Hallelujah! The Central Region 2009 Winter Student Spiritual Convocation (SSC) this year was held from Sunday evening (12/20) to Friday evening (12/25) at Dallas church. There were a total of 34 students and 13 counselors and instructors coming from Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Hillsborough, Houston, and the state of Minnesota. Thanks to the grace of God, the entire SSC went very smoothly from beginning to end.

The theme of the SSC was “Living in Holiness,” with classes focusing on why we need to be holy and how we become holy. In learning why we need to be holy, students in E2, J1, and J2 classes all learned about the sacrificial love of the sovereign God in the One True God class and how it is reasonable for us to be holy and serve the true and living God. Next, looking to examples and teachings in the Bible concerning how to be holy, the J2 class studied 1 Timothy and Romans, the J1 class studied 1 Timothy and Daniel, and the E2 class studied Daniel and the Good Kings and Bad Kings. Finally, in A Guide for Young Christians class (J1 and J2) and Standing Strong in the Tide (E2), students learned how to apply the Biblical teachings concerning holiness in their everyday lives. Additionally, there were also special topic classes that focused on being holy in relationships (J1 and J2), speech and attire (E2, J1, J2), and media (E2 and J1); as well as how we stand firm in our faith and fight the good fight of faith daily (J1 and J2). In short, this WSSC was fruitful for students and counselors alike. Thank and praise God!!

What’s New in RE for Q3

We welcome Brother Garry Hwang to join RE in our Kindergarten Class from Q3. He is a Taiwan GA certified teacher and has years of experience teaching RE. We thank God for one more willing heart to join us in our RE ministry holy work.

Other changes in RE include: Sister Cindy will return to teaching in our J1 Class starting from Q3. Kindergarten Class will move to the afternoon, and the class time will be the same as E2 and J1 classes, from 1:45 to 3:15 pm.

For our Q3 lessons, all classes will be learning stories in the Old Testament - from the victories and defeats in the Israelites’ battles, to God’s justice and mercy toward His people, as well as God’s promises. Refer to our RE Q3 Schedule for details.

We have various instructional resources which we welcome our teachers and parents to utilize for maximizing our students’ learning and cultivation.

Central 2009 WSSC - Living a Life in Holiness

Brother Daniel Jeng

TJC in Houston

RE Newsletter

2009-2010 Quarter III

March 6, 2009

Important Dates During 2009-2010 Quarter III:

♦ First Day of QIII …..Mar 6
♦ RECORW …......... Mar 6-7
♦ GTF ……………………… Mar 27
♦ ESSC ……………………… Apr 9-11
♦ Church Dedication … Apr 10
♦ Dumpling Fellowship …May 9
♦ Last Day of QIII …..May 29

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Can You Match Them?
Do you want to serve God by serving the little ones? Do you want to be an RE teacher? The truth is this RE ministry is such a rewarding and joyful ministry. Why? You’re in the ministry of changing lives. As an RE teacher, you are committed to leading your students to the abundant life Jesus prayed for in John 10:10: “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” Therefore, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you will help your students to grow spiritually, guide them to love God deeply, and train them to be a Christian soldier. This is a powerful commitment. God can do awesome things with you when you put Him first!

GA will be holding a National RETS this summer at the Irvine church from July 3-10. This is a week-long intensive training for members who really have a strong desire to serve God in this RE ministry but have never gone through any formal training. Even though you may have been called by the church to lead some classes, it is still very vital to go through the proper training to equip yourself in all aspects of teaching. All classes include: Classroom Management, Lesson Planning, Analyzing the Passage before you teach, Knowing your students, Teaching hymns to young students, Learning Styles, Ten Basic Beliefs, How to teach Life application, etc. Despite the packed schedule, this training will really help you for a better service. The wonderful news is that God has already provided us with the strength. This is especially true when it comes to education and bringing up the next generation.

And the best way to know that this training is fruitful to all the participants is through the feedback we get from the teachers. They express how they are filled with strength and power. They have many ideas and are ready to go back to their local church to serve. And all this comes from the desire to draw close to God and the desire to do His work. Not only do we have the opportunity to bring up our next generation to know God and have a personal relationship with Him, but we also grow in the process and our faith is renewed daily.

Our First Remote RE Class

In the name of the Lord Jesus I would like to share my experience teaching remote RE students in Denver. By the grace of God, Houston church is participating in helping out the work of Religious Education in Denver through Skype video calling. I must admit being nervous before teaching this class because I have never had any experience teaching through internet before. We tried to get connection with Denver on the Friday before the lesson but for some reason we could not. Thank God on the Sabbath day after the morning service around 12:30 PM we were successfully connected.

At 12:45 PM three students started to go in the room where the computer was set up. Kuan Lin, Kuan Shin, and Julia were the students. When they saw me they were surprised because we had met last year during a camping trip. We exchanged greetings and started the class with a silent prayer. After that a student chose hymn 378 “Trust and Obey.” I could hear them singing from the bottom of their hearts. Praise God! After the hymn we prayed in the spirit before starting the lesson. The topic of the lesson was about Joseph being “A New Governor”. We talked about how Joseph interpreted Pharaoh’s dreams. Pharaoh could see that God was with Joseph and was amazed at his wisdom and his plan for Pharaoh. We learned that “the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6). I was really impressed with the students. They were well mannered, and were the best students any teachers ever wished. They participated in the class proactively and made me feel at ease. I really thank God for this wonderful chance to work with them this time. I look forward to the next remote RE lesson. Amen.
2009 WSSC Reflections

Brother Patrick Wong

The main theme of the last SSC was “Living in Holiness.” By the grace of the Lord Jesus, I was assigned to share a topic on Prophet Daniel with the E2 and J1 students. This prophet is truly an excellent example for all of us to learn. He is an ordinary man like us, but with extraordinary faith. His faith leads him to willingly separate himself from worldliness.

I shared a picture with the students about holiness. It is a picture showing a “blue” guy standing in a crowd of ordinary busy people. This “blue” guy looks proudly and happily enjoying his own identity. He does not mind to be different. As God’s children, we are constantly under the influence of negative peer pressure that is trying to shape us to become the sons of the devil. Time after time, the Israelites failed to worship the One True God, observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. The root cause is human’s inability to say “no” to the world. Like the Israelites in the time of Prophet Samuel, they rejected God as their leader and asked for a king to judge them “like all the nations” (1 Sam 8:5).

At the SSC the students shared some of their struggles in schools and also on the internet/media. It is in fact difficult to say “no” to temptations unless we have the faith like Prophet Daniel. He has made a strong determination to follow God’s commandments (Dan 1:8) and keep his prayer habit (Dan 6:10) for many years even in the foreign land. He is a blameless and loyal servant. He survives even in the lions’ den, and makes the foreign king to acknowledge our great and awesome God. May the Lord Jesus continue to guide and bless all the students enabling them to shine light into the world of darkness. Amen.

Sister Sophia Wong

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I give a reflection. I definitely know that this SSC I have learned the most. Learning about holiness makes me really want to invite my friends to church because I want my friends to be holy. This is one of the most valuable lessons I have ever learned.

On Thursday night, I really think it was one of the best prayers I ever had. I really think it helped me draw closer to God. It helped me make the determination to always do a daily routine of praying and reading the bible. In this way we will be more holy and be closer to being like Jesus.

This is one of the memory verses: "And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Rom 12:2) So after this SSC let us not be yoked together with the world, but be holy and show the world that we are part of the True Jesus Church. Let us make a goal to pursue after God so one day we can see Him in heaven. Thank God for safely guiding us through this SSC.

Brother Joshua Wong

I thank God I went to winter SSC. The theme was, A Life in Holiness. Some of the things I learned were that holiness means separation from the world. Holiness doesn’t mean stay at church but it means go out and not love worldly possessions. I watched a movie about Daniel and at night, my group read Daniel 1-6. I also learned about some bad kings in the Old Testament. I fasted 2 times this SSC and prayed hard for the Holy Spirit but didn’t get it. So next SSC I will pray harder.

Brother Timothy Yen

I think the 2009 WSSC was great. I learned how to live a life of holiness. Holiness means separation from the world, so it means we should not be worldly, or else Satan will trap us. I also learned about a famous character…Daniel! You learn about him in the Kindergarten class, but when you study him during bible study, you notice details you probably didn’t learn. Daniel prayed 3 times a day, even when it was against the law. He also gave credit to God.

On the last day of SSC we had a Holy Communion. I learned that Jesus died for me. Jesus is God, who is a spirit, in the flesh. We cannot be like the bad kings of Judah and Israel, nor only listen to what we like. If we reject the words we don’t like to hear, God could punish us. God is a merciful God but he still wants us to obey Him. I want to go back SSC because SSC is fun and it cultivates me. I have learned a lot at SSC.
Religious Education

SSC J1 Holiness and Media Project

A Poem on "Media Monster"

Sis Sarah Wong and Sis Ebone Curry (Dallas)

One thing I do when I’m sitting around being bored,
is set up the TV and plug in that cord.
Hour after hour, I stare at the screen;
even though I know there’s a bedroom to be cleaned.
When I get bored of that,
I sit at the computer and start to chat.
And even though I know it’s wrong.
I talk to that stranger all day long;
Then I heard a voice in my head,
to put down that mouse, and read the Bible instead.
I think God would be happier if I read 1 Peter 5:8,
because now I know that if I continue my wrong ways,
the Devil will use me as bait.

Sister Suli Fang

Thank God for guiding all the students through the last SSC. Although SSC was over for about two months, it seems like yesterday. The main theme of SSC was “Living in Holiness.” We learned a lot about issues and challenges high school students would encounter in their daily lives, and how we can deal with them. Of course the best answer is to pray and to read the Bible.

I am a high school student. There are many students in the school; both good and not so good. I face different temptations each day at school. I cannot rid the school of the temptations. Hence, the only way to survive is to pray, asking God to deliver me from the evil one. Many students in my school have boyfriends and girlfriends. I am the only girl without a boyfriend. In the beginning it felt alright, but later on I started to feel embarrassed. All my friends are having romance and in pairs, so I cannot go out and have fun with them. I do not fit in the group, because the topic of their conversation does not depart from boyfriend, girlfriend, and the movies they watch in the weekends. Some of them invited me to parties and ball, and I wanted to go each time I am invited. However, I felt that I shouldn’t go, because I don’t know what would happen if I go with them. What’s the point to put myself in that situation?

Before I went to the SSC, a good friend told me that she would introduce a guy to be my boyfriend after SSC was over. I thought, yeah, why not? It is OK; it is nothing serious. I was not concerned about this. Later at SSC we were discussing about dating. I had a bad feeling, and I was praying to God. In that prayer I recalled the conversation I had with my good friend. I realized that I should not have been so reckless about having a boyfriend. Hence, I asked for God’s forgiveness, and I asked God to please let me not encounter the guy whom my friend wanted to introduce me. I prayed for this matter for a whole week. Thank God, as I returned to my school after SSC was over, my good friend told me that the guy had transferred to a different school. I was overjoyed that I almost wept. I realize that my prayers are effective; God has removed all the bad things around me.

God is always and forever listening to our prayers. As long as we pray, God prepares for us and saves us. May all the glory be on to His holy name. Amen.
2009 Western WSSC Reflection

Brother Henry Lin

Before 2009 SSC started, I was thinking about how to make this SSC memorable. I joined the SSC in Baldwin Park Church in California where I was originally from. It was a nice place, and had a lot of people. There were about 130 people this year, which is the largest group I’ve ever been to. However, I was excited even before SSC started.

During SSC, I realized that it was not a time for me to have some times with my old friends, or new friends. It was time for me to repent my sins and draw closer to God. As a teenager, I’ve done some wrongs in my daily life, whether it is in my actions or thoughts. Therefore, I kept praying to God for forgiveness. In addition, I kept the prayer request among my group in my prayer too. It was a weird but somehow good experience. When I prayed for the brothers’ prayer request, I felt the joy and warmth inside of me. But whenever I prayed for my sins and my wrong doings, my head started to face downward and there was a strange feeling inside of me, which is fear. I remember during one of my prayers, I cried. Not because I did not receive any answer from God, but I started to reflect back to the time when I treated the people around me badly.

In one of the classes, the pastor told us that when we did something wrong, we should take it as our own responsibility. These wrongdoings will not only hurt the people around us, but also hurt God. So during that prayer, everything thing I’ve done in the past came back to me. I felt regrets and disappointed in myself. However, God did not give up on me. Near the end of the SSC, during Thursday morning prayer, I prayed to God for forgiveness. Somehow I did not turn my face down, but faced the front and smiled. (That’s what I think I was doing during prayer.) I felt good and relieved. It felt like the burdens on my shoulder have dropped to the ground. It was a good experience and I learned a lot from the brothers, sisters, counselors, and all the pastors. It was very memorable because brothers and sisters helped each other, prayed with each other, grew their relationship within God. It is the best thing that God would like to see among us. Amen.

It's A Boy!!

Sister Anita Taing

Thank the grace of God that I became a first-time mom to Isaac Kieran Taing on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 12:53 am. It is already three months since baby Isaac’s arrival and I am still marveling at this wondrous blessing from God. Isaac was born four weeks prior to his due date and spent a week in the NICU. During this time, I really felt just how fragile human life is and how our every breath lies in the hands of God our Creator.

Isaac had two other little roommates in the NICU, both of whom had been in there much earlier than him and were due to stay long after he was to be discharged. My heart ached to see Isaac in his isolette and even more so when I myself was discharged from the hospital and we had to leave him every day. Still, during that first week, whenever I was able to spend time with him, I gained great comfort from singing the chorus to hymn 255, ‘Jesus Loves The Little Children’, to Isaac. This is a hymn which our Kindergarten girls love to sing! Even when I couldn’t be there to watch over him, God would be there. How thankful I was to have our almighty Father as a reliance!

Singing to baby Isaac has continued since he has come home and quite to my surprise, old children’s hymns which I have not sung or heard, some for twenty-odd years, have gradually resurfaced in my memory. I am amazed at how deeply ingrained these songs which were taught during childhood RE lessons have remained—albeit dormant until now—for all these years.

What an encouragement this is to us, whether as parents or RE teachers. The seeds of faith which we impart to our little ones from even a very young age can truly remain a part of them much later into adulthood and help to shape their spiritual character. The Psalmist teaches us the following prayer: “O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come” (Ps 71:17-18). Let this also be our common prayer, that God may grant us the wisdom, love and patience with which to bring up his precious sheep so that they can stand firm in their faith and testify of God’s wondrous grace to generations to come!
Can you match the pictures with below verses?

1. **Matt 19:13-15**  
2. **Matt 25:14-30**  
3. **Matt 13:24-30**  
4. **Matt 5:9**  
5. **Matt 18:12-14**  
6. **Matt 21:15**

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**TJC in Houston**

**RE Newsletter**

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