"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s." (Ro 14:7-8)

**Words of Encouragement**

"God is love" is a simple and powerful revelation in the Bible. God loves us consistently and unconditionally, but we as His children often take this love for granted and consistently disappoint Him.

For students, it seems so easy to spend hours on secular media but so difficult to read the Bible and pray on their knees at length. For parents, it seems so easy to keep the children busy pursuing their secular goals but very challenging to nail down their spiritual blind spots. For R.E. teachers, it seems so easy to teach the students as instructors, but it surely takes more to nourish them as spiritual parents.

It becomes impossible to achieve the goals of religious education if these three failures greet and meet each other: parents having no time for their children, children showing no interest in the Bible, and teachers merely instructing students.

While we may see many “visible” obstacles, let us not forget our “invisible” God who could turn impossibles into possibles (Mt 19:26). He demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Ro 5:8). Let us all strive harder to improve our work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope (1 Th 1:3). May the Lord Jesus bless and guide our R.E. program in Houston. Amen!

Dn. Patrick Wong

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**Important Dates for 2012-2013 QIII**

First Day of Q3
March 2
Texas Youth Retreat
March 2
Gospel Tea Fellowship
March 16
Austin Camping Fellowship
April 12-14
ESSC
March 16
Last Day of Q3
May 25
Introducing Our Newest R.E. Students

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord that the number of young lambs in TJC Houston continues to grow. From babies to pre-kindergarten to kindergarten through senior class, we welcome and thank God for all of them. Please remember to continue to pray for all our R.E. students, especially since some have not been baptized yet.

First off, welcome to the newest students in our K-Senior class system: Cody, Evan, Brian (un-pictured), Hansel and Helmmy!

Helmmy Chiang, J1
Favorite school subject: Science
Favorite Bible story: Joshua
Favorite food: Pizza
Favorite fun activity: Basketball

Hansel Chiang, J1
Favorite school subject: Math
Favorite food: Pasta
Favorite fun activity: Playing piano & trumpet

Cody Federici, Kindergarten
Favorite school subject: Drawing
Favorite Bible story: Naaman
Favorite food: Cheese
Favorite fun activity: Drawing

Evan Chen, Kindergarten
Favorite school subject: Drawing
Favorite Bible story: David & Goliath
Favorite food: Fried chicken
Favorite fun activity: Playing outside, basketball
Baby Boom 2012

Nikolas Chang
Labor and delivery: 15 hours
Favorite food: Cheerios
Length of sleep: 12 hours
Fun fact: Currently crawling and standing

Eli Chang
(Induced) Labor and delivery: 11 hours
Favorite food: Rice cereal
Fun fact: Currently rolling
Which twin he is: The calm one

Ethan Chang
(Induced) Labor and delivery: 11 hours
Favorite food: Rice cereal
Fun fact: Currently rolling

Alyssa Taing
Labor and delivery: 11 hours
Favorite food: Squash
Length of sleep: 11 hours
Fun fact: Loves to smile and “chat”

Rebecca Lin
Labor and delivery: 6 hours
Favorite food: Mommy’s milk
Length of sleep: 7-12 hours
Fun fact: Loves to smile and “chat”
TJC Houston Offers Pre-K

Thank God for His blessings! Our membership is growing steadily, including a number of children. We now have Pre-Kindergarten for toddlers aged one to four years old on Sabbath morning from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We are using the nursery room at the end of the hallway, equipped with a changing table and restroom. Activities range from hymn singing to Bible stories to very simple craft making.

We hope that by having Pre-K parents can listen easily to the word of God during Sabbath morning. If a toddler is not quite independent to stay by him- or herself, parents are welcome to stay and join in the activities.

We truly thank God for the loving and caring teachers who have been nurturing our young children. May our Lord remember their labor for Him.

Sis. Lenny Wong, R.E. Coordinator

Pre-K Roster

TJC Houston members are familiar with most of the Pre-K students, but in the last year several families have joined our congregation and four of the children belong to Pre-K. Welcome to Mia, Joshua, Hannah and Collin!

Amelia “Mia” Chang
Collin Chen
Micah Chong
Michaela Chong

Hannah Chung
Joshua Chung
Elizabeth Franz
Isaac Taing

Mia
Collin
Joshua
Hannah
Kindergarten Class Sharing

What do you want to do for God this brand new year?

James Yen: I would like to sing more hymns to make people happy.

Cody Federici: Everyday I would like to come to church but I have to go to school.

Lydia Cheng: I would like Cody to come to church with me all the time.

Zaccheaus Wong: I always clean the church with a vacuum; I want to do it again!

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’” (Mt 19:14)

El Class Sharing

What is your favorite Bible story?
Faith Wong: David and Goliath
Grace Wong: Adam and Eve

Who is your favorite Bible character and why?
Faith: David because he is brave and he trusted God.
Grace: God because He created light so we can see.

What is a loving deed you have done recently?
Faith cleaned church tables.
Grace dusted her teacher’s shelf to help keep her classroom clean.

“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.” (I Jn 2:28-29)
Winter SSC Reflections

Five of TJC Houston’s J1 students attended the 2012 Winter SSC held here in Houston, while our sole J2 student attended the West Coast SSC in Baldwin Park, CA.

Hansel Chiang

In the past, I knew nothing about the 10 doctrines. I didn’t know that Sabbath day was on Saturday. My old church would always be on Sundays. My mom found this church because when she was little, she would go to church on Saturdays. She didn’t like the old church so my family stopped going on Sundays. When I came to Houston, my mom pushed me right away to this church. I still get confused sometimes when people ask me why I went to church on Saturdays.

The old church said nothing about 2nd coming or the rules of baptism. They always did the baptism in a tub above the podium. It wasn’t living water!! Now, I am going to learn more about each doctrine. Each description of each doctrine is in the back of the hymn book so I don’t have a problem with that.

The best parts of the SSC were the food and hymn singing sections. The lunch food was always good, but I had to take a shower at the time. Dinner food was the best, but everyone was off showering. There was rarely any conversation at the table. The hymn singing is great! The songs’ melodies were beautiful.

I learned a lot at this 1st SSC and I really loved it. I am growing physically and spiritually when I am here.

Helmmy Chiang

What I did this week was that I got closer to God. I didn’t like praying when I came to SSC. I always thought I prayed because of my mom, but now I enjoy praying. At the beginning it was hard, I would not concentrate, but soon I encouraged myself to pray harder.

I also learned about how media can damage you. Watching commercials too much can make you think wrong. The commercial slowly goes into your brain until you think its okay.

I also learned about relationships and One True God + One True Church. I really enjoyed coming to SSC. I learned a lot and drew near to God.

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the others, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (I Ti 4:12)
Sarah Wong

In the name of Jesus Christ, I share my thoughts and experiences from the past West Coast Winter SSC held in Baldwin Park, CA.

The theme of our spiritual convocation was *A Life of Holiness* and we learned many examples of holiness through studying the books of 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy, but also in our afternoon classes where we discussed holiness in our actions, speech, body, mind, and servitude.

Every day of our lives is a battle against the many temptations and sins of this world. In our “daily battles for holiness,” we learned we have to have the determination and make the effort to not let Satan deceive us in the many worldly things we are exposed to.

One important lesson I learned is that being holy is not easy, but God gives us the weapons to overcome sin and God’s grace can elevate us when we put in the effort (Jn 10:10). I thank God for reminding me of His wonderful grace, mercy, and the many blessings I received during my time in SSC.

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Deborah Lin

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I bear my reflection.

This SSC I learned a lot from Pastor Vuthy’s special topic class. It was about the impact of the media. Currently, or before SSC, I went on the media a lot. Every day after school, when I get bored, I would go on the computer. When I go home from SSC, I want to spend less time on the media and give more time to read the Bible. I want to stay away from the bad things in the media so I can keep my mind holy.

SSC this year was the same, yet different this time. The schedule, the routine was similar, but the speakers and classes were different. I learned many things this SSC, like why we don’t celebrate Christmas. We don’t celebrate because the origin is very evil. It came from idol worshippers.

My favorite part of SSC was the classes. The speakers were all very fun to talk to. I really enjoyed this SSC.

May all the glory and praise be unto His holy name.
Sophia Wong

In the name of the Lord Jesus I share my reflection from Winter SSC 2012.

After my last summer SSC, I made a determination to get up early in the morning just so I could pray and read the Bible. In these first few weeks I felt close to God, but after a while I slowly drew away even though I continued to do this in the morning. I would fall asleep when trying to pray and not concentrate when reading the Bible. Soon enough, I didn’t see a problem with this and even more so, I couldn’t see that I was a thousand miles away from God.

Truly, all the teachings I have learned this SSC I will treasure. Learning about the book of 1 Timothy once again reminded me that we are Christian soldiers and that we are constantly fighting in a spiritual war. This class encouraged me to know the word of God and to truly be able to study it. It is our greatest weapon in the spiritual battle, “Piercing even to the division of soul and spirit.” With the word of God, we can win this fight. Knowing this, I am motivated to study the Bible. I want to be able to write it on my heart, my eyes and my fingers. If I can do this, then I will be able to live a life of holiness.

My prayers this time were about asking God for forgiveness as well as asking for His strength so I can overcome temptations. I wish I could stay here (in SSC) forever so I won’t have to face the world and all the evil in it. But, I know I have to go out to the battlefield. From now on I will keep in my heart that salvation is my ultimate goal and that wherever I am, Jesus is always with me and watching.

May all the glory and praises be unto His name. Amen.

Timothy Yen

This SSC was not the most interesting SSC I’ve been to. However this was by far the most memorable. Usually SSC starts on the Monday in all of the attendees’ minds. This SSC really started the Saturday before SSC. When the attendees started to arrive, I felt important in the way that I could help the attendees. It was also very special to hang out with some of the counselors and students I did not know.

Usually the first two days of SSC people do not take very seriously. The first day is the day in which the people usually try to get into the SSC mindset. Some people have trouble sleeping and others with their shower slots. However, this SSC, nobody had any visible problems such as these. The second day in this SSC was the day when people started to pay attention with what the teachings of the speakers were and also the evening sharing was meaningful to all the other attendees. The sharing was about how the first day of SSC was and how close we felt to our goals. Personally I felt sharing time was the best time especially in the third day.

The third day was the day with the best sharing. The classes were about spiritual armor and how we could use God’s word as an advantage and also how misuse of the word could get us into deep trouble. However, the most important lesson that day was one true God. The One True God class helped us better understand that concept and why the belief of trinity is wrong. Each class went by quickly and it was finally sharing time. Our counselors got the two pastors to share with us. They told us many stories about brothers and sisters with faith and also some without. We also learned about both pastor’s spiritual journeys to where they stand in faith now.

When it was the fourth day, we started to ponder about our use of time during SSC. Some people believe that the way they spent their time during SSC was by trying to see how they stand in the “Media Fast.” Others decided that they spent their time trying to learn about the word of God. I was in the group who believed that we spent our time praying and also learning about the Christian lifestyle.

SSC was composed of many classes but the most memorable type of class was special topic. There were two special topic classes, one was about media and the other was about relationships. The media class was about how media can give us hidden messages and also that most times, media can affect our lives. The relationships class was about friendships, who are our friends, and our relationships in Christ. Even though it was SSC, we learned many physical knowledge and also many tactics with how to deal with the current society.

The hymnal session was edifying in both song and in teaching. The songs had a variety of words and references but all of the hymns could somehow relate to the theme of a life of holiness. I believe that the hymnal sessions kept us actively engaged and that the medium of music helped us feel the teaching better than with just a class.