Praise and thank God for such a wonderful SSC!

This past summer the 2011 Central Region Summer Student Spiritual Convocation was held at Dallas Church. A total of 37 students and 8 counselors were able to come together to learn God’s teachings and commune with Him daily. Thanks to God’s arrangement, Pr. Wen Yeh, Pr. Jason Hu, Dn. Paul Ho, and Bro. Patrick Wong were sent to teach classes this time.

The theme during this SSC was “A Life of Love.” Through classes such as Philippians, Sabbath, Love and Family, and A Life of Love, we were able to learn how God has shown His love to His people and how critical His love is for our lives today. Thanks to His grace, God not allow allowed us to learn about His love through His word, but also to experience His love directly: 7 students received the Holy Spirit this time! How wonderful is God’s grace and love for us! That He would give us His spirit that we may call Him, “Abba, Father!”

There were also many first time attendees from the E2 class during this SSC. Praise God, the older attendees really stepped up and showed love to their younger brethren—teaching them how to follow the classroom rules, helping them get food, singing hymns together with them, and joining them in prayer. It was like a scene out of Acts 2:42: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Praise and thank God! May we continue to ground ourselves in His truth that we may live out His love and not our own.

SSC Coordinators

ssc stats:

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Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. (John 13:1)
E2 Student Reflections

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I share my reflection. I am writing about how I received the Holy Spirit. It was Wednesday June 29, 2011 my three friends Lauren, Deborah, and Jordan were praying very hard. I prayed for all of us to get the Holy Spirit. Suddenly I felt hot air coming down on me. I felt the Holy Spirit, but I still did not know that I received it. At the end of the prayer Pastor Hu said, “Some people got the Holy Spirit.” Then I started thinking “I think I have Holy Spirit.” Then Pastor Hu said, “Vivian, Lauren, Jordan, and Deborah got the Holy Spirit.” We all jumped and cried and everyone came to hug us. For those who don’t have the Holy Spirit please pray hard and open your mouth WIDE!! W-i-D-E wide, then God will fill it with Holy Spirit. May All the glory and praise be unto God’s name. AMEN! May the Lord bless you!!

Vivian Liu

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ I share my reflection. This SSC the theme was “A Life of Love” and I learned that if you have faith, knowledge, you’re humble, but you have no love, then you are nothing. So love is very important.

Now I will share how I got the Holy Spirit. It was in the Afternoon Prayer when we went up. When I started praying I thought as if it was my last day. My tongue started to roll and my hands started to shake. I felt very warm and peaceful. After prayer like that for about 20 minutes I thought I got the Holy Spirit. When the bell rang, one of the pastors said, “Vivian, Lauren, Deborah, and Jordan got the Holy Spirit.” I was so happy I cried a little. I thanked God and May all the glory be unto Your name. Amen.

Lauren Oh (my 1st SSC 😊)

Daniel Bae

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ I share what I felt when I prayed. This SSC when I prayed I felt like God was hugging me in a quiet half light, half dark room. I felt joy slowly seeping in my body. I feel like I should do more holy stuff and not to sin so much because I keep doing electronics. Amen.

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ I testify how I got the Holy Spirit. I got the Holy Spirit on Wednesday, June 29th. I was praying in the afternoon prayer with everyone else. At first I did not know I had the Holy Spirit, after the prayer everyone said I had the Holy Spirit. I thank God I got the Holy Spirit.

Jordan Zon

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ I share my testimony. I’ve been through 5 days in church. And for newcomers, the days went by fast! My favorite class was about Dorcas. I taught me that if you believe God, He will send some (angel, human, whatever) one to help. The most encouraging thing was when Pr. Yeh said, “Imagine if in the next class God calls his disciples to heaven.” Thank you for listening and have a nice day.

WenSheng Liu

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I share my reflection. I learned that if you open your eyes when you pray, you will not get the Holy Spirit and I usually do that so I said to myself to keep my eyes closed and so I did and the preachers said I almost got the Holy Spirit. I learned at class about peer pressure is like your friend telling you what to do and that’s what is peer pressure. Amen.

Kris Wu
In the name of Jesus Christ I give my reflection. So I arrived at around 5:30pm on Saturday with a few other Houston Church members. When I arrived I was looking around for my room. Then I found out I was sleeping in the chapel. At first I thought they were joking. But then I found out WORSE news. The E2 students had to sleep early because of the newcomers. I talked with my friends and they said, “Well at least you get 30 more minutes of sleep.” I had to admit it was true but I found out there was absolutely no dessert. So I was looking forward to an SSC that was a bit different.

On Sunday I looked at the schedule. Then I prayed hard for the Holy Spirit but I did not get it. I prayed hard the next day and did not get it. It made an effort to fast but even though I could feel closer to God, I still did not receive it. I then had the first good prayer this SSC. I knew I was a sinner. I repented again and again until I felt sinless. However, I kept on going to the prayer room because I was determined to get the Holy Spirit.

The theme this time was Life of Love and it was beneficial to me because I really lacked love. I know Jesus died for me because he loved me along with other men of the earth. Jesus also picked us because he loved us. I also learned the fraction of being chosen is 1/6000. I also enjoyed the special topics and hymn singing a lot. May all the praises be given to God.

Timmy Yen

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ I share my reflection on 2011 SSC. This year’s topic is A Life of Love. The classes talked about how to live a life of love and provided examples in the Bible. Also, the preachers and counselors encouraged to pray hard and, because we had new students, pray for Holy Spirit. Thank God 6 students received Holy Spirit, we were all moved by this and a counselor shared his feelings toward this news. This news also moved me to understand God was definitely here. This is my 3rd SSC here and I finally understand the actual purpose of SSC. The 1st year of SSC (2009) for me was all focused on Holy Spirit (I did receive Holy Spirit). I can’t quite remember what I learned in 2010 SSC, but examining myself. This year I learned why we need the fullness of the Holy Spirit, what love means, and the purpose about us, Sabbath, church, and life. During this SSC, Pastor Jason Hu really seemed to talk directly to me in sermons and class. Now I hope I can fulfill my resolve for daily life. I look forward to the next SSC if Judgment Day does not come this or next year. May all the glory be unto His holy name. Amen.

Ivan Yang

Hallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I testify. It was in the summer SSC of 2011 that this wonderful experience happened. It was the evening prayer on Tuesday and all the students were praying. As we all know, the Dallas chapel was considered small with all of the people inside it. My counselor had told us to pray like it was our last prayer. All of my group without the Holy Spirit took that very seriously. For me, I was just like, “ok, maybe this isn’t my last prayer, but I should still listen to my counselor.”

When I was praying, I closed my eyes and concentrated, I remembered that the pastors told us to open our mouth when praying. So, I opened my mouth and prayed. Like I said earlier, the Dallas chapel seemed small, but when I was praying, it seemed like the chapel was refurbished and new. The chapel was gigantic and you could really feel the church praying in unity. Everything I saw was white and in one corner was a bright light as if Jesus was standing there. The floor was made of marble but God let the marble feel like carpet so we wouldn’t get as tired when praying. I didn’t see anything else besides that. But seeing that everything was white, it seemed as if everything was pure and holy. This continued to happen until the being rang.

I thank God that I was able to see and experience this. May all the glory and praise be unto God’s name. Amen.

Erlinda Chew
J1 Student Reflections

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I give a reflection about the 2011 Summer SSC. The theme was a Life of Love. I think for me, before this SSC, I forgot about his unconditional love. But in this SSC, I have come to know his love. His love cannot be measured, and for some it is incomprehensible.

I have learned so many precious teachings this SSC. I will be able to apply them to my life and hopefully be able to love others just as He loves us. I am now able to transcend obstacles such as death and worldly things. I now know that in everything we do, we have to love, otherwise it is nothing. From know on, I will use knowledge and love to edify and do things for an imperishable crown.

I could really see God working in this SSC. It touched me to hear everyone around me praying so earnestly. I remember on one night four girls received the Holy Spirit in the same prayer, praying right next each other. It showed me that God listens and answers, if you just ask.

In 1 Corinthians 13:13 it says: "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." From now on, I will remember this verse and His love. I will continue to live a life of love. Throughout my life I will make sure to never thirst or hunger for spiritual drink of food. May all the glory and praise be given unto His holy name.

Sophia Wong

"Parakeets eat boiled pineapples," this was the beginning of an acronym to help our J1 class to memorize 1 Cor 13:4-8a. It didn’t really work for me, but I did find it amusing enough to recall it.

This SSC, I came into it like any other, up till a few days before, I would be indifferent to the upcoming event, and live my life as usual, in the few days before SSC, I started to come up with goals, like quitting videogames, but never expecting to achieve that goal.

However, this SSC, I want to be different, I don’t want to waste my time and walk away empty handed like all the other times. I heard from a pastor that whenever he wanted to seek his own will, he would pray until that feeling subsided, I can use that at home.

Every SSC, I would also formulate the goal of improving relations with my family, it never worked out, last year I managed to suggest a family altar, but it died after a few weeks. When I get home I wish to renew the effort to pray and read the Bible every night with my family. I figure if the whole family participates, it won’t be as hard.

What really touched me this SSC, were the nightly encouragements before evening prayer, even though the encouragements were mostly to encourage kids to pray for the Holy Spirit, I feel they still can apply to me. They got me to pray harder and seek the Lord’s kingdom and his righteousness first.

So when I get home in a few days, I plan to lead a life that’s at least a little more set apart to God, because even that would be an improvement. Unlike the other SSC’s which ended up simply being a short break in my long life of seeking only the good of myself.

(Psalm 27:4) If I could live in Church my whole life, I wouldn’t have to deal with temptations; but I have to go home, and then I’m going to try and prove to myself that I can change and live a Godly life.

Matt Cheng

The memorable events this time at SSC were that so many people here received the Holy Spirit. I learned that you should love in our daily lives. I struggled with opening my eyes in prayers my determination is to try to get to the top of the mountain, as I said in my prayers, I usually open my eyes, but some of the prayer, even though I opened my eyes in the beginning the first few minutes, then towards the end 15 to 20 mins, or maybe 25 mins I was very concentrated. What I want to do after SSC is to draw even closer to God.

David Pan

The most memorable event during SSC was 6/29/11, Wednesday, when 6 people received the Holy Spirit. During the afternoon prayer, 4 sisters received the Holy Spirit. Also during the prayer, I felt really full of the Holy Spirit. Thank God. During this SSC, I have learned how to properly observe the Sabbath. Before, I would always look forward to playing computer games right after church services on Saturdays. Since my parents let me not do homework. Now I am going to try to avoid the computer and the TV completely on Saturdays. During many of the prayers, I struggled to stay focused on what I should have been praying about. Although it wasn’t as bad as it was when I prayed at home. Because at home, when I prayed, I would think about games. Now I am going to try to change that. Also, I am going to keep praying for my fellow brothers without the Holy Spirit.

John Yang
My name is Peter and this is my life story, but first a little about my personality. Some say I’m an admirable type, confiding courageous and freedom-loving. My shortcomings are that I am capricious and eager for novelty.

I grew up in a wealthy family, had a house in Capernaum. I liked fishing, so when I grew up I ran a fishing business with my brother in Bethsaida. When I grew to know Jesus and became a part of his inner circle with James and John, I would often take my wife with me on missionary and pastoral journeys. I had three names, Peter, my well-known Greek American name, Simon my Hebrew name and Cephas my Arabic name. When Jesus found me, he called me twice. He said he would make me a fisher of men. And he did. He taught me so much. He completely transformed me. One day when me and some other men were out at sea, Jesus appeared, walking on water. I trusted him, so I leapt out of the boat and started towards Jesus, but the winds scared me and I started to doubt and sink. Jesus saved me as he always will.

Alex Todd

Hi! I’m Peter, also formerly known as Simon, son of John. Jesus changed my name when I met him, but I’ll explain that later. I came from a wealthy family and established a fishing business in Bethsaida. I have a house in Capernaum and married my wife occasionally comes on my missionary trips.

I met Jesus when my brother Andrew started following Him and introduced us. Jesus then called me Cephas, or Peter, both meaning “rock”. However, it was only when Andrew and I were at the sea of Galilee fishing then. Jesus called me again and I decided to become a “fisher of men”. I joined several other loyal disciples, and we left all we had to do this good work. I believed that Jesus was the son of God, and my faith grew in Him as the Messiah as I witnessed miracles and signs.

Being a disciple required sacrifices—forsaking our possessions, bearing a “cross”, but it was well worth it. I could walk on the water with Jesus, though I needed to improve my faith because I nearly drowned! I did have some regrets—my arrogance led to me proclaiming I would never stumble, but after I denied Jesus 3 times at his crucifixion, I regretted it and learned from my mistake. I still have a lot more to learn from Jesus—about forgiveness, humility, faith, and strength. Following Jesus has been a difficult journey but a reward as well!

After Jesus’ resurrection, I have become a missionary to spread the good news in hope others can be transformed, too!

Amber Lo
J2 Writings:

Peer Pressure

Before today’s classes on peer pressure, I thought that going to a college far from church or without a campus fellowship wasn’t extremely negative in any way. However, time and again I was proven wrong through the testimonies of several brothers in Christ. Their experiences of positive peer pressure by being surrounded by like Christians and how they grew spiritually through the college experience encouraged me to seriously change and reconsider my previous opinions on the geographical location of the college.

Positive peer pressure is crucial for spiritual growth, and I believe many of the brothers and sisters in Christ were able to overcome challenges together rather than being alone. I now believe that being alone (as a TJC member) amongst a diverse and secular crowd can sway us easily whether our faith is strong or weak if we are alone. With positive peer pressure by surrounding members, there is a foundation in which to build upon and a support group that will pray for one another. Thus, though I thought that I would never be affected by negative peer pressure in college, or that it wasn’t a big deal—I now believe that it is a giant influence and potential harm during crucial years of my life. My outlook on applying to colleges (which is fast approaching) has completely changed to making it necessary that my future college is near fellow members of Christ.

Kathleen Oh

Today in class I learned that there are good and bad peer pressures. Although things may look popular it’s not always good for anyone, especially Christians.

We as Christians should set an example for those who are not and really show others that God is with us and not be embarrassed to stand up in what we believe in.

Although today there are lots of temptations around us as we grow up. We should always try to resist the peer pressure by relying on God and asking him for help.

After this class, I am determined to not be like others and be strong and courageous enough to show others I’m different and that I am a Christian of True Jesus Church.

Esther Bae

I learned today about peer pressure, both the negative and positive. What I learned kind of shocked me, or at least changed the way I viewed friendship and the way I behaved.

I realize that as a teenager, I am subject to peer pressure, but can also exercise positive influence and not give into bad influence. By behaving in a godly manner always, there will be a godly influence on those around, promoting good things conducive to drawing closer to God. By actively combating popular peer pressures, hopefully I can show that with God’s grace there are better, more fulfilling things in life and demonstrate that the things of this world are not worth pursuing.

As a friend, a brother in Christ, I also have the responsibility not to give into negative pressure to show positive pressure to my fellow brothers and sisters. I should not treat them simply like friends of the world, speaking about worldly things, encouraging it, and drawing them away from God. Rather, by insight for God, I should overlook worldly things and not bend over in fear of the full force of negative peer pressure, even from my brothers or sisters. I must learn to be a godly friend to all, especially brothers and sisters. I must learn to encourage and look past outward appearances and look to the well being of their faith and soul.

It is time for us Christians to get out from negative pressure and with God’s complete guidance, exert our own positive pressure that denounces worldly things and promotes spiritual health. We cannot give in, we cannot give up. We have to fight darkness and shine as a light for the men of the world.

Kenneth Zon

The peer pressure class has really given me a lot of inspiration to stand out and be different, especially all the testimonies. At school, most of my good friends know I attend TJC, and are pretty strong Christians themselves in their own churches. But a lot of them may not know how different, how special TJC is because we’ve only talked really generally about God. I hope that after SSC 1 can show them how TJC is different from their churches through my actions and words.

I’m also not really sure if other not-as-close friends and classmates know that I’m a Christian, much less a TJC member. I hope I can really build up my faith this summer, and when I go back to school in August, really show everyone that I’m a Christian and not be afraid to stand out.

One good example of standing out is saying grace at lunch. At the beginning of the school year last fall, I just said grace really quickly in my head. During second semester, however, my other Christian friends who had my lunch (non TJC members) and I decided to start taking turns saying grace out loud together.

If my other friends are already so strong, how much stronger do I need to be to really show them TJC is special? My goal is to be at a point where I can do that this fall...

Amy Ekiriwang

I thank God that I got to listen to so many real life testimonies that were about how to avoid negative peer pressure by exerting positive peer pressure. I go to a school with absolutely no brothers or sisters in Christ and for me, I’ve always had to fend for myself.

To be honest, I was much enticed by the pressures exerted by my peers whether it being socially acceptable, language usage, and even to the point of relationships. It never reached my mind that even though everything felt naturally alright, I was committing minor sins that the Holy Spirit within me rebuked. After every reflection, I would determine myself to strive not to be influenced by my friends. I would win some battles but generally I lost some of my battles due to my past and weak self. The more I thought about, I realized that most of what my friends were doing were non-christian like at all. Soon I tried to completely ignore their actions and rely on my judgement to choose what was right and wrong. It’s really tough through as I have no one to really fall upon except the Lord Jesus Christ. I’ve learned today that I’m really not alone as I have brothers and sisters to council me. I really need to pray for God’s guidance to lead me along the holy path.

Thomas Hsu
Counselor Reflections

Thank God I had the opportunity to attend Dallas SSC again. Every year I can truly feel the presence of God and the power of God working among us. What a blessing it is to take part in this fellowship!

I could really feel the counselors working with the same mind at this SSC. I was particularly touched by the zealous efforts to have counselor prayers together for 30 minutes every night and have weekly Bible studies. This really helped in spiritual preparation for SSC and getting everyone in the same spirit.

This SSC motivated me to show more love to brothers and sisters through sacrificing our own freedoms. Even though some things we do are okay, are not wrong, or are even things we deserve to do or have, we should be willing to sacrifice them if it means benefiting others in the gospel.

May God continue to help us in this narrow path!

Albert Chen

Thank God for His abidance throughout this SSC. With this holy work, I have personally witnessed and experienced the power of prayer and strength in unity. Let us continue to reach for a higher ground and allow nothing to quench the fire that God has kindled in us. May ALL the glory and praise be unto our heavenly Father. Amen.

"For though i am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ." (Colossians 2:5)

Until next time!

Amber Chang

It is recorded in Exodus 17 that the power of Moses’ prayer had helped Israel won the battle with Amalek. While Joshua fought with Amalek, Moses, Aaron and Hur went up the hill to pray to God. “And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.” (Exodus 17:11). We are always reminded how “prayer of faith can save the sick”(James 5:15). In this SSC, I have again witnessed and truly experienced the power and joy of prayer. We, the counselors, were asked to pray harder for this SSC because there were some issues between the church and parents that caused changes in this SSC. So, we agreed to pray for 30 minutes daily and bible reading weekly via SkyPE one month prior to this SSC began. During the month before SSC, there was no single day that I would quit praying for the smooth of SSC although I did not know the exact problems of what the SSC committees encountered. Praise and thank God that we had a smooth SSC, not only that, He let our 7 students went home with the promised Holy Spirit. Our God is truly a merciful and faithful God. May all the glory and praises be onto His name. Amen!

Evelyn Chew

This past SSC, I learned lessons not only from sitting in on J1 classes, but also from all the students at SSC. I was reminded of God’s great love for us — how He came down to this earth as man to die for us — and how this is the love that spurs us to love Him and His sheep. Because He first loved us, we love Him and want to return His love. In other words, His love compels our love.

As I watched all the students this SSC, I was touched by how diligently they pursued God and desired to draw close to Him. Many of the E2 students did not even care for food or drink as they determined to touch God this SSC and receive His precious Spirit. This heart of pursuing God really touched me, and I’m sure it also touched God, as He answered many of their prayers. As the Bible tells us, God will be found by us if we seek Him with all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

This SSC, I was also reminded of the heart and duty of preaching the gospel and loving the souls of our friends. I was touched by students’ desire to share the Truth with their friends, and this, too, is a form of love.

May we all continue to love God after SSC and to not be content with simply learning lessons and touching God during SSC. Instead, let us also take these lessons back home and continue to pursue God so that we may receive His Spirit, be filled with Him, and that our daily actions may always reflect His love. Let us continue to trust in Him through prayer and live a life that glorifies His name! 😊

Priscilla Lo
glorify God and leave nothing on themselves.

It’s been a while after the SSC, but let us keep the wonderful memory in our mind so we can constantly be encouraged throughout the rest of the year.

Kyle Sung

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I share my reflection.

Praise and thank God for His love, guidance, mercy, and grace for allowing us to have a fruitful SSC. Sis Janet and I were able to spend quality times with E2 girls this SSC. Sometimes we often think that E2 students are still very young and we tend to prevent them from doing certain things because they are not capable yet. But this SSC these girls showed that they can pursue God with their whole heart and with love they show concern for each other. In our group there is only 1 E2 girl, Erlinda, who had received Holy Spirit and 5 have not. We shared the goal of coming to SSC which was to receive Holy Spirit and to draw closer to God. Starting from day 1 they listened carefully, took notes, prayed really hard, did cleaning duties, shared during bible study times, and night time sharing.

We normally discussed our cleaning duties after bible study and the morning. That day I had read the schedule by mistake. I told them that they have 2 cleaning jobs instead of one (washing dishes and cleaning the bathroom). When I realized that I made the mistake and made them cleaned more they responded graciously, “It is ok, we can clean more because we love God and He will be proud of us!” I was so touched!

The pastors and counselors had been encouraging all of the students to pray earnestly, to open their mouth wide, to repent, and to pray like it is their last prayer. On Tuesday all of the girls had been praying really hard and during sharing time at night Erlinda shared that she saw a vision (she wrote her testimony about her vision later). Another girl Deborah who had also been praying really hard told us that she felt very comforted that God was going to take care of all her worries. Everyone else also shared and we were all encouraged.

The next day, Wednesday, was our group goal to fast breakfast. Everyone continued to pray really hard and by the end of afternoon prayer we were told that some students have received Holy Spirit, total of 4 students. We were all overjoyed with the wonderful news! Praise and thank God! While they were so joyful receiving the Holy Spirit, they felt that they needed to pray even harder because now there is only another sister who yet is to receive HS. After evening prayer, everyone moved to the prayer room and prayed really earnestly for another 30 minutes praying for this sister. I was moved to tears by their love!

This SSC has really encouraged me greatly. Seeing God’s love upon us by pouring out His precious Holy Spirit and guiding our whole week smoothly. Seeing these wonderful little sisters pursue God with all their hearts and practicing what they learned to live a life of love. Even though they are very young but they showed their steadfastness, purity, obedience, and love God and others. May God continue to guide their heavenly pathways.

“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 Tim 4:12)

May all the praises, glory, and honor be unto our only Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Lenny Wong

At the end of the day, I still cannot fully understand. Who am I that God should bestow so much grace and blessing? To work with such enjoyable co-workers, to have such adorable students (yes, even you, J2), and to witness such incredible power of the true and living God.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord! Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

Daniel Jeng