

JANUARY 2023

# GRACE MONTHLY

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*

*Luke 10:41-42*



## The One Thing That is Necessary

by Chaeyoung Lim

Happy New Year! It has already been a while since 2023 started, and I assume many of us have made a list of New Year's resolutions. For me, daily Quality Time with God has always been on my list; the goal was to spend at least 15 minutes reading and meditating on God's words. However, to be honest, it never lasted long. Every year, I seemed to make excuses for being busy with other things and never actually tried to spend time with God. Reflecting on 2022, I regret the days when I neglected God's words. So for 2023, I once again wrote daily QT time as my resolution.

In Luke 10 verses 41-42, Jesus says, "...you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." This passage is the guidance for my 2023 quiet time. It reminded me that only one thing is necessary for our lives, and it is the Word of God. As I was meditating on the passage, God restored me with His words and provided me with peace and comfort. It also gave me the heart to lay down all my worries and fears in front of God and focus only on Him. So far, quiet time has guided me throughout the day and constantly reminded me that God is with me. The more I spent time with God, the more I realized I need Him.

As we start the year of 2023, let us consider the things that hold us back from spending time with God. When we lay those things in front of God, He will restore our hearts and fill our days with His grace. Isn't it such a blessing that we get to read and experience God's grace through His Word? I hope and pray that 2023 will be a year where we strengthen our faith and grow a stronger relationship with God.

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# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## CHRISTMAS BANQUET

On December 16th, GEM and CLAY Youth kicked off their winter break with the annual Christmas Banquet! They both started with a delicious dinner made by the CLAY Youth's parents. CLAY Youth's main event was a talent show, where students prepared several performances including a small orchestra and dance. In GEM Youth, the event was called "The Night Before Christmas," with pajamas as the dress code. This event's central theme and goal was to find out who ate/stole the Christmas cookies. Each grade was divided into different tables and played several mini-games to win hints that could help the students find out who stole the cookies. The night ended by drawing some raffle prizes.

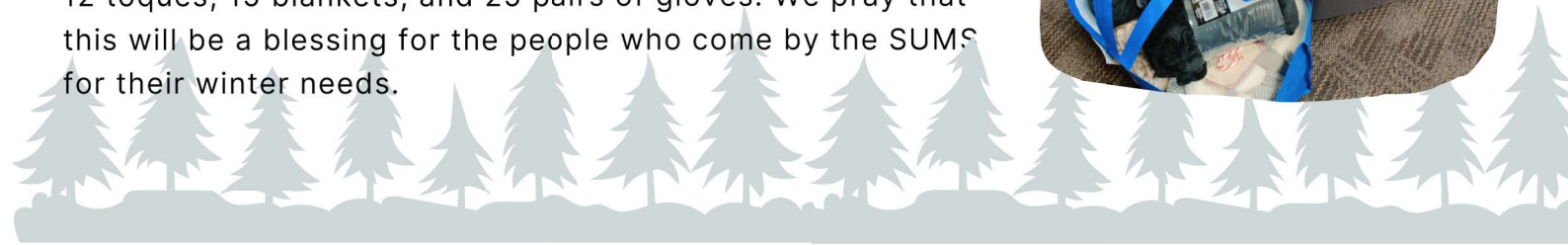
This event was fun and meaningful as we donated the ticket sales to the Surrey Urban Mission Society. In total, GEM and CLAY raised \$1,855! Overall, both ministries had a memorable fellowship night celebrating Jesus' birth while donating and helping our community.



## WINTER FUNDRAISER FOR SUMS



To bless the local community this year, GEM Youth raised funds as a small group to purchase some winter items for the Surrey Urban Mission Society. Collectively, we were able to donate approximately 6 winter jackets, 80 pairs of socks, 12 toques, 15 blankets, and 25 pairs of gloves. We pray that this will be a blessing for the people who come by the SUMS for their winter needs.



# Praise & Prayer

- Although this year's Christmas Celebration Night was cancelled, **praise** God that we were able to celebrate with our families and friends. **Pray** that we would always keep Jesus Christ at the center of our Christmas celebrations.
- **Praise** God for the new year! **Pray** that we would continue to worship God in our daily lives, whether it is at school, home, or extra-curricular activities. **Pray** for renewed excitement and motivation to finish the remaining school year strong.
- Friday Youth Nights are starting up again! **Pray** that our weekly gatherings will be a valuable time of developing meaningful relationships and growing spiritually.
- **Pray** for the leaders who will be going on a leader's retreat early next month. **Pray** that it will be a time to reflect on their calling as youth leaders. **Pray** that they would be strengthened in their minds, bodies, and spirits to faithfully teach the Word of God and shepherd the youth students.



Winter



# "Arise. Come With Me!"

GCC's 2023 Spiritual Theme

God calls us to a life a faith that trusts Him with our whole lives. This year, we want to set hearts to run towards God in authentic worship.

May our worship come alive as we personally encounter Him in our prayers and hear His voice through His Word.

*My beloved spoke and said to me,  
"Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me."  
Song of Songs 2:10*

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

**Friday, Jan 13th** Friday Youth Night  
**Friday, Jan 20th** Friday Youth Night  
**Friday, Jan 27h** Friday Youth Night

Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates with your small group leader, on our website, or Instagram!