



rice Youth Sydney

Newsletter #1 | *March 2009*

A word from RICE Youth Sydney **Director Sam Mak**

Growing up in today's generation is quite a hard and lonely road. Just take a look around you - around 40% of marriages end in divorce with 49.3% involving children 18 years and under, around 20% of young people will experience significant depressive symptoms by the time they reach adulthood and the top three issues concerning young people today are family conflicts, body image and drugs.

This says a lot. And my heart is for this generation of youth in Sydney.

Last year God amazingly grew the ministry of RICE to bring 1800 youth to RICEfest and 3800 youth to RICErally. Over the two events we saw 331 youth commit their lives to Christ for the first time and 345 youth reaffirmed their lives to Christ. But the thing that was most remarkable was hearing stories of youth groups that have absolutely grown as RICE has connected youth to churches. Youth groups are exploding across Sydney! And this is exactly what RICE is about: Church driven ministry run by the churches, for the churches.

I want RICE Youth Sydney 2009 to be a year of change, growth and innovation! This year we will continue to proclaim the gospel unashamedly in a whole new youth culturally-edgy RICE Big Day Out and massive innovations to RICErally 2009. Growth is also on my heart. The more Christian youth there are, the more non-believing youth will be invited. And as we look around Sydney you can see that we live in such a diverse multi-cultural society. Back when I was in high-school my school friends were: Chinese, Korean, Pakistan, Indian, Anglo-Australians... Today's high schoolers don't just socialise in mono-cultural circles - but in circles that reflect Sydney's diverse culture. In the past 2 years, I have been deeply convicted to move towards a multi-cultural feel and this year we are heading towards that with RICE Youth Sydney.


RICE
2009
RICEfest
15th August
RICErally
22nd August



For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all.

2 Corinthians 5:14





With so many changes for RICE Youth Sydney 2009, we need your prayers. As we minister to the youth of Sydney, we need to be covered entirely by your prayers. Please pray for us and the RICE Leaders Day Out (June 27), RICE Working Bee (July 18), RICE Big Day Out (August 15) and RICErally (August 22).

I believe God has brought one of the strongest teams together this year. It has grown to a team of 18 and I'm looking forward to seeing what God will do through this team as we expand and innovate RICE 2009 for His name's sake. I believe God will do something mighty this year and bring hundreds more into His wonderful kingdom.

Please be praying for RICE Youth Sydney 2009.

May hundreds if not a thousand youth fall to their knees recognising our Lord Jesus Christ.



Sam Mak

Director of RICE Youth Sydney & Youth Pastor of Kirkplace (Kogarah)



Prayer Points for RICE Youth Sydney...

Contacting Churches

- We will be getting in touch with some new churches to invite them to join us in the ministry of RICE this year! Please pray that many churches will be eager to encourage their youth to attend RICE events and also offer their support to youth leaders serving in the ministry. We'll also be inviting back the existing RICE churches to join us for another year of proclaiming Christ's love to the youth of Sydney. Pray that God will bring about great transformation of our city by the power of His Spirit!

Recruiting Leaders

- We will be looking for youth leaders (Key Co-ordinators in March), supporters and other people along the way, so please pray that God will provide many faithful servants who will offer their time, gifts and financial support to His ministry!

A United Team

- Please pray for us on the Core Leadership Team, that we would work together lovingly and humbly as we dream big, and rely fully on God to help us do His work!

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The Core Leadership Team:

Each year a team of Core Leaders are asked from different RICE churches to come on board to assist in the annual planning and co-ordination of the RICE Youth events. This team guides the vision and organise the hundreds of volunteer youth leaders involved. We are excited to introduce the 2009 Core Leadership team:



Sam Mak	Elaine Lee
Ben Chow	Ming-Yee Ma
Jono Chow	Millie Sharp
Virginia Choy	Anna Tai
Micah Chua	Cindy Tjahja
Christina Khoo	Hiroshi Tse
Esther Kim	Faith Wan
Joe Kim	Boris Yu
Ines Lam	Caz Yuen

Meet one of the team:

Elaine Lee



Q1) Tell us a little about yourself...

I work as an occupational therapist during the week, I attend Sydney Chinese Alliance Church and in my spare time I like good food, good company and the great Aussie outdoors

Q2) How did you start out with RICE?

I was asked to join the Key Co-ordinators team a few years back, and that's how I came on board! As you can tell, I've never quite gotten off the RICE train :D

Q3) What will be your role with RICE Youth this year?

I will be co-ordinating the RICE Rally for 2009 and also assisting with the evangelism aspects of RICE youth.

Q4) What are you looking forward to at RICE this year?

I think that every year, I always stand in awe at what God does through RICE, and it's such a reminder of what a privilege it is for us, sinful people, to serve Him for the sake of His Kingdom. This year, I don't know what God will bring, but I am looking forward to the joy of serving Him together with the team, and to the way that He will amaze us time and time again.

Q4) How can we be praying for the youth group at your church?

Pray that they will grow in their knowledge and their love for God, and that they will continue to know how this affects the way that they relate to the world they live in.

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Key Dates for RICE Youth Sydney...

April 6: 1st Key Co-ordinators Meeting

April 13: RICE Vision Night 7pm at Moore College

May 11: 2nd Key Co-ordinators Meeting

June 8: 3rd Key Co-ordinators Meeting

June 27: RICE Leaders Day Out

July 18: RICE Revolution & RICE Working Bee

August 15: RICE Big Day Out

August 22: RICErally

Feel free to join us on April 13th at 7pm at Moore College for the RICE Vision Night to hear more about the future plans of the RICE movement in both Sydney and Brisbane.



Contact us:


Would you like more information
about RICE 2009?

Please visit our website below for up to date information about the RICE events for 2009 or please feel free to email any questions you may have to our secretary.

Website: <http://www.riceevent.org.au>

Questions?

Please contact: secretary@riceevent.org.au



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