

Breakup Party!
One last big
group photo for
the year!



Hello!!! From the Team Leaders

By Josh Lum Mow & Dan Marr

We've made it! Welcome to our term 4, and final newsletter for 2013. CY has had an absolutely fantastic year and we'd love to share with you in this edition what has happened in the past term. Praise God for his continual faithfulness throughout the year in pulling everything together and enabling CY to grow together as a youth group.

In this edition you'll be updated on a few of the events we put on this term, including our annual praise night evangelistic, Emmanuel, which we had just last week. As well, we'll be farewelling some of our leaders as they move on to new ministries and life stages. As

well, expect to see the usual goodies of interviews with youth and leaders, as well as prayer points thanking God for the past year and looking forwards to 2014.

We hope you have found our newsletter both encouraging and informative as you see what God is doing in our church through CY. Thank you for taking an interest in what we do by reading the newsletter and supporting us through prayer and other ways. We are so thankful to God for you!

Enjoy the read and we'll see you in 2014!
Soli Deo Gloria

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Summary of Term 4

We made it!!

By Josh Lum Mow

After all the excitement and activity in term three, you would think that we'd slow down a bit for term four.

Nope - Chuck Testa. Term 4 was packed full of events and excitement like any other term, cause that's how we roll at CY. Unfortunately, we lost some leaders along the way (to Japan and Europe) - but as they say, the show... err, youth group, must go on!

Statistically speaking, term four is where we get a slight increase in attendance. This is because the wonderful year six students join CY for the first time! This year we've had a huge influx of year six students, so many that the junior boys group over doubled in size. It has been such a joy to see them get in to studying God's word with us and being involved with the life of CY. Legit - when it was their turn to do the Bible reading during CY Praise, they blew our socks off with the best reading we've heard all year!

Running on the adrenaline of RICE and Getaway, we launched straight into a new study series on the book of 1 Peter. We discovered that the world that the Christians were living in during the first century AD is not so different to the world we live in today post-christendom. Christians back in the day were different, counter-cultural and ostracised for just being downright weird. Our experience of life as a Christian today is much like that, and will only get more challenging as society continues to reject Christianity.

The study series was a great reminder and challenge that as Christians, we should live radical lives in the

| Quick Look | |
|----------------------|--|
| Avg. number of youth | 58 |
| Number of weeks | 9 |
| Book studied | 1 Peter |
| Events | Made to Worship, Breakup Party, Emmanuel |



ABOVE: Hannah and Suvina do an excellent job at chairing CY Praise.
ABOVE RIGHT: One of the prayer partner groups praying together.

little and seemingly ordinary things. The things that most people won't take a second glance at until they realise we're consistently counter-cultural, and then, only to question why we are like that. Peter encourages the Christians to be ready for that moment, prepared with an answer regarding the hope that we have. This was an excellent book to finish the year off with - you can read more about it in the book summary below.

The first topical we had this term was on the theology of worship. What is worship? It's a word Christians throw around a lot, and usually it has something to do with music. What we discovered however, is that worship is much broader than the songs we sing at CY or church. It involves a devotion of our whole lives to God.

To help us apply worship theology to our lives, we broke off into three workshop groups to look at different spheres in our lives and how we can worship God in them. The three groups were about how we can worship God in our studying, through our lives at home, and in our spare time in the online world. The night was a great challenge, challenging us to think about how we can use every aspect of our lives to worship God.



Summary of Term 4 (cont'd) We made it!!

After we were done with Peter, study group attention was turned to important matters - breakup party presentations. At the end of the year, we hold a celebration in thanks to God for what he has been doing at CY. Parents are invited to join us for pot-luck dinner and to view the various and hilarious, and sometimes informative presentations from each group.

The event was not without its hiccups, including a mad dash for extra food, but God provides and it all went pretty smoothly in the end. Breakup Party was a great night to close up CY for the year formally before everyone heads over to Honk Kong for holidays (jokes - but kinda serious!).

But that's not the end. Emmanuel is technically our last CY for the year, despite what Breakup Party suggests.

This year Emmanuel was held at Concord, with Mark speaking from John 4. The theme was 'where feet may fail', and Mark showed us from scripture the progressive understanding of the Samaritan woman at the well has of Jesus. (Check out the Event Spotlight on Emmanuel below for more details about the event!)

All in all, I can confidently say that term 4 was a great way to finish off a great year of CY. Praise be to our great God! We look forward in anticipation to next year and what God will do through this great ministry of CY.

New topics, new study series, new events, new youth and friends, and new leaders! It's going to be a great year! See you then!



Book Summary

The Radical Stranger

By Josh Lum Mow



In January 2012, our family went on a holiday to the motherland - China. It was a great experience to visit some of the iconic places and reconnect with our Chinese roots. However, although we looked the same (kinda), and I did feel some affinity with my heritage, something wasn't quite right. I still felt like a stranger. It wasn't just the language thing - I just had a sense that this wasn't my home. Home is Sydney.

Peter reminds his readers in his first letter to the early churches in Asia that they too aren't quite home. In fact, he refers to them as exiles; aliens and strangers in a foreign world. In fact, as God's elect, chosen according to the Father's foreknowledge, through the power of the Spirit, they belong to his Kingdom and are to be obedient to Christ.

The first century churches in Asia faced pressures that we too face

today in 21st century Sydney. Peter was writing a short time before the great persecution came at the hands of Emperor Nero, and so the persecution Peter exhorts the Christians to endure is uncannily similar to our day to day battle to live Christian lives. Their friends were simply surprised at the changed lifestyles of the Christians. They no longer joined in with their 'reckless, wild living' (4:4) and were ostracised for it. Sound familiar?

The first letter of Peter is so relevant to our lives as students, workers, community members or whatever other position in life we occupy. Peter wants his readers to remember first who they are and what they have because of Christ. We are God's elect, we've been born again, we have an eternal inheritance and salvation. And because of who we are, we need to live like that. The urge is simply to be a good citizen of your country, to be a good husband or wife, to be a good employee.

In a perfect world, who is going to harm you for doing good? Of course, we don't live in a perfect world, and so unjust suffering and persecution may come. However Peter reminds us of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ who suffered unjustly so that we may be recipients of grace and forgiveness. As citizens of his kingdom, we should not be surprised if we too suffer for doing good and being different.

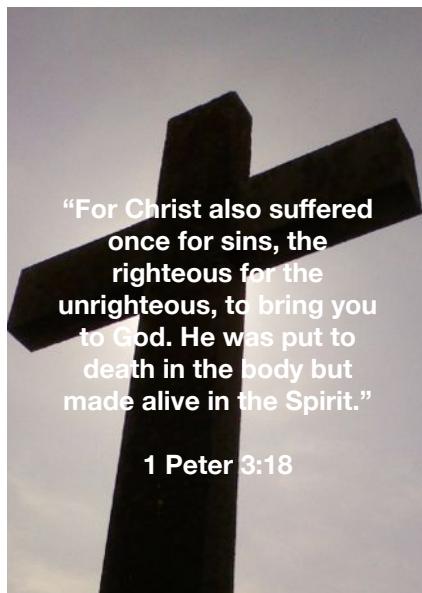
Surely this different lifestyle is going to raise eyebrows. Why bother doing good when no one else does? Why not just in on the endless partying

and fun? Why take things so seriously? Living a life that is pleasing to God should raise eyebrows, and we need to be ready to answer the questions that will come. Be prepared, says Peter. Have an answer ready to give to someone who asks you why you're different.

But it's not just offering an explanation for our behaviour. The hope we have behind our actions should shine through. Anyone can do good, but the motivation for the Christian is that we have an unshakable hope, an unfading inheritance. Be prepared to give an answer about your hope.

"They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you..."

1 Peter 4:4



From studying this book, you could be forgiven for thinking that Peter wrote this for us right now, today. Well, he kind of did. In reality, things haven't changed so much in 2000 years. The call to Christ is one of living radically different lives to those around us. But in a fallen and sinful world, even the most simple of things is radical.

Have you taken up the call to live as a radical stranger? And are you ready to answer for the hope you have?



Year 11 girls do their presentation - 'Hall of Fame'

Event Spotlight #1 (Breakup Party) Going out with a bang!

By Josh Lum Mow

Normally people don't celebrate breakups. And so the name 'Breakup Party' to some people sounds a little weird. Pretty much though, it's a party celebrating the past year at CY, and it's one of the last CYs before we 'break up' for holidays. Etymologically it makes sense... but hey, we've called it that for 12 years and it has stuck.

This year, the Breakup Party came together by the hand of God (as it always does). We were probably not as prepared as we could have been, but as God consistently reminds us throughout the year - "We got this!" (We - cause He's Trinity).

As the youth and parents arrived, we realised that the ratio of food to people was less than 1. We probably were not going to have enough food. But thanks to some leaders and parents, chicken and pizza were collected, and the food was multiplied to feed the five-thousand-divided-by-forty-two. We even had twelve (empty) pizza boxes left over. Okay - maybe not twelve, I'm not sure how many pizzas we bought - they disappeared quickly.

After dinner, we gathered in the hall for a modified CY Praise. After singing some songs together, the show was kicked off by the year ten boys with their presentation on Hebrews. This was followed by the junior girls with a rendition of Trouble by Taylor Swift, based on 1 John and a video about RICE. Following this, Alicia in year 7 encouraged us by sharing about her experience at CY this year and what she had learnt.

Hilarity ensued as the year nine boys had their video presentation on our Genesis series show us exactly how Jesus is seen in the stories we all know from Sunday school, and is much superior as we also learnt from Hebrews. With the clever wit that only a year nine boy could possess, their video was an instant hit.

The year 9-10 girls group followed up with a part skit part video mash-up, mock news segment, interviewing Paul. Technology has certainly come a long way since the first century - clearly they did not have camera stands to stop the camera woman from doing what she pleased.



ABOVE: The boys are actually giants.

Next, we treated the parents to a good old game of Giants-Wizards-Elves - a CY favourite. The game is played much like rock-paper-scissors, except the loser joins the team of the winner resulting in two massive teams at the end. Dan Marr designed the game to ensure that the final match was a battle of the sexes. After 10 minutes of war-cries involving "SHAZAM!", "ROOOAARRRR!" and "nininininninini", as well as the occasional "HO! HO! HO! HO! HO!" the two teams were set for the final round. Girls won. No biggie. (Not bitter at all).

After the game, the lights were dimmed and the preview reel played. "In the time of the Judges, there was a famine in the land". This is a story of love



Event Spotlight #1 (cont'd) Going out with a bang!

By Josh Lum Mow

between and alien and... *gasp*, a redeemer (and a better love story than Twilight at that). But there's a twist - there's someone closer. Year 12 put together yet another spoof movie trailer, this time based on the Twilight series to show us what they learnt from the book of Ruth. Yes... they did learn something, right?

Evidently, they did, because after their presentation, Lincoln shared with us his experience of CY from the past six years through high school. Having made it through school and CY alive, Lincoln encouraged us with the importance of coming along to a youth group where your faith can be strengthened.



ABOVE: Screen capture from the year 11 Boys' video.
BELOW: Year 6-8 Girls doing their presentation.



The year 6-8 junior boys group treated us with a video about what they had learnt from 1 Peter, using some clever illustrations about Christ being our foundation and cornerstone. Then the year 11 girls (or was it boys?) group made us cringe through a hilarious dance and song presentation, with the lyrics to the song 'Hall of Fame' adjusted to fit Hebrews 11. Lyrically, it was great. I'm not sure about those beards though.

Finally, the real year 11 boys presented us with a recap from what we learnt about love at KYCK. Many lols were had as we were reminded about the seven 'S'-es that we should be wary of; stuff, sex, style, seelerbity, self. The video was so great that we didn't realise that they only showed five out of the seven, the other two being success and sport (including e-sport, ie. gaming).

What a great way to end the year, reflecting back on what we've learnt with a bit of fun as well. Not only do the parents get to see what we were up to this year, but sharing and being creative with what we learnt helps to solidify it in our minds and hearts.

Following the group presentations, the Parents Cafe gave a short presentation and handmade gifts to the leaders thanking them for their service over the past year. As well, we farewelled some of our leaders who are moving on to different things next year. We will miss them! They have each made a valuable contribution to the team and the lives of the youth.

After the formalities were over - food, Supper, and lots of it, including a massive pavlova made by one of the year 11 boys!! Breakup party was a fantastic event this year, praise God, and it was great to see so many parents come along to support us and give thanks to God with us. We value the partnership we have with parents and look forward to serving you, and with you next year!



Event Spotlight #2 (Emmanuel) Where feet may fail

By Beth Buchanan

CY finished with a chaotic flurry of leaders running to-and-fro attempting to organise one more ambitiously big event. Past years have revealed that it usually requires about 2 months to pull Emmanuel together, but this year we decided to be incredibly stupid and make it even bigger and better within a span of just 3 weeks. The result: a massive Christmas BOOM.

Emmanuel is CY's annual Christmas Praise Night, which consists of (mostly) ridiculously good looking people playing ridiculously good music so that other ridiculously good looking people can sing along to the ridiculously good music. But in all seriousness, it's a fantastic night of praise where we can reflect on the good news of Christmas.

We were graced with the dramatic presence of Dan and Ruth, who whipped together a rather brilliant series of skits which consisted of squealing over Snow Eggs, cursing Instagram, and the sobering moment of losing someone. You guys are awesome. Can we keep you? Forever?

This year the ridiculously good looking Mark Powell (also fondly known among some of us as the 'Closet Charo') gave a challenging talk on John 4:1-45; the passage where Jesus meets that strange lady at the water bubbler. The talk explored the progressive

"We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."
John 4:42



characteristics of who Jesus actually is: a man, a Jew, a 'Sir', a 'Prophet', the Christ, and ultimately, the Saviour of the world. The challenge we presented our young audience at the end of the night: are you willing to step out in faith even though you think your feet will fail?

The sound of dozens of youth (and older people who like to still think they're young) belting their voices to the worship songs was a rather glorious and encouraging moment for the CY band who had been labouring the week prior with uber late night rehearsals. To make things even better, several CYers were convicted to re-focus their lives on Christ; a CYer's friend is now interested in coming to CY regularly; and a dear friend who had been coming to Cornerstone's Element 6 ministry committed her life to Christ.

Not a bad way to end the year.

3 Get-To-Know-A-Leader



Elizabeth Hung (Year 6-8 Girls)

What do you do outside of CY?

Hmm...you'll find me either studying for a bachelor of Arts (media/comm) at Sydney Uni, teaching/playing music, catching up with people I love or haven't seen for too long (over food, course)... wondering where all the time has gone, sleeping or eating!

Funniest memory of CY

When "Jesus resurfaced from the dead". (credits to Lourdes)

What do you love about leading?

What is there not to love would be a better question to ask! As a first time leader, I started off worrying that I wouldn't be cool enough for my year 7-8 girls, or that I wouldn't be able to control their tangents...but over the last year, these girls have taught and reminded me that even as a leader, there is more to learn than to teach.

Even after a super long and dry week of uni/work, I love returning to a bunch of bubbly girls, who never seem to run out of energy. To witness their growth in their faith and love for Him, and their honesty in sharing their joys and struggles, rebukes and encourages my own faith week after week! I guess what I love is that being a CY Leader is never about me, but about our youth and how God can be glorified through them!

Get-To-Know-A-CYer



Nathan (Year 10)

Funniest memory of CY

Hmmm... there have been so many, but being getting carried and piggybacked by Josh Powell in the 'knights, queen, damsel' game would be up there coz I'm not exactly the lightest person haha and needless to say we lost pretty quickly :)

Why do you come to CY?

Coz i have nowhere better to be haha? It's also a great place to wind down the week and relax with friends and also more importantly where I can sing praises to God and study His word among great friends and awesome leaders week in week out.

What is one thing you have learnt at CY this term?

That God is great! :) He has made CY an encouraging place where such a great number of youth gather to worship.

Study-wise, most memorable is God is Indian haha :p just an analogy from Brendan, who is the most awesome leader I might add (he'd want me to include that), explaining why God can't die for people in our place because he is not a person much like how an indian can't become an australian pm because he's not an australian citizen. So God had to become human, sending his son Jesus, to die for our sins and save us! :)

3 Get-To-Know-A-Leader

CY NEWSLETTER T4 2013



Leo Chan (Year 12 Boys)

What do you do outside of CY?

I studied Maths and Finance at UTS.

Funniest memory of CY

I don't know if this is funny or not but I find it funny that it actually happened.

A long time back when I was in high school, I got up to a lot of mischief. In year 11 we stayed at the high school for Kyck. Upon arrival we found out that there were only two rooms for all the guys in the youth group. Being the guy that I am, I quickly picked a room and banned everyone else from going into the room except for my year. I wasn't expecting it to work so well but it really turned out to be the year 11 boys room (and maybe a few that we let in). Still to this day I have no idea how everyone just let this happen so easily. Maybe I was just such a bad child that everyone just gave up on me.

What do you love about leading?

I love seeing people grow to love God more and more. CY has been a place where I have been able to see my boys grow. It has brought me so much joy to be there with them and it has challenged and encouraged me to keep growing myself.

Another thing that I love about being a CY leader is that we get so much support and good fellowship with the rest of the CY leaders.

Get-To-Know-A-CYer



Bek (Year 10)

Funniest memory of CY

It could be the nickname we thought for Hiroshi and Kara (Shi-Shi man and Baboomba) but I think Carolyn deserves a mention. We were doing a study on 1 Peter and in 2:2 there was a verse that about spiritual milk for new Christians. A few of us recognised "spiritual milk" from a previous KYCK but it was in a different part of the bible and we tried to find it. Carolyn went onto her phone to search for it and immediately found something. She started to read it aloud and got to about halfway and she paused, in realisation she was still reading from 1 Peter 2:2

Why do you come to CY?

It may sound really cliché and corny but CY is such a wonderful place to learn about God from his word and to grow spiritually as a Christian, being encouraged by both leaders and friends to continue on with my spiritual journey. Especially after a stressful week at school which may be caused by a homework/assessment overload or when friends, other students or teachers decide to express their (not so flattering) thoughts of religion. The second reason is that the alternative is me spending a lonely night at home scanning Facebook or watching YouTube. Instead of being lazy, I'm learning about God, socialising with friends in real life and hopefully encouraging them with their Christian life.

What is one thing you have learnt at CY this term?

Something I've learnt from 1 Peter 5:5-7 is that there are two types of humility: false humility and true humility. I know within my group of friends including myself, false humility often appears as "I ONLY got 97%" which is usually code for "look everyone, I got 97% but I'll pretend to be humble so I can get attention and feel better about myself." When you don't get the desired effect, you feel like you're hopeless at everything, but even that is false humility. True humility is knowing who you are to God with a balanced view of what you have achieved because of God. Your self-worth is reliant on God who is trustworthy and not on yourself or other people.



Sam, Jayne, Kelpie, Kesh and Anna being farewelled at the Breakup Party

Farewell! Auf Wiedersehen! Arrivederci!

Farewelling leaders from 2013

By Daniel Yeung

One of the paradoxes of being a part of youth ministry is experiencing loss and joy simultaneously when leaders leave, move on and enter a new season of life. That feeling of losing something that you've, for a significant amount of time, had close to you. It is that feeling of losing a close friend to a new job down in Canberra, or losing a pearl in the depths of the sea. But there is, underpinning this sense of loss, great joy, knowing that other people, communities and groups will have gained an incredible servant of the Gospel, someone who loves Jesus.

This year we are losing five wonderfully awesome leaders who have each served God faithfully in different ways during their time at CY. If it were possible, we would love them to stay, to continue ministering to the youth, sharing their passion for the Gospel and modelling Christ's love and life – but as with most journeys in life – change is inevitable, and for each of them, they will discover God has something in store for them, continuing on with the good works that He has prepared in advance. God has gifted each of them with many abilities for them to contribute to CY, which we will sadly miss. So – who is actually leaving?

Kelvin Choi

Kelvin (aka Kelpie) started CY leading this year – but even in that short space of time demonstrated a love and commitment to serving the youth and seeing them (particularly the junior boys) grow up in Christ. God has given him a passion for events management and organisation and this was reflected in his work at RICE Rally this year being a member of the core team. His love for Jesus and joyful service are reflected in his interactions in our leadership team and with the youth.

Keshia Fay

I have known Kesh my whole life. In fact, if you ever ask – we are related and were born only eleven days apart. Kesh invited me to CY when I was in year 6, we were in a combined year 12 group, we started leading CY at the same time - so it's a bit weird to be saying farewell. She has a heart for the youth and really likes to

to ensure the youth are going ok, no matter what sort of week's she's had. Her love for the youth flows into her concern for their welfare and wellbeing and isn't afraid to share her joys and her struggles with them.

Sam Sing Key

Sam is without a doubt a busy woman! I have known her for a long time – like Kesh, she was in our combined year 12 CY group. Her passion for youth ministry and her wisdom in leading bible studies is a reflection of her commitment to serving Jesus. Having led the junior girls' groups for four years, she has proven to be an effective role model and given timely advice about group dynamics to her fellow leaders.

Jayne Ling

Jayne really reflects what a servant of Jesus should look like. Her passion to disciple young girls and commitment to sharing her love of Jesus with them and the rest of the youth is a real testament to God's grace in her own life. Jayne has super awesome organisational skills and a maturity well beyond her years. Her creativity and joyful service have been real assets to CY.

Anna Zhang

Anna has a big heart for mission. We know this because she fervently prays for her CY group but also consistently for other groups around the world. This year God has opened up doors that will allow Anna to work for the Gospel in places beyond CY. Her love of Jesus and passion for teaching the Gospel has been really evident in her relationship with the youth. Her commitment to bible memorisation had a positive impact at CY, with her weekly bible verse songs helping us to commit verses to memory.

To you all, we wish you all the very best wherever God takes you. As Paul concludes in his first letter to the Thessalonian church, I reiterate his words: May God himself, the God of peace sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

CY NEWSLETTER T4 2013

What Now? CY in 2014

By Josh Lum Mow

The past year has seen CY cover a lot of material. We've done studies from Genesis, Hebrews, Ruth and 1 Peter. We've investigated how Christ affects our whole lives in areas such as boy-girl relationships, evangelism, worship and relating to people of other religions. We've had an awesome time together at KYCK and Getaway. We've prayed together for unreached people groups at our Operation World Prayer Night, and we've had the opportunity to reach our friends with the gospel through evangelistic events such as RICE, Game of Life and Emmanuel.

The year 2013 was surely a packed year! And you can expect an equally packed year for 2014. Once again you can expect more of the usual, and hopefully some different and interesting topics. We'll be going through the gospel of John, Joshua/Numbers, Esther, and some of the books from 1 John to Jude. We'll also be having some topical nights about mission, social justice, some doctrine and ... something else.

As you can see, it's not all set in stone yet. The leaders will be going away in January to pray and plan for the

year ahead in order to come up with a program that will really challenge, stretch and strengthen your faith in all areas of life. Please pray for us as we do this! God willing, 2014 will be just as awesome as 2013 has been.

CY is on break until Term 1 next year. But that doesn't mean that studying the Bible stops, or that you can't continue to meet up with each other. Continue to meet up and encourage one another over the Christmas and New Years break, and we'll see you in 2014!



Year 11 Girls during study groups

What Now? Prayer Support

By Anna Zhang

Praise God for:

1. The end of another wonderful year at CY where we have seen young people grow in their knowledge and love of God, new members, and more parents involved in the Parents Cafe.
2. Our time studying 1 Peter and being reminded of how to live in light of being imperishable seed.
3. The old leaders who are leaving CY, and the new leaders who will be starting CY next year.



Pray for:

1. The leaders and the CYers over the holidays, that we would not give up meeting together with other believers, sharing our lives in Christ, reading God's word regularly and being transformed by the renewal of our minds.
2. The CY leaders retreat in mid/late January. Please pray for Josh and Dan as they prepare for it, that God would give them wisdom and insight into how best to prepare for the year. Please pray for old and new leaders, that God would renew and embolden their vision and eagerness to serve the youth and pray for the ministry.
3. Growing partnership and witness between parents of CYers, the CY leaders and Parents Cafe.