

# Calgary Truth Baptist Church

## English Speaking Congregation Information

2019 03 31

### Background

The English Speaking Congregation is part of the Calgary Truth Baptist Church (CTBC). It was started as an English worship for Junior/Senior High school students (the group was called ROOTS back then & is still in use for historical reason) and is now for different age groups, and average 60-70 in Sunday worship, a network of small groups and on-going ministries and mission work.

### Our goal

To be like the Antioch church, focused on evangelism, discipling, prayer and missions, led by the Spirit, not like the Jerusalem church.

*However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord. When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.) (Acts 11: 20-26)*

*Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called "the black man"), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. (Acts 13: 1-3)*

### Our motto:

*A safe place to search and stretch and give ourselves away*

#### Safe place to search

We place a high priority on having seekers in worship and small groups. Our worship service is designed to make it safer and interesting for non-Christians. Those in the congregation often invite their non-Christian friends, a compliment to the congregation. We are an accepting, friendly congregation for seekers.

#### Stretch

Our worship services are also stretching, designed to develop spiritual maturity. We use a training model of preaching, with a monthly theme and a study guide handout. This fits the academic culture Chinese immigrants are in and provides listeners with a way to review the teaching. We sometimes team-preach, giving young leaders the chance to preach with communicator. We practice to memorize two verses a month in the worship time; something churches should do and don't. We highlight the Great Commission and Great Commandment each week. We have a clear system of discipling, the Stages Diagram, see TRAINING below.

Our small groups are designed for serious Bible study and application. We emphasize 10•10•10, a peer discipling process. We involve many in worship service leading. There are multiple ways to grow at the congregation, and a clear expectation of what we should become, Disciple Makers. See SMALL GROUP MINISTRY below.

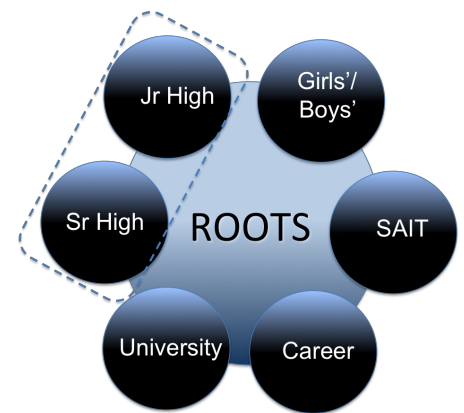
### **Give ourselves away**

The congregation has a strong emphasis on doing missions. We do Calgary Project every second month, volunteering at the Drop-In Centre. Each year we do Overseas Project. We have started “Remember the Poor” mission trips to help refugees in the Middle East, Greece, and Turkey. We sent a team to do ministry in camps and an orphanage in Asia. Most years we do a Canada Project in places like PEI and Edmonton. As well, we give opportunities to serve in the church (leading small groups and ministries, doing cleanup, assisting in children’s ministry, etc.). See MISSIONS below.

### **Our structure:**

We have a cell/celebration structure, with large group worship on Sunday and small groups during the week. Of the two, small group is more important because it’s where Christians grow the most. We can’t disciple a member if they’re not in a small group. We see starting more small groups as the way to grow the congregation.

We have leaders in charge of various ministries. There are two co-leaders of the congregation. There is one person who leads the small group ministry and the worship teams. Another is the Missions Coordinator, including the Calgary Project (Drop-In Centre, etc.). One of the co-leaders leads the Canada Projects. Another person leads the Asia Projects. Another leads Youth Group for junior and senior high school students.



### **Things to thank God for:**

We have seen many become Christians. We have transformed lives. We have faithful volunteers. We have God’s love and a sense of family. We have serious, mature young adults. We have leaders with mission experience. One girl was a missionary overseas. One man is studying in seminary to be a pastor. Another wants to be a Christian worker. One of the co-leaders dreams about being a missionary in the future.

### **Our desire:**

- have leaders who lead by example: “good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith”
- passionate about evangelism and seeing people baptized
- committed to training and discipleship
- finding and mentoring seeker to become believer, believer to disciple, and disciple to leaders
- praying continuously for the Spirit’s leading
- involved in missions and giving our best to “go into all the world and make disciples”

## **Our Challenges:**

- 1. Study away.** Some students go to other cities after high school for university and grad school. We see 5 or more students every year who go to university in other cities. They're often our future leaders. It's the reality, and we bless them, but it can be discouraging to lose them from our local church.
- 2. Graduate from God.** During Grade 12 and 1<sup>st</sup> year university, students make decisions to keep following God or not. Many decide not to. It's discouraging for youth leaders to watch it happen, especially after praying for and investing time and energy into a student. It happened to Jesus, (*...many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. John 6: 66*) and has happened to us. Still, it's discouraging.
- 3. Time/space limitations.** We don't have our own building, which makes it harder to do training, outreach, meetings, parties and fun activities for youth during the week. Our leaders are all volunteers with full-time job/study, so that they have only limited discretionary time to lead, to visit, and to get to know the youth and their parents. It can be frustrating and discouraging.
- 4. Need more prayer.** We used to have someone coordinator prayer meeting every Sunday before worship. Now, a few of us pray together on Monday evenings through chat software. We need another coordinator to encourage, challenge, and remind us to pray. We need someone to compile a list of prayer needs weekly to send to small groups.
- 5. Staff: Current volunteer pastor** with other ministry job has very limited time available for the congregation and is going to retire in 2+ years.

## **Future goals:**

1. Recruiting a minister to lead the English congregation.
2. Better communication and collaboration between English and the Chinese congregations.

## **Things you may not know:**

- Our worship is participatory and experimental – we use video, memorize Scripture together, sometimes break into small groups, sometimes will team-preach with others.- Preaching by using a handout, because we're an academic congregation.
- We have a Facebook page with about 100 members.
- We send a devotional, LifeVerses, to 300+ in Canada and Overseas, including many in our church and sister church (i.e. Springbank) seniors.
- We send a Quote-of-the-Day to many, including 64 connected to the Cedar Small group in University Campus.
- We're now training other churches to do Mission trips, because of our experience in doing the Refugee Projects in the Middle East.

- We have one student at the CSBS seminary
- Current Pastor meets regularly with young men and women to mentor them – the 80/20 principle.

## Training:

### Discipleship:

- we use the Stages diagram as our model for discipling; we feature it every week in worship
- Stages training Sunday morning before worship: presently, Believer → Disciple
- We do witnessing training at the universities and colleges

## STAGES OF GROWTH

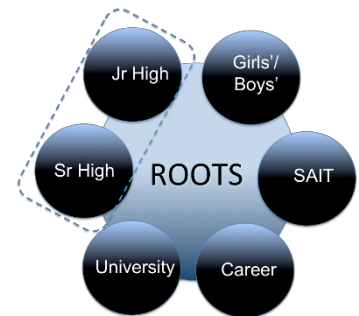


### Future training needs:

- 1) Men's ministry – a priority, to invest in and raise up men of God
- 2) Leadership: if we are to see pastors and missionaries come from our congregation, we must train them in leadership
- 3) Dating and marriage: many are at the age of looking for a mate, or are new in marriage

## Small Group Ministry:

- The Equation: career group
- Lighthouse: university group
- Youth Ministry: high school groups
- Men's Group
- We recommend university graduates and career adults to attend the Cedar group
- We need a women's group and a group for young families



## Missions:

We have four ways involved in practical missions:

- 1) Calgary Project: the Drop-In Centre
- 2) Canada Project: taking teams to PEI and Edmonton to do ministry
- 3) Overseas Project: working with university camps in Asia, and helping an orphanage
- 4) Refugee Projects: taking teams to the Middle East and Athens to minister to refugees