UK Church News

Leicester

Thank God, Pr. Michael Chan and Sis. Joyce Chen came back safely after a fruitful trip to Kenya from 1 to 19 December with Pr. Joseph Shek, Sis. Florence Liew and Sis. Angela Liu. They helped to conduct three National Students Spiritual Convocations in Simerro and Alendu, and undertook pastoral work. Around fifty-five students received the Holy Spirit and many saw visions.

Bro. Raymond Leacock came back to Leicester from 8 to 21 December for a short break from his theological training in the USA. He has since returned to the Theological Training Centre at Cerritos, California, attending classes and doing practical work in the region until May 2012.

Our Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation was held from 24 to 26 December. Preachers Johnny Liu and Michael Chan encouraged the participants with sermons on the theme ‘Return Your Heart to God’. Many members and truthseeking friends from Leicester, Leamington Spa, Bedford, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Sunderland, Wales and Malaysia joined the services. Thank God, a young brother received the Holy Spirit, and a friend who came to church for the first time was touched by the Holy Spirit. Praise God for His bountiful grace.

The new church refurbishment is still in progress with help from local members and contractors. The kitchen and canteen areas are near completion and over the next few months, work will be done to the chapel and the new ground floor toilet block. Support in the form of continued prayers and donations are warmly welcome.

Gifford Park

On 24 to 25 December, we held our annual Winter Youth Fellowship on the theme ‘Rekindle Our Fire’. We had discussions on how to keep our fire burning, sang hymns, enjoyed fun activities, and ate our food with gladness! Thank God we were able to hold this short but sweet fellowship with the younger and older youths together.

Serving in Kenya: A Volunteer’s Reflection

Angela Liu (Newcastle)

The whole chapel was filled with voices of praise to God

I was inspired to join the Africa missionary work after hearing testimonies from preachers and previous volunteers. I underwent training during the annual Africa Ministry Committee Voluntary Workers Training Seminars. Praise God, my first Africa missionary trip was for Kenya’s 4th National Students Spiritual Convocations (NSSC) in 2008, when I was twenty-one years old. It became a springboard for three further missionary trips to Kenya.

On 1 December 2011, I travelled with Preachers Joseph and Michael, and Sisters Florence Liew (Cambridge) and Joyce Chen (Leicester/Taiwan) to Kenya where three brothers welcomed us at Nairobi airport. We spent the following day exploring Nairobi city. We spent the following day exploring Nairobi city.

I travelled to the Church Army station where the members and truth-seekers rent school classrooms for services. Their local hymns are very simple and meaningful and we clapped our hands as they sang.

That evening, we boarded a night coach to northwest Kenya, beside Lake Victoria. Preacher Michael, Joyce and I headed to Simerro for the first NSSC, whilst Preacher Joseph and Florence travelled further north to Saya, near Uganda’s border, for pastoral work. We were reunited after the second Sabbath at Alendu where two additional NSSCs were held simultaneously in church and at a nearby school.

During all three NSSCs, God truly worked amongst the students, transforming their hearts as they grew in faith and understanding of the Bible. One unforgettable night was when the senior youths led all the students in a two-hour hymnal session. The whole chapel was filled with voices of praise to God; it was an awesome experience. In prayer sessions, those without the Holy Spirit knelt in the first two rows to receive the laying of hands. Thank God, over fifty students received the Holy Spirit in the two weeks, and many saw visions that were blessings and reminders from God.

One such vision was experienced by a sister, the daughter of an RE teacher. She was at the bottom of a deep black hole, and looking up to the opening, saw a man in white. He called down to her, “Come up! Come up!” and so she looked around and started climbing some steps. She then heard a voice below her calling out, “Come down! Come down!” She replied, “The man in white is calling me to go up, so I will go up. I will not go down.” The climb was harder as she neared the top, but when she got out of the hole and stood beside the man in white, she received the Holy Spirit. The vision was God’s reminder that now He had given her the Holy Spirit, she must stop and change her bad habit of retaliating whenever people spoke against her.

Joyce and I also conducted RE Teachers’ Seminars (RETS), training the RE teachers in Bible study techniques and

http://www.tjc.org  http://members.tjc.org
UK Church News (continued)

Elgin

From 24 October to 12 November, Pr. Michael Chan spoke sermons based on the parables of Jesus. Aside from the usual fellowships and classes, he conducted a sermoniser seminar to remind us about our heart in serving God, and visited each family in Aberdeen, showing them concern.

In late November, Pr. Johnny Liu assisted in an evangelical service in Inverness. He also held an RE seminar and visited truthseekers and brothers and sisters with church board members in Elgin and Aberdeen to strengthen them. At the end of his pastoral visit, in December, Pr. Johnny reminded us to be a church pleasing to God, and that two are better than one. These will be our goals for 2012.

Edinburgh

On 9 October 2011, Pr. Steven Shek led a youth cultivation seminar on the topic of ‘Burdened and Unburdened’. Thank God, the youths who attended were encouraged and edified by the teachings shared in relation to our servitude to God.

Newcastle

In October, we held a local sisters’ fellowship, a fellowship for the elderly members, the UKGA board meeting, and also hosted the National Youth Coordinating Centre (YCC) and National Evangelical Group (NEG) meetings. During the half term holiday, we had a fun and fruitful youth fellowship.

November began with the Sisters’ Fellowship Bible Reading. Pr. Steven Shek conducted Bible study fellowships and encouraged the brethren by studying the epistle of Titus, and Exodus 26 and 27. We were also blessed with a visit from the members from Gifford Park.

On 4 December, the youths of Newcastle and Sunderland congregated for the annual Winter Youth Fellowship, where Pr. Steven Shek imparted the message ‘To Lead a Virtuous Life’. On 25 December, we held our annual general meeting and recounted the numerous works and blessings that the Lord has bestowed on the church. As the year drew to a close, the deacons encouraged the members to reflect upon the past year and to think about how we can offer ourselves to serve the Lord in the upcoming year.

Sunderland

Thank God, on 24 to 26 October we held our Spiritual Convocation with the theme ‘Rooted in Christ’, with sermons led by Pr. TK Chin and Dr. Silas Chan (UKGA Chairman). By God’s grace, we had seven visitors. The UKGA and Church Delegates Meeting was also held on 21 to 23 November.

In early December, both North East churches had a combined fellowship with Pr. Steven Shek in Newcastle in early December on ‘Leading a Virtuous Life’. We also held a Winter Sleeper Fellowship based on ‘To Be A True Christian’. Thank God, a very good turnout of twenty-eight brothers and sisters attended. Many older youths
willingly led sessions and prepared food for us all. May we all continue to draw closer to God so we reflect His image to be true Christian, and draw closer to our brothers and sisters to support one another on this heavenly journey.

Timothy Youth Fellowship has continued in studying the Book of Mark.

In October, we received a visit from Manchester came to fellowship with them and to be edified by the deacon’s sermon during their trip to Sunderland and Newcastle, from 23 to 28 December.

Lastly, baby Lucas was born on 12 November to Bro. Eddy and Sis. Wendy Shek. May all glory be to God!

London

We were blessed with a pastoral visit by Pr. Cheng Ming Chu from Argentina in October. On 2 October, he conducted an RE teachers training and a married couples fellowship, and sermonised with Pr. Joseph Shek during our Autumn Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation. Thank God, four adults and five children were baptised and added to the fold.

We celebrated the marriage of Bro. Li Ling Weng and Sis. Bridget Lin on 20 November. The months of October and November also marked the arrival of several newborn babies: Elliot Chan (son of Eric and Wendy Chan), Josianne Liu (daughter of Jason and Maya Liu) and Arisa Lal (daughter of Tommy and Marie Lal).

On 11 to 13 November, we welcomed over sixty youths from London, Leicester, Portsmouth and Cambridge for the first Southern Regional Youth Fellowship. The theme of the fellowship was “Unity”. Our annual China Brethren Convocation, led by Pr. Joseph Shek and Pr. F.F. Chong, was held on 25 to 26 December. We thank God that over thirty truthseekers came to attend this event.

Finally, Bro. Nissi Chin visited Zambia for three weeks with Pr. Steven Shek and Bro. Daniel Liew (Portsmouth) to help conduct the National Students Spiritual Convocation and to participate in the pastoral and preaching work there.

We thank the Lord for showering His blessings upon us this past year. May He continue to have mercy and guide us all as we embark on another year!

Weddings

Bro. Li Ling Weng and Sis. Bridget Lin, 20 November @ London TJC

Portsmouth

We held our first Gospel Tea afternoon in October after posting invites in the area around church. This was a new opportunity to introduce the church and our service times to neighbours and friends whilst having refreshments.

On 6 November, we held an evangelical service on the theme ‘Come and See’. The message shared that if someone had died for our salvation, then this would be an opportunity to find out more about our Lord Jesus and His sacrificial love for us all.

On 11 November, a special ‘Reverence for Elders’ service was held where Pr. F.F. Chong shared words of encouragement to our elder members, and exhorted the younger members of the church to learn faith lessons from their experiences. Special gifts were later presented to our elderly members.

On 15 December, baby Rehoboth was born to our Bro. Kuo Zhang and Sis. Qin Liu (daughter of Jason and Maya Liu).

Our beloved Sis. Lotak Fung Sam was called back to the Lord on 24 December. We pray that God may bring peace and comfort to her family.
Leicester: new church building renovations

Chapel

Kitchen

Canteen

Toilet Block