

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES

The TCCGP Youth Ministry Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 8, 2009

LOVE IN ACTION: WORDS OF LOVE



By Rev. Daniel Au
Pastor, English Ministry

On February 14, the nation celebrates Valentine's Day and stores and homes are filled with chocolates, red-hearted cards, teddy bears and bouquets of flowers.

The most common words heard and seen during this time are these three: "I love you."

These three words are often very difficult for people to speak out loud, especially in certain cultures where such open expressions of emotion are thought better left unsaid, but rather understood through actions or just understanding that "of course, that's the case, you should already know I do."

There's a danger of being surrounded by these words during this holiday — they become so commonplace for these few weeks that they fall in danger of becoming meaningless, while in the opposite extreme, if the words are never said, there is no direct affirmation of the love and bond between two people. Those words are amazing because they're short, but powerful. They get to the point of expressing a powerful fact.

For myself, back in college in response to a sermon, I consciously made the decision to never use the word "love" when talking about everyday things, like food ("I love pizza") or entertainment ("I love this movie"), so as to not water down the times that I do tell those dear to me of how much *I love them*. It's a word I reserve only for moments that matter.

As we understand this year's theme, and also about our care of our children, how important is it to put our "words in action" as an expression of our love?

I take my lesson from the account found in three gospels (Matt 3:17, Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22) where during Jesus' baptism, God himself announces for all to hear, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." During Jesus' transfiguration in Matt 17:5, we see God the Father repeating those same words once again. If God Himself speaks so plainly to His Son, can we justify using culture, personality or preference to avoid following His example?

Though God's power and divine nature can be seen in creation (Rom 1:20), He used words, i.e. Scripture, to plainly tell His children of His great love for us. May we be freed in God's love to share our words of love with those most dear to us.



Pastor Dan leading Bible study with the junior high students at W2W.

Inside this issue:

SS Disciplinary Policy	2
Article: <i>Working Together</i>	2
Article: <i>Growing Spiritually</i>	3
Youth Ministry Snapshot	3
W2W Calendar	4

Important Upcoming Events:

- W2W Youth Retreat at AFC Retreat Center on February 13-15. Speaker: Steve Light Theme: "Love In Action"
- Gospel Jam hosted by Wilmington Community Evangelical Church (WCEC) on Saturday, March 28. More details to come!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Accepted by EMMT 1/12/09
Presented to Deacon board 1/18/09

One of the greatest responsibilities for Christians is the teaching and training of our young people as they grow to become men and women of God. We desire to create a safe environment where students can learn and exercise their faith.

Discipline is a necessary process in which students learn the boundaries of their behavior and therefore we have created a policy to deal with any problems that could arise. We believe parents have an important role in shepherding their child in the Lord, so our procedure does involve the parents in the disciplinary measures.

We expect parents and children to learn and abide by the policies, but we do not anticipate having to use the disciplinary actions outlined (though we are prepared to do so). We have found that when students know what is expected of them, we have very few problems and are able to create the warm and nurturing environment described above.

1. Disruptions during meetings

We are able to have a good time and have fun while learning in our classes. However, some students occasionally take it too far and disrupt our meetings, causing other students to be distracted from the Bible teaching. In these cases, we follow these progressive disciplinary steps:

- A disruptive student will be given a warning by the teacher to refocus him/her on the class and have him/her return to appropriate behavior.
- On the second disruption, the student will be separated from their friends. Our co-workers are to move the disruptive students to another seat, away from their friends.
- On the third disruption, the student will be taken outside the classroom for a one-to-one talk with a classroom coworker to give the child an opportunity to explain him or herself and to make sure that the student understands the expectations of the classroom.

- If any further disruption occurs, the student will be brought by a classroom coworker to the Chinese worship service. The parents will be notified to sit together with their child to watch over him/her.

If, when the student returns the next time to class, he/she continues the disruptive pattern, the student will be given a cooling off period away from Sunday School classes for two weeks. During this time, he/she is to sit with the parents during Chinese worship service. A meeting with the pastor may be scheduled as necessary to discuss about the child's behavior. The student may return back to the classroom after two weeks.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us create a safe, learning environment where everyone can enjoy and grow in the Lord.



WORKING TOGETHER: PARENTS & TEACHERS



By Phyllis Gilmour

This is just a note from a senior high Sunday school teacher in an effort to communicate with the parents of our students.

First off, we want to praise God for putting the burden to run the school on Nancy Chan. She is so faithful and has been doing a great work!

The teachers go on monthly rotation every 3 months. I teach the 11th and

12th graders, and our students are a blessing, but a huge challenge for us as well. We really need some help from you, their parents: first of all, show that you do care for your children's spiritual growth, and secondly, let us know if we are effective in reaching the youth during that hour on Sundays.

I myself take time off from preparation of the choir during the month I teach; the Sunday school lessons demand full preparation, and a lot of work is put in. It is not a 'baby sitting service'. As lay teachers, we put our best for our students' and would like them to give their best as well in their learning.

Another thing is for the habitual late comers: I would ask if the parents can do something. Late comers disrupt the class, and almost render their attending the class meaningless. It would be nice if you discuss with your children what is the message in the lesson each Sunday. In short, please show you do care! Talk with them! We all make mistakes, we are willing to change, and the Lord will forgive us. Let's work together to build up your children for God's glory.

Phyllis has been teaching the 11th and 12th grade SS class for the last two years, bringing wisdom and music into the classroom.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GROWING SPIRITUALLY



By Stephanie Chu

The second and fourth Friday's of every month, half of the youth of TCCGP disappear to W2W. They undoubtedly enjoy a night of songs and games

with their friends, but also, whether knowingly or unknowingly, are building a foundation for a healthy spiritual life.

The night begins with music worship, prayer, and a game, in preparation for the night's focal point, a Bible study led by the attendees' peers. The praise songs range from loud and invigorating to soft and meditational, speaking to the heart. Although the enthusiasm is wavering at first, with everyone still shaking off the stress and tiredness of the school week, the passions of a few eventually percolate outward and all become involved. No one cares who can or cannot sing, only that everyone is enveloped by the music and God's presence. The swelling music accentuates the moving lyrics and we're able to sing our hearts out.

Group prayer follows ensuring that any trial or thanksgiving of one member becomes the burden and praise of the whole group.

The game is usually silly and with a high potential for embarrassment, yet, with the right attitude it breaks any lingering tensions. Games are all team oriented so that cliques break up and people with varying interests work together. Like the rest of the W2W experience, every game (for the most part) has a tie-in to the Christian mindset or mission that we have as God's children.

We then break up into small groups. The core group, a group senior high student leaders, leads their peers in Bible study while Lucas and Pastor Dan lead the junior highers. Each week has a lesson which leads to discussion on the applications of Christianity. Often, youths choose to ask any questions they have about how to evangelize or how to live Christian lives.

A weekly agenda provides a loose structure for the night's festivities with one main purpose, that youths learn the valuable lesson, "...nothing is impossible

with God." (Luke 1:37). That verse will carry them through the inevitable challenges of a Christian life.

Spiritual stability corresponds with morality, community, and happiness. I've found that youths who are strong in their faith will turn away from temptation and strive to live positive lives. That's why it's important for me to be part of a Christian community. A Christian community involving God, the members of the church, and the members of youth group, help young people maintain their positive beliefs and talk out their troubles. If we have a place and friends to leave our burdens with, we can be filled with the good things God desires for us.

A fulfilling life is a happy life. We young people need to have a greater purpose other than ourselves — spreading the word of God, we realize we lack the emptiness felt by others.

Stephanie is in 11th grade at Upper Merion HS, a member of the worship team, and was on the Guatemala missions team in 2008.

YOUTH MINISTRY SNAPSHOT



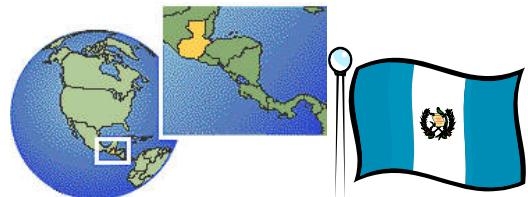
Some of the college students back during Christmas break, at a college student luncheon at CCP on January 2, 2009. (L-R) Kevin Lin, Jon Lee, Caleb Chow, Ben Indelicarto, Tian Wang, Matt Ng, Eric Zee, Jessica Hwang, Shida Li, Jennifer Gu

Are you interested in a great experience this summer to grow your faith and see God work in your life?

Join the 2009 G-Team!
Guatemala Short Term Missions
 August 2-16, 2009

Who can go? Baptized Christian, good character and spiritual maturity. Families welcome; adults are encouraged to go with their children. If you're 14 and younger, you must accompany an older sibling or cared for by an appointed adult if not with parents. Candidates will be interviewed and go through approval process by missions committee.

Contact Pastor Dan or Lucas if you're interested.





W2W Event Schedule

Winter-Spring 2009

<http://www.tccgp.org/w2w>

Date	Event	Location	Time
February 13 (Friday) to February 15 (Sunday)	W2W Youth Retreat	AFC Retreat Center Paradise, PA	Details to be emailed to attendees
February 27 (Friday)	W2W Youth Group Meeting	CCP	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
March 13 (Friday)	W2W Youth Group Meeting	CCP	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
March 27 (Friday)	W2W Youth Group Meeting	CCP	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
March 28 (Saturday)	Gospel Jam	WCEC	TBA
April 10 (Friday)	Good Friday Service	TBA	TBA
April 12 (Sunday)	Easter Sunday / Baptisms (Joint Service)	DCCS	9:30 AM
April 24 (Friday)	W2W Youth Group Meeting	CCP	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
April 25 (Saturday)	Parents Appreciation Dinner	CCP	6:00 PM
May 8 (Friday)	W2W Youth Group Meeting	CCP	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
May 22 (Friday)	W2W Youth Group Meeting	CCP	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

CCP - West Conshohocken Location: **217 Ford Street, West Conshohocken, PA. 19428**

DCCS - Delaware County Christian School: **462 Malin Road, Newtown Square, PA. 19073**

TBA - To Be Announced

Note - Please bring your Bibles to all W2W Youth Group Meeting nights. Thank you!

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