

MARCH 2018

GRACE MONTHLY

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil."

Luke 4:1-2



Joy in Community

by Josh Bang

In the last few months, I have been struggling with my faith. For many of us, it is a struggle and a fight that we endure on a daily basis. For me, that fight almost ended nearly eight months ago.

After living inside the walls of Grace Community Church for many years, last year I left GCC to serve at a community church in West Vancouver. After 4 months of serving in that church, I left the church entirely. I saw how disconnected the church was and I felt useless. For the next two months I was completely disconnected from the church. I did not go to Sunday worship, summer retreat, or any of the other summer events. For those two months I felt good... until it hit me: I can't keep going on like this.

I also realized this is exactly what I needed to go through; I needed to know whether or not I can grow spiritually on my own. Through this time, I learned that we cannot grow spiritually without a community, and that we need people to grow and keep accountable with.

Today, I hold on to that time and remind myself of the time I was disconnected from church and independent in my faith. It was a difficult time, but I am encouraged in what Romans 8:18 says: "The pain that you've been feeling can't compare to the joy that's coming."

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FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS



TREASURED: AFFIRMING ONE ANOTHER'S VALUE IN CHRIST

Every year, in light of Valentine's day, GEM Youth holds a "Brothers and Sisters Appreciation Night". This event is focused on blessing one another as "brothers and sisters" in Christ. This year's event was themed, "Treasured: Affirming One Another's Value in Christ". It was prepared and facilitated entirely by the Student Discipleship.

The night began with snacks - as always! - but this time, they ate together in their assigned teams rather than with their peers. That kicked off the team spirit right away, as they went into ice breakers and games soon afterwards.

For the main activity, students made origami gift boxes. They decorated them and filled them with chocolates and an encouraging note, which was then given to another person as a gift. The night ended with a time of worship and prayer, as well as a raffle prize draw. On their way out, each student took home a goodie bag.



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

BREAKTHROUGH: ONE NIGHT RETREAT

2월 16일에 CLAY Youth에서는 “Breakthrough”라는 주제를 가지고 **One Night** 수련회를 진행했습니다. 이 이벤트는 학생들이 교회에서 하룻밤을 같이 보내며 더욱 더 깊이 하나님을 알아가고 친구들과 교제 나누는 귀한 시간이었습니다. 평소에 깊이 못했던 기도, 나눔, 교제를 통해 저희 자신과 또 저희 친구들에 대해 알아가는 기회였습니다. 저희는 저녁 6:30부터 모여서 선생님들께서 준비해주신 맛있는 저녁 함께 먹고, 예배 드리고, 게임도 하는 재밌는 시간이었습니다.



Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for the joint prayer night that we had with GCC and GraceLife on February 2nd! It was a special night where Grace Youth gathered with the KM and EM adult congregations to worship together and to pray for one another and the next generation.
- **Praise** God for the time GEM and CLAY leaders spent together at the joint leaders retreat. **Pray** that GEM and CLAY will develop a strong, interdependent relationship as they continue to build each other up.
- **Pray** for the students that will be attending the Vancouver Youth Kosta from March 20-22nd. **Pray** for spiritual revival and renewal in each of their hearts, and that they will come to know of God's amazing grace.
- Continue to **pray** for wisdom and strength for all the Education Department pastors as they continue to oversee each ministry with the love of Christ.



CLAY

Grace Youth is a youth group where two seemingly different ministries - CLAY and GEM - depend on one another to grow and mature spiritually. CLAY youth is characterized predominantly by the Korean culture and language, as it is mainly composed of youth who are international students from Korea. Approximately 75 students make up this ministry. GEM youth, on the other hand, is an English-speaking ministry composed of up to 190 students that have grown up mostly in the Western culture.

From February 11-12, the CLAY and GEM Youth leaders went on a retreat together to strengthen and affirm this unique relationship that they have at Grace Youth. This was the first year that they had a joint retreat, so they began their time with a couple of games in mixed teams. It was an interesting dynamic, as games were played in both English and Korean! The leaders then heard two messages from the guest speaker on the topic of "interdependency". They also had an opportunity to spend time in their respective ministries to share anything that has been on their heart regarding their involvement in the youth group.

Through the short time that the leaders had together, they realized that CLAY and GEM youth must embrace, support, and depend on one another in order to grow in Christ. We need to remember that, despite differences, we are all a part of the large family of believers meant to build each other up in love and in unity.

A Unique Relationship

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."
Ephesians 4:3-6

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

Friday, Mar 2nd Friday Youth Night

Friday, Mar 9th Parents Meeting | Friday Youth Night

Friday, Mar 16th Friday Youth Night

Tues-Thursday, March 20-22nd Vancouver Youth KOSTA

There is no Friday Youth Night on March 23rd and 30th.