

CONNECTIONS



New Year, New Beginnings

The start of a new year brings with it a sense of newness to our lives. I'm sure that many of us have made those yearly revolving resolutions to get back into shape or lose weight. Maybe others of us have resolved to spend more time with our families, be more responsible with our finances, or just be a better person than the year before. We tend to make these commitments at the start of a new year, because we like this idea of starting over. It gives us a sense of excitement and optimism for the New Year.

Likewise, this is a very exciting year for us here at Binnerri English Ministry. We have a new

leadership in place for 2009 that we believe has been empowered by God to lead our congregation in a God-honoring direction. With a year of LifeGroups under our belts, we look forward to a new year of growth as we continue to do life together in these small group communities. This is also the first time in our congregation's history to have two full-time English Ministry pastors. And as we've continuously communicated throughout last year, we desire so much to lead all of you to grow into devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

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Doing Life Together: LifeGroups

This past year, we launched LifeGroups (LGs) at Binnerri as a way to do life together. They were split into three separate groups: single men, single women, and married couples. Now that the first round of LGs are coming to a close, we asked a few questions to some of the people involved: Brian Gum, Mary Draper, and Phil and Grace Kim. Here are their responses:

Why did you join a Life Group?

Brian: It's been maybe 6 years since I've been in a small group. I missed it for various reasons, including work and being out of town. During this time, I was going through my own spiritual plateau, but I wanted to do it now with fellow brothers. Also, I remembered hearing Pastor Kye say in a sermon that "life is done together in circles, not in rows," and that's what I wanted. *Continued on p. 2*

Want to learn more about Binnerri English Ministry?

Check us out on the Web at www.binnerriem.org. For general contact, please e-mail info@binnerriem.org.
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Mary: All during high school and college, I was encouraged by small groups. Also, during youth group, the pastor stressed that if we don't have small group time during the week, we won't grow that much.

Phil & Grace: We signed up to be a part of a community where we can open up to others and talk about the joys and struggles that come with living a life for God. After a certain point, you can't grow in Christ just by coming and going on Sundays.

How did the trial period work out?

B: It was the most awkward time. I had this devastating, sinking feeling. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, this is not going to work out.' Still, the trial period worked out well and it's a good thing to have.

M: Our group actually had a good dynamic and we clicked well. It was a varied group but we gelled together, and our leader helped out in that a lot. I agree that the trial period was good. A full year commitment seems overwhelming so it's good to make sure this is what you want.

P&G: The trial period did not affect our group because no one left our group during that time. So in that regard, we didn't notice it. We're okay with the trial period because it gives a chance for people to see if they feel comfortable with the group and also if they have scheduling concerns, etc.

**"LIFE IS DONE TOGETHER IN CIRCLES
AND NOT IN ROWS."**

Were there any milestones/obstacles that ultimately brought your group closer together?

B: Being able to be a witness and support to fellow brothers was great. Also, seeing amazing things, which weren't always good and sometimes challenging, and being able to support them as a group through prayer was good. It's an amazing way to have a catalyst. We really did life together.

M: We all had our independent struggles but were able to be together through them and identify with them as a group.

P&G: There weren't any milestones to point at; the group just got closer over time.

What is your expectation of the next LGs?

B: I think there's a lot we can do, but one thing I'd like to see is doing volunteer time together. Whether it's going to a local food bank or shelter, we have a responsibility to help those who are in need.

M: I hope the LGs will continue to encourage spiritual growth. We talked in our LG about how the members of the early church acted. They really gave all of each other, and I'd really like to see that.

P&G: Our hope for our next LG is a young married couples' group. ❖



PASTOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year!
Can you believe
that it's 2009?

Every year just
seems to go faster

and faster. The thing I don't like about a new year is that I know that I am that much older, but what I do like is it's a fresh start, clean slate, and a new beginning.

I can honestly say to you that I am more excited about this year than any other year I have been in ministry. I know that God has so much in store for us and I'm committed to serving Him. And I'm asking you to be committed to Him as well.

That's why we thought it was important for us to spend the first sermon series of the year (txt) in seeing the importance of God's Word in our lives. We need to make it our daily bread. We need to fall in love with His Word, so that we can fall in love with Him. And we need to live out the Word in our lives.

I believe with all my heart that if we are committed to doing this, I know God will truly bless our ministry more than we can possibly imagine. If we make our intimacy with God, our community with other believers, and our influence with those who are far from God, the most important relationships in our lives, God will be honored.

I pray that God would stretch you and grow you in ways that you would not have even imagined, and that we would grow as a community in faith, hope, and love.

Proud to be your pastor,
PK

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Personally, this year marks the beginning of my full-time ministry here at Binnerri, after serving part-time for the past 3 years. As I reflect back over my time here, I cannot help but thank God for surrounding me with such a loving and supportive community during my years in seminary. And although I've been here for the past 3 years, I feel as if I'm entering ministry for the very first time. There is this sense of newness and freshness as I come on board as a full-time pastor. I truly do believe that God has called me here, and I want to do the best I can with the abilities that I've been given to help accomplish God's desires for our ministry. My prayer is that God would continue to lead and guide me so that I would be able to lead others. I also want thank you as a congregation for allowing me to be a part of your lives, and ask that you would continue in praying for me and for our ministry in 2009. Happy New Year and may God bless you!

Your Pastor,
Andrew Yi ❖

Upcoming Events

1/25 & 2/01: LifeGroup Launch
1/28: Pathway (Singles) Gathering, 7:00 PM
2/07: Couples Gathering, 6:30 PM
2/14: Men's Prayer Meeting, 6:30 AM
2/21: Women's Prayer Meeting, 6:30 AM

Daily SMS Bible Verse

One of our goals this year is to help you in reading your Bible because we know the value of God's Word for our daily lives. If you would like to subscribe to our Daily SMS Bible Verse, simply text **subscribe** to **970-768-8683**.

What's Your New Year's Resolution?

To work harder and be more productive... Josh Kim
Everyday is a new year for me! To be a Red Letter Christian... Tommy Choi
To be smarter... Andrew Park
Not to be late to events... Christy Lee
To be a good mother... Mary Yi
Stop eating fried food... Simon Kim
To read the Bible all the way through... Jinlee Park
Read 15 books and lose weight... Sharon Park
To learn Korean, 예수님 사랑해요!... Daniel Bohannon
To exercise more... Darin Suh
To stick with the Daily Bible Reading Plan... Jina Cha
To study well... Minhee Kim
Be a woman of prayer... Grace Kim
Put Jesus in first place of my life, everywhere... David Lee
To go back to school... Leigh Parker
To spend less money on gadgets... Minh Troung
Be more disciplined... Mo Choi
Not to get fat... Joe Estrera
To gain weight... Darrel Park
To cut down on coffee... Cha-Hyung Hunt
I'd like to take a picture everyday... Yeji Chung
To go to the Men's Prayer Meeting... Jo Ko ❖

Christmas Sunday Worship - "The Light"



Submissions

Want to submit an article? We'd love to hear from you! E-mail us with your articles/ideas at connections@binneriem.org. Submissions must be made by the third Sunday of each month.

Want to serve in a different way? Join the *Connections* team! E-mail us at connections@binneriem.org for more information.