



West Oahu Christian Church
Stan Miyamoto, English Pastor
Office/Fax: 808-671-0699
Email: stanmiyamoto@gmail.com



Pastor's Corner...

Rediscovering Christ in Christmas

A good friend recently told me that he had to get a lot of things done before the Christmas season gets in the way. I found that statement quite humorous, especially because he is a very strong Christian and a leader in his church. Honestly though, many of us face the Christmas season with a sense of apprehension about how busy it will be. Busy seems to trump all the joy!

My four-year-old granddaughter Cheyenne is excited about Christmas. She "helped" me put up some of our Christmas lights and is excited when we see other lights around town. She hasn't heard much yet about Santa Clause. At my house, the standing joke is that a gift from me is a gift from "Stanta" (get it? Haha and hohoho!). Cheyenne really enjoyed Christmas the last two years, and may enjoy it even more this year.

I wonder if what happens to Christmas also happens to our walk with Christ? New believers often have a flame of excitement that tends to get dimmer as the novelty wears off. Could that be the problem, that these things are just novelties to us? Or could it be like other things we were once passionate about that have now become mere tasks to check off our to-do list.

Whether or not this has happened to you, perhaps these ideas may help to rekindle the warmth of Christmas: 15-20 minutes at a time, by yourself or with family members, read the Christmas stories from the bible (Matthew 1:18-2:23, Luke 1 & 2); Take a trolley ride around town; Join some friends and go caroling for neighbors, friends or shut-ins; Get a Christmas devotional book and go through it faithfully and prayerfully. This Christmas season, lift up your eyes once again and approach Jesus like a little child who is full of wonder and anticipation. Fan into flame the joy which Christ brings to the season. As you do, may you experience afresh **Christ in Christmas!**

Merry Christmas!

Stan



Giving Thanks at WOCC... by Pastor Stan

This past Thanksgiving has prompted me to express my gratefulness for the servants who carry out the ministries at West Oahu Christian Church. I would like to share some "Mahalos" for some of the more visible activities we have had recently...

Thank you **Jeanne Nagatani** for heading up this year's **Harvest Festival** which enabled many children and their families to enjoy a safe and fun time as we shared the love and message of Jesus Christ with them. You and your hard working crews have blessed many hearts.

Thank you **Tena Ponder** and all your helpers for coordinating a really big **Thanksgiving Pot Luck Luncheon!** With so many visitors that day it was quite a party! Thanks also to our resident pro, Daniel Miyamoto, for coordinating the Bowling Fellowship. Friendships are being deepened!

Thank you **Dennis Nagatani** for working hard on the stained glass project which has as many twists and turns to it as the artwork itself! ☺

Of course, for the many behind-the-scenes servants, thank you for your consistent service to God. Jesus said that our Heavenly Father sees what you have done in secret and will reward you.

God's kingdom forcefully advanced because of all of you!

Prayer Requests

Physical Health, Healing and Divine Support:

- ✎ Tomi Doi - dialysis
- ✎ Melvyn Ishikawa - dementia
- ✎ Rev. Yuji Nakamura – healing and strength from ongoing infection
- ✎ Anton Daniel – gout and/or arthritis
- ✎ Stan – New Testament Class

WOCC and OMS Conference Activities:

- ✎ Church Leaders, Deacons, Trustees
- ✎ God's ongoing guidance in Conference Restructuring process

State, U.S. and World:

- ✎ State, US and World Economy
- ✎ War in Iraq and Afghanistan
- ✎ US, State and City Government Leaders
- ✎ Pray for righteousness in our country

If you would like to list or change your prayer request, please contact Stan Miyamoto: via a note, or e-mail at stanmiyamoto@gmail.com.



Give Thanks in all circumstances
for this God's will for you in Christ
Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

A Christmas envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Your contributions are used in the general maintenance and functioning of the church. We ask for your prayerful financial support. Thank you.



Small Groups *by Martin Arinaga*

I didn't want to be there. It was my first small group meeting that my wife, Pam, "forced" me to attend. It was on a weekday evening (my most productive time for business), it was twice a month, and it was intrusive into my personal life. I asked Pam "How long do we attend this thing?" She replied "Forever." I was convinced that this was a bad idea. I figured that after a few visits to this small group, Pam would prefer to leave me behind and I'll be free from this troublesome meeting. I went to the first meeting with a bad attitude and an exit strategy clearly planned out.

Fortunately for me, the people in the group greeted me with love and accepted me as I was. I felt very comfortable and even though they may have figured out that I didn't want to be there, they involved me in their conversations and welcomed me into their midst. Almost 15 years later, the members of this small group are now dear friends whom I call Brother & Sister in faith. We served in ministries together, we had annual family weekends at Camp Erdman, shared many picnics and countless pot luck meals together. We studied the Bible and shared how easy it is to lose to temptations and sin. We also rejoiced together in celebrating a birth of a child, a much needed job, a restored relationship with a father, the challenges of facing an illness. We took turns refereeing our children as they played with the toys in the next room while the rest of us in the group held discussion & prayed. We attended the high school graduation ceremonies of these same children as we celebrate a milestone with their parents. We helped a new family to Hawaii set up their tiny apartment, we prayed for the salvation of family and friends. And we rejoiced when these prayers were answered. And when Pam went home to the Lord, it was this group who stood vigil in the I.C.U. waiting room with me and stepped up to the plate and handled all of the details of planning and managing her memorial service. I have grown to love each of my small group members and to appreciate them as children of God...each with our sinful nature, but every one of us grateful for the mercy given to us by Jesus Christ.

We will be kicking off the sign-ups for West Oahu Christian Church's Small Groups in 2011 and I want you to sign up for a group. I do not know what the Holy Spirit has in store for you to learn in the Small Groups. I do not know if the small group will be a spiritual nucleus for growth or not. I don't even know if your group will gel in the same way it did for me & Pam. But I do know this. If you are willing to give it a chance, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into the right group, you will grow spiritually. You will be amongst friends who will support your faith journey, and who you can support in theirs. Your small group will become the first place you'll think of when your friend for whom you've been praying for shows signs of interest in learning more about Jesus Christ. Give God a chance in your life. You won't be disappointed.

Join a Small Group. Today.

Missions Corner *by Roberta Nagano*

Wherever we live, there are people around us who desperately need Jesus in their lives. We are reminded of this ever-present need in Matthew 9:36-38, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Whether they are sent to those in the community around us or sent to another country, missionaries have been given the task of spreading the news of the salvation which is found only in Jesus Christ. The Lord is using them to make an impact for His kingdom and glory. Thank you for making a difference and taking part in sending missionaries out into the harvest field. With your generosity, we are helping to support missionaries in Japan and various parts of the Far and Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and here in Hawaii.

Upcoming Events at WOCC:

Mark your calendars and save the dates! Here's what's happening at WOCC! Come join us!

- Sunday, Dec. 19: Light Christmas Potluck Luncheon
- Sunday, Mar. 6: Spring Banquet @ the Honolulu Country Club

More details about these events will be forthcoming.

Ongoing Events:

English Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Adult Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.

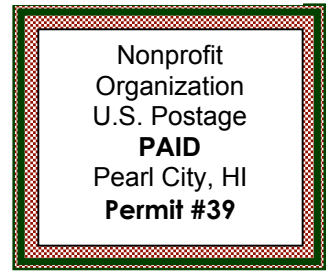
Children's Church – 10:45 a.m.

Japanese Worship/Bible Study Services – 9:15 a.m.



WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

94-420 Farrington Hwy.
Waipahu, HI 96797



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

West Oahu
Christian Church

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

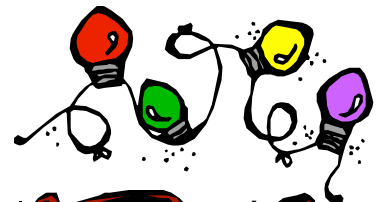
We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.wocc-hi.org

Spring Banquet 2011!

Next year's spring banquet guarantees to be a fabulous adventure. As you know this will be my first "big" assignment since joining the board of deacons. We will first travel to the Honolulu Country Club (which is an adventure in itself!). This will be the first time having the banquet there so I ask you for your feedback after the dinner. The country club is a beautiful place to enjoy. So mark your calendar for 6 March 2011. If you have any suggestions for changes or additions to the regular program schedule please let me know soonest.

I am grateful for the opportunity to stretch and serve,

Tena Ponder



Merry Christmas