

Fall 2013

Volume 15, Issue 17

# Koinonia

West Oahu Christian Church  
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## Embracing the Season!

### Worship Services:

Japanese Worship /  
Bible Study

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

English Worship

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

### Sunday School:

Adult English Bible  
Classes

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### Children's Ministry:

Breakfast Program

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

Children's Church

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Children's Activities  
Program/Child Care:

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

### Upcoming Events:

Thanksgiving  
Luncheon

November 24

Christmas Program

December 21

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."*  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

I like the **Holiday Season** ... mostly. While there is much to appreciate and enjoy, there is also the expectance of a schedule that is so busy that my day is "over" before it's barely begun! The holidays are always more stressful, but we must not allow the stress to define it. Three years ago I took one of my classes during the Fall, and I swore that I would *never* do that again. Yet here I am, taking a class during the Fall ... again! Rather than just seeing the stress, I need to see all that I gain through taking the class! We need to strive to embrace, not resist, the season, and wisely live out its appropriate activities.

Our church is completing a series on Stewardship again, and just in time for the holiday season. Hmm... we cover the topic of **priorities and time management** just before the *busiest season in the year*; the topic of **health** just before the season we *engorge ourselves at parties every weekend*; the topic of **finances** just before we *spend away all we've saved during the year*. Oh, no! Can it be that we will immediately *nullify* everything we just covered? May it never be! I would hope instead that the stewardship series came just in time to help us manage our lives a little better than last year. Do I hear an "amen?" ☺

One season that comes whether we are ready for it or not is the season of departure. Our beloved **Jane Nako** went home to be with the Lord on Friday, October 25, after repeated battles with cancer. It is a surreal feeling when a saint, a pillar in the church, is called home. It reminds us that our time on earth is short, and that we must live our lives for God's purposes. We are thankful for her life, and will miss her dearly, but we look forward to seeing her again in glory! May the Lord grant comfort and strength to **Charlie, Darren, and Dayton**.

*"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.'"* ~ **Revelation 14:13**

Rest in Jesus, Auntie Jane.

Early settlers to North America also understood the season of loss. The **Pilgrims** had an authentic *spirit of thanksgiving*, even after half of their company did not survive the severe winter. They had no "holiday" model to follow, but they had something better - the attitude and command of their Savior

*(continued on next page ...)*

***Embracing the Season! (continued)***

to trust Him and be thankful. They could never have imagined that the example they sowed would continue to reap harvests of remembrance through centuries of time, and be an inspiration to a great nation to likewise embrace a spirit of **Thanksgiving** to God!

May we endeavor to embrace each of the seasons that we journey through, "giving thanks in all circumstances," (1Thessalonians 5:18) and seasons.

In His Love, Stan

***Perfect Attendance Program*** by Joyce Tanji

The CC children are in their second phase of a 14-week Attendance Program. The first phase ended on October 27th with a total of 22 children reaching the goal of attending church on time for 7 consecutive weeks and had received a goodie bag along with selected toys from the "Gift Store." The second phase will end on December 15th with prizes given to those attaining perfect attendance for 7 or 14 consecutive weeks. Please continue to pray and uplift all our children. We have reached an average monthly total of over 40 children from pre-school to middle school age.

***Christmas Angel Project*** by Joyce Tanji

Calling all earthly "angels" again this year!! Members of the church are asked to "adopt" one child from Children's Church (CC) and to purchase a Christmas gift (not to exceed \$25) for that child. Many children attending our church come from a lower economic community and therefore, are not privileged to receive many gifts at Christmas. We are asking members to not only open their wallets at Christmas but their hearts by continually praying for their "adopted" recipient year round and to remember each on his/her birthday by sending a card. If interested in participating in this project, contact Joyce Tanji at 737-4561. For those unable to shop, donations, of any amount, are also gladly accepted.

***Christmas Program***

*Do you hear those sweet bells ringing? or angelic voices singing? Well ... they are the sounds of Christmas. As you thank God for his many blessings this year and as you begin carving that Thanksgiving turkey, realize that Christmas is just around the corner:*



**A "Super Christmas"** - That is the title of this year's Christmas pageant to be performed by the Children's Church (CC) on **Saturday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m. at WOCC**. This modernized version of the birth of Christ is being spearheaded by an energetic team of teachers coordinated by Elaine Wong. Come join in the celebration and don't miss seeing "Superman", "Wonder Woman", "Spiderman" and other super heroes in this creative rendition of the traditional Christmas story.

## Missions Corner: An update on the missionaries supported by WOCC

by Roberta Nagano

**Roy & Nancy Toma – JEMS:** In the past few years, Roy and Nancy Toma have moved from ministering in Okinawa to Sendai to help in the tsunami recovery, to ministering in Iwakuni. They have also transitioned from serving with Campus Crusade for Christ to serving with JEMS.

**Eric & Sue Takamoto – Asian Access:** There are 30-35 people who meet in a home in Ishinomaki each Sunday to worship, pray, and learn from God's word. It has been one year since Sue started the Nozomi Project, in which a group of women who lost almost everything in the earthquake and tsunami learned how to make jewelry from broken shards of pottery found in the ruins. As Nozomi increasingly becomes a sustainable business, the 15 women are incorporating Christian values and life into the work day.

**Ted & Lauren Kawabata – Every Nation Ministries:** One of the highlights of the year was the visit of 18 Ugandan children of the African Children's Choir who visited Japan and sang in schools and churches, and many responded to the gospel. The Kawabatas live in Yokohama and hosted 3 of them and a chaperone.

**Judy Galley – TEAM:** Judy continues her ministry of visitation evangelism as she meets with people and individuals as she goes house to house in Toyama and passes out bibles, books, tracts, and testimonials.

**Joel & Grace Dasalla – Campus Crusade for Christ:** Joel recently was in Abidjan, the capital city of Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) in West Africa where Campus Crusade for Christ hosted a prayer congress. Joel was asked by the director to assist with their media needs. He also taught a session to the staff on how to study the Bible inductively.

**Helen Matara – New Tribes Mission:** Helen works among the natives in Papua New Guinea and disciples believers. There is a need for more workers in the field as there are many more that need to hear the gospel.

**Randy & Gay Hongo – Christian Vision:** Randy is recovering well after his ordeal with multiple myeloma which was diagnosed two years ago. After many months of treatment and recuperation, the Hongos are back in the music ministry.

**Child Evangelism Fellowship:** This ministry continues to grow as they work with children in Hawaii. They recently went to Kauai to train people to do Good News Clubs, and the Superintendent for Kauai has instructed all elementary schools on Kauai to allow Good New Clubs.

If you would like to support the works of these missionaries, please contact Roberta Nagano.

### VISION STATEMENT

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

## WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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### Prayer Requests:

"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](http://www.wocc-hi.org)

#### Individuals:

- **Jane Nako** has gone home to the Lord. Please pray for God's comfort as Charlie, Darren and Dayton release her into the presence of God.

#### WOCC and OMS Conference Activities:

- Ministry to Youth – Please pray for those people who have committed their service to impart the love of Christ to the youth He has committed to us.
- WOCC are looking at our bylaws again. Please pray for God's wisdom for our leaders as we journey through a time of transition.
- Our Christmas Pageant rehearsals are already in full swing. Pray that it will impress Jesus upon the hearts of both children and grown-ups.
- Our Angel Tree will bless so many children with God's love and surprises. Pray for blessings to flow to the hearts of the children.

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)