Hallelujah!
Welcome to Quarter 4 edition of Houston RE Newsletter! We were blessed to have parenting workshops led by Pastor Vuthy. In the workshops all of us learned how to become better parents in the Lord. The key to any relationship is being able to listen. We live in a vast world and it is hard to do everything in 24 hours but it is important that we set aside times to listen to our loved ones with undivided attentions. We also have to lead our children through example. Our relationship with God has to be good and we cannot expect our children to have a good relationship with God if we don’t have a good relationship with God. You can find the excerpt from the workshop in this newsletter.

In May we celebrated Mother’s Day by presenting our beautiful Mothers/sisters with flowers. We truly thank God for all of their unconditional love, hard-work, and sacrifices for their families!

Also in this edition you will find more about our newly baptized RE student (Brian He), ESSC reflections from our students, J1 Fellowship, sharing from Bro. Garry Huang, and messages to Senior Class.

Take time this summer to be spiritually recharged/refreshed by attending seminars, camp, or convocations available (note age requirements).

Last but not least let us encourage one another with these verses:

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth”. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

May God bless everyone!

Relationship - Parenting in the Lord

Presented by Pr. Vuthy, Organized by Brother Gregor Franz

We thank and praise God that we have had very edifying Relationship workshops in Houston Church during 1/19-20 and 2/23-24, 2013. Below is the summary:

♦ We have all kinds of relationships in our lives. It is important to develop relationships throughout our lives.

♦ Relationship with kids starts in mother womb. It is important to take care of yourself, your relationship with your spouse, and pray a lot during pregnancy. Both mother and father have to start developing our relationship with our children while the child is in the womb and continue to strengthen it when they are growing up, not only once they can start talking and reasoning.

♦ Always emphasize the relationship with God first before asking for anything else like grades, cleanliness, etc. If relationship with God is good, everything else will follow. For this, our relationship with God has to be good too a lead by example. We cannot expect our children to have a good relationship with God if we don’t have a good relationship with God.

May God bless everyone!
Every Child is unique. So we will need different approach to each of our children. Also may have different expectations for each child.

We have to learn to listen to our children (and other important people in our lives). Children learn from what they observe from their parents. If we don’t listen to our children, they will observe this may not listen to us either.

Even though they may not have anything important or interesting to say, we have to listen to our children because it will develop their trust for the future when they have to tell us important things. Children have to feel that our attention is completely focused on them when they are talking to use. Don’t always tell them your opinion and what to do when listening to them, but ask questions to find out the background.

Through talking, listening, and paying attention to your children you will learn to observe their behavior and it will be easier to tell if something is wrong from their behavior even if they don’t tell you directly.

Both parents have to be involved in raising children. If one of the parents is not involved in raising kids, they may compensate for the lack of one parent in their personal relationships.

If you have more than one child, you have to make sure to spend time one-on-one with each of them from time. They may talk about things they don’t talk about with others around. Also spend one-on-one time with your spouse.

You can’t win every battle, but our focus has to be to win the war. Sometimes our kids may not listen or do what we know is best for them. As long as they stay within the Lord, they will be ok.

Through listening and paying attention to our children (and other people as well) we develop a relationship with them and learn about our children, their behavior, and their character.

Relationships are best developed and maintained in person, not over the phone, internet, or texting.

Praising children for something they did right is as important if not more as scolding them for something they did wrong. Don’t overdo the praising. Only praise them if they really deserve it (e.g. if they did something better than the prior time, if you know they really tried their best, etc.)

Avoid arguing with children. It shows children that they can argue with their parents. Also avoid arguing with your spouse in front of your children. Explain things calmly and teach them. An argument will usually not result in children following advice. It can also lead to a confrontation to get out of hand and both sides saying or doing things they will regret about later.

We have to give children some space and sometimes let them do what they want even if we don’t always agree. If we are too strict with them and always force them to do what we want them to do, our relationship with them will be broken.

We always have to lead by example. Therefore we have to be strong in our relationship with God. If our children always observe our strong relationship with God, they are more likely to follow us and also develop a strong relationship with God. If we don’t have a strong relationship with God or put other things before God, our children will learn from us that this is ok.

We have to give our children love at home. That way they will not need to find love somewhere else (TV, friends, drugs, etc.). The more time we spent with them, the more we can listen and build a better relationship with them.

Even if we do our best, it doesn’t guarantee that our children will stay in the Lord. But we will have a clear conscience that we tried our best.

Do you know?

If you attend any church services or listen to any announcements at church, you will hear references to many acronyms.

Do you know what each of these acronyms refer to?

NYTS  RHTS
WDC   SSC
NCC   YASC
USGA  MVP
IA    RETW
IM    RECW
NYM   CYSC

Newly Baptized RE Student—Do you know him?

Name: Brian He (何俊龍)
Age: 6 (born in Oct. 2006)
RE Class: Kindergarten
Favorite Food: Pizza, chocolates
Favorite Thing to Do: Drawing, and likes to play games
Brian is a good boy, he and his 20-year-old sister often help out in his parents’ restaurant.
### Summer Spiritual Life Planning?

You may have signed up for your summer camps, summer school, and other summer activities. How will you charge your spiritual life this summer? The church provides a variety of seminars, convocations, and other events that are targeted to a wide variety of ages. Here are some of the offerings that are available this Summer. Find the one that meets your needs and sign up today!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date and Location</th>
<th>Target Ages</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Region Young Adult Spiritual Convocation (YASC)</td>
<td>5/25 - 5/26/2013 Elizabeth Church</td>
<td>Working youths ages 18 to 40; college youths welcome</td>
<td>Theme: The Life of Isaac - Digging a Well (focus on maintaining one's spirituality in the midst of the working world)</td>
<td>May 15, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Regional High School Theological Seminar (RHTS)</td>
<td>6/17 - 6/28/2013 Garden Grove Church</td>
<td>Incoming 9th graders to Class of 2013 seniors</td>
<td>Theme: Life of Evangelism (focus on general spiritual cultivation)</td>
<td>May 19, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian National Youth Theological Seminar (NYTS)</td>
<td>6/29 - 7/14/2013 Vancouver Church</td>
<td>College students, incoming too</td>
<td>Focus on general spiritual cultivation</td>
<td>June 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Music Camp</td>
<td>6/30 - 7/5/2013 Irvine Church</td>
<td>Current E2 students to working youths</td>
<td>Theme: Spiritual Revival (focus on how to utilize music to help return to God for spiritual revival)</td>
<td>May 26, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Region Student Spiritual Convocation (SSC)</td>
<td>6/30 - 7/5/2013 Houston Church</td>
<td>Current E2 to J1 students</td>
<td>Theme: A Life of Evangelism</td>
<td>May 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Ministry Volunteer Program (PMVP)</td>
<td>7/21 - 8/4/2013 Baldwin Park Church</td>
<td>Graduates from NYTS</td>
<td>Theme: Here I Am, Send Me (focus on preparing to serve in pioneering areas)</td>
<td>July 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Youth Theological Seminar (NYTS)</td>
<td>7/21 - 8/4/2013 Baldwin Park Church</td>
<td>Ages 18+</td>
<td>Theme: Truly Know Thy Savior (focus on general spiritual cultivation)</td>
<td>July 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
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**~ Houston RE Students Say The Darndest Things ~**

**Mom asks:** "James, what story did you learn from church today?"

**James:** "……… then Elijah said, "Widow, make me a pizza..." ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Iris asks Senior Class students:**

"為什麼利未支派沒有像其他支派一樣分到一塊地?
想想看分地的目的是什麼, 有地可以做什麼?" (Why the tribe of Levites did not get their share of the land like other tribes? Think about what is the purpose of dividing lands, and what can the people use the land for?)

**Paul:** "地可以拿來蓋會堂啊......" (Lands can be used to build chapels...)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Tribute to the Moms from RE—Happy Mothers' Day!

“God’s Helpers” by George W. Wiseman

God could not be in every place
With loving hands to help erase
The teardrops from each baby’s face,
And so He thought of mother.
He could not send us here alone
And leave us to a fate unknown;
Without providing for His own,
The outstretched arms of mother.
God could not watch us night and day
And kneel beside our crib to pray,
Or kiss our little aches away;
And so He sent us mother.

And when our childhood days began,
He simply could not take command.
That’s why He placed our tiny hand
Securely into mother’s.
The days of youth slipped quickly by,
Life’s sun rose higher in the sky.
Full grown were we, yet ever nigh
To love us still, was mother.
And when life’s span of years shall end,
I know that God will gladly send,
To welcome home her child again,
That ever-faithful mother.

Flowers are prepared....
Shhhhhhh! Kids are too excited!
Happy Mothers’ Day!!

May 11th, 2013, Moms and Sisters from Houston Church
TJC Houston’s J1 class went on a fellowship outing on May 4 at Main Event in Stafford. Five out of six students were able to attend, along with two teachers and two of the students’ families. While waiting for bowling lanes to open up, the students worked a bit on their R.E. Year End presentation and shared their summers plans. Everyone ate pizza, cheered each other on, bonded and got a little bit of a workout during the two hours of bowling. May the Lord continue to guide the J1 students, teachers and their families as the 2012-2013 R.E. year finishes out in three months.
J1/J2 Sharing & Reflections
ESSC, RE Class, Holy Work, Sermon….

Sarah Wong J2

Personal Reminders for the Future College Student

As I am drawing nearer towards the process of applying for college, I realize that God has a plan for me and I must remember:

1. to make an effort to put Him first (Mt 6:33)
2. He will provide what is best for me, even if it is not according to my plans (Ps 29:11)
3. to consult God before doing anything because He is almighty and can change circumstances in times of difficulty (6x Mt 14:14)

Jophia Wong

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I give myself in whole hearted devotion. One thing I've realized is that it is not to pride, but to serve other's love those who are not like me. I'm only needed for my own religion, not to glorify Him. No matter what I do, He will be with me. I make sure that I am not using my best to serve Him, but I want to serve Him for the right reason.

Proverbs 1:7

But whoever listens to me will dwell securely and will be secure, without fear at all.

Noah! To Build an Ark!

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is the Lord. (Jeremiah 17:7)

Give with a Willing Heart

I learned to give with a willing heart, not a stubborn one. It is the heart that powers me toward to do things in the name of the Lord—serve, too.

ESSC April 2013
Connect to the Source

I was fascinated when I learned that Joseph's life was full of ups and downs. I knew that he had trouble when he was a little too old, but never knew that many difficulties. I think that everyone's life is full of ups and downs; also, but Joseph's life was full of it. Even when he was about to die and when he was just a little child.
An article I read recently deeply impressed me. It talked about the relationship between parents and children:

A father finally bought a brand-new car after saving money for a long time. He liked this car very much, so he nearly washed and polished it every day. One day, the car became dirty just after a long muddy journey. Since he was really tired, he decided not to clean it until next day.

His 5-year-old son watched the whole things, not only volunteering to help him out, but also asking to do that alone. He was proud to have such a thoughtful son and, of course, accepted his son’s request.

The little kid went to kitchen trying to find a towel, but he could not get any. A thought crossed his mind that he remembered he had observed his mom to clean cookware with stainless steel sponges. Therefore he took a sponge to “wash” the car diligently just like his mom did housework. He was getting nervous because he did not understand why the car did not become shining, but turned out to be full of scratches, instead. He went back to the house with crying and asked for his dad’s forgiveness.

The furious father locked himself in his room and knelt down to pray: Dear Lord, please teach me how to deal with it. This is my brand-new car that was bought less than one month ago. Now it’s totally ruined. How could I punish my child for his evil behavior? After done with the praying, one sound came up in his mind: man takes note of the outer form, but the Lord sees the heart.

In our daily life, quite often we cannot truly understand what people think. At home, we are bothered with our moms’ exhortations; at church, we argue against our brothers and sisters on certain projects. This is because we could not see through people’s hearts and realize what their intentions are. If we could understand every reminding of our parents who truly love us as well as every advise from our church members who really want our church to become better and full of love, then we could absolutely change our mind. Our hearts would also overflow with gratitude.

Sharing .......

Brother Garry Hwang
Iris: “我留下平安給你們： 我將我的平安賜給你們。我所賜的，不像世人所賜的。你們心裡不要憂愁，也不要膽怯。”(約翰福音14:27)

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Garry:
信心會讓你看见更多的神蹟，也能讓你更有耐心地等待即將到來的祝福。親愛的孩子，藉著對神信心，萬事都能做成。
With faith you will see more miracles. With faith you will have the patience to wait for the blessings. Dear children, with the faith in God, we can do everything.

Evelina: 想想，... 與這些美好的人物做好朋友吧：
但以理及約瑟— 在異國異鄉仍持守信仰；

Think about this— we can be friends with these amazing bible characters:
Daniel and Joseph, they both kept their faith to God even when they were in foreign lands;
Esther, she did not care for physical beauty; through her faith in God she saved her people, though her life was in danger.
David, in order to uphold the name of God and His anointed, he did not care about his own safety and welfare.

Shu-Jane: 年輕是寶貴的，“不可叫人小看你年輕，總要在言語、行為、愛心、信心、清潔上，都作信徒的榜樣。”
(提摩太前書 4:12)
We should cherish our time in youth. “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

Thomas: I am so glad to see many young adults eager to pursue the words of God. It is encouraging to see how much they have grown with God! (我真高興看到這麼多的年輕人認真追求神的話，能夠看見大家在主裏成長我感到很欣慰。)

Do you know these hymns from our hymnbook?
(These segments are taken from 6 different hymns, could be from any part of these hymns.)