

## CULTIVATING LEADERS

By Shiao Chong, CRC Campus Minister, York University

Leadership, Culture and Christianity is the student club at York whereby my ministry incarnates itself. As its name suggests, one of my ministry's aims is to cultivate future Christian leaders for God's kingdom mission in the world. Here are some highlights of the past few months that connect to that theme of cultivating leaders.

### Faith & Social Justice Conference Trip in January

Leaders should be ongoing learners. I took two emerging student leaders from York to Redeemer University College's annual Faith and Social Justice Conference in January 2010. Sue Schaafsma, secretary of the student club, and Bryan Miles, who this academic year is the club's treasurer, both learned a great deal from the conference keynotes and various workshops. They hope to apply what they learned into their lives and mission for God.



L to R: Sue Schaafsma, Bryan Miles and Chong

### Hosting Classis Toronto in May



Classis Toronto delegates at York University listening to Chong's opening devotion.



Established leaders too need to continue learning in order to continue growing. This past May, LOGOS played host to Classis Toronto at York University for the first time. Members of the campus ministry committee welcomed and directed delegates to the meeting room. I led the opening worship and gave a devotion on "Spirit-Born

Leaders". You can read my devotion at my blog: <http://3dchristianity.wordpress.com/2010/09/01/spirit-born-leaders/> Oh, by the way, I now have a blog! You can find it at **3dchristianity.wordpress.com**. I also led a ministry equipping session on "Leading in a Multi-Cultural and Multi-Faith World" as my contribution to cultivating the leadership skills of established leaders among the delegates.

### Facing Your Future in July

We can start looking for Spirit-born leaders from an early age. This year, I am again privileged to partner with Friendship Community Church and host a group of 11 high school CRC youths from the US and Canada as part of Calvin Theological Seminary's annual Facing Your Future program that exposes youths to various ministry opportunities to help them discern their calling and mission from God. These future leaders were introduced to refugee ministry at Matthew House, inner-city ministry at Yonge Street Mission, youth ministry through Benjamin Osei's day camp, disabilities ministry at L'Arche Daybreak Community, among other things, including various workshops. I pray that these young people will grow to be Christian leaders for our denomination and for the world for God's glory.



Chong with this year's Facing Your Future group at the Toronto site.

## September, Prayer and Campus Ministry

By Brian Walsh, CRC Campus Minister, U of Toronto

Last September I sent out an email late one Sunday night inviting folks to join me for prayer at the beginning of this semester on Tuesday morning. When the morning came I didn't really know if I'd be praying alone or with a room full of people. Five showed up. We talked for a while, and then spent some time in prayer. Good time. Good prayer. Community enriching prayer.

And then, while we were sort of packing up and getting ready to move on with the rest of the day, one of the students present said to me, "This was the first time that I have prayed in public in six years." And she thanked me for making this possible for her.

Elizabeth has been a part of our ministry community for three of those six years. And come to think of it, I'd never noticed that she hadn't prayed out loud in our midst.

Then she said that she was excited about reading Romans with our Wine Before Breakfast community this year because we had been reading Romans that first year that she joined our community. And then she told me that my last sermon of that year (in April of 2007) had been profoundly healing for her. That sermon had given her permission to be a member of a believing and worshipping community, even with all of her doubts and all of her hurt and disappointment with the church.



Brian Walsh

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But that wasn't everything. The last thing that she told me was that she was finding ways to give voice to her Christian faith in the context of a course that she is teaching in the social sciences. Elizabeth knows that the social sciences insist on religious neutrality in all kind of scholarship. She knows the methodological and pedagogical rules of her discipline and by and large obeys them. But she now wants to quietly and gracefully allow her own Christian faith to shine through her teaching and research.

Can you imagine how excited I was after my short conversation with Elizabeth? Because she found a place in a worshipping community, gathering around a table of bread and wine, participating in the liturgy and a community of hospitality, she can now pray. Because she met Christ in our midst, in the preaching of the Word, in the sacraments, in table fellowship, in an openness of conversation that refuses to censor, she can now pray. And because she can pray, she can begin to imagine what a grace-filled Christian scholarship might look like.

Elizabeth reminds me of why we do campus ministry and why worship is at the heart of it all.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about the CRC campus ministry at the University of Toronto, feel free to contact any of the chaplains:

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