

SUMMER 2019

GRACE MONTHLY

*"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."*

Hosea 6:1



Building Your Spiritual Discipline

by Naim Lim

In the book, "The Pocket Thomas Merton", it says: "Our false selves are the identities we cultivate in order to function in society with pride and self possession; our real selves are a deep religious mystery, known entirely only to God." As we live life, we are often feeding our sinful nature. At the same time, we have the choice to live and walk by the Spirit within us. What we choose to do in a given circumstance is really a matter of spiritual discipline.

If we lack the discipline to nurture and maintain our "real self", we become quick to judge our circumstances and blame God. God seeks to expand our heart, which can sometimes be painful especially when we are led through phases of confusion and frustration in our life. In Hosea 6:1, however, it promises that God will heal us after tearing us to pieces. So even when it's difficult, the more we spiritually discipline ourselves and take the opportunities to reflect and learn from God, we nourish the "real self" inside of us and the Holy Spirit works in us to help us walk by faith and not sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

My history teacher once told us that we must have malleable faith; a faith that grows as we grow older and is deeply linked to God's Word so that it has an ability to adapt to our life as it progresses. As Aslan from the Narnia Chronicles tells Lucy, "Every year you grow, you will find me bigger", as we grow older, we are given more opportunities to discover more about God. God reveals Himself to us in various ways and when we respond according to the Spirit, we will build our spiritual discipline and begin to understand why we need Jesus and that the Gospel is a big deal.

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MAY HIGHLIGHTS

FAMILY WORSHIP NIGHT

Friday, May 3rd was our Family Worship Night, with a focus on praying for the youth and young adults. Pastor Josh shared a message titled, "Spiritual Heritage", based on 2 Timothy 1:5-7. The message that was highlighted was the fact that our spiritual lifestyle is greatly influenced and shaped by how we live it out in our homes with our family. Particularly, there was an emphasis on the importance of studying, sharing, and living out the Word of God together. The two takeaways were as follows:

1. Our spiritual heritage must be built on **learning** and **living out** the Word of God together.
2. The Word of God has the **power to unite** our families together.

CHURCH-WIDE CLEANING

Saturday, May 18th was GCC's annual spring cleaning day. Close to 50 Grace Youth students and leaders came out to help clean the worship halls as well as various church supplies and equipment. Thank you to those students and leaders who spared their time to help out!

GEM Youth will be cleaning the church again on **Saturday, July 27th** for their summer outreach project.

Come out and be a part of helping keep the church clean! You will be surprised at how much work and effort it takes to maintain a beautiful church building!

INVITE-YOUR-FRIENDS EVENT

On Friday May 24th, CLAY Youth students invited some of their friends to join them for their special Friday Youth Night event. Through various games and other fellowship activities, they had the opportunity to make new friends and also learned more about what it means to be a church.



Didn't know something was happening? Visit gccyouth.weebly.com/calendar to keep yourself up to date of our events!



Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for the opportunity that we had to worship with our families on Family Worship Night! It is always a tremendous blessing to be able to worship as a family. **Pray** that parents and children will influence one another to deeply love the Word of God and live it out at home, and that broken families will be united through the power of God's Word.
- Please **pray** for the summer events and mission trips that are taking place from June to August. **Pray** that they will be meaningful times of spiritual growth and fellowship for both the participants as well as for those we will be reaching out to.
- **Pray** for the grade 12 students. As they prepare for their transition into post-secondary, **pray** that they will seek God's wisdom when making various decisions. Also **pray** that, after they leave Grace Youth, they will be connected with a faithful community of believers with whom they can continue to grow and mature spiritually in Christ.
- **Praise** God for all of the leaders who have been faithfully serving in Grace Youth for the past year! It is a true blessing to have these older brothers and sisters who are willing to teach the Word of God and walk with the youth students in their Christian faith journey. As the recruitment process for leaders for the 2019-20 education year begins in July, please **pray** that God will move in the hearts of His people to serve in Grace Youth next year.



GET READY FOR

summer

For the months of **June to August**, Grace Youth takes a break from regular Friday Youth Night gatherings. Make sure to **join us at our Summer events!**

Events are subject to change.

***More details and updates about each event will be posted on our website. ***

JUNE

FRI
21st

YEAR- END PICNIC

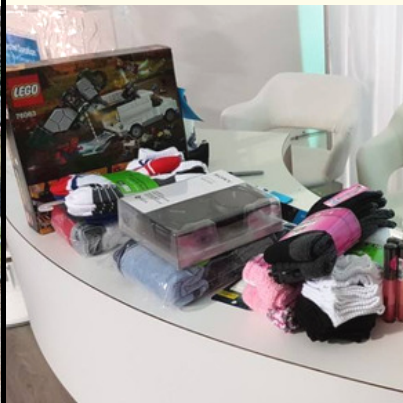
This is our annual year-end picnic where we gather to celebrate the end of the school year. There will be food, games, and sports!



FRI
28th

PRAISE -A- THON

This is a night where we gather not only for praise and prayer, but also to raise funds and collect goods to donate to the Surrey Women's Centre.



JULY

**6th-
13th**

LUMMI & DUNCAN MISSION TRIPS

Teams will be going to the Lummi and Duncan First Nations reserves to serve the community through construction, senior home visits, and VBS.



SAT
27th

SUMMER OUT- REACH

For our summer outreach this year, we will be cleaning the church as well as visiting the seniors at the Amenida Home.



AUGUST

FRI 2nd

GYM NIGHT

This is a fun night where we gather to play various team sports for friendly competition and team building.



MON-THU 12th-15th

SUMMER RETREAT

This is more than a summer camp! We will be taking 3 nights and 4 days to "retreat" from our daily routines to focus on spiritual growth through times of sharing in small groups, communal worship, quiet time devotions, seminars, and other spiritual activities. Of course, you can also expect times of fellowship and relationship building through meals, games, and activities. **Register by July 28th!**



SUMMER RETREAT REGISTRATION

begins **JUNE 24th**

Visit gccyouth.weebly.com/summer-retreat for more details!