

CCIC LIFE Newsletter

Easter Weekend Update:



Praise God for two wonderful services with the whole Impact family. On Good Friday, after a powerful time of worship through music, we heard readings and testimonies on the theme of God's unconditional love. Thank you especially to the youth who participated: Sarah Yang, Joshua Sheng, Carol Song, David Zhu, and Kevin Zhu. It was wonderful to hear your voices and stories! Music & AV team were solid with their faithful service: Joseph Zhao, Garvin Young, Aaron Liu, and Colin Zhao. We ended the evening by standing in front of the cross and responding to Jesus

Saturday morning, we had over 100 people attend the Free Market hosted by Auntie Grace and Connect volunteers. Thanks to the Boy Scout troop who volunteered their time, as well as all others who donated to support this event.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Easter Weekend Update
- Youth Group April Events
- Prayer Requests
- Youth Testimony

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated the resurrection by reading 1 Corinthians 15, where Paul shows us how a seed planted in the ground grows into a glorious flower or tree. We meditated on Jesus' planting and rising, as well as our own, when one day God will transform us into something eternal and beautiful. Thanks to Johanna and Uncle Ben for making our flowering cross! It really gave us a visual of the cross transforming from an instrument of death to a source of life.



Youth April Events

CHICK FIL A FUNDRAISER Wednesday 4/24 All Day, esp. 5:30-7pm

Mexico Missions Team is hosting a fundraiser at Chick Fil A on Wednesday 4/24! On that day, eat at Chick Fil A Sunnyvale (one location only), and they will donate 20% of the proceeds to support our missions trip.

Grab a fast breakfast! Take your coworkers for lunch! Pick up dinner for the family! Any way you can participate is a huge help.



Mexico Team will be there 5:30-7pm!



Join Us At Chick-fil-A Sunnyvale - 550 W. El Camino Real
Anytime from 6:30 AM - 10 PM

Wednesday, April 24th

to help support

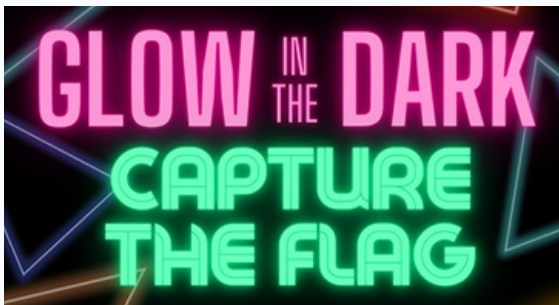
CCIC-Cupertino Mexico Missions
(we receive 20% of the sales back!)

Show this flyer when ordering or
enter code "77777" for mobile orders

BONDING NIGHT - CREEKSIDE PARK Friday 4/26 7pm-9:30pm

Join us Friday 4/26 for some park night fun! We'll be playing Kickball while the sun is out, and after sundown we'll break out the glow sticks and play Capture the Flag.

NOTE: We start at 7pm to maximize daylight playing time.



Bring:
BLANKET to sit on
SNACKS to share
WARM clothing
Water will be provided.



Youth April Events, cont.

PRAYER ROOM Friday Nights 7-7:20pm



We've been having 1-5 youth in the prayer room every week since last August! I'm so thankful for their faithfulness in coming every week to spend time with God and pray for our church. If any youth are interested in joining, they're always welcome to come check it out.

Prayer Room involves 10 minutes of personal prayer, with candles and music, guided by the prayer sheet. Then we do a short prayer exercise together and finish in personal prayer.

Youth who come have said that it's a great way to destress at the end of the week, to come and be quiet and bring your worries to God.



Prayer Requests

Senior Class College Decisions

Our Senior Class has mostly heard back from colleges at this point, although a few are still watching the waitlists. The next step is for them to decide where to go! Please pray for our seniors and their relationship with God as they process their acceptances and rejections. Pray that they would make this big life decision together with God, trusting him to take care of them.

Mexico Team

Mexico Team has had our first team meeting, and students are beginning the support raising process this month. Please pray for our team that we would learn to do this process together with the church, and that God would bless our trip with financial and prayer partners.

Youth Summer Interns

We're currently in talks with four college students who are considering coming on as interns in the youth group for the summer! This is a new position that we're trying out this year to help continue the bonds between alumni and current youth, which can be transformative on both sides. Please pray for the four who are considering, that God would make a way for them if that's his plan.

Pastor Owen Sabbatical

Please continue to pray for Pastor Owen on his sabbatical. Our hearts are with him and we're eager for him to return. Until then please pray that God would give him rest and help him to come back stronger than ever!

Search for New Counselor

We really appreciate David Chang for volunteering his time at February retreat, and considering serving with the youth group. However, after multiple conversations hearing him process through his decision, we've decided that it's not the right time for him to serve as a counselor in the youth group given the various stresses on his life currently. Pray for David as he moves forward with his studies at San Jose State! He's a valued member of our Connect & Impact community! In the meantime please continue to pray for God to raise up counselors to serve our youth.

Youth Testimony

KEVIN ZHU, 10TH GRADE
Shared 3/29, Good Friday Service

“When have you experienced God’s love even though you felt like you didn’t deserve it?”

I was lost in my own mind, full of regret of the argument I just had with my mother. “How could I say those things? How could I treat her like that after all she did to help me?” Just then, my mother comes into the living room, and apologizes to me. She confesses her faults, and in that moment, I can see their connection to mine. All of a sudden, I feel a rush of relief, an incredible wave of calm and lightness that I felt from inside my heart. I couldn’t express the meaning of my thankfulness through words. It was clear to me now—that God was expressing his kindness despite the

undeserving mess I was. Forgiveness was already granted without hesitation. This realization echoed within me. I had just argued with my mother, full of myself, about something she had wanted to help me with.

“God was expressing his kindness despite the undeserving mess I was.”

And the one who knew me best—who saw everything that happened, and who was the creator of the universe, decided to show kindness to me and comfort me when I showed nothing but ignorance toward another.

If you were to ask me, throughout my time as a Christian, I have been a very bad kid. I was quite an unthankful child, and didn’t show a lot of love toward my parents despite everything they did for me. I was undeserving, not just of God’s love, but of anyone’s love for that matter.

Just this holiday break, my family and I went on a skiing trip. On the second day, I lost my phone. Straight up dropped out of my jacket. I was really in denial for the rest of the day. Then, coming back to the car, I waited at the wrong spot for my brother and father. Ended up having to ask someone else to make a phone call. From that point on, it just seemed like a train wreck. My mind was all tangled up in my miseries, caught up in what just happened, which wasn’t even as big of a deal as I made it. The probability of the thing really seemed impossible to me, at that moment. The only thing my scattered mind could piece together was that somehow, just somehow, the whole thing wasn’t my fault. It was unfair, and God didn’t do anything about it. He didn’t help me. He wasn’t there for me. He wasn’t there because he wouldn’t make a small electronic device magically appear in my pocket. Because he didn’t whisper in my ear while I went down that mountain, “psst, you dropped something.” Because, gosh darn it, he didn’t appear in front of me and tell me to get over it. So I blamed it all on God. It was all his fault, I don’t know why. It just was.

But then, it wasn’t. The next day, I went skiing again. And wow. The scenery, the cold breeze on the mountaintop. Air so fresh it tasted like mint. It was so beautiful, truly a creation of God. I didn’t deserve it. And yet it was given to me. I realized losing the phone was insignificant compared to this. God loved me more than I had ever imagined

On the drive back home, my family didn’t burden me one bit about losing my phone. God’s understanding and kindness was showing through them.

I wasn’t just accepted, I was loved.