Hallelujah! Thank God for His wonderful arrangement and guidance for the Religious Education Coordinator Workshop (RECORW) that was held at Dallas Church on March 19-20, 2011. We had a total of 35 representatives from different churches in USA and Canada. Pastor Yeh was assigned by USGA to assist the Workshop. This year’s theme was on “Team Work.” The main discussion topics were “How to be a Better Team Leader,” “Why RE Ministry is Warfare and Strategies to Fight the Battles,” “Building a Coaching Relationship with Your Lead Teachers and Teachers,” and “Essentials for Servant Leadership.” My major take-away points are the tips for improving my communication skills for church ministry as a whole.

Serving God may sound very abstractive because God is invisible to our eyes. However, the Bible teaches us many concrete examples of serving God, for instance, serving members (teachers, students and parents) of our church, the body of Christ. The theme “Team Work” reminded me that teamwork is not about assembling individual efforts, like a museum with a collection of artwork from different artists. It is about working together in peace and harmony, like singing different parts in a church choir. It requires regular communication between members. However, today’s trend seems to push us to rely more and more on electronic media and diminishes the “old-fashioned” face-to-face (not Skype!) conversation.

Church ministry must focus on face-to-face conversation. In the Workshop, we have learned many practical communication tips. Some examples of this are proper posture, gesture, and facial expression. These are all very useful for bouncing teaching ideas between teachers, chatting with parents, and counseling our students. Certainly, it will take personal commitment (both time and effort) to practice and use them in our daily living. Let us all strive to improve ourselves in the RE ministry, and be ready to learn more and more as we walk on our heavenly path. May the Lord strengthen us with spiritual wisdom to fight this spiritual warfare. Amen.
ESSC Reflection

By Brother Timothy Yen

The theme of the 2011 Spring ESSC was “Take Root Downward, Bear Fruit Upward”. I think the root of the tree is Jesus Christ and the boughs are the churches. We are the branches and we must bear fruit. When we bear fruit by doing good deeds, we must let the truth seekers be attracted to eat the fruit. When they eat the fruit, they will experience the goodness of God’s Word. They will get a branch of their own. They will bear fruits, too.

However, if the root is not deep we will not have a good foundation. When Satan comes, we will fall and lose faith in God. Another reason is trees need water to survive and a lot of water is underground. If the roots are not deep, then the tree cannot absorb the water. The purpose of the tree is to help other people believe. I should glorify God in whatever I do. I also learned that the world has a “sickness” because Satan has taken over it. May all the praises be unto God. Amen.

Word Search Puzzle

Contributed by the E2 Class

MAKING THE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

M Z D P E A C E F E O L J B S T R E N G T H
e
E V O L V B K L P R V W M Q A O G I O O S J
g
G Y U E K E K I U R E K E R E O S Z N S E R
j
J G O H O L Y S P I R I T G R A C E E L H
r
R N L T O S H R C W E Z H J U N E Y F S
x
X I Q Y F E I E Z W O F I J D U D K E F C K
k
K R A F A O R N K M M H Y W H O J R O N O H
t
T E D J I X U D T B E H R Z O K H F U V N R
r
F H F T Z M N R N H E R G W G K N N M T U
f
E F R E H J W I D G Y J H E A L I N G U R C
l
L U O K F K L K E A Q S J N C H U R W J O Y
p
P S Y M U E H P R W T E D T T H Y J R E L I
i
I G U G L S U P B V I I S L E T C R J I T F
o
O N A R N Y O O G C U X O E H G R K N F C B
m
M O D E E F K S F R I Z N X C E Z E Y J F
u
U L O I S U F R D T F R E D E M P T I O N
h
H F G E S E E D Z T K T M S W V M K G R I T
q
Q I U S X I R U K R J A L S E R V I C E S H
f
F D F M C W I A O U R I P R R Y I J F H D W
d
D E K A N S N O I T A I L I C N O C E R J X
b
B T L I E J G N E H Y T O R Y K F D C J V Z

faithfulness
healing
love
redemption

foundation
help
mercy
root

freedom
Holy Spirit
offering
seed

fruit
honor
overcome
self control

gentleness
joy
peace
service

goodness
kindness
prayer
strength

grace
longsuffering
reconciliation
truth
ESSC Reflection  
By Sister Sarah Wong

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ, I give a reflection on our most recent spiritual convocation. This spiritual convocation reminded me that there were two types of freedoms: the freedom of what we want to do, and the freedom of what we ought to do. Being in high school, I have seen many things that I have not experienced before nor knew about. Many of my friends started experimenting with different things because of the new “freedom” we all had.

It resulted in many changes and bad influences, especially on me. My school friends have been planning ahead and talking about their futures after high school and we all wait for the day to be liberated from our parents’ house off to college, but this is the freedom to live according to our flesh and desires (1 Jn 2:16). I learned that real freedom is the truth and real captivity was being bounded by sin. As told in John 8:31, the truth shall set us free.

True liberty is not being bound by what is in and of the world, but of staying strong in the truth and what is right. I am glad I was reminded that all the fun of this world will not help me and that I got true understanding of what true freedom really means.

ESSC Reflection  
By Brother Joshua Wong

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I give a reflection on the most recent ESSC. This ESSC theme was “Take Root Downward, Bear Fruit Upward”. This theme makes me think that we need a strong foundation to keep ourselves anchored from rocks, wind, water, and any other things that might cause us to tip over which represents Satan’s doing to weaken us. To build a strong foundation, we need to listen and obey to all the Ten Commandments, do not think any wrong thoughts or sexual immorality, be baptized, get the Holy Spirit, and do not hate anyone too long.

We also need to bear fruit so the fruit can be ready for the great harvest which I think that is Jesus’ 2nd coming. I think the fruit is all the good things we have done that was pleasing to God. Some of the good things we can do to bear good fruits is getting more truth seekers to join, help pray for someone who is depressed or sick, try to help someone improve in doing church work, and help pray for others who don’t have the Holy Spirit.

I thank God for all He has blessed us with and this wonderful ESSC. I give all the praise and glory to His holy name.

ESSC Reflection  
By Sister Sophia Wong

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I bear a reflection about the recent ESSC. The theme was to Take Root Downward and Bear Fruit Upward. This phrase has a lot of meanings that can be taken and applied into anyone’s spiritual life. Our roots need to be deep and our fruits countless. Our foundation in the Lord has to be strong in order to bear the Fruit of the Spirit, serve our brothers and sisters, and to also have faith in our Lord. A strong foundation can lead us into the right path.

Pastor Chen and Deacon Kuo were sent to Houston to help out with this spiritual convocation. I praise and thank God for sending such wonderful and dedicated workers. All their sermons were edifying and self-reflecting; it made me realize things I never knew about myself.

I was once again reminded of how precious the Holy Spirit is during the sermon titled Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We have to submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit; it is a gift from the Lord. We always have to remember to cherish it because it is indeed our key to salvation. Holy Spirit can make us free.

During the prayers in this spiritual convocation, I was emphasizing on how ample the love of our Lord Jesus Christ is. His love is measureless, depthless, and is as great and broad as the ocean. He loves us even though we are sinners, and saved us from the clutch of Satan.

Thank and praise God for the wonderful teachings learned in this ESSC. May all the glory and praise be given unto His holy name.
In this season, one of RE K-classes mentioned that Jesus parents brought Jesus to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover every year. It can be seen on the things of worship God, Jesus’ parents gave us a very good demonstration. Undoubtedly parents play an important role in today’s religious education. We must be concerned about our children’s spiritual education since our children are heritage from the Lord. Think about that if we earn achievement in our own business but fail children’s faith instead, how can we explain this to the Lord?

As parents, we have to teach our children by personal example. Just like Joshua told the Israeli that “as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” The second role of religious education is of course RE teachers. Not only do children like to listen to Bible stories, but they also like to imitate every action from their RE teachers. Therefore as a RE teacher, we need to more cautious of our words and deeds. Like Paul taught his student Timothy to watch his life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Religious education is the work that “take root downward”. All RE teachers should help students to reinforce the base of their faith so that they are able to accomplish great things for the Lord, also become cornerstones of our church in the future. Our children are like a blank sheet. They learn all kinds of knowledge as well as actions from us. Parents and RE teachers have responsibility to do their best letting RE run smoothly. Let our children’s faith really take roots downward. May our children grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.

Theme Survey

**Contributed by the Kindergarten Class**

What do you think “Take Root Downward” means?

- Naomi: tomato
- Faith: salad
- Hannah: take a root out of the ground
- James: apple
- Grace: take the roots out and leave the air to breathe

What do you think “Bear Fruit Upward” means?

- Naomi: banana
- Faith: strawberry
- Hannah: bearing a fruit up
- James: an apple
- Grace: growing vegetable, first you put holes and then you put the seeds
What are some bible characters that reflect a life of “taking root downward” and “bearing fruit upward”?

Samuel: Samuel grew up at the temple. He obeyed God’s Word. He did everything very carefully. He always prayed before doing anything. Also, God trusted him and loved him so much. He told Samuel almost everything that He was going to do. Therefore, Samuel became a prophet and he did very well for the rest of his life.

Daniel: For Daniel and his three friends, they were able to take root downward and bear fruit upward. They were all well-versed and knew God’s law well. Even though they were away from their homeland and had to stay with the king, they were able to keep God’s commands. They grew up prosperous and righteous because they had the word of God instilled in them.

Joshua: Joshua had faith in God even though his army was outnumbered. He walked around Jericho although it seemed weird. He listened to and obeyed whatever God commanded.

Crossword Puzzle

Contributed by the J1 Class

Across
2. Her cousin was Mordecai.
4. The woman who bled for many years touched Jesus’ ______ and was healed.
6. How much did Elisha receive of what he was asking for before Elijah was about to leave him?
8. _____ ran away from Jezebel.
10. What did Elisha ask for when Elijah was about to leave him?
11. Abram came out of the land of ____.
12. _____ got hung on his own gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

Down
1. His friends said he was suffering because he sinned.
3. ______ rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.
4. One of the steps we must take to overcome our sins is to ______ our sins.
5. “But the Counselor, the _______ ______, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things.” (Jn 14:26a)
7. “Let your ______ so shine before men, that they may see your good work and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.” Mt 5:16
9. Elijah was _______ to God.