

JANUARY 2019

GRACE MONTHLY

"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



Can You See It?

by Isabel Bae

December was a pretty busy month as we hastily rushed to finish school off on a good note before vacation. Despite some of the chaos, we found time for peace and fellowship on Friday nights, preparing for our Christmas Celebration Night performances and blessing the community through the Kaleo outreach. 2018 was a memorable year, but it has come to an end as 2019 is now here. The most we can do now for 2018 is reflect.

Looking back, 2018 was a busy year for me mentally, and physically, but I can't stress how difficult it was spiritually as well. During my own personal faith walk, I was close to God one day but it seemed like He was gone the next day. I'm sure many other brothers and sisters in Christ can relate as well. However, Pastor Josh's last sermon of 2018 really struck me and helped me see a glimpse of what God had been doing this whole time.

God will continuously be with you and is calling you to do His works. Often, we are deaf to Him or hear Him faintly in the midst of all the things that are happening in life. When I heard God faintly, I doubted it was Him, but I heard God clearly through Pastor Josh's sermon. God told me, "I was calling you this entire time!" God is always calling out to us, but the question that stood out from the sermon was, 'Can you see it?' **If you couldn't see Him working in 2018, then ask God for the eyes to see what He is going to do in the new year.** God is able to do unimaginable works (Ephesians 3:20) that he has planned specifically for each and every one of us to witness, so let's keep it in our prayers that we would be aware of God's works in 2019.

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2019 GCC Theme: "Come,
Let us Return to the Lord!"

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

BETHLEHEM HOMECOMING: CHRISTMAS BANQUET

This year's GEM Youth's Christmas banquet was themed "Bethlehem Homecoming". To match the theme, students were encouraged to dress up to create the nativity scene as a group. After enjoying a delicious meal prepared by the parents, the evening continued with a Christmas trivia, a "nativity scene" fashion show, and singing carols. Not only that, a total of \$336.00 was raised from the tickets sales, which was used to provide Christmas gifts for two families who receive support through the Surrey Women's Centre. What a blessing it is for us to be blessed, as well as to bless others during this Christmas season!



CLAY YOUTH CHRISTMAS BANQUET

For CLAY Youth's Christmas Banquet, students prepared performances for one another to enjoy while having dinner together. It was a fun night to relax, eat, and enjoy the show!



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION NIGHT

On Friday, December 21st the GCC Education Department came together to put on performances for the annual Christmas Celebration Night. This year's theme was "Glory to God in the Highest". Grace Youth put on three performances: musical, worship dance, and choir.



KALEO

Every year, Grace Youth does an annual year-end outreach project. This year, on December 28th, the CLAY students visited the seniors at the Amenida Home, and the GEM students distributed care packs to people near the church community and did busking at the local skytrain stations.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Friday, Jan 11th Joint Friday Night Service

Friday, Jan 18th Friday Youth Night

Friday, Jan 25th Friday Youth Night

There is no Friday Youth Night on Friday, January 4th.

Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates on our [website](#) or join our [Kakaotalk open chatroom](#).

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

SMALL GROUP OUTINGS

The grade 8s and grade 7 girls went on an outing last month!

If you haven't had a chance to go on an outing with your small group yet, make sure to plan one for the new year!



#GEMYOUTHCHALLENGE

Throughout the season of Advent, GEM Youth carried out an **Instagram challenge** to post photos based on the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy, and love.

The small group that participated the most won a pizza party.

Congratulations, grade 8 girls!

To check out some of the posts, search [#gemyouthchallenge](#) on Instagram!

Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for the way He uses Grace Youth to bless the community! Through the "Bethlehem Homecoming" Christmas banquet and "Kaleo" outreach, students of Grace Youth actively served the people in their local community by providing Christmas gifts, distributing care packs, serving soup, and visiting the seniors at the Amenida Senior Home. Please **pray** that God will continue to bless this youth ministry and that, in turn, they will be used by God to bless others.
- Happy new year! **Praise** God for His provisions and faithfulness in our lives and in this ministry the past year. **Pray** that we would all experience God's blessings of open doors and heavenly peace!
- Please **pray** for the Friday Youth Nights and Student Discipleship meetings that will be starting up again. **Pray** that leaders and students will grow in their faith and be diligent in keeping one another accountable in their walk with God.

Come, *let us* return to the LORD

The focus theme that God gave to our church for the year 2019 comes from **Hosea 6:1-2**, where it says:

*"Come, let us return to the LORD.
He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us;
he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.
After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will restore us,
that we may live in his presence."*

God repeatedly tells us to return to Him, because there is a blessing and gift that He desires to give to us when we do. Then, from what things do we need to turn from, and what are the blessings that await us?

We must turn...

FIRST ... *from* relying on others
to relying on God only.

SECOND ... *from* doing evil deeds
to keeping God's Word.

THIRD ... *from* loving what does not please God,
to a place of loving God.

To those who return to God and love Him, He generously blesses them with an open door - a door which has already been opened and will remain open (Revelation 3:7-8) - and gives heavenly peace. That is, we live with a hope and peace of knowing that God is preparing for us an eternal dwelling in which there will be no more tears and no more fears (Revelation 21:1-4).

So this year, **come, let us return to the Lord**, because what awaits us is the tremendous blessing of an open door and unending, heavenly peace.