

March/April 2013

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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

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Children's Activities  
Program (CAP)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

### Upcoming Events:

Good Friday Service:

March 29 @ 7:00 PM

Sunrise Service:

March 31 @ 7:00 AM



## Who Crucified Jesus? *Matthew 26-27*

Pastor H.B. London, Jr. asks this age-old question in his devotional book, *Pause, Recharge, Refresh*. As we read through the accounts of Jesus arrest, illegal and rigged trials, public mockery, and torturous death, we are challenged to know who was responsible for His death. We become incensed at those who did this to Him, and seek to find out who the culprit is, so we can judge them and get even, if only for the satisfaction of our own minds. So we investigate and find ... ah-hah! ... it was ...

**Judas!** He betrayed and turned in Jesus! But wait, it was the **religious leaders!**

They put Judas up to this and later incited the crowds to demand Jesus' death. But hold on, it was the **crowds!** It was their voice that demanded that Jesus be crucified. But wait. Actually it was **Pilate!** He had the final decision-making power to release or condemn and sentence Jesus. But wait, it was the **Roman soldiers!** They scourged him, mocked him, and drove the nails into Jesus' hands and feet. But wait, none of this would have to happen if not for **US!** It was *our sins* for which Jesus died!

As we explore the scriptures, we find that while *all of the above* are responsible for Jesus' suffering by crucifixion, it is only in a superficial way. From before the foundations of the world, **God** had *His plan* for the salvation of mankind.

*"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."*  
Isaiah 53: 4-6


So then, it was **God** all along. **Jesus laid down his life** for us all, no one *took* it from him. Why? Because of His great love for us. He did it to carry our sorrows, fill in for our weakness, receive our punishment, and give us healing and eternal life with Him.

Give Him your sorrows, weakness, and sins. Accept Jesus Christ's payment for your sins, and receive from Him eternal life today!

In His Love, Stan

## Easter Celebration Activities by Daniel Miyamoto

Join us Easter weekend as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

- Friday, March 29 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service (at WOCC) in partnership with Mililani Christian Church; message by Jason Oshiro
- Sunday, March 31 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service followed by breakfast provided by the Millilani Christian Church
-  9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Children's Church Easter Program/Activities in collaboration with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) staff
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Randy and Gay Hongo

In addition, the Christian Education staff, along with the staff of CEF will be hosting various activities on Easter Sunday starting with breakfast for the children at 8:45 a.m. There will be story time, singing, craft activities and goodie bags for each child as well as an Easter bento lunch. The children will also be presenting a song, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High," at the worship service wearing an originally designed t-shirt.

## Aged to Perfection by Dennis Nagatani

In February, we held two "open -mike" sessions to discuss the concerns of our congregation, both members and non-members, as to whether we should permit Aged to Perfection (ATP), an adult day care group, to use our church. Many people shared valuable input during the sessions. Pastor Stan felt that because the church is the people, and the facility is only a building, the question is, "How do we steward God's facility?" Some pointed out that allowing ATP to use WOCC facilities, including the Sanctuary, would meet a need within the community of taking care of our kupuna. It would also fulfill a dream of our founding members who felt that our facility should be open to the community, instead of being closed six days a week.

One question which came up in both sessions was whether we should allow ATP to use the church since it is not labeled as a Christian organization. ATP is a non-profit organization whose Executive Director and the Board of Directors are strong Christians. The organization does practice Christian principles. Since 1980, ATP has maintained a relationship with Wahiawa United Methodist Church, demonstrating that it understands the needs of a church and takes great care in maintaining a harmonious relationship.\* Furthermore, someone pointed out that having ATP clients and their families come onto our campus allows WOCC to be a silent witness through posted announcements and invitations to church events and brochures of the Christian faith.

We are still seeking the Lord's guidance on whether this is the right direction for WOCC. A visit to see ATP in action has been scheduled for March 26. Hopefully this will give us an accurate picture of the program and its appropriateness for WOCC. This decision has long-term implications, so we appreciate your prayers for God to lead us.

\* For more information, refer to the Questions and Answers handout on ATP, available from WOCC.

### VISION STATEMENT

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

## Spring Banquet 2013 by Tena Ponder Thacker

In the spirit of the Psalm 90:14a, our Spring Banquet was just that, a time to rejoice and celebrate! This year emcee duties went to Martin Arinaga who took us thru the evening with style and grace. Martin readily accepted the additional duties even though he was also performing with Joyful Noise. This is the third year that we have been entertained by Joyful Noise and for the first time, they brought along a 'sound crew' manned by Frank Barro, Kirk Oshiro and master "ear," Robert Young! Didn't they sound fantastic?!



Pastor Stan welcomed the church family, friends and guests and invited all to enjoy a wonderful evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship. After giving permission for folks to outbid him for a worthy cause, he blessed our food and gathering. Once again, a most delicious dinner nourished our bodies and soul as well as the fellowship that followed. We were blessed to have Judy Galley join us and give us a peek into her life as a missionary in Japan.

We were especially blessed to have new members come alongside to plan, organize and lead our games. Phyllis Nakasone provided this year's "nutty" guessing game and prize! Donna and Steve Kranz provided a table game that was fun for all ages. This game was so much fun that it couldn't be contained at the tables - there were questions to be answered, points to be added and balloons to be inflated. Way to go Team Kranz! Special thanks go to Anela Tagata for working on the games despite being under the weather. Can't wait for next year!

Humble thanks to all members of the Fellowship Committee for offering your "gifts" in service to God. Also, three cheers for the silent auction crew for yet another successful auction and country store which made a total of \$1,143.50. This year's choices of delectable treats went very fast leaving many wanting for more. Many thanks to all of you tasty treat-makers and to all who donated items as well as purchased items from the auction. Your generosity is overwhelming. Proceeds will be used towards next year's banquet.



And saving the best for last, we were so blessed to have Roberta Nagano and Elaine and John Wong as our speakers for the evening. They shared with us how they came to walk with our Lord. It is certainly amazing and inspiring to hear the testimonies of the people we sit with every week. It is not by chance that WOCC is the church that it is with the people attending at this time. Roberta shared that her initial preference was for another church; yet here she is still praising the Lord in song and serving Him in different capacities in our church. Elaine and John spoke of their walk with the Lord as individuals and as a couple. We are certainly blessed to have them serving Him here, with us, today. We are all blessed in the Lord to serve Him alongside each of them.

Thank you Father for filling us with your faithful love. We hope to see you all again as we celebrate and rejoice in the Lord next year!

"Fill us every morning with your faithful love so we can rejoice and celebrate our whole life long."

Psalm 90:14a



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*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*



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