

(Canada) "You Are a Chosen People" - Montreal and Ottawa UBF Summer Bible Conference (By Philip Wong)

The last time Montreal UBF held an in-person local chapter conference was in 2016 at Bishop's University – 8 years ago! Eight years later, God allowed us to have a joint Montreal-Ottawa Summer Bible Conference again at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec, on June 21-24.

Considering all that the Lord is doing in Montreal and Ottawa, and in light of our prayer for this generation, God gave us the theme of our identity and calling as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation people. Hence, the conference's title was "You are a chosen people" so that we could mediate on our identity and calling by God. Especially as we live in these dark times with the secular influences in our nation and on our campuses, the Lord wants us to remember this calling and identity: to remember how God has led our ministry with this calling and identity, to have the vision for Canada have this calling and identity, and to carry out our priestly duty. God raised five messengers: Pierre Jung, who opened our conference with our key verse on 1 Peter 2:9, which teaches us of the clear identity God has given us. Daniel Kim spoke on Mark 3:13-19 to teach us that Jesus calls ordinary people to be with him and to be sent out with a clear identity as his disciples and as apostles. The third message on Romans 1:1-7 was given by Alexandre McCaffrey (Ottawa), to learn of the grace and apostleship we receive through Christ. Our Sunday worship service message preached by Andrew Christopher on Titus 2:1-15, where God's word gives us clear instructions on how to live a holy nation people, redeemed and made pure by the blood of Jesus. The conference closed with Joshua Kirkland's message on 2 Timothy 4:1-8, giving us clear direction to preach the word, in season and out of season, and to persevere to fight the spiritual battle to the very end.

God graced us with life testimonies by Emmanuel (Ottawa) and Celine (Montreal). We were also blessed by our youth and second gens who shared one-word testimonies: Rebekah, Laura, Evangeline, and Peter. Our conference included two workshops. Our special guest, Paul Choi (St. Louis UBF) came to give us a presentation on God's calling based on the books of Jeff Iorg and Os Guinness. He also presented about Robert Hardie, a Canadian missionary called to Korea, whom God used to help spark the spiritual revival in Korea. We also heard testimonies by Faith Kwon and Ernest Chan, who testified about how God called them to the Canadian campus mission. The second workshop, inductive Bible study, was given by Luke Hong to teach us how to deeply study and grow in God's word. It is notable to say that the topics for these workshops - God's call and Inductive Bible study – were topics chosen by our second gens and youth, which shows how they are seeking to serve God.

One highlight is the mission report by Danielle, second gen, who went on a short-term mission trip to Argentina through the GAP year program. God answered all her prayer topics through this 3-month mission trip. Another highlight of the conference is the last day. There was a shepherd ceremony to bless the house church ministry of Joshua and Celine Kirkland, who are serving campus ministry at the Université de Sherbrooke and Bishop's University (where we were having this conference). Through the ceremony, the Kirkland's received a word of blessing through John 10:11 and prayers by Montreal UBF elders. There was also a prayer march on the campus to bless the campus. Like the Israelites who marched around Jericho, our prayer team marched around the campus, praying that God's kingdom may come to this campus through the Kirkland family. Their prayer topics included Celine to learn French and Joshua to grow as a Bible teacher and shepherd. And yet another highlight is how God used our youth and second gens to serve this conference as presiders (Pauline, Danielle, Marie-Ève, Emmanuel, Christopher, and Peter), group Bible study leaders (Steven G, Elizabeth, Emmanuel), and praise team (Prisca, Danielle, Evangeline, Nathan, Steven G, and Peter). The Lord is bringing about a spiritual revival among our second gens and youth to serve the Lord.

Thank God for answering our prayer to send over 60 people (62 people attended) and blessing this conference to help us receive and renew God's calling and identity as his chosen people!



