

SEPTEMBER 2020

GRACE MONTHLY

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow."

James 1:2-3



An Unusual Opportunity

by Amy Nam

Now that September is here, there are a lot of things that we are expecting to begin. For many, it would be another new start to school, work, volunteer, sports, and more. But this season has been different for everyone, and whether we had wanted it or not, it has affected - or more so, changed - most, if not all aspects of our daily lives. Frankly, there were a countless number of times I had looked back to the life I have had before and wished things would go back to "normal"; to gain back the experiences of hanging out with friends and family, travelling to different places, playing team sports, going to Friday Youth Nights, or even working - all without having to feel the restrictions that we feel now. It started to become harder for me to find joy in this new way of life, and I had fallen deep into frustration and distress over the things I was not able to do. In the midst of these inner struggles, I came across James 1:2-4, which reads, "Dear brothers and sisters, **when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.** For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing." I realized through these Words of God that I have been clinging too closely the troubles and uncertain situations of my life, not noticing that **these experiences are actually opportunities to see God**; to see Him through the darkness, to hear His voice a little more clearly, to fully lean on Him. Even through troubles, God can guide me to His ways which are good, steadfast, and true.

Grace Youth, we are all in this walk of endurance together. As I have decided to turn my eyes of faith and hope to Him once again, I hope that you will too, taking courage in seeking for Jesus in any circumstances we may be put in - both during our spiritually thriving seasons and in our driest seasons - with perseverance and with a joyful heart!

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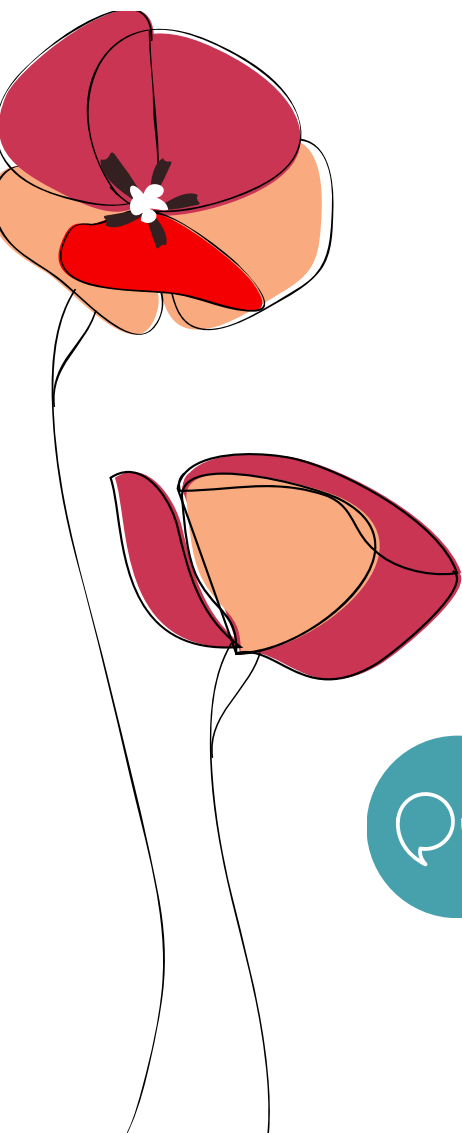
Grace Youth: Blessed to
Bless

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

IMAGO DEI: VIRTUAL SUMMER RETREAT

From August 10-12th, Grace Youth and ABLE hosted their first virtual summer retreat, titled, "Imago Dei." GEM Youth met together on Zoom, where they started with an icebreaker and got divided into small groups with students of the same gender but with different grades. Pastor Kevin preached on the first night and shared that we find our true and unchanging identity in God. Next morning, Pastor Phil reminded us that God covers our vulnerability with His shield. On the last day, Pastor Josh preached that biblical rest is pausing from work and filling it by resting with God.

The spiritual activities throughout the retreat were focused on spending time with God in solitude. In these times, many students felt God restoring their souls by reminding us of His presence. Students also had the opportunity to spend time of fellowship for an outdoor evening session on the second day.



GRADE 12 GRADUATION BBQ

On Saturday, August 22, the GEM youth grade 12 brothers and sisters celebrated their graduation with a long-awaited gathering at Surrey Bend Park. After a time of fellowship and dinner, they listened to a seminar on the topic of God's Sovereignty, prepared by Pastor Josh. Especially since the grade 12s are on their transition to post-secondary life, the major takeaway was to commit to the Lord in every decision that they make. As relevant this may be for the grade 12s, may we, as Grace Youth, also learn to trust in God with everything as well and choose the path of Godliness as we pursue the next stage of our lives.



Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. - Proverbs 16:3



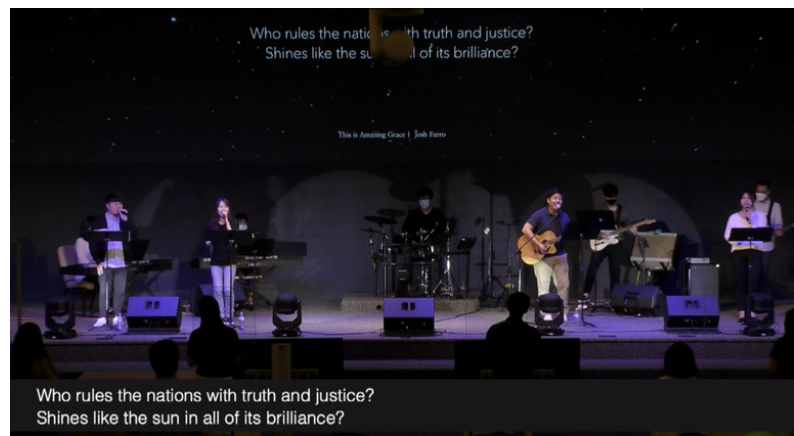
AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

ENGLISH MINISTRY PRAISE & PRAYER NIGHT

On Friday, August 28th Pastor Kevin led the last Praise and Prayer Night for the summer. His sermon, titled "Wait for the Lord," shared a message from Psalm 27:14. During these seasons, it may be hard to wait for God, but he shared that God is still good, and we must wait for Him. In his message, he shared what waiting for the Lord looks like - to **dwell** in His Word, to **cry out** to the Lord, and **believe** in Him because He will take us in when we eagerly look for Him. Let us remember to constantly dwell in His Word, because as he shared, unlike the worldly things, what we as Christians wait for is certain - God is always working out His good for us.

FINAL SMALL GROUP & FELLOWSHIP

The GEM small groups of 2019-2020 had their last small group time on Friday, September 4th. Students and leaders had a time of reflection, discussing highlights, struggles, concerns for the new year, and personal prayer requests. Once the sharing was done, Pastor Josh delivered a short message and blessed the Grade 12s, who will be transitioning into a new ministry. To end off the last event of the current school year, the final winner of the Summer Six-Pack events was announced! Congratulations to the Grade 10s! The Grade 10s will be receiving a park outing to celebrate their victory in the near future!



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Saturday, Sep 12th Grade 7 Welcome
Friday, Sep 25th Back to School Bash

Various meetups are also happening online at different times throughout the month.

Make sure to keep up with our latest updates with your small group leader, on our website, Instagram, or Facebook!

Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for giving ABLE and all of Grace Youth the opportunity to have our annual summer retreats, despite the pandemic, with the help of technology and the efforts of all the pastors, leaders and volunteers. **Praise** God for the people that worked so hard to prepare and run the virtual summer retreat. In spite of the retreat being virtual, it was a blessing to be able to see each other, share with one another and pray for each other. We **pray** that through the retreat, students were able to learn new things, and reconnect with God. Please **pray** that the connection will not be temporary, but constant and unwavering, even through difficult times like this.
- As the new education year begins, **pray** that the graduated grade 12 class will thrive in their next chapter, trusting God and His plans. We also welcome the grade 7s into Grace Youth! Although we could not welcome the grade 7s in person this year, let us **pray** that they feel just as welcomed and loved by all of Grace Youth.
- **Praise** God for the new leaders that will be joining the Education Ministry this year and for the many leaders that will continue to faithfully serve God's Kingdom in Grace Youth. Please **pray** that each leader and pastor is given the wisdom they need to help guide the students in their faith walks during this time of uncertainty and spiritual drought for many. Let us **pray** that not being able to meet face to face in the church building will not be a hindrance in our ability to learn and grow in our faith this year.
- Grace Youth will be live-streaming their own worship service starting September 20th. At the same time, they will begin meeting with their small groups each Sunday. Please **pray** that the small group on Sundays will provide the means for students to connect with their peers and leaders in meaningful ways, so that they can continue to grow in their relationship with each other. **Pray** also that students will be genuine in their worship and will experience deep joy in spending time with God in their own homes.
- Covid-19 has been at the forefront of our everything for most of this year. Thousands have died, millions have suffered and many have been and are still risking their lives to save others. **Pray** for healing for those that are suffering with the virus, for strength for the doctors and nurses that work so hard to treat these patients, and for the essential workers that are keeping our societies functioning.

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.

