

Content:

Quite the "R-Rated" Experience
Experiencing God's Love

Christina Choi
Pastor Larry Farnen

**GCBCR
Vacation Bible
School**
儿童暑期圣经学校
6/15/09-6/19/09



**CBCR
Vacation Bible
School**
假期聖經學校
6/22/09-6/26/09



**Congratulations
to our 2009
Graduates**



列治文華人浸信會:

(地址:1800 Parkway Lane, Richmond, VA 23225)

Ø 英文堂: 星期日上午九時三十分.

Ø 中文堂: 星期日上午十一時.

Ø 粵語聚會: 第一星期日下午二時半

每月第一個星期日: 九時三十分 為主餐聚會.

十一時為英文與中文的聯合崇拜

Website: <http://cbcvirginia.org>

列治文華恩浸信會:

(地址:2101 N. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23229

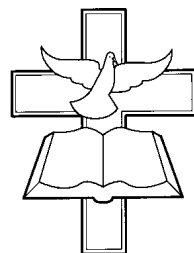
Parham Road 浸信會內)

Ø 主日崇拜及兒童主日學: 星期日下午三時一刻

Ø 成人主日學及英語崇拜: 星期日下午二時

每月第一個星期日同樣時間為主餐聚會

Website: <http://www.gcbcr.org>



Chinese Baptist Church of Richmond

列治文華人浸信會

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Richmond, VA 23225

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靈性生活

SPIRITUAL LIFE

June 2009

Chinese Baptist Church of Richmond
Grace Chinese Baptist Church of Richmond



Christina Choi

In light of this past Lynchburg Retreat, I'd like to talk about the first college retreat that I went on this past fall. I had just joined Chi Alpha, one of UVA's largest Christian fellowships, and my core group had been encouraging all of the members in my group to come out for this retreat in Gore, VA. The theme of this retreat was "R-Rated," and none of us knew what to expect, much less what kind of activities we would do in the middle of nowhere. The most we knew was that Gore, VA was three hours away from Charlottesville and in the mountains somewhere. Nevertheless, a group of us decided to go, and I was so excited to get closer with the girls in my core group as well as the rest of Chi Alpha.

The three hour drive was so much fun because I ended up carpooling with a few friends. It was so good getting to know each one of them better, and I felt so comfortable talking to them about anything. When we arrived at the retreat site, we were one of the first ones there. All of us were filled with anticipation as the cars started to pull in, and we were looking forward to some great nights of worship and lessons from our guest speaker. Later on that night, we found out that "R-Rated" meant relationship, and our speaker, Jonathan Gainsborough, emphasized keeping a strong relationship with God. He spoke on how it was important to have relationships with non-Christians, Christians, and most importantly, God.

Our activities after the sermons were the best bonding times for my core group and other Chi Alpha people. I met so many fellow UVA Christians through our meals at the dining hall as well as the group hiking trips. It was so refreshing to get away from Charlottesville and enjoy God's creation at Pine Creek Camp. On our hike, we got to appreciate nature to the fullest, and I was able to fellowship with the other girls in my core group. Through this retreat, I realized the importance of fellowship and keeping up with not only my non-Christian friends but building myself around believers as well. They keep me accountable, and I love each and every one of them.

My core group's theme verse for this year was 1 Peter 4:8, which says "above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." This fall retreat set the tone for my core group, and we were able to share experiences with each other in an open forum without any doubts or insecurities throughout the year. It was so encouraging seeing God's love through these college students. They made it a point to make me feel included and really plugged me into Chi Alpha. No matter how different everyone's personalities were, we all had one thing in common: we believed in the one true God. This was enough to create conversation, grow deeper in His love, and build each other up in Christ. Without this retreat, I would not have seen this strong presence of God among my brothers and sisters in Christ, and this new family that I have been adopted into has made my spiritual life at UVA so much stronger.

Experiencing God's Love

Pastor Larry Farnen



In Ephesians 5:25, the apostle Paul tells us that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. If you have attended church much or done a Christian marriage seminar, you have probably heard this verse used to instruct husbands how to love their wives. That is, of course, the primary application of this verse. But couched inside this verse is a statement that is often overlooked, but is very important to our Christian faith. That statement is made about the church: that Christ died for her.

I would venture to say most of us think of the death of Christ as applying to individuals. We think of Christ as loving me and as loving you and other individual people, but we less often consider that Christ loved *the church*.

What is the church? The church is the community of those who have called upon Christ for salvation and have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church is manifest in a multitude of local churches in our community, in our nation and in the world.

Christ came and died, not simply to save individuals from eternal damnation, but to establish a community on earth that would continue the work that he began, that would carry the message of the gospel and that would manifest Christ's love to the world.

For the community that is the church to do this work of manifesting Christ's love, the members of the church must live in peace and harmony with each other. The 133rd Psalm describes the healing balm which unity is by referring to the holy oil that was poured on the head of Aaron when Moses anointed him the high priest. Perhaps, like me, you find that image a little hard to relate to. But the Psalm continues by comparing unity to dew upon Mount Hermon, the highest mountain in Israel, and on the mountains of Zion, the most sacred place in Israel. *That I understand*; it is a refreshing picture, a picture of blessing and life. That is what unity is to those who experience it. You will notice this as you read the testimony shared in this newsletter by Christina.

In her college Christian fellowship, she has experienced oneness in fellowship, and it has been refreshing, a balm to the soul, a blessing, a source of joy. This is what Christ intends for us in His church.

He gave himself in order to create the church, through whom his life and love could be communicated to and shared with a lost and hurting world.

This is why the Apostle John is so emphatic about the importance of love among those who believe in Christ. He says, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen." In the church, we are given opportunity not just to talk about love and service to Christ, but to actually perform it. This isn't always easy, is it? The church is composed of all kinds of different people, of differing levels of maturity and of differing personalities. Sometimes the church feels less like a balm and a bit more like a refiner's furnace. But if we run away from the discomfort of conflicts rather than learning the love that Christ desires to teach us through those conflicts, we will never be conformed to the image of Christ—we will never be people who know how to love the way Christ calls us to love. And the church will be the poorer for it.

In the same way, if we do not learn what Paul says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves," we will probably never stop being a source of conflict in the church. And the church will be the poorer for it.

In a world that longs for love, for a place of rest and joy, the church should be an oasis in the desert. Dear Christian, are you making the church that kind of place? Do you walk in love with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you able to walk in refreshing fellowship with them, free from self-serving and pride? Do you find strength in fellowship that empowers you to reach out and love a lost and hurting world?

Dear friend who does not yet know Christ, there is a place of rest in God. It can be seen in the life of those who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ. It can be found in relationship with him. And it can be experienced in the community of his disciples, united in faith, hope and love.

Church News

Welcome to both Vacation Bible Schools (VBS), please register separately!
歡迎小朋友連續參加兩個不同的暑期聖經學校，請分別報名。

Grace Chinese Baptist Church (GCBCR)
列治文華恩浸信會
June 15 (Mon.) to June 19 (Fri.)

Chinese Baptist Church (CBCR)
列治文華人浸信會
June 22 (Mon.) to June 26 (Fri.)

Grace Chinese Baptist Church of Richmond
2009 Vacation Bible School
暑期圣经学校

STUDIO GO!

- Date: 6/15-6/19
- Time: 9:00am-12:00pm
- Address: Parham Road Baptist Church
2101 North Parham Rd,
Richmond, VA 23229
- Theme: Studio Go!
- Age: 4-12 years old
- MOM's class: 美发美容·身体操练
音乐·圣经教导孩子
- Contact: 傅美瑜 804-965-9697
刘安安 804-217-7137

Calling children age 4 (born before 6/22/05) to 6th grade
這活動適合滿四歲(6/22/05 前出生)至六年級的小朋友參加



Location 地點: 1800 Parkway Lane,
Richmond, VA 23225
(804) 745-0709

Time 時間: 9:00am to 12:00noon

Contact person 聯絡人:

Yu-yu Du (趙幼愉): 755-4422
Agnes Yang (諸瑞琴): 371-9404

At the same time, we also offer classes for mothers (paper and pearl crafts) and baby-sitting will be provided.
同時間, 設有媽媽班: (星期一至三) 紙藝茶壺, 指導: 梅惠秀
(星期四至五) 串珠動物, 指導: 蔡師母
教會並提供幼兒照顧服務。

Registration form can be downloaded from www.cbcrvirginia.org
報名表格可從教會網站 (cbcrvirginia.org) 下載。

Congratulations to our 2009 Graduates:

Graduated From High School:

Alex Chan, Krislyne Chua, Philip Chung, Long Huang, Catherine Jansch, Yun Li, Andrew Lin, Janet Long, Serena Tang, Timothy Yang, and Linda Zheng.

Graduated From College / Graduate School:

Christine Chan, May Chan, Perritt Chan, Deborah Chu, Kevin Fu, Evelyn Lam (graduated in Dec.), and Tyler Wang.

