

# Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell (CBCGL) English Congregation Community Newsletter

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*- Pastor MacDonald*

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## Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry of the CBCGL English Congregation keeps our members aware of each other's prayer needs, whether they are physical, spiritual, emotional, or related to job circumstances. We also come before our Lord to pray for the ministries of the church, the missionaries that we support worldwide, our communities, state, and nation.

Join us on at 7:45pm in Room A218 for our Wednesday evening prayer meeting. The youth also meet for prayer at 7:30pm on Wednesdays in the Youth Minister's Office.

Contact David Sun for more information.

## A Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters in the Lord; Words cannot express what a delight and what a privilege it is for me to be your pastor. As I look out at the congregation on Sunday mornings, as we talk and meet during the week and as we greet one another in the hall I am constantly reminded of how unique and valuable each and every one of you is. So I say that it is with joy and hope that we face the remainder of this year together. Together, with the Lord's help, we have a wonderful opportunity to grow as followers of Christ.

Most fundamentally, God is giving us an opportunity to grow as his disciples – discipleship. For the true challenge of this year is not the economic down turn but the challenge to submit to the Lord and trust Him for whatever He brings our way during the year. The true challenge is the challenge to love one another as Christ has loved us. As we help each other to do these things, we will be practicing discipleship. If we measure up to this challenge, and I believe we will, then God will open to us opportunities that will make us grow.

In the coming weeks, take a moment to do the following: count your blessings, ask the Lord to show you how you should care for others in our congregation, and determine in your heart, today to keep the determination that every day that you will trust God's will for yourself and your family. Then be on the lookout for the work of the Spirit as He will be blessing our efforts and our trust with growth. May God enable us to do this and more!

In the love of Christ, Pastor MacDonald

## P.L.O.W. Ministry Launched

PLOW stands for Practicing Local Outreach and Witnessing. The PLOW ministry was established to help coordinate the outreach and witnessing activities of the English Congregation. It facilitates our members' ability to, as individuals and as members of the different fellowship groups, interact with 3<sup>rd</sup> party ministries and social service organizations. PLOW also coordinates outreach events within the congregation.

Two key events coordinated by PLOW so far were the Food Drive, in which we were blessed to donate over 200 food items to Lazarus House, and our evangelistic Christmas celebration, the Essence of Christmas (page 2).

Contact Patricia Fung for more information about outreach activities.

## Dinner



## Music



## Skits



## Awana Pinewood Derby



## Special Celebration – the Essence of Christmas

What is the essence of Christmas? In today's society, we seem to have lost the essence of Christmas to the hustle and bustle of holiday parties, gift giving, traveling, Christmas trees and turkey dinners. Forgotten is the reason we do these things, which is, as the angel said to the shepherds, "I bring you good news of great joy, for today in the city of David is born to you a Savior, Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to men". Sadly, today many towns and cities have banned manger displays in public places. Even gone is the greeting "Merry Christmas", replaced with "Happy Holidays."

The PLOW (see page 1) ministry, took on the challenge of reclaiming the essence of Christmas by coordinating a special event on December 6, 2008 to celebrate and proclaim the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The entire English Congregation was motivated to participate in various ways, from dinner preparations, to stage performances, to cleanup. Members of the congregation were encouraged to invite friends to join us in bringing the focus of Christmas back the birth of our Lord.

Going forward, we would like to annually unite all of our hearts and minds in a special English Congregation Christmas Good News Celebration (GNC), an outreach event that proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

***"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."  
Proverb 16:3***

## Awana Children's Ministry

The Awana children's program meets on Friday nights from 7:45-9:30pm in the children's wing of the church. Volunteers from all 3 congregations help to provide Biblical teaching, fun, and games for elementary age kids.

On Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> many CBCGL families gathered together to enjoy and experience our first ever Awana Pinewood Derby. With the help of our regional Awana Missionary, Ken Hoffmeyer, nineteen children registered their cars and participated in races to determine the fastest speed and a design contest to determine the best design. Mr. Hoffmeyer's 4 lane race track is 70 feet long and has an electronic finish line which posted the speeds of the 4 cars. An excellent time was had by all and praise & thanks were given to God!

The top 3 winners for speed and design received trophies:

For Speed: (1) Matthew Wong (2) Daniel Zhang (3) Abigail Bowman

For Design: (1) Abigail Bowman (2) Michael Ni (3) Emily Ren

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2009 is coming August 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>!

VBS facts:

- Over 100 children and 50 coworkers will spend the week here at CBCGL sharing & growing in God's love together.
- Our theme is Crocodile Dock: where fearless kids shine God's light!
- VBS is all week (Monday-Friday) from 9:00am – 3:00pm
- The cost is \$50.00 per child and \$40.00 per 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> child.
- For more information, please contact Minister Steven Bowman at [sbowman.cbcgl@gmail.com](mailto:sbowman.cbcgl@gmail.com) or call 978-256-3889 with any questions.
- CBCGL's Vacation Bible School is an excellent opportunity for us to reach out to the children and families in our community. Please keep it in your prayers!

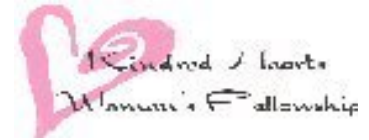
## Kindred Hearts Women's Fellowship

Kindred Hearts meets at CBCGL in room A201 on the first Saturday of each month. Women of all ages are welcome! Contact Kathy Lin for more info.

Recently, Kindred Hearts had the special privilege of sharing God's love with single women of homeless families who receive shelter at the House of Hope in Lowell. We assembled and delivered 25 "Spa Packs" to these special women who do not have the means to afford these items at this time. It was not only a wonderful way to bring joy to a mother, but Kathy Lin reports the following amazing examples of God's providence in the orchestration of this project:

*"As we exchanged emails about what items to fill in the 25 Spa Packs, we thought of possibly putting in a little devotion in the box to encourage the women with God's word. Jenny Chen recalled that she had some Max Lucado devotions that she had purchased "just in case" something came up. When she counted to see how many she had, it was exactly 25!!! And the cover of the devotion was a perfect match to the box lids! Wow!*

*Besides receiving gift items, some of you chose to give monetarily. We didn't know exactly how many items we might need, but in the end, we were short 20 boxes. We received a donation for \$20, just enough for 20 boxes from the Dollar Tree! Praise God! We also received a \$25 donation. I just happened to go to Target for something and came across a clearance in the Dollar Section. Body Gels, Foot Scrubs, Body Scrubs were all on clearance at 50% off. I picked up some and when the cashier rang the items up, it was exactly \$25!!! Praise God!!! We thought we were blessing the women that were going to receive the boxes, and in the process, God was actually teaching us at the same time!"*



**Preparing the Spa Packs**



**Blessed through Giving**

## LYF – Lowell Youth Fellowship

Greetings! LYF is part of the CBCGL English Congregation, comprised of Jr. and Sr. High School students from the surrounding communities of the Chelmsford area. We are mostly 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of Asian Americans who still retain some ability to speak the language our parents speak.

Our **youth group** (LYF) meets on Friday nights from 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm. Below is the typical schedule:  
**7:45 – 8:15** Worship;    **8:15 – 8:20** Announcements;    **8:20 – 8:45** Games;    **8:45 – 9:30** Lesson

**Youth Prayer Meetings** are on Wednesday evenings, from 7:45 pm to 9 pm. We pray and hang out!  
**Sunday School** happens Sundays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm by separating into grades for different classes.  
 If you have students in Jr. High or High School, or you are a student, we'd be glad to have you join us!

In addition to our weekly fellowship and worship, we also participate in our community in the following ways:

- **LYF serves the whole church.** – We attend to the spiritual needs of the youth from other congregations in CBCGL. The youth also grow through service, which happens throughout the year, either as Vacation Bible School (VBS) teachers in the summer, volunteers for church clean-up in the fall, and other activities.
- **LYF serves the community.** – The youth group is also involved in local service to the surrounding communities. From time to time, we serve with different organizations such as, within the past year, The Lowell Wish Project, House of Hope and Lazarus House. In March, we will participate in the 30 hour famine to raise money for starving children at home and abroad. If you have suggestions for other service opportunities, please let us know!
- **LYF serves the world.** – Every year, we are enthusiastic about serving not just neighboring communities but also regionally or even internationally. We have annually participated with the Boston Project since its inception over 15 years ago, and we have also served in short-term missions in Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Mexico.

For the Glory of God Alone,  
 Nathan Willems (Graduate Youth Intern – LYF Minister)

## A Peek at 2009 Summer Short Term Missions

Each summer, the English Congregation sends a youth and counselor team to the Boston Project, a Christian ministry that serves the needy in and around Dorchester, MA. Days are spent in service and nights are spent learning about poverty and the hardships faced by the poor locally and globally. Through this ministry we have served in a variety of capacities, from dishing up food in a soup kitchen, to sorting through clothes for a clothing bank, to getting dirty through yard work, or to cleaning up a home. The lives of both those who are served and those who serve are changed by God's grace during this week of service!

The last 2 years, the EC has also been sending a group of adults and youth on a week-long, short term mission to a sister church in Liberia, Costa Rica, and we plan to return this year. Preparation for the CR short term mission begins with lots of prayers, fundraising activities, training, team building, and learning the basics of conversational Spanish and the Costa Rican culture. Upon arriving Costa Rica, we make acquaintances with our host church "Passion for the Souls of Liberia" and our host families, and settle in to our temporary homes. This past trip, we spent the following days in Liberia in activities such as doing puppet shows, running a small VBS class, cleaning and painting in the city park and bus terminal, doing an evening worship for the church, and putting a foundation for Sunday school classrooms for our host church. The day before we left Costa Rica, we spent a day visiting a rainforest and zip-lining over the forest canopy.

We bring blessings and share Christ by our actions in the local church and its neighboring community. The simple lifestyle, faith and trust that our Costa Rican brothers and sisters have in the Lord has taught us humility and appreciation for our Father who blesses us with so much.

### Worship Team in Costa Rica



### Youth working in Costa Rica



## Upcoming Events

<b>53<sup>rd</sup> Baptism Ceremony</b>	<b>March 22</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 10</b>
<b>Easter Combined Worship</b>	<b>April 12</b>
<b>State of Church Meeting</b>	<b>April 19</b>
<b>Spring Clean Up</b>	<b>April 26</b>
<b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>May 10</b>
<b>Empower Kickoff Barbecue</b>	<b>May 23</b>
<b>Father's Day</b>	<b>June 21</b>
<b>Boston Project / Youth Mission</b>	<b>July 19 – 24</b>
<b>Costa Rica / Youth Mission</b>	<b>July, TBD</b>
<b>Vacation Bible School (VBS)</b>	<b>August 10-14</b>

## Weekly Activities

<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>Sunday, 10:00-11:20am</b>
<b>Sunday School (Adults and Youth)</b>	<b>Sunday, 11:30am-12:30pm</b>
<b>Children's Sunday School and Worship</b>	<b>Sunday, 10:00am-12:30pm Bldg B</b>
<b>Adult Prayer Meeting</b>	<b>Wed., 7:45-9:15pm Rm A218</b>
<b>Youth Prayer Meeting</b>	<b>Wed., 7:45-9pm, Youth Min. Office</b>
<b>Friday night Adult Bible Study</b>	<b>Friday, 7:30pm, Room A218</b>
<b>Friday night Youth (LYF) activities</b>	<b>Friday, 7:45-9:30pm, Rm A215</b>
<b>AWANA children's program</b>	<b>Friday, 7:45-9:30pm, Bldg B, flr2</b>

## Empower College Fellowship

Meets during the summer months and winter break on Friday nights, 7:30-9:30pm and on Sundays at 11:30am. Friday night activities are student led and typically include worship, Bible study, sharing, prayer, snacks, games, and movies.

In the Summer, Empower traditionally has a kickoff barbecue at the end of May, a summer weekend retreat, a Saturday bike trip on Martha's Vineyard, helps with VBS, and performs some community service, among other activities

Around the holidays, students and their parents host Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner gatherings. Ryan Fung and his parents, William and Irene Fung, hosted the Thanksgiving gathering and Teddy Chen and his parents, Bob and Jenny Chen, hosted the Christmas gathering. Both included great food, singing, games, and fellowship.

Contact Dan Murphy for more information.