



West Oahu Christian Church  
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## Pastor's Corner...

### An Empty Room Filled with the Uncontainable

While in Israel last August, one of the most startling, and may I say it...disappointing scenes, was the Upper Room. In spite of knowing that it was not going to be like Leonardo da Vinci's painting, actually seeing the starkness of the room was startling. To be fair, the upper room Jesus and his disciples used was "furnished," and likely contained trappings of the Passover since perhaps a million Jews would be in town for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Still, the large stone box we walked into was just that, a box – not even a picture on a wall. Our guide told us that there are many "upper rooms" in Jerusalem, and we can't be certain which one Jesus used. Aha! Maybe the actual room was some other, more impressive room! Nah. It wouldn't matter. They are all the same – plain. Maybe I'm too driven by external appearances.

Yet in this simple box of a room some of the most profound statements in all of history were made. So profound were they that they have been held sacred by Christ's followers for two thousand years. In this room Jesus proclaimed a New Covenant in His blood, establishing the sacred ceremony of the Lord's Supper. Here the Lord of glory described and modeled the supremacy of servanthood as he conferred the kingdom on his disciples and washed their feet. It is in this room that the most intimate of Jesus' teachings on the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Triune relationship took place. This is where Jesus' longest recorded prayer to the Father flowed from His lips.

This is Jesus' way isn't it ... taking the ordinary and filling it with the extraordinary? Didn't he choose the foolish things of this world to shame the wise, and the weak things to shame the strong? Didn't he choose to deposit surpassing treasures in jars of clay? He came to you and me to fill our empty, parched lives with the incomparable riches of His glory! The astounding mystery is that God sends this uncontainable glory to fill the empty rooms of our hearts.

In a world where much pageantry is made for things of no lasting substance, Jesus used a plain room to bring forth eternal and uncontainable substance. Come to Christ by faith, and experience the blessedness of God's fullness living in you!

No Longer Empty,

*Stan*





## Small Groups by Tena Ponder

The 10-week semester of small groups has come to an end and the overall feedback was very positive. Some bonds were strengthened and others were forged. As you know verse memorization was part of the small group curriculum. Many people voiced concern about having to memorize verses. How wonderful it was to hear people reciting verse in small group, in Sunday school and during worship service! This brings to mind one of my first memorized verses, Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. What a mighty God we serve.

Thanks to all those who participated, 49 people in 8 groups and the "staff" who worked diligently to make small groups such a positive experience. If you did not participate this semester we urge you to strongly consider joining us for the next semester to begin the week of 22 May 2011. Sign up will begin in early May. The second semester will run differently from the first. Each group will have the opportunity to decide what, if any, curriculum they will follow. And same as last semester anyone interested in serving as a host home or facilitator should see Martin Arinaga.

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## Prayer Requests & Announcements

### Physical Health, Healing and Divine Support:

- ✂ Tomi Doi - dialysis
- ✂ Melvyn Ishikawa - dementia
- ✂ Rev. Yuji Nakamura – healing and strength from ongoing infection
- ✂ Anton Daniel – regain strength in legs
- ✂ Stan – Studies
- ✂ Rev. Uyemura – recovery from fever and weakness
- ✂ Mr. & Mrs. Akamu – recovery from flu and fever

### WOCC and OMS Conference Activities:

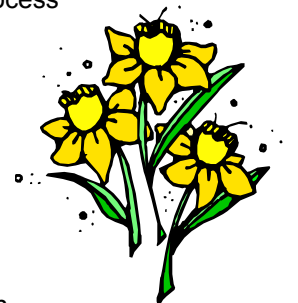
- ✂ Church Leaders, Deacons, Trustees
- ✂ God's ongoing guidance in Conference Restructuring process
- ✂ Development of new Local Church Bylaws

### State, U.S. and World:

- ✂ Economic troubles
- ✂ Middle East conflicts
- ✂ US, State and City Government Leaders
- ✂ Pray for righteousness in our country

### Congratulations to:

- ✂ Byron Daniel for pursuing diesel mechanic school in Utah
- ✂ Ivan & Julie Takamoto on the birth of their son Micah on Feb. 14, 2011
- ✂ Keith & Jessica Osaki on the birth of their son Brayden on Mar. 12, 2011



*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](mailto:stanmiyamoto@gmail.com).*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
(John 3:16)*

An Easter 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.

## Missions Corner *by Roberta Nagano*

God is using our missionaries in Japan to help the people whose lives have been devastated by the disaster in that country. They have come together and are working with local pastors and churches to deliver supplies to the needy. They are encouraging, assisting, and enabling local churches who have escaped damage to reach out to those in need in their local communities. Volunteers are standing beside the people of Japan by bringing necessities and supplies. Most of all, they are bringing hope to a people whose future looks hopeless.

Eric Takamoto (Asian Access, in Sanda) is in Sendai after he and some other missionaries rented a two-ton truck filled with supplies for the people in the area. People staying in their homes are not receiving the government supplies needed for daily sustenance--those go to the homeless in shelters. Nine families remain in the town of Minami Sanriku, 2 miles inland, and were provided supplies by Eric and his missionary friends, who are now staying at a seminary.

Ted Kawabata (Every Nation, in Yokohama) and fellow missionaries sent 4 teams, 5 trucks, 12 tons of food and supplies into Sendai. They helped 7 evacuation shelters, including 3 churches, 2 elementary schools, 1 old folks home, and 1 shrine. They are partnering with other churches and ministries, but taking the lead in most of the situations mentioned. They are planning ways to send large teams in to clean up schools, churches, homes, etc. They are also doing street outreaches in Yokohama to spread God's love to the Japanese youth.

Roy Toma (Campus Crusade for Christ, in Okinawa) planned on going to Fukushima where he has contacts and wanted to help them.

Lillian Shinoda (Conference sponsored missionary at Tokyo Biblical Seminary) has e-mailed detailed accounts of the events and mentioned that their church is planning fundraisers to help the victims.

Judy Galley (TEAM, in Toyama) was here in Hawaii when the earthquake struck and is currently on furlough on the mainland.

The WOCC Board of Deacons has voted to donate \$200 to each of our Japan missionaries so they can further the cause of Christ by extending help to someone they know who needs help in Japan.

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## Spring Banquet *by Tena Ponder*

"Aloha" from the Fellowship Committee. We would like to thank everyone for the help and participation in bringing a fabulous dinner to fruition. The silent auction/country store raised over \$900.00 dollars, wonderful food was savored and all in attendance appeared to enjoy the events of the evening. Special thanks to those who so generously donated so that others could attend. May you be blessed for your thoughtfulness. It's not too early to start thinking about next year's banquet. If you have any suggestions for improvements on next year's banquet just put them into the Fellowship cubby in the rear of the sanctuary.



### Upcoming Events at WOCC:

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

- April 16: "Christ in the Passover" seminar by Rob Wertheim @ 6:30pm
- April 22: Good Friday Service @ 7pm; light refreshment potluck to follow.
- April 23: Easter Festival for the children @ 9am
- April 24: Easter Sunrise Service @ 7am followed by a light breakfast;

### Ongoing Events:

English Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Adult Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.

Children's Church – 10:30 a.m.

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



## WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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)

## 2011 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

This year's Easter Sunday Sunrise Service will be held on April 24, 2011 at 7 am. Please bring a family member or a friend to our worship service and let us all celebrate our LORD's glory.

We will be having a small-kine breakfast to follow after the service. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the bulletin board in the church's hallway. Your kokua in signing up to donate items for the breakfast will be greatly appreciated.

Humbly,  
Jeanne Nagatani

Happy  
Easter  
Wishes!

