Issue of *CCCO-Konnect* from brothers and sisters who received baptism this year. At the Thanksgiving dinner table a couple of weeks ago, each of us shared a bible verse about “thanksgiving”. I chose Colossians 2:6-7: “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthen in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” From Paul’s teaching, for Christ followers, overflowing with thankfulness is as important as living in and building up oneself in Christ and strengthening one’s faith.

Whether we were just baptized or received baptism for some time, as Christ followers, let’s encourage one another to practice Colossians 2:6-7!



2012 Ouje Sharing

By Pastor Josh Wang

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

When you sleep during a weeklong camp filled with teenagers, you can expect to wake up frequently. Usually, you are undated by constant yelling and laughter but forever etched in my mind will be waking up to a couple of the Cree youth and our youth taking turns reading Scripture aloud.

It all began five years ago, when the Lord gave us an amazing opportunity to be a part of what the Lord is doing for the next generation in Oujé-Bougoumou. Of all the possible churches in the world, the Lord chose us. We knew little to nothing about the Cree culture, its customs or lifestyle. Through prayer, constant communication with Pastor Brent from Newmarket and Pastor Enoch we gained support from the C&Y, elders and congregation. Now it's amazing to see that generations of our youth have experienced the tears, hardships and joys from five years of ministry there. Each year, we have the privilege of witnessing youth make decisions for Christ and this fruit continues to grow.

As the years have passed, through various experiences and hearing the stories of others (regardless of whether in Ouje, rural Chinese villages, Europe, US, or Ottawa). I've been made aware of the spiritual darkness in this world. Satan's oppressive but limited power certainly has a foothold and he hates when followers minister in the authority of Jesus Christ. That darkness manifests in different ways, you've likely heard in the previous years we've lost a few young lives who have been involved in the camp in some way. We share these things not as an over dramatization but a sober reminder that opportunities to share the gospel are not infinite. In the months of preparation, the youth developed a deeper understanding of spiritual warfare and intentionally prayed for the Spirit to guide us, guard us and save.

As you build relationships and get to know others, whether in Ouje, Ottawa, or China... many of them comprehend sin, they see the effects of it and the seemingly never ending appetite for sin all over the world. When it comes to grace, many that I've shared with have doubts regarding the depth of God's love. Most feel that there is no way God could forgive them because He knows every thought and all the skeletons in the closet. This is where I've seen so many lives transformed, that in the full view of God's mercy, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. One of the passages we focused on was Romans 5:8-9 “since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!” The word justified means that you and I stand before God acceptable, spotless, blameless, pure and without sin... what a powerful discovery! One that has emphasized in the lives of so many young people how great God is!

Everything that an accuser could bring before God, every lie, selfish ambition and the ugliness of our lives has been paid

for by Jesus Christ. In the cross of Christ, all that made us objects of wrath was poured out on Jesus, so that we are no longer under God's wrath but under His mercy. This is the good news! I once asked my mentor how to counsel a young person who had lost a loved one due to suicide. This individual had accepted Christ a few days earlier but was mired in depression and took their own life. I told him that I didn't know what to say, and he was like "Josh, don't you understand grace? It's nothing of what they did, it has everything to do with what Christ did".

The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news! It's not a cheap grace, nor is it a grace that can be used as a cover-up for evil, but it is an abundant grace. In view of God's mercy and witnessing so many people respond to it, I am learning to understand how the apostle Paul could say the audacious things he did: "I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me —the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

The youth sharings will encompass many of the details surrounding the camp itself. I would like to share the story of one of the youth who was extremely enthusiastic about her decision for Christ.

One of the youth had lost her brother last year and experienced a very turbulent year since the last teens camp. Originally she had come to visit because she was also planning to take the bus to New York but had a strong feeling that she should stay for the camp. That Wednesday the Spirit spoke to her through the skit and message, she felt that she could identify with everything and that regardless of where she was in life, Christ had continued to pursue her and she gave her life to Christ and emphasized that she wanted to follow Him. She and Jordan have already expressed interest in being a camp counselor next year and helping with worship and testimonies.

Our group this year was largely made up of first time Ouje youth. Not only was this group was committed to excellence in their skit, crafts, music, and testimonies; but they each displayed different gifts and naturally used them for the benefit of others. Some youth were extremely intentional about pursuing the Cree youth in serious discussions, while others listened intently or just had lots of fun with them! Girl youth were in tears following some of the discussions while guys engaged in wall squat and arm competitions yet both were fully engaged in ministry.

As in every year, youth and former youth take responsibilities as leaders. We rejoice because the Lord is bearing fruit through our vision of seeing disciples making disciples. Our aim in the youth ministry is that our young people are rooted in Scripture so that they would dynamically shape the people around them. With each year, an unintentional tradition has started on the Wednesday evenings where our youth not only lead the games and worship but share a well-prepared skit and prepared media. It is commonly the Wednesday evening where several Cree youth make decisions to put their faith in Christ.

This year saw the H2O group help in raising funds, an overflow of financial support and a fasting and prayer chain that filled up incredibly quickly. Our young people are really encouraged to receive the support that you have given us. Throughout these trips, the youth discover how it is truly the body of Christ working in ways seen and unseen to bring light into the darkness.

God is crazy about redemption, he delights in showing us how He can radically transform our own lives. Even following one of the Ouje messages, one of the YF youth shared with me that he couldn't even begin to understand how God could love him and how deep his love was, but he said "I love Him and I want to know Him more..." Nothing is impossible with God.

Recently, a new chief has been elected in Ouje and has decided that because Pastor Enoch is not of First Nation origin, that he should no longer serve as the pastor of that community and be removed from the Pastor's residence. Pastor Enoch has already been removed from the church and the ministry equipment has been taken from him as well. The congregation currently meets in a tent, despite these hardships the congregation has grown spiritually and in number. Pastor Enoch also mentioned that a door may open in Mistissini for us to continue our camp ministry if we can no longer run the camp. It is a sobering thought that the trip may not continue in its present form, but we excited to see the Lord open a new possibility. ■

By Allan Jiang

My first time going on the Ouje-Bougoumou trip, and it was a different experience. I think the church took somewhat of a risk sending our team, around 2/3 of us was new this time around. Nonetheless, I was still looking forward to the trip for quite some time.

On the way to where we were staying I had gotten a sense that their lifestyles would be quite different from ours, just seeing all the forests and the town seemingly untouched by urbanization was a first for me. The first time I really got hit by culture shock was the second day when we were touring the town. Pastor Enoch brought us to a graveyard where many teens and young adults not too much older than us were buried, many of which did not know Christ. Some graves had fresh flowers beside it, signifying that it was visited often, and some of which were abandoned. It made me realize that Christ is so desperately trying to enter the Cree's lives, and it truly was our responsibility to show them God's love. I don't want to bore anyone by resuming the whole week, but from the time that the campers arrived, I personally tried as much as I could to open up to the kids, offer any help I was capable of giving, and to help them grow in their walk of faith. Despite all that, there were a lot of times where I felt no matter what I did, it seemed impossible to get the kids to open up to me. I was frustrated, because I wasn't sure if my message was really getting through to them, or if my presence there was beneficial, or even necessary at all.

Taking a page out of Pastor Cal's book, here's a story that relates. For those of you who don't know me, I play rugby. It's a sport that's similar to football, but better in every way. After a particular practice for the school team, our coach Mr. Britton told us a story that remains in my head to this day. Having experience playing at a professional level for provincial teams, and assistant coaching even national teams, he knew his stuff. After leading a local boys club practice two decades ago, he liked to end with words of encouragement, telling the boys that they should be committed to becoming the best they can be. I'm paraphrasing here, but he said something along the lines of "who knows? One day, you might be playing for Canada in Eden Park in front of 60 000 (Eden Park is the biggest rugby stadium in New Zealand.)" This caused the entire locker room to break out laughing. He waited patiently for the laughter to die down, and then asked "Why are you laughing?" For which no one had a response. He looked around at the players, and calmly asked the question, "If not you, then who?" No one had a response. They spent a few moments looking at one another, expecting someone to come up with an answer, but to no avail. Many years later, he received a phone call. It turned out to be one of the men he had coached at that time. Calling from his hotel room in London, the man told him "well, it's not exactly 60 000, and it's not exactly Eden Park, but its close." The following morning, this man would step on the field in Twickenham Stadium, representing the Canadian national squad against England. FYI, that seats 82 000 people.

"For if not you, then who?" Our church has been called by God, and blessed with this opportunity to show His love to these campers in Ouje-Bougoumou. That being said, we have inherited this responsibility to show God's love to any and all youth who join the camp, as well as to check up on the ones who have already accepted Christ and help them along their walks of faith. Matthew 5:14-16 says "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Throughout the week, we've had fun times with these kids, we've listened to them share their stories, and a select few of us have been blessed to witness their spiritual growth, as they come back year after year. Having the campers call us after leaving and during the all-nighter, catching up with them on Facebook, and being able to hang out with them when they come to Ottawa has convinced me that this trip is worth it.

Our team is so blessed to have people in this church that have faith in us, believe that the power of Christ can speak through us, and that God will give us wisdom and discernment to share His word with the Cree youth. Without everyone's support in fasting, donation, or prayer, this trip would not be possible, so thank you. Give yourself a pat on the back. I simply ask that we keep this annual trip and the Cree youth in our list of prayer requests, for the future is uncertain, as it has always been. Who knows when the time will come, if we lack sufficient funds, drivers, or if God will take away one of the youth? "For, if not us... Then who?" ■



My Ouje Experience

By Alison Cheng

Ouje was during the last week of June. It involved missing my high school graduation. It was really stressful because it was just two days after the final exam. The car ride was 9 hours long! However, Ouje was entirely worth it because it taught me many valuable experiences.

First of all, Ouje taught me to be a good listener. The Cree Youth were open and friendly. There was this one girl who reminded me of myself when I was at that age. We both loved outdoors and playing games. Sometimes, she would be at the edge of a crowd looking lost and uncomfortable. I totally understand how she feel because I was once that awkward 13-year-old who was too shy to talk to anyone. We formed a strong bond as the week went on. She would tell me about her struggles and I would offer her big sister advice. That's what going to Ouje is all about. Its about telling these youths that they are valuable and loved. Ouje is about spreading hope to kids. Its about sharing salvation to a place with the highest suicide rate in Canada.

Ouje taught me to trust in God and to be honest. Every night at 10:30 pm, there would be a "devotions time". All the girls would sit in our room and we would listen to each of the camp councillor's testimonies. I was blown away by how raw and honest all the girls' sharing was. Almost all nights, we would be in tears by each of the girls' honest sharing. Some of the girls experienced a lot of BS, but they still trusted God 100%. After learning about each of the girls' struggles, we would cry together and offer each other support and prayers. After that experience, I caught a glimpse of how a church should be like; where people support each other and offer encouragement through difficult times.

I think the most important thing that Ouje taught me was to give everyone a chance. Some of the people on the team were completely different form me and I had written the off from being friend material even before the trip started. However, after observing them for a whole week, I saw that they were kind, loving, and really patient. We were actually similar because we were both at Ouje to give God's hope to the kids. The only thing different between us was how we expressed that love to the kids.

To give an honest account, not everything about Ouje is smooth-sailing. If you go, you will be sleep-deprived. You will get many mosquito bites. Some mornings, the Cree youth will be difficult to wake up. But it is 100% worth it. We formed incredible friendships with the Cree Youth. They opened up about their struggles and worries to us. And most importantly, it was worth it because 9 youths accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. I have faith that their lives were transformed at Ouje, because mine was completely changed as well. ■

When I had first heard about this mission trip, I was skeptical to join because I had heard people say that the Cree youth were big, rough and tough. Although when I arrived in Ouje, the first group of Cree kids were very friendly. They followed us everywhere on our tour of Ouje and wanted to be around us a lot. I realized that the Cree kids may live in a different environment than us, but they're still human and enjoy doing the same things that our youth enjoy doing. When we settled down in our cabin and the teens came, I have to admit that I was slightly disappointed. Unfortunately, the majority of the teens were going on a trip to New York that week, and by the time we found out about it, it was too late. So on the first night, only 8 Cree teens came, even though 20 signed up. I thought that with 8 campers and 25 counselors, the Cree youth would feel intimidated. I was wrong. During the one week that we spent with the Cree youth, I feel as if we made a big impact on their lives. Despite the fact that the majority of the teens that showed up were younger than us, I felt as if they really wanted to learn more about God. During the services, the teens would always highlight every verse that we studied, during devotions, they would listen attentively to our testimonies, and during worship, they would sing their hearts out (even the shy ones). I really enjoyed spending time with the Cree youth and teaching them more about God because most of them don't get to experience a Christian environment. Before I met them, I already had an idea of what the stereotypical Cree kid would look like and how they would act. What I didn't realize is that every one of them is different. Some are big, some are shy, some are energetic, but they all have a really big passion for God. As soon as they left the camp, three of the Cree youth called separately, telling us how much they missed us. One of the boys even wanted to talk to us on the phone all night! I think that was really special to me because I felt as if we provided a safe environment for them, making everyone feel accepted, and I really hope that our church can continue organizing teens camp and changing the lives of the Cree youth. ■

Hello everyone! Thank you for the amazing opportunity I got to travel all the way to Ouje. I really believe that there is a need to minister to the Cree youth as time is really precious. As you know, our mission team travelled up to Ouje on the week of June 24th. It was a pretty long car ride, around 9 hours, and my car kept blasting the Pokemon theme song at every stop. When we reached the community of Ouje, one of the first thing we did was visit the gravesite where some of the youth who have attended the camp before now rest. It made me realize that time is so precious and this one week camp may be the only time the youth hear about God. The camp followed a schedule every day with a wakeup call around 8. Breakfast followed after and then there was a service in the morning. Afternoon was free time for everyone to hang around and get to know each other. During free time, you could do activities such as fishing, canoeing or play cards. There was another service in the evening and then a devotions time before bed.

When the youth started to arrive, I was expecting quite a lot of kids. Previous years there were a lot and I believe that this year we were aiming for around 20 youth to show up. However, this year there was an event somewhere else that coincided with our camp so only 10 youth showed up. At first I was pretty disappointed because I had hoped and expected more youth. In the end, things turned out good because we got to spend more time with them. One particular moment I had was with two of the boys there. They would usually like to hoarse around but one night, they asked me to read the bible with them instead. I was definitely surprised because I had expected something opposite. God worked in many of these kids and 9 of the youth actually ended up accepting Christ. I look forward to going again next year. ■

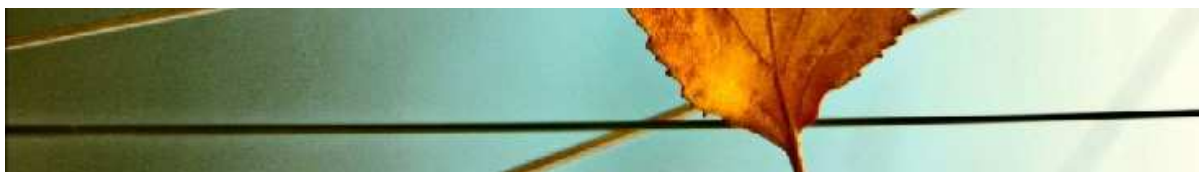
Greetings to whoever may be reading my sharing. First of all, I hope you're enjoying your day. Second of all, some basic details about myself, my name's Helen and I've been at CCCO for more than 10 years now, pretty much since I moved to Canada. This is my third year going to Ouje-Bougoumou and let me say, every year has been amazing and unforgettable. It would make me very happy if you read my sharing all the way to the end. To start off, I want to thank everyone in the church who helped bring us back to Ouje because without your support and prayers, there wouldn't be a trip. I also want to emphasize how much God has been working in Ouje and above all, praise Him for being such a faithful and loving God. Within these three short years, I've witness so much transformation done by Him.

One of the many big changes I saw was in a camper, whose name shall remain anonymous. I remember the first time I met him, it was so hard for me to remain calm when interacting with him. He would take my camera without permission and was always running around like a crazy teenage boy while hitting everyone with an air filled bat or choking them. I was also really scared he would throw me in the water if I wasn't on my guard. It's really funny now that I think back to it but at that time, it was definitely a challenge. I constantly prayed for the fruits of the Spirit especially patience and self-control and praise the Lord! He helped me grow and this year, after seeing this camper again, he has changed so much and my attitude towards him is completely different. He has not only matured as a person but also in his faith. He knows a lot more scripture now and is always so eager to learn more about Jesus. It was very visible that he treated the camp counselors with a lot more respect and obeyed our instructions without hesitation. On a more personal level, he has been such a gentle camper towards me this year compared to the last years. On several occasions, when I told him certain things were off limits, he immediately listened without complaining. He was also really helpful, when I was looking for something, he asked what I was looking for and then started looking with me voluntarily. What really touched me the most was on the last day of camp, I was really sad that the campers were leaving and he came up to me and comforted me. He tried cheering me up and I could see how genuinely he wanted me to be happy. I would've never expected him, out of all the people there during the camp, to be the one to come up to me and be so sweet and gentle. After that camper left, he called us, like he does every year, late at night to talk to each of us and we took turns talking to him on the phone. When I was on the phone with him that Friday night, he asked if I was coming back to Ouje next year and I replied maybe. But he wouldn't take that as an answer, he forced me to promise that if he'd return next year, I would have to as well. Even when I said I will try my best to make it, he firmly said: "no, you have to come." It's disappointing to me when people look down on the Cree youth because they haven't seen just how loving and compassionate they actually are. Every year, it amazes me the amount of love the Cree youth give is so much more abundant compared to how much love they received.

On another note, I wanted to mention that a lot of the times, it wasn't the Cree youth that were learning from us but we were learning from them. Throughout the week, I got to see a lot of our own youth grow in faith and being molded and shaped by God. For me, I had two significant moments where I really felt God tugging at my heart but I'll only be sharing one for now. It was very out of the blue. While I was washing my dirty clothes after being tipped off the canoe, all alone in the bathroom, it finally hit me (try to stop for a second and picture this): if there was a meter to represent how much God loves us, that meter was, is and will always be filled to the maximum 100%. No matter how messed up we are or how far we've fallen from Him, the meter would never decrease to 99% or even 99.9%, He'd always love us one hundred percent. I don't understand why it took me so long to realize this. It's still hard for me to wrap my head around it since as humans, and speaking from personal experience, our "love" meter would never be able to stay filled at 100%. Then the verse from 1 Peter 4:8 came to mind... "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." and it finally made sense. I was in awe and convicted at the same time for finally realizing what I need/should be doing and improving on. It's so cool how the Holy Spirit speaks at the most unexpected times.

All in all, every year at Ouje has really been a blessing to me. I feel honored that God and our church would give someone like me the opportunity to go share God's love to the Cree youth for the third year. However, it's a bittersweet ending. There is still so much hurt in the lives of the Cree. Even now, my heart tightens when I think of how wonderful they all are yet they're going through so much at such a young age and we can only be there for them 5 out of the whole 365 days. I ask that whoever reads this sharing would remember the Cree youth in their prayers. Nevertheless, I am so thankful to God, He never ceases to amaze me. I am confident He has great plans for Ouje and all our works are for His glory.

"For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord." Psalm 117:2 ■



By Jack Han

Three weeks ago our youth group went on a missions trip to the Northern Quebec Aboriginal reserve of Ouje-Bougoumou to run a “Teens Camp” for the youth. Before the trip, I did not know exactly what to expect. The testimonies and sharing of people who have gone in previous years did not give me the full scope of their experiences.

Our missions team was made up of 5 guys and 6 girls from YF and a couple of adult leaders. Our task for the trip was to spread the Gospel in the most way possible to the youth. There were 2 sessions each day, and during all the free time in between the sessions and the meals, we were to stick to the Cree youth like glue and share our testimonies around the clock.

The day after we arrived, we took a tour of Ouje-Bougoumou. The most memorable site that we visited was the local graveyard. The tombs acted as a reminder to me of the urgency of the Gospel and motivated me to do whatever I can to bring the Cree youth to Christ.

That afternoon, the Cree youth arrived at the camp. If first impressions mattered a lot, then my ministry there was already beginning to crumble. The youth were not as sociable as I had hoped, and me having not been to Ouje before, had trouble making conversation with them.

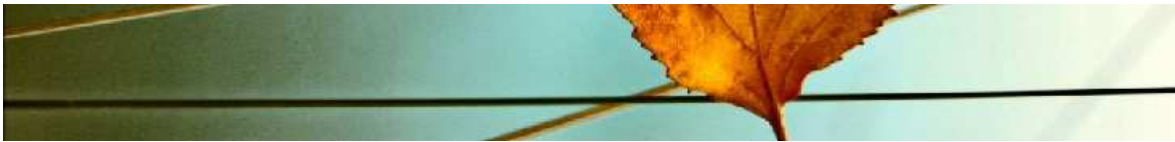
The attendance of the Cree youth this year was not as numerous as in previous years, and soon enough we all knew each other’s names. That night, I learned more about the Ouje community from Jordan, one of the returning campers. The reserve did not have too much to offer the kids and youth in terms of recreation. Due to this, many youth take up drugs and alcohol to fill their spare time. Some of their parents do not care and the authorities do not take their positions very seriously. Overall, their community is not a very bright one; and knowing this, I realized the importance of the love and hope that we bring to these youth.

Again, because this was my first year going to Ouje-Bougoumou, I did not know any of the campers there and I did not know the change in their characters compared to previous years. At first I judged them based on what I perceived, and I think I looked down on them in the beginning. However, soon I realized that I cannot possibly have the same expectations for them as I have for my peers due to the completely different circumstances in which they grew up. By the end of the week this view would change as I grew to respect and love the Ouje youth more and more.

The most memorable night of the trip was probably Wednesday night. During the night service, we presented to the Ouje youth a video and a drama, both illustrating the Gospel and God’s love for us. The video and the drama were both shown at our YF’s Coffeehouse, so we already knew how emotional they were. Sure enough, the Ouje youth were silent after the media. Pastor Josh then preached a message about the grace of God and asked everyone whether they wanted to accept Christ. Amazingly, all but one youth responded. At that moment, I felt like I was reliving when I accepted Christ myself and empathized with the Ouje youth. I understood how amazing it was for me and how much more amazing it might have been for them.

While the trip allowed us to bond with the Ouje youth, God also allowed us YF youth to grow closer together. On the penultimate day, we wrote “Warm and Fuzzies” to each other, which were essentially notes telling each other how we felt. This was a great opportunity to say some things we might have never told each other and helped us know each other better and bond. At some time during the trip, a couple of the first-timers at Ouje were sharing about our struggles in getting through to the Cree youth. We helped build each other up by encouraging each other. We concluded that at one point things were out of our hands and only God can do the rest. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says it best: “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

The trip was an unparalleled, first hand witness on the amazing love of God. Just as the Cree youth that attended the camp grew, I, too learned lots and grew in my faith. My prayers are that the Ouje youth who’ve been transformed by this camp will not be shaken once we are gone, but be lights in their communities. I hope to return to Ouje in the future and run more Teens Camps and I look forward to seeing the growth and change in the Cree youth in the coming years. ■



By Hillary Ma

Hello, my name is Hillary Ma. I have been on this mission trip three times before and each time I've learned more than the last. Every year that the mission team goes to Ouje, they run a week-long summer camp called "Teens Camp" that is open to youth between the ages of 11-16. During this week there are messages, devotions, games, crafts, meals and a lot of free time for playing cards, canoeing and bonding.

Although this camp may sound like any other retreat, the Native youth actually really cherish it. Since they don't have a youth group that they can attend regularly, or many (if any) Christian friends, Teens Camp is the only time that they can fellowship with other believers. It is also one of the only times the kids hear the gospel due to the scarcity of churches at the reserve. Sharing the Word with them is therefore extremely important.

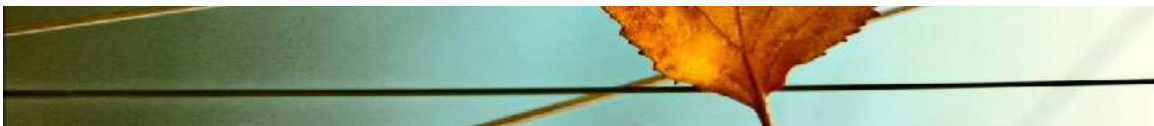
This year, ten campers showed up. At first I was a little disappointed as we had been expecting more than twenty youth but I soon began to appreciate the smaller number of kids. First of all, from past experiences the girl campers are always shy on the first day or two. However this time they kept to themselves for a lot longer, maybe because of their younger ages. If there had been more girls, it would've been really difficult to try and get them involved in the activities. Secondly, the smaller number allowed us to get to know the campers on a deeper level as we had more time to spend with each of them.

Though there weren't very many campers, the ones that came were eager to learn about God. Every night the camp is split into guys and girls and each group has devotions. For the girls this took place in the sleeping area so when the counselors were trying to start, the campers would be sprawled across their mattresses trying to sleep. However once we got them to form a circle and sit up, they were very attentive. They weren't reluctant to flip to Bible verses; in fact they even offered to read them out loud. This was so surprising and encouraging since the girls weren't especially chatty and it showed that they had real desires to get to know God. They displayed a real focus on Him throughout the camp, which was evident in conversations.

As I mentioned, this year was the third time that I've been to Ouje. Therefore I've gotten to witness the changes in the lives of returning campers as they've let God change them throughout the years. For example, one camper mentioned that he's gotten rid of a problem that he's been struggling with ever since I first met him. Another returning camper was trying to tip a paddleboat when he suddenly said, "I used to not like reading the Bible but now I like it." It's wonderful to hear that though the Cree youth only hear the Message once a year, they are still seeking Him daily.

God also demonstrated His power during the middle of the week when a camper asked me to go canoeing with her. This girl had come to Teens Camp many times before and I could see that she took learning about God very seriously as during the services she would be listening and thinking about the message. At first we were just talking about random things but then she started to tell me about the struggles she'd been dealing with that year. She explained that she truly wanted to follow Jesus but that there's so much pressure at the reserve that it's really hard. None of her friends are Christians and she doesn't want to lose all of them. Furthermore, she said that after all the things she's done she doesn't feel worthy enough to receive His love. It was clear that she really desired a relationship with God but that there were so many things hindering it. That night the team presented a skit, video and message that emphasized God's forgiveness and mercy and His amazing love for us. I didn't get a chance to talk to the camper after the service but the next day she told me that she had accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She explained that she realizes that this is a big commitment but she's already found ways to grow in her faith. For example, she mentioned that her grandma is a Christian so she can ask her questions and talk about her walk with her. The fact that this camper accepted Jesus is so amazing because she'd actually been planning on missing Teens Camp this year and she changed her mind at the very last minute. If she hadn't come she may not have ever decided to give her life to Him. As a recent update, this camper is doing well in her faith. What's incredible is that her best friend separately

Continue on next page



By Eugenia Ling

As writing this sharing I pondered at the moments we had on this one week journey. There were pranks, laughs, tears and so much love. You see, when signing up for this trip I had no idea what I was getting myself into. The most I really knew were my emotions and I wasn't so sure about that either. Honestly, it hasn't even hit me yet that I've gone to on this missions trip because the picture in my mind of it wasn't how it really went on...

On Monday night, the Cree youth would start being dropped off. At first there were three girls and then another was dropped off and Tuesday night a fifth girl was dropped off. Truthfully, I was a bit disappointed at the number of girls that showed up but deep in my heart, I know I had to have faith in God. I knew He had a plan for that one week.

So the week started off with 3 days from Sunday to Tuesday being all rain and clouds, without a sign of the sun. And after Tuesday the sun appeared, and the sky was near perfect. And with everyone in the lake or on the shore, it became my favorite moment and really, nothing could ruin it. And later that night, all the Cree youth except for one accepted Christ into their hearts which is such a huge blessing and it really is amazing. Even with some of the Cree youth being bitter from earlier experiences in the week, Satan couldn't grab hold of them and God did His work in them. The rest of the week was sunny and bonds we're built between us and the youth. And by the last day, the Cree were crying because they didn't want to leave but we said our goodbyes and sent them off (little did we know that almost all of them would come visit us this summer).

The odd thing is that after they had left, I had learned so much about them they didn't share with us during the week. I learned that the bright and joyful youth that was crying at the end of camp because he didn't want to leave was the youth that got bullied at school because he didn't look native enough. And the youth who was the bully at Teens Camp was the victim at school. Or the girl who seemed to be bitter the whole week would be crying as she drove off at the end of the week.

These youth go through so much in their own life and they have a story to tell just like us. And for that one week at Teens Camp, they get to share what they've been holding in for so long. They get to learn what fellowship is and what it feels like to have fellowship with one another. I go to church every Sunday and have fellowship with people like you. I can easily call up a YF-er and say "Hey, let's hang-out! I want to talk to you." And I've honestly taken it for granted because it comes so easily. Yet the youth don't know what any of it is because they've hardly experienced it.

You see, we don't know what really goes on in their lives and I am almost one hundred percent sure that these Teens go through suffering and hurt more than anything and all they really want is for once in their lives, is to take a break from all of it. They cherish and love this camp so much and for just one week, their lives are changed by the Holy Spirit. And I just pray that God's Will will be done in the teens we encountered on the trip. Amen. ■

Continued from page 8 became a Christian during the week that this camper was at Teens Camp. This means that she has a close friend to discuss her faith with as they grow together in Christ. God has awesome plans!

This experience opened my eyes to the youth's need for fellowship. Many campers feel the same way as the camper mentioned above. They want to get to know Jesus but don't have people around them to help. Going to Teens Camp year after year is necessary for this reason. The campers can not only build relationships with the counselors, but also with each other.

The teens really enjoy this week because this is one of the only times that they experience God's light and love. The reserve in which they live has a lot of darkness oppressing it and it's not easy for them to fix their eyes on Him. Nevertheless many campers have made the decision to follow Jesus and some of them even want to take on leadership roles in the camp. In fact some have asked to be counselors next year. All in all, the Lord is good and faithful! Hallelujah. ■

Hey everyone, my name is Rachel. So I guess I'm here to tell you all about Ouje (or Oujebougoumou) and to, I guess, give a glimpse of what it was like. And to be honest, that will be sort of tough. I believe no matter how many sharing's you'll hear, pictures you'll see or talks you'll have, until you go you will never really have a good understanding of Ouje until you experience yourself. That being said, I would like to thank the church for everything they have provided for us by the grace of God, from the prayers, funds needed and all the logistics in between. Without them this trip would have never been possible. So anyways, I guess I'll begin.

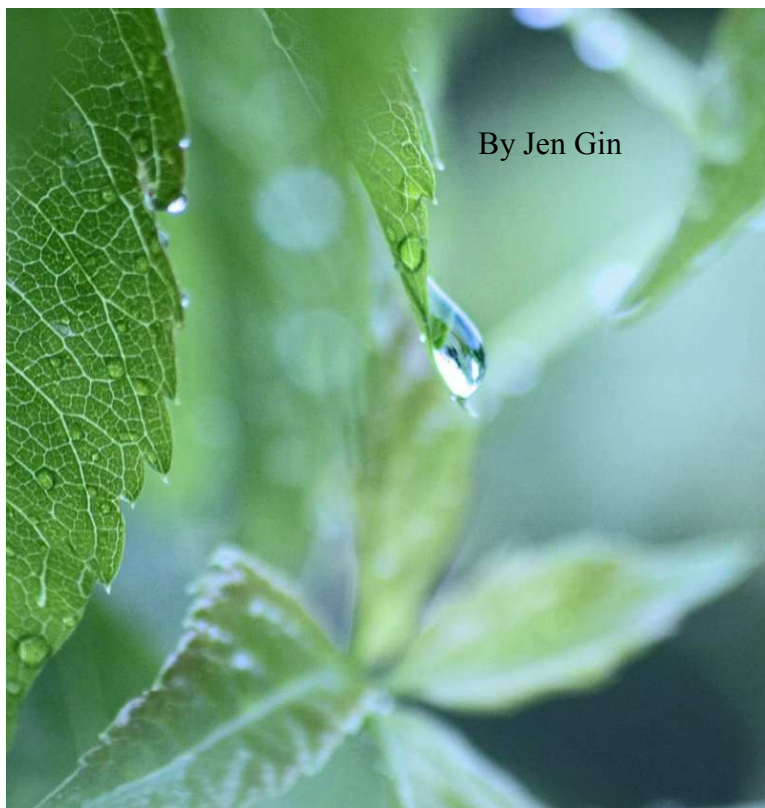


By Rachel Yip

Let me just say, the car ride to Ouje was probably organized chaos. I was in a car with Manson, Calvin, Eugenia, Alyssia and Alex. The laughs, loud singing and side jokes (Manson constantly saying to me that there was an SOS coming up and he could drop me off after I probably ruined every good song out there from my lovely car-ride singing), made it a car ride that was a lot shorter than it felt. We got to Ouje safe and sound, had supper, unpacked, debriefed and then it was lights out. The next day we had a tour of Ouje. That was when I would first experience what it would feel like letting some of the youth go at the end of camp. We met a bunch of lovely kids there, one of which I became a bit attached too with our funny inside jokes, which were quite hard, literally, to depart with. I'm not just talking about us being sad, but the kids were riding on our cars and it took several tries to get them off (bribing them with gum on my part). We headed for lunch after that then prepared to meet the youth that very night.

So if I was to describe each and every youth, it'd probably take me ages, or if I was to even touch on every moment and/or memory, it would probably take me twice as long. There were good laughs, canoe tipping, choker holds and amazing food (thanks to chef Manson and Jon haha). Speaking of choker holds, there were these two amazing youth that I met, Nathaniel and Peter, who were kind of intimidating to me at first. I'm not completely small, but I mean compare to them I felt it. That being said they have amazing hearts and I realized that after I let them tip my canoe and allowed them to choker hold me every second. Through these random events of bonding you could really begin to connect with them and have an influence in their lives. On another note, I don't know about the guys, but the girls sharing and testimony were amazing. I mean they really did listen, ask questions and cry along with us. Even though they may have been younger than previous groups, I think that they were easily wiser beyond their ages.

I realized that with all the youth, whether girls or guys, you had to really bond with them and show them you can have a good time before they really listened to you. You had to remind them that you weren't just there to shove the gospel down their throats, but to really emulate Christ and to show them this great love. I realized that great things take time and that my life here in Ottawa is just so amazing (I knew that before but now it's drilled into my mind). People there have a lot less opportunities and have a lot less Christian friends. It was amazing to see how God worked and all the great bonding that happened over that short week. You make real friendships and you truly do change the lives of these youths and your own. You can see it in the tears they cry when they drive away or in their voices when they call you or in the texts they send you. Ouje changed my life, the youth's life and I'm sure the team's life too every day. I pray for the youth that the seeds God helped us plant in their hearts, are watered daily. Thanks for everything again guys! Have a lovely day. ■



By Jen Gin

All praise and glory to our God for an awesome week of VBS. We had over thirty children and over twenty volunteers every day. I was deeply encouraged to see so many different parts of the body coming together as one (1 Cor 12:12). It was a privilege to have many people (mostly youth actually!) come together serving in different ways. We had some up on stage leading us in singing and dancing twice a day, some leaders teaching the station lessons, some running after the children all over the church, some to help clean up at the end of each day, some to prepare us hearty soup, some to make sure the children are signed in and out safely, some to drive the children who did not have rides, some to capture all the moments through photographs, some to lift us up in prayer, and MANY more! Everyone put in so much heart into each activity every day. It was a beautiful picture. Even though each day was physically very demanding, I could see the joyful spirits of each volunteer. This joyful spirit was contagious and created a very positive and excited environment for everyone

including the children.

Each day was filled with all sorts of joyful noise from laughter, to singing, to shouting of the Bible points. All activities (the 5 stations: Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Movies & Missions, Snack & Break, and Games) were based on five daily Bible points: no matter who you are, how you feel, what people do, what happens, where you are, TRUST GOD! Rotating through each station, the children were able to learn about God's Word through different ways whether it was hands-on taking turns to literally carry a wooden cross, through videos, or even their snacks. Wearing our bracelets that said "Watch for God", the children (and volunteers alike) were encouraged to continually look for God at work during the week in every situation because "everything is possible with God" (Mark 10:7).

Praise God for a good handful of children from the neighborhood that attended. We give thanks that we were able to reach out to these families. It truly is a blessing to serve them. Everyone of them really enjoyed the experience (some tearful hugs and goodbyes as well). Please pray for seeds that have been planted.

To wrap the week off, we had a closing ceremony Friday evening for the children, families and friends. It was a great time of celebration with certificates, singing performances from the children, and food. It was encouraging to have almost all of the children and the families' of the children to join us (even in the singing and dancing!). Also, it was a great opportunity to follow-up with an invitation to our AWANA program in the fall.

Ask the many youth and volunteers that were actively involved about their week at VBS. I am sure they would love to tell you more about it and encourage them as they continue to learn and serve in many different areas. A heartfelt thanks for all the encouragement and support from everyone. Also, an especially big thanks to Auntie Salina for teaching me so much and being such a great example of a faithful servant. Through this experience of coordinating and running VBS, I have learned so much and have a deeper appreciation for all of Christ's laborers for his Kingdom. May we continue to learn from Jesus what it means and looks like to have a servant heart and mind. May we learn that "servanthood begins where gratitude and applause ends. May we say 'we are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'." –Timothy Keller. All praise and glory to our God for an awesome week of VBS. ■

My mentor continually emphasizes that each individual must evaluate why they do the things they do. In the midst of all the busyness of ministry, it is appropriate to pause and think about Jesus and why he entered our space and history. It is necessary to remind ourselves of Christ's mission to seek and to save the lost. That God did not send His Son to condemn the world but to save the world through him and give us life in abundance. At the time of this writing, we approach the final days of preparation for Rock the River and anticipate a great outpouring of God's Spirit as He will continue to enter into young lives and transform them! I would also like to share how encouraged I am to see how Christ has changed the lives of our youth and how this retreat has demonstrated that they are willing to come alongside one another through the peaks and valleys of life.

In Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica, he writes "we loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us" (1 Thess 2:8). This statement has become an integral part of my philosophy of ministry. May we never forget the significance of God Himself becoming flesh and making His dwelling among us. He entered into our lives and demonstrated His love as one of us. One of the greatest things all of us adults can offer to our young people is to be a living example of faithfulness to God and His kingdom, our marriage, family and various responsibilities (studies, work, ministry, volunteering etc.). The youth have seemed to grasp the importance of sharing our lives with one another. Over the years, many youth have met the challenge and helped cultivate an amazing environment for fellowship.

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing." (2 Thess 1:3) Paul boasted about the love the Thessalonians had for one another amidst the trials they had been experiencing. Throughout the weekend, we had various youth share testimonies regarding how much Christ had changed their life, a common thread throughout each sharing was the significant role the fellowship played to help them experience the love of God. It caused me to reflect on a number of youth who had no prior family connection to our church but found themselves accepting Christ because of the examples of their teenage peers. Unchurched youth that have attended various events have commented on the positive character changes they have witnessed in the youth who have invited them. It brings great joy to see that youth have recovered some amazing aspects of the fellowship in the New Testament where the Lord was adding to their number those being saved!

Our theme in the YF retreat continued our Fall theme of preparing for the Harvest. We focused on cultivating the heart of Christ, developing a healthy family of believers and demonstrating faith similar to the friends who brought the paralytic before Jesus. This theme has been our focus in the weeks leading up to our Rock the River youth outreach initiative. The Pure Energy continued a series which began in Sunday school entitled "Beginning in Christ." As we witness and experience Jesus as Healer, Shepherd and Servant, what does this mean for our lives? The Pure Energy students and adults shared that they enjoyed the retreat and had much to learn from it. Aside from the 3 worship/teaching sessions in each group, the youth had plenty of free time to do as they pleased. There was a study area, where older students even helped the younger ones with their homework, there were youth having serious conversations and prayer,

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I am not one who can pick up a pen and can write anything. Writing does not come natural to me. When I was asked to give testimony for my baptism, it was a difficult task for me. Anyway, I had left campus for a long time. My pen seemed to weigh a ton and I was struggling to find a good starting point for my testimony.

I moved to Ottawa from Vancouver in mid-August of 2004. I recall that at the moment, it was like I was dropped into a bottomless pit. My heart was feeling heavy and painful. It was a feeling of going from heaven to hell, and yet, I felt so helpless.

Although I had made the decision to follow Jesus over two decades ago, I did not go to church or join any church functions. Luckily, I met a sister in Ottawa, who kept inviting me to go to church. At the same time, my husband's friends invited him to join the Alpha course at CCCO. When I followed him to participate, I was once again returned to the embrace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I could feel the immense love of Jesus Christ upon my heart. He allows me to appreciate his wonderful truth. That is when I decided to accept Jesus Christ as my personal savior and admit to the fact that I was indeed a sinner.


Before, I never thought of eternal life. But now with middle-age coming upon us, I am feeling very helpless and empty, like there is a hole in my soul that is searching for fulfilment. Now I begin to understand that only God's grace and love can fill that hole. The feeling of certainty and peace is something I have never experienced before.

I know that I still need to learn the word of God. I am hoping that I can see growth in my spiritual life. I want to thank CCCO, my spiritual family. Now I have this feeling of love and support from brothers and sisters, who are always seeking truth and giving themselves selflessly to the service of God. I also understand that my decision to follow Christ is full of wonders and grace. 

(continued from page 12)

some needed to take rejuvenating naps, others built relationships through sports, canoeing and other recreational activities.

On the Saturday evening of our retreat, the YF group had a meaningful opportunity for youth to share an encouragement that they had always thought about someone but never took the chance to vocalize it. I remember the muffled sounds of coughing and whispers as the silence seemed to endure for ages. Soon enough one courageous youth tearfully explained to the group why the love of one of the sisters helped her feel welcomed in the fellowship and church. Following this example, there were an abundance of youth who shared with the fellowship who they felt embodied the love of Christ, has grown spiritually, serves like Him or inspires them. This process included many tearful sharing's, hugs, and biblical encouragement!

Paul's exhortation to Timothy in 1 Tim 4:12 is meaningful to me on many levels. I feel that the Lord has ministered to me personally through the faith of these young people. Not only do they set a marvelous example in passion and faith but also repentance and forgiveness. I have witnessed tearful exchanges amongst youth where they will admit their faults and apologize for mistreating one another. They have learned to love others despite differences rather than judging them. I conclude this sharing by posing a challenge (one which I continue to wrestle with in my own life). We all have an earnest desire to see our children prosper in spiritual, physical, academic, emotional health and are willing to pour our lives into the children that we love dearly, that is without question. Just for a moment, may we consider that we actually have much to learn from them. 

By Jieming Li

Through the learning of the Alpha course, the attending of evangelistic meetings, Sunday worship, devotional meeting, Bible studies, listening to personal testimonies, and church gatherings, I came to gradually know that Jesus Christ is the all mighty God. By sacrificing Himself on the cross, he redeemed people from the tyranny of sin. He is our savior, and our Lord. We should praise him, trust in Him and follow Him. I want to confess my sin and be baptized under his name, so that I can become a citizen of the Kingdom of God. ■

By Tony Lui

Over the years, I had many opportunities to know God, but I was always reluctant.

From Grade one to grade five, I had attended schools of different religious faith. I had come into contact with Catholicism, Protestantism, and Buddhism. But I was not interested in religion. So I just knew these religions on the surface only. I did not them in any great detail at all.

It was probably after my graduation from university that I came to believe that ‘God exists’. It was because I was very lazy in my studies when I was in high school. After the grade 11 government exam, no school in Hong Kong would take me in to study grade 12. But at that time, I had a cousin from Vancouver, who was twenty years my senior, and whom I had never met before, came to Hong Kong for a summer vacation. He helped me to enroll into a high school in Halifax so that I can continue with my grade 12 education. This allowed me the opportunity to enter university. When I was leaving Hong Kong on a plane, the passenger sitting next to me asked me what discipline I will be taking in university. I remember vividly that I heard a voice, saying “computer”. I then replied “computer studies”. That was when I did not know the first thing about computer. The amazing thing was in high school, I took the liberal art stream. During my university years, I had to start studying physics, chemistry, calculus, etc. because I was missing all the basics. Even now, I could not believe that a student who was so casual with his studies, could overcome all these obstacles, survived and got his degree. This had to be the grace of God, who was leading and helping me all this time. From then on, I began to understand gratitude and knew that “God exists”. I just did not know which was the true God. During that period of time, God had done many things on me which I could share with you at some other time.

In the past, I thought all church goers were good people. Then I came to contact with some church friends. I saw their behavior, especially those who said one thing and practised the exact opposite. I was very turned off and did not want to associate with them. I was wondering if their God had taught them these things. How can their God be the same God that I was thinking. So every time a friend invited me to go to church, I refused.

I am very grateful to God who continuously looks after me. Several years ago, I came to know several brothers from CCCO through table tennis. I felt that we could be friends. Two years ago, I attended the Alpha course. From there I found out that the God that I felt existed was the triune God. Now I understand that it was not God who had not tried to guide me. I was the one who turned a deaf ear to his teachings, and turned a blind eye to all the wonderful things surrounding me.

Since participating in Sunday worship, I have been listening to the preaching of our pastor on biblical truth. Also through more church gathering, I have deepened my understanding of God and the Church. I come to understand that we sinners are so far from God’s standard. If not from reading of the Bible and the work of the Holy Spirit, I will never be more like Him and live out His image.

From now on, I would ask God to give me wisdom and strength, so that I will not be an obstacle to others who try to come to God. I will try to spread the Gospel to others and glorify God’s great love and to be a blessing to others. ■

By Bei Run Tang

After I retired, my daughter sponsored my wife and I to immigrate to Canada. We have settled in Ottawa. Shortly after our arrival, my wife began to attend the worship service of the Chinese Christian Church of Ottawa. Then she declared her faith and was baptized in the Lord. Over the years, many members of the Church came to our house to preach the gospel to me, especially during the time I was sick in hospital. They would come and visit and pray for me. Now, I understand that I am a sinner and need Jesus Christ to be my personal Savior and give me eternal life. When I believe in Jesus, and entrust my life to Him, I have experience inner peace! ■

By Suk Yin Wong

When I was young, I had attended religious schools. So I could always accept the concept that Jesus came to this world to die for our sin. But I was not familiar with the teachings of the Bible and the Word of God. It was until the beginning of this year when I regularly attended Sunday school and Sunday worship that I began to understand God's word and knew that I was a sinner. Now, I am willing to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior. I got help, comfort and encouragement from God's Word. I want to thank God's grace towards me. Whenever I am facing trouble, I would pray and then I would find peace in my heart. At the church, our pastor and other brothers and sisters are very friendly, just like a big family. I really admire them for their ministry in the church. They spare no effort at all, especially those who live in my area. On Sunday, there is no bus services in my area. But I got a lot of brothers and sisters who offered me rides to and back from church, so that I would not be absent from Sunday service. (A special word of thanks here).

In life, unhappy things occur eight or nine times out of ten. Some things really cannot be resolved by any human person. After reading the Bible, I keep remembering verse (Psalm 119:105): "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." And I also remember (Psalm 46:1): "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."; and (Psalm 55:22) "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken." I learn to not worry about tomorrow. I believe that God's grace is sufficient for me. I also learn to be grateful. Life will become more beautiful by going through trials.

I am hoping this for our unsaved friends: You can also know about God. He will willingly gives out abundant blessings to those who seek Him. (Psalm 34:8) "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." ■

By Jirong Zhu

Through the Alpha course and the weekly sermons during Sunday worship, I gradually came to realize that the Lord Jesus was crucified on the cross so as to redeem mankind from sin. He is our Lord and Savior. It is only through faith in Jesus that we can be saved and have eternal life. Also, through the Internet, I read up on Jesus, his resurrection and any related historical record. This has reinforced my believe in Him. Therefore, I have decided to confess my sin and through my faith in him, I could be with God through eternity. ■

W a l k T h e W a l l

By Salina Yan

Background

I lived by the Rideau Canal in Ottawa for more than 20 years. I drove along the canal for numerous times, but I never walked the Canal's full length estimated 7.8 kilometers from one end (Downtown, Parliament Hill area) to the other end (Dow's Lake near Carleton University), nor ever thought about to do so.

Since teenager, I always have a soft spot in my heart for orphans. I always looked for opportunity to be involved that would benefit children/orphans. But often due to various reasons, I could not do as much as I would have wanted and felt so limited and helpless.

Come to know

It was last September I received an e-mail from a friend raising fund for "Walk the Wall" in Vancouver. This friend and I haven't contact each other for a long time. I was glad to hear from her and surprised that she still has my e-mail on her list. However, I never heard of this Walk the Wall event and the event organizer International China Concern (ICC). So, out of curiosity I started to search for more information about ICC. That led me to the realization of a very meaningful initiation that was founded in China for the disabled and abandoned kids ___ years ago. Now ICC is a registered charity organization providing full-time care in China for hundreds of Chinese children and adults with disabilities. Walk the Wall, a 10 km walk-a-thon, is the organization's major annual fund raising event to be held around the world in September each year. ICC wants to do more and the fund raised will allow more therapists to be hired and trained to work with the children. The raised fund will enable ICC to continue working with an ever-increasing number of families who have children with disabilities, providing the supports necessary to prevent abandonment.

I also watched a you-tube of ICC's founder David Grott sharing the founding history of ICC and my heart just poured out for those children. Mentally/physically challenged orphans to me are just like the poorest of the poor. We all want Love, Hope and Opportunity for our children, but often we forget these are also needed for every disabled, abandoned child. We cannot solve the orphanage problem, but we can at least help one orphan at a time.

So, after I gave my support to my friend's Walk the Wall event in Vancouver, I decided that I will join the Walk the Wall in Ottawa next year.

Prepare to join

Early July this year I registered to the 2012 Walk the Wall Event in Ottawa then formed a team. At first I named it "Yan Can Walk". But my husband jokingly asked if I really CAN walk the 10K. Though I was quite enthusiastic, I also doubted myself; therefore I changed the name and registered the team as "Walk with Yan". Then I started recruiting teammates, soliciting donors. I sent out a total of 101 e-mails.

I know I can't do this alone and God fully aware that. First this was and still is highly supported by my dear husband. I set my goal to recruit 5 team members, yet God gave me a team of 13 to walk side by side at the event. I set my goal to raise \$1,000, yet God





caused the donation pouring in and reached over \$2,500. I learned a very practical lesson of faith and humility.

I was very encouraged from the supports I received. For the sake of the orphans and for the well wishes from my supporters, I had to do my best to finish the 10K walk. So I started training myself 2 months before the walk, first 15mins, to 30mins, to an hour.... from 3K, to 6K, to 8K.... I felt so good each time I finished my walking training.

Walk the Wall – Walk with Yan

On Saturday September 22, this long awaited date was finally here. I woke up early in the morning with still light rain outside. I tried to search for possible silver lining in the sky. I couldn't remember what I saw, but I was thankful that it wasn't heavy rain. As we left home to the walk event, my husband and I put on rain jacket, brought along umbrellas, even extra ones in case someone in our team may need it. Our Walk with Yan team met at MacDonald for breakfast before we go together to the Walk the Wall event starting point. Full of joy we were set to go!

The walk started at 10:30. We were there at about 10:00am. It was still overcast with light rain. With rain jacket on, umbrellas ready.... rain couldn't deter our determination to walk... walk to give lives, to end abandonment. This year Ottawa was blessed to have 69 people joined the walk and as of that day raised over \$12,000. That was a pretty impressive number given this has only been run for 3 years here.

After a group picture and prayer by the local organizer, we were all set to go. Jehovah Nissi, You are leading before us!

Not long after the start, we put away the umbrellas; then took off the rain jacket; then we saw blue sky sneaked through the clouds.... then SUN! Thank you God for listening to prayers. We prayed for walkable weather, but You gave us perfect condition. It was not too cold, not too hot, not too bright, and not too gloomy. We just could not ask for better walking condition. Because of the early light rain, there was hardly a bicycle on the path. That made the path such a safe and scenic course to finish the 10K. With perseverance and endurance our whole team ultimately finished the 10K walk mission.

I am so happy and thankful that I did not accomplish this alone. My initial intention and passion were supported by my dear husband; many brothers and sisters; relatives and friends. Whether through their participation in the walk, the financial contribution or the encouragement, that proved the power of team work. It is because we bear the same passion; see the same need, willing to walk the same walk.

Forever in my heart

I woke up early on a beautiful fall Monday morning, put on a light sweater and ready to go out for my walk. But this time was not training for the walk; rather this becomes my favorite regular exercise to walk around the neighborhood. Now each time I go out for my walk, the soft spot in my heart is strengthened because I can see the hand of God at work. I can also see how brothers and sisters join together helping to make a difference in the lives of abandoned and disabled children. My prayer is that you and I can come together Walk the Wall again in 2013, together to give lives and end abandonment – one live at a time. ■