

West Oahu Christian Church  
94-420 Farrington Highway  
Waipahu, HI 96797



## Pastor's Corner...

### FILLED WITH GRATITUDE



The headline read: **Pastor Dies Just Prior to Ordination**. That image went through my mind as my body wracked with pain, shivers, fever and dizziness ... pneumonia! (I do not recommend it, especially while traveling!) *"If I die, Amy will get really angry at me because we agreed that I should go to the doctor before we left Hawaii."* Well, I survived. Now, a couple of weeks later, this trial is over and when I think about San Lorenzo, I think about the people, their love, their concern and caring actions. Busy as all of them were in hosting the conference, they made time for this God-orchestrated inconvenience named Stan. While this may seem like it should be more of a side note, doesn't this illustrate one of the essential goals of all our ministry?

Even if I hadn't missed most of the General Conference being sick, the **Ordination Ceremony** would have been a highlight for me. It is meaningful when other pastors affirm evidence of God calling me to serve Him as a pastor. I hope to live a life worthy of this call. I don't have a seminary degree so the Ordained Minister's Body (OMB) has required me to take several classes to assure a solid foundation for future ministry.

Being sick caused me to ask God, "**Why? Why now?**" My sense is that being sick at this time was like a dying to the old chapter and beginning a new one. For me, it feels similar to the symbolism and experience of baptism, except being sick was long and drawn out. But now there is a freshness in my heart, a brightness in my mind and a soberness in my walk.

As I look back on the path to this point in my life, I am grateful for ... the **UH Navigator Ministry** where **Steve Peppers** led me to Christ and disciplined me ... my dear friends at the **Kapahulu Bible Church**, where I enjoyed serving for the first ten years of my walk with God ... **Russell Higa** and the good brothers and sisters at Honolulu Christian Church with whom I served for 15 years, ten as Assistant Pastor ... my current church family, the wonderful saints at the **West Oahu Christian Church** with whom I have had the joy of serving for the last two years ... **my family** with whom I share every part of the journey. Above all, I am grateful to **God**, whose great mercy has saved me from the path of destruction and lavished on me His love and light in Jesus Christ!

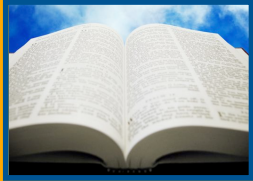
Because I missed most of this year's General Conference, I don't have much to share about it. Fortunately, **Neal Takamoto**, our delegate to the GC wrote a great feature article for the Koinonia which I believe you will not only enjoy, but be inspired by.

I am truly looking forward to God growing us together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the Glory!

In His Love,

*Stan*

## Preaching Schedule



*"...but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

*1 Peter 1:25*

Date	Key Scripture	Theme	Title, Description, Other Specials
08-02-09	1 Peter		Overview of 1 Peter – Peter has “been there, done that”
08-09-09	1 Peter 1:1-2	Election, Trinity	God has selected us – see the Triune God at work
08-16-09	1 Peter 1:3-9	Joy of Salvation	Keep focused on the Joy of your salvation because trials will come
08-23-09	1 Peter 1:10-12	Prophecy Timeline	Prophets anticipated the time of Christ!
08-30-09	1 Peter 1:13-17	Holiness	Live the Holy Life – what are the characteristics of one who is set apart? Let’s make that our goal.



## VBS Success!

With over 40 children enrolled and a staff of 30, Vacation Bible School was successfully held from July 6<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>. The children enjoyed the energizing opening and closing assemblies, Gator games, cool and creative crafts, dramatic bible stories, and Chadder’s hair-raising adventures. In addition, each day the children had yummy snacks that reinforced the daily stories and a delicious lunch. On the last day, over 15 parents joined us to see what their children had learned and experienced during the week. Our Grand Finale was held on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, as the children and staff sang songs, watched a slide presentation of the week’s activities, and participants shared their experiences.

Many thanks to all who helped set up and clean up, but especially the following staff members:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Jane and Darren Nako | VBS Coordinators   |
| Pastor Stan          | Child care, Pharaoh  |
| Kimberly Long        | Assembly Leader  |
| Danielle Long        | Assembly Assistant   |
| Jane Nako            | Snack and Lunch Chef/Coordinator. Assistants – June Asato, Ken Doi, Helen Matsueda, Charles Nako |
| Nancy Shimokawa      | Registration, Child care, Event photographer   |
| Shari Kurashige      | Chadder’s Adventures Coordinator   |
| Daniel Miyamoto      | Drama Coordinator. Assistant – Antonia Daniel (and child care)                                   |
| Dennis Nagatani      | Gator Games Co-Coordinator. Assistant – Laan Daniel (and child care)                             |
| Byron Daniel         | Gator Games Co-Coordinator (and child care)  |
| Jeannie Nagatani     | Crafts Coordinator. Assistants – Mieko Kinoshita, Roberta Nagano, Noelle Tafaoa, Joy Yonson      |
| Joan Doi             | Crew Leader. Assistant – Millie Kam  |
| Renee Koyama         | Crew Leader. Assistant – Fred Takamoto   |
| Nona Nagamine        | Crew Leader. Assistant – Alex Arinaga  |
| Tena Ponder          | Crew Leader. Assistant – Sarah Ponder  |



*Nothing...in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.*

*Romans 8:39*

## 2009 General Conference *by Neal Takamoto*

### General Conference: The Business

Well, the 2009 General Conference has come and gone, and I had the distinct honor and privilege of serving as your delegate. To tell you the truth, I was a little apprehensive about going, since I have never been to a General Conference by myself. I am glad to say that everything turned out great and I actually had a good time.



Most of the “business” was done on Friday, the first day of the conference. This was a long day. I got to the San Lorenzo Christian Church, a little after 7:30 in the morning for breakfast, and didn’t leave until after 9:30 at night. The first order of business was the committee reports from the Executive Council. This was followed by the election of the new Executive Council, which was held up slightly by questions to procedures in the election process.

In the late afternoon we started on the propositions. Proposition 1, the budget, passed without much fanfare. Things started to heat up with Proposition 2, Licensing of Ministers. After some lengthy discussions on the proposition as well as more procedural questions, this proposition passed. The session after dinner started off with a presentation explaining the reasons for changing the Constitution and By-laws. It is too bad that this presentation was not made to the churches, for when tallying up the church votes, Proposition 3, the new Constitution, did not have the three-fourths majority needed to make it to the floor. Interestingly, though, based on a “straw vote” if the proposition made it to the floor, it would have passed. Based on the outcome of Proposition 3, Proposition 4,

the Policy Manual, was also pulled, without calling for any votes.

What was the most interesting part of this day for me? Well it has to be the way this conference conducts business. It was very eye-opening for me to see so much of what we do as a conference is based on “past practices” rather than what is written. I can only hope and pray that after this exercise in changing our Constitution and By-Laws is over, our conference leaders will actually follow what is written.



### General Conference: The Fellowship



The second day of the General Conference was more a day of fellowship, filled with ceremonial matters. During the morning session, the new Executive Council and Judicial Council was installed.

This was followed by a series of prayers for each church within our conference.



The afternoon session included the Ordination ceremony for our very own Pastor Stan, or should I say Rev. Miyamoto? It was a minor miracle, in and of itself that Stan was there for his own ordination. On Wednesday, Pastor Stan felt terrible. Then on Thursday, during the OMB meeting, he went to a doctor and was diagnosed with having pneumonia. He was put on antibiotics and rested the rest of Thursday and all of Friday. Through God's grace, he felt well enough to attend Saturday and his ordination was held. Being the only WOCC representative, I had the honor, along with Amy, of placing his robes on him. Congratulations Stan!



Following are a few pictures of Stan's ordination:



## General Conference: The Experience

Well as I stated previously, I was apprehensive about going to the General Conference by myself. So, why did I decide to go? Well three reasons, in no particular order:

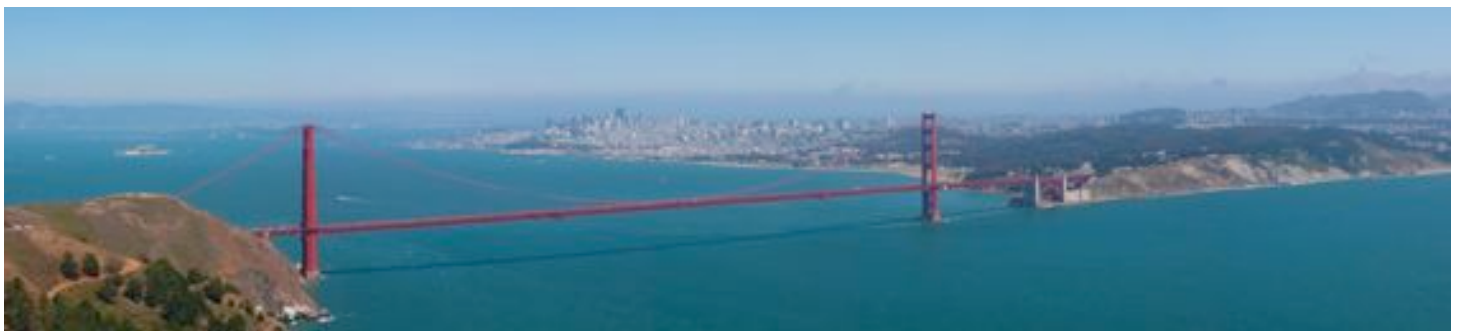
1. As outgoing Chair of the Board of Deacons, I asked myself, 'How can I expect anybody else in our church to go if I was not willing?'
2. I thought it would be an interesting one to attend because of the Propositions and because of Stan's ordination.
3. Because the hotel was only a short walk away! 😊

Before the trip, I was stressing over the logistics. How am I going to get from the airport to the hotel? Is it safe to walk from the hotel to the church? What am I going to do on my free day? Should I go into San Francisco? How am I going to get there? How much is a taxi ride? How do I catch the Bart? Well, funny how God works things out.

I decided to take the host church's offer for airport pick-up and they arranged to have Stan Naruo, their church administrator, pick me up at the airport. As we were driving to the hotel I asked Stan about catching the Bart into San Francisco. After reassuring me it was pretty easy, he asked why I needed to catch the Bart. I told him that I had planned to go into San Francisco the next



day (Thursday). He then informed me that he was taking his 2 home stays into SF and asked if I would like to join them. God had overwhelmingly answered my prayers. Not only did I get a personal tour of San Francisco, I got to know my fellow brothers and sisters in the conference (the 2 home stays were a father & daughter from Honolulu Christian Church). Stan was an amazing host, paying for the tolls, and driving us all over the city. He even invited me to join them for dinner that night. It really was a wonderful start to my conference experience.



The conference itself was also much more enjoyable than I had expected. Prior to going, I imagined myself sitting in a corner, not talking to anyone ... you know, my usual outgoing, sunny disposition self. It kind of started out like that, as I didn't go out of my way to say hello to people, and I found an out-of-the-way spot to sit. Of course it didn't help that Pastor Stan wasn't there. After the first morning break, though I found myself talking to some old acquaintances and actually seeking out others. What was going on here? Maybe I was moved by the Holy Spirit to come out of my shell and participate in some fellowship. *Which brings me to an aside: going to a conference like this made me realize how insecure I am in showing my own faith. So many in attendance wore their faith in their sleeves, willing to show the world their passion for Christ.*

Once we got to the procedural parts of the meeting, I even surprised myself by raising a question, along with a couple of other attendees, on the process of the Executive Council elections. Things only got looser from there. During the call for church votes for Proposition 2, I once again found myself speaking, without prompting from anyone, and questioning the procedures. It turns out that I can be pretty vocal when I need to be. It also speaks to how quickly I became "comfortable" among my fellow attendees. Once again, I can only give credit to the Holy Spirit for giving me a voice.

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I think the confidence I gained during the business part of the meeting played a big part in my overall enjoyment of the experience. For immediately after the Friday session was adjourned, I actually sought out pastors from other churches, whom I have never met, to introduce myself and pass along greetings and well wishes from others back in Hawaii. As I look back, this was the most enjoyable part of the conference, making new acquaintances, from Stan Naruo and his wife, to fellow delegates, to pastors in our conference. I think these relationships, more than anything else, is what is making me look forward to my next opportunity to attend a General Conference.

## Praises & Prayer Requests



### Pray for:

#### Physical Health, Healing and Support:

- ✚ **Tomi Doi** (dialysis)
  - ✚ **Melvin Ishikawa** (dementia)
  - ✚ **Bob Terukina** (dementia due to stroke)
  - ✚ **Mike Teruya** (chemotherapy and broken hand)
  - ✚ **Rev. Yuji Nakamura** (recovery from surgery)
  - ✚ **Art Tani**, Shima's husband (lung cancer)
  - ✚ **Ruth Miyamoto** (God's guidance for college)
  - ✚ **Martin and Alex Arinaga and Mary Suefuji** (on the homegoing of **Pam Arinaga**)
- Our prayers and support are with you.

#### WOCC and Conference Activities:

- ✚ Vacation Bible School, July 6 – 10
- ✚ Conference, 100 Days of Prayer (on bulletin board)
- ✚ Small Groups formation at WOCC

#### US and World Events:

- ✚ State Economy
- ✚ World and US Economy
- ✚ War in Iraq and Afghanistan
- ✚ President Barack Obama, Congress; State leaders, City leaders
- ✚ Pray for righteousness in our country

### Praises:

Congratulations to **Rev. Stan Miyamoto** on his recent ordination!

*If you would like to list your prayer request, please contact Stan Miyamoto:  
e-mail: [stanmiyamoto@gmail.com](mailto:stanmiyamoto@gmail.com), cell phone: 277-2833.*

## A Valuable Lesson Learned

Looking back on my third stint as Board of Deacons Chair, I can honestly say that I found this to be an enjoyable experience overall. Being able to say this is quite surprising considering how the term began. Back in May 2008, being Board Chair was the furthest thing from my mind and as a result, being nominated for the position was neither expected nor appreciated by me. I reluctantly and angrily accepted the position. While upset at the circumstances, I nonetheless went about trying to do the best that I could, and as one of my first duties as Board Chair, I went out to purchase gift cards for our outgoing Board members. This action turned into an adventure and ultimately into a valuable lesson learned.

As I pulled into the parking lot of the store from which I went to purchase the gift cards, I noticed how tight the parking was. That being said, I saw an open stall and attempted to squeeze my car in there. While doing so, I ever-so-gently rubbed up against the car on my passenger side ... well OK, I hit it. The first thing I thought was "Great! This wouldn't have happened if I wasn't Board Chair since the only reason I'm here is to fulfill one of my obligations." Of course, the next thing I thought was "I wonder if anyone noticed?" After parking the car, it became evident that no one did notice. Hmmm ... what should I do? Well, since I was Board Chair, a Christian in the parking lot of a Christian bookstore, and in general a swell guy (if I do say so myself), I did the right thing and went looking for the owner. I found her shopping in the bookstore and when I told her what had occurred, the strangest thing happened. Instead of getting visibly upset, she was actually appreciative of my honesty. She even suggested that we settle outside of insurance so that my rates would not increase.

Immediately after this incident, I of course asked God "Why?" And you know what? He showed me the answer. God had used that situation to show me how a Christian should handle adversity. The owner of the other car did not get upset, she remained calm and she handled herself with dignity and compassion, the complete opposite of how I handled being "elected" Board Chair. I was so thankful for the lesson learned that when I sent my check to the owner of the other car, I also included a letter sharing my revelation and thanking her for being a part of God's plan for me. I also included a restaurant gift card as thanks for her shining example. She responded with a letter back thanking me for the gift card and explaining that it was her husband's birthday, and being a stay at home mom, she usually has to use "his" money to purchase gifts and what not, but with this card, she could truly take him out for his birthday.

What's the moral of this story? Well, for one, if a parking stall looks tight, don't try to squeeze into it! But more importantly, you should heed God's call with patience and grace rather than anger and resentment. So for those of you, who've made it through this rambling article, please open your eyes, ears and heart. Hear God's call for you, heed it and be blessed, for He is always calling you to service. You may be scared, reluctant, upset or anxious but it doesn't matter. Follow God's intentions for you and good things will follow. Of course, if you go into it with the right attitude in the first place, it may just save you \$800.

God Bless all of you and thank you for allowing me to serve His kingdom as your Board Chair this past year.

For His glory,

Neal

PS. One day, Pastor Stan asked me what I got out of being Board Chair this past year. Honestly, the one thing that immediately came to my mind was the relationship I had built with him. Early on in the term, Stan asked if we could have lunch. Knowing myself, I know that if I was not Board Chair, I would not have agreed to this, but feeling duty bound to at least humor our Pastor, I went. Well, long story short, this initial lunch turned into a monthly thing and over the course of the year, I actually started looking forward to our lunches and discussions. The hours spent talking to each other really sped up my comfort level working with Stan and helped me to appreciate his gifts. It also helped by turning our working relationship into a friendship.

So if you are asked by Pastor Stan to have lunch, take him up on the offer. Who knows where it will lead. Just remember, it's dutch!




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*"...the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."*  
James 3:17

**Stan Miyamoto, English Pastor**  
Office/Fax: 808-671-0699  
e-mail: [w.oahu-c.church@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:w.oahu-c.church@hawaiiantel.net)



**Yuji Nakamura, Japanese Pastor**  
Office/Fax: 808-671-5161  
Home/Fax: 808-422-1236

**English Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.**  
**Adult Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.**

**Japanese Worship Services - 9:15 a.m.**  
**Children's Church - 10:45 a.m.**

## WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

94-420 Farrington Hwy.  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
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West Oahu  
Christian Church

VISION STATEMENT  
***"To develop and  
strengthen the  
congregation to  
actively minister to  
the community."***

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.wocc-hi.org](http://www.wocc-hi.org)

## Let's All Go to the Labor Day Picnic!

**What:** Labor Day – September 7, 2009

**Where:** Manoa Park – Pavilion Area

**When:** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Main Dish is provided – Bring salad, starch, dessert

Prizes needed for Children's games, Harvest Game & Giant  
Jan Ken Po

Suggestions for prizes - toilet paper, paper towels, snacks,  
saimin, cup of noodles, oranges, carrots, potatoes, gift cards.  
Invite your friends and family to this great outreach!!

A signup sheet is posted in the church hallway. Donated  
items may be brought on the day of the picnic.

Any questions? Please see Sharon Horita  
(ph. 456-1533; email address:  
[sharon.horita@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:sharon.horita@hawaiiantel.net))

