

SEPTEMBER 2019

GRACE MONTHLY

*"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."
Colossians 3:2*



Fix Your Eyes on Things Above

by Miso Lim

The two months of summer that we thought would last forever have come to an end as we start our new school year. We can definitely see and feel the subtle changes as we say good-bye to summer. The sunsets are earlier, the weather starts to cool down, and we can see glimpses of changes in the colour of the trees. At transition times like this, we realize that all things on earth come to an end and that nothing here is eternal. Both the bad and the good times pass and the things that we thought would last forever begin to fade away for better or for worse. However, regardless of how transient this life on earth seems, God continuously reminds us through the word that we can trust in Him and His promises to remain faithful: "Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day... as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Cor 3:16-18).

I truly believe that our purpose on earth is so much more than following after the desires of our flesh and being "successful" by the standards of this world. **We were created to live a life of peace and joy**, not being held down by the burdens of trying to attain the things of this world, which are temporary. God has so much in store for you and for your life. He longs to see you discover the value you have as a precious son or daughter of God and to live a life to the fullest, pursuing the purpose He has for you. Who you are isn't determined by your grades in school nor how acknowledged you are by the people around you. Often, we get distracted by listening to the voice of this world, trying to fill our hearts with things that are meaningless and temporary. However, **the only person that can really satisfy our innermost desires is Jesus Christ**. He is sufficient for us.

As we begin our new school year, let's take some time to really remind ourselves **who we are in Christ** and to **fix our eyes on the things that are eternal** as we return to the Lord. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col 3:2). When we do, I guarantee that you won't be disappointed, as He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

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SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Everyone spends the summertime in their own ways. For many people, summer means that it's an ideal time to rest and relax; it's when families get to spend much needed, quality time with each other; it's also a peak season for travelling, as well as when people are motivated to trying out new things. For Grace Youth, it's a time when many students get the opportunity to serve in other communities, be spiritually refreshed, and build meaningful relationships.

This summer, the students of Grace Youth truly lived out their identity, "Blessed to Bless". We witnessed God opening doors for the Gospel to enter into the Lummi and Duncan communities, through the students who displayed God's abounding grace by their faithful acts of service. Students testified to restoring broken relationships within their families and amongst their peers because of the heartfelt conviction of God's own love for them. And God gave many students a new joy and deeper passion to live a lifestyle of worship, one that honours God in whatever they do.

The summer has come and gone, but God's work is not finished! He will surely continue to do His good work in and through each of us to build His eternal kingdom. Our prayer is that students will thoughtfully reflect on the things that God revealed to them, and that those truths will move them to a greater intimacy with God.

Enjoy the photos highlighting our summer events!

YEAR-END PICNIC

JUN 21st // This was Grace Youth's annual event to celebrate the end of the school year! We gathered at a nearby park to play some team games and for fellowship over food.



"BETTER IS ONE DAY IN YOUR COURTS"



AUG 7-9 // GCC held their first church-wide retreat, titled, "Better is One Day in Your Courts" which included "Grace's Got Talent" talent show. It was a great opportunity for families to worship together, as well as to see a showcase of various people's God-given talents!

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

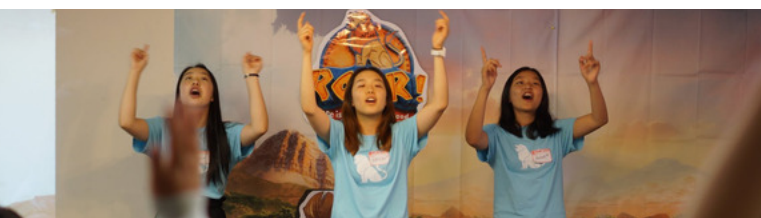
LUMMI MISSION TRIP

JUL 6-13 // A group of 31 students and leaders went to the Lummi native reserves to serve the people there through VBS and community outreach projects in partnership with Mission to the World.



DUNCAN MISSION TRIP

JUL 7-13 // A group of 36 students and leaders went to the Duncan native reserves to serve the people there through VBS and relational ministry in partnership with Grace Cowichan Church.



2019
Summer
Retreat

REVERENCE

The Fear of the Lord

At this year's summer retreat, our focus was to be ushered into a place of genuine worship - a place of fearing God with a reverent lifestyle. Our hope and prayer was that students would allow God to transform their lives into one that truly worships Him in Spirit and in truth, and that this kind of God-fearing, God-honouring worship will overflow into their homes, schools, friendships, and in the church community.

Pastor Ben Johnson and Pastor Daniel So were the guest speakers for this year's GEM and CLAY Youth summer retreats, respectively. God spoke powerfully through both of these pastors to encourage the students in their faith journey, and to teach them what it means to revere and fear the Lord. Through times of quiet reflection and meditation in Scripture, giving loud praises in song, as well as spending time in fellowship with one another, students were able to gain a deeper sense of what it means to worship God in their every day lives.

Now that we are back to our regular routine of life, let's do our best to live out a lifestyle of REVERENCE. Let us continue to seek to KNOW God deeply, so that our understanding of WHO GOD IS will shape our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our relationships.



"But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love will enter your house,
I will bow down towards your holy temple in the fear of you."
Psalm 5:7

Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for an eventful and Spirit-filled summer! We are grateful that God works in and through our lives to build His Kingdom. As students reflect on the things that God revealed to them through out the summer months, **pray** that they will continue to gain a deeper understanding of who God is and what it means to live a lifestyle of worship.
- **Pray** for the leaders and pastors who will be serving in Grace Youth in the 2019-2020 education year. **Pray** that each leader will be faithful in their personal relationship with God, and that God's love will be poured into the lives of the students through them.
- **Welcome, grade 7s!** We are glad you are joining us at Grace Youth. Please **pray** for the grade 7s, that they will quickly feel at home in GEM and CLAY Youth. **Pray** also that the older brothers and sisters in Christ will warmly embrace them and help them smoothly adjust into youth group.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Friday, Sep 27th Back to School Bash

Sunday, Sep 29th Parents Meeting

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

grace youth

blessed to bless

who we are

Grace Youth is the name of our Youth Ministry at Grace Hanin Community Church. We consist of two student ministries: **GEM** (our English-speaking youth ministry) and **CLAY** (our Korean-speaking youth ministry). Both ministries are for students between **grades 7-12**. In addition to our weekly Sunday services, we meet regularly on Fridays throughout the year. Our Friday Youth Night events vary from small group discussions to game nights, outreach and praise & prayer nights. Through these various events, our prayer is to see the youth **grow to be like Jesus** in heart, thought, word, and action.



our vision

Our vision at Grace Youth comes from **Jeremiah 17:7-8**. The aim of our youth ministry is to help our students find their true identity and greater calling in Jesus Christ; to see that they were made to be **blessed by God**, so that they can grow in Christ, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, to become a **blessing to others** all around the world. Our hope is to see the youth grow into spiritually mature **disciples of Jesus Christ**. We believe that God has a unique purpose for each student. And so here at Grace Youth, we are striving to provide ways for the youth to grow in Christ, through the Word, in prayer, fellowship, and student discipleship.