

March/April 2012

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Koinonia

West Oahu Christian Church
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Pastor's Corner ...

Worship Services:

Japanese Worship /
Bible Study
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

English Worship
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Sunday School:

English Adult Sunday
School
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Children's Church
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Upcoming Events:

Good Friday Service:
April 6 @ 7:00 PM

Easter Festival:
April 7 @ 9:00 AM –
12:30 PM (lunch to
be provided)

Sunrise Service:
April 8 @ 7:00 AM

Introductory Class to
WOCC:
April 15, 22 & 29

Easter – From Fact to Faith by Stan Miyamoto



Is this a scary picture? It may be the place mentioned in the Bible called, Golgotha, Calvary or “the place of the skull,” where Jesus was crucified. It is also called “Gordon’s Calvary,” named after British General Charles Gordon, who noticed the image created by shadows when the sun was a certain angle.

Next to this rock formation is a site called the Garden Tomb, in which an ancient sepulcher has been preserved for thousands of years. Regardless of whether this is the exact tomb where Jesus Christ was laid, it paints an extremely vivid picture for those

making a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It becomes clear that the Biblical stories are not just fables, but real history.

As one walks around and into the tomb, it is easy to envision the Biblical accounts of the death and burial of Jesus. One can imagine the three crosses next to the roadway that runs in front of the site. One can picture a large round stone in the trough in front of the opening, having been rolled into place, and sealing the tomb. Watching those of your own tour party entering the tomb, it is easy to visualize John and Peter inspecting the



empty tomb, and wondering what happened to the body of Jesus. For the spiritual pilgrim (tourist), these thoughts can be amazing. But for Peter and John, it would be completely life-changing.

For Peter and John, the words of the angel, “He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay” (Mat 28:6, NIV) created a conflict in their minds that forced them to choose between the *facts* of the situation, and what human experience told them was not possible. John was quick to respond in faith: “He saw, and believed” (John 20:8, NIV). Peter took longer, but soon was no less convinced that what happened on that first Easter was a true miracle.

It is my prayer that whether quick or long, you too will place your faith in Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead, and lives today to give eternal life to everyone who believes!

Happy Easter!



Spring Banquet 2012 by Tena Ponder Thacker

"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

1 John 1:3

This year's Spring Banquet was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing. The West Oahu Christian Church family, friends and guests returned to the Honolulu Country Club for an evening of good food, great music provided by Joyful Noise, and the touching and heartfelt sharing of our speakers.



The evening started off with the music of Joyful Noise ushering us into a beautifully arranged dining hall. Each table was decorated with flowers arranged by Renee Koyama. This year we were moved into the main room because our total sign up

number was 113! We enjoyed our usual guessing games, this year how much, how many & how come. Joyce Tanji and crew presented us with delightful opportunities to make bids during the silent auction. And she organized the country store so that we could find our scrumptious treats. Thru these two events we raised \$1,147.00 for the banquet fund. How blessed are we?!

Pastor Stan welcomed us all and blessed the food. After enjoying delicious vittles we were greatly blessed by the sharing of four members. Joan Doi told us of a time when the church was not as financially steady as it is now but when love, caring (and a broomstick holding the roof!) provided transport for the church's youth. Katherine Nagamine, barely visible at the podium, recognized Gladys Iwaoka, Sam Tanji's auntie, who is the last surviving charter member of our sister church, HCC, the church from which ours was seeded. Tomiko Takamoto talked about the beginning of the Nichigo worship service and how it was such a joy to hear the hymns and worship songs in Japanese. And our last speaker, Sam Tanji shared about his move from quietly (silently?) serving from the back of the room to his current leadership position in the church. This was a very special night of learning about our church's humble beginnings.

Our evening continued with music provided by Mrs. Uyemura and the Nichigo choir, a game was provided by Jeanne Nagatani (also favors!) and prizes were given out by Sarah Ponder. Our slideshow (produced by Gordon Thacker) was a look back to the spiritual foundation of WOCC. This gathering was truly a blessing to all who worked so hard to make it happen. *We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!* Hope to see you all and more next year.



An Easter Envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Your generous contributions are used to help WOCC achieve its mission "To Glorify God, to empower the people to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ and to share the Gospel." It is used, directly or indirectly, to help facilitate outreach programs and other activities (as reported throughout this newsletter), purchase essential supplies and provide for the Church's daily maintenance. We ask for your continued financial support. Thank You



Evangelism Can Be Fun Too by Jeanne Nagatani

West Oahu Christian Church has been very fortunate in that we have been able to participate in fun craft activities while trying to use the activities as an outreach for non-Christian women.

On January 15th and 22nd, we were able to learn how to carve narcissus bulbs, which was taught by Renee Koyama. It was a 2 part class that resulted in learning how to carve the "crab" bulb, which was a challenge as it took about a week before we were able to see any results. We look forward to next year when we will be learning different narcissus bulb carving.

On March 17th, we had a bracelet making class that was taught by Tena Thacker and Jeanne Nagatani. The women that attended had fun while learning how to make a beautiful bracelet. Each brought their own lunch and drink, which was a good thing as class lasted longer than anticipated. The fun and fellowship that we all shared are treasures that will be with each of us forever.

We will be planning more craft activities in the future, so watch for the announcements regarding the next activity.



Parenting Class & Small Group Update by Martin Arinaga & Tena Ponder Thacker

Parenting Class: In February, WOCC held parenting classes for the first time. The objective for these classes was to provide practical parenting skills for parents, stepparents, grandparents and caregivers. Providing these classes was a way for our church to give to our community. We were so fortunate to have Dr. Theresa Wee M.D. as instructor and host. Working alongside Dr. Wee, to make this a success was, Donna Kranz and Jennifer and Joel Duldulao.

The first meeting was a general session about parenting which was attended by 35 people. The next four follow up sessions were held in question and answer format and were attended by 20 people.

The target participants for these classes were those parents of newborns to 12 year olds. Child care was provided free of charge. Now under consideration is a second parenting class using the same format targeting a wider audience. Stay tuned.

Small Group: The first trimester of our small group ministry is currently underway. The curriculum that we are all using is r12. The basis of the curriculum is a book entitled, Living on the Edge, an accompanying study guide called, True Spirituality according to Jesus, and a DVD of the same title.

Our small groups are focusing on the social level of a learning environment to make friends while we grow in our walk with God. This naturally leads to deeper relationships between everyone. Also our groups provide opportunities to have fun, serve and reach out to others by doing special activities together.

One hundred percent participation is the goal for our church. We would like to see everyone who attends WOCC join a small group at least once during the year. Are you the missing percent?

This trimester ends Easter week. The next one begins in June. If you have not already, begin considering hosting a small group in your home come June. If you have questions, talk with one of the host families. You will be blessed!!

VISION STATEMENT

"To develop and strengthen the congregation to actively minister to the community"



WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Prayer Requests:

Individuals:

Daniel Family - We praise God that Anton's legs are getting stronger, but his feet continue to hurt. Jaydon and Jade are preparing to move to the mainland with her family. Moving will be stressful, however they will be closer to Byron.

Sharon Horita – Her treatments for cancer has changed. Please continue to pray for God's sustenance and healing.

The Murakami Family - Ernest Murakami passed away on March 11th. Please lift up Nancy Murakami as she and her family say "goodbye" to Ernest. The loss will be difficult and she will need God's comfort.

WOCC and OMS Conference Activities:

By-Laws - We are making gradual progress in developing new By-Laws for WOCC. Pray for God's ongoing guidance as to our church structure.

Stained Glass - We are so grateful for the blessing of a new stained glass in our ceiling. It "finishes" our sanctuary in such a beautiful way. "Thank You, Lord!"

Conference - Please continue to lift up the transitions in the Conference leadership structure.

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

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

John 14:13-14

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.wocc-hi.org