



Becoming ONE

We had our first all EM retreat in three years and it was a great time for our congregation to come together for the purpose of loving God and loving one another. With about 100 people (including children), we set out for Pine Cove Retreat Center on September 11 and spent the whole weekend together. And even though it rained pretty much the whole weekend, little did we know that this was exactly what we needed to keep our time there nice and cool. Personally, I was excited about this retreat because I really believed it was God's perfect timing for us to have this time together.

One of the things that we really prayed for was that singles and married couples would have a time to come together and really get to know one another. And based upon the retreat evaluations, many took the opportunity to do just that. One way that we did that was through the small groups. Even the married couples were split into different groups to encourage this. And although people thought that it was awkward at first, it allowed them to connect with others that they normally wouldn't have mingled with. The icebreakers and games were some of the highlights that were mentioned repeatedly in the evaluations as well. Everyone just enjoyed laughing together and noted that these activities effectively helped in breaking the ice.

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

Submissions

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

upcoming events

October

10/13, Saturday @ 6:30pm: Couples Gathering

10/10, Saturday @ 6:30am: Men's Prayer Meeting

10/17, Saturday @ 6:30am: Women's Prayer Meeting

10/28, Wednesday @ 7pm: Pathway Gathering

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Many who attended the retreat also said they were blessed to hear God's Word through Pastor Steve Choi. From the first message about how completely free grace is and how we need to embrace that in our lives, to the other messages about bringing our friends and those we love to Jesus and how we also need to be an encouragement to those around us, Pastor Steve was faithful to in speaking what God wanted us to hear.

The retreat committee (Jonathan Yu, Melissa Chang, Casey Malarcher, Darrel Park, Shawn Park, and Pastor Andrew Yi) had been preparing for months by visiting the retreat site and planning for all the different elements of the retreat. They met a couple of times a month and planned through all the logistics (both seen and unseen). We are so thankful for all their hard work and for thinking of everything, including backup plans due to the rain.

Overall, the most common thing that I heard at the retreat was that it seemed too short, and I completely agree. Even though it was a whole weekend, it seemed to go by way too fast. I think that's because God was doing a great work among us and in us, and whenever that happens we don't want it to end. Maybe it wasn't only just pouring rain...maybe God was also pouring His blessings on His children.

We are also grateful for other thoughts and suggestions through the evaluation so that we can learn and grow for the retreats to come. All in all, God was glorified and His people were blessed, so praise the Lord for an amazing time! I pray that this retreat would serve as a catalyst for our community to grow more as devoted followers of Jesus Christ and to become ONE.

Following the One,
PK ❖

2009 Budget/Offering Snapshot

(Details have been removed for our online version).

Celebrations

Sarah Ann, Casey & Ji Eun Malarcher

What have you enjoyed most about having Sarah in your family?

Erin/Gene/Lena: Holding her! (Note: we only allow them to hold her when they are closely supervised by us. Sarah tolerates their holding pretty well.)

Please share a funny moment!

One morning the kids were all crowding around to admire Sarah as she lay in the middle of our bed. Gene had forgotten to brush his teeth that morning, and when he got his face too close to Sarah's face, she raised one of her little hands and covered her nose. We all cracked up at that.



Justin Aaron, Pastor Andrew & Mary Yi

How is it like having a first child?

It is pretty surreal at first, but reality hits when you leave the hospital: we are now caretakers of this child. It's quite scary and challenging at first, but as the days go by and you see how incredible it is to be a parent, it's not so bad. The best part is that we get to experience every milestone in Justin's life. It's new for him and for us, which makes being a parent even more joyful.



Please share a funny moment of Justin!

There are just too many funny moments with Justin, but one specific thing sticks out. When we were about to hand him off to Pastor Kye for his baby dedication, Justin decided to fart right on Pastor Kye's hands. It was so loud that I thought the congregation would hear it through the microphone, but good thing no one else heard it.

David & Jamie Lee

Brag a little bit about your spouse.

J: Whenever I see Dave interact with babies, it melts my heart. He's so gentle and warm-hearted. And every time I hear him sing, it gives me the good chills and I fall in love all over again. Although I really miss Chicago, Dave has made the transition a lot easier by making sure I'm comfortable and that I know my way on these crazy big Texas highways.

D: The Bible describes Eve as being a "suitable helper" for Adam. Jamie's been that suitable helper. She's helped my working days feel so easy in many ways, whether it is cooking a delicious meal or telling me how well I am doing.

What's the best part of being married?

J: Never having to say good-bye. He's the first person I see when I wake up and the last person I see when I go to bed.

D: Not only having a companion but also growing together and being stretched in many directions. I can confidently say that I am becoming more patient, more forgiving and more loving. ❖



Fall Retreat Snapshot

From Our Retreat Speaker: Rev. Steve Choi

Dear Binnerri Brothers and Sisters,

It was a joy to spend some time with you and see what the Lord is doing at your church. Though I went there to be a blessing to you all, it was the other way around. I came home spiritually strengthened and focused. You might remember how Elijah fell into a deep depression after defeating the prophets of Baal. Yet, God revives him by reminding him that he is not alone.

1 Kings 19:18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

I was reminded of this same message when I saw your church and spent time with Pastor Kye and Andrew. We are all in this together. You have many here in Southern California who are fighting the same fight. Let me encourage you to continue with vigor and joy. Until we meet again. God bless you.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve Choi



What did you like most about the retreat?

I liked the games, and learning what grace really means. - *Sunghee Na*

I enjoyed the time of fellowship with the married people. They are really cool. - *Daniel Bae*

Getting to know some of the singles better. - *Jo Ko*

The rooms were super nice! It was get away from school and be in a place just for us as a couple. - *Richie Kim*

The food and their service at the cafeteria. - *Philip Chun*

It was my first time and it was awesome. Well, actually, the food. - *Dan Lee*

I liked getting away and being surrounded by nature, it helped me to be more connected with God. - *Cha-Hyung Hunt*

I thought the worship was the best part. - *Kirk Lin*

I loved the free time because we got to meet up with people individually or have a quiet time. - *Ruth Park* ❖

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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