

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:

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:

Christmas Program

December 21

Christmas Luncheon

December 22

Born a King!

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2a)

When I sang in the choir years ago, one of my favorite Christmas cantatas (long musical) was, *Born a King*, by John W. Peterson. In my mind I pictured the clear midnight sky, lowly manger with the baby Jesus in it surrounded by Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the kings from the east offering their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The scene is flanked by angels looking on in wonder at the amazing miracle – God made flesh! Our choir sang joyfully as we replayed the imagery and words of that first Christmas!



My mind's eye is a *composite picture*, of course, one that combines a number of different scenes into one. Frankly, it is easier on my brain to assemble various Biblical references into one big collage ... like Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel – but maybe not as beautiful!

There are **many benefits of the mental collage**. First, it reminds us that God was guiding a masterful overall plan for the birth of Jesus Christ. It reminds me in a glimpse that Jesus Christ is the Son of God whom angels proclaimed and honored. It reminds me that everyone - from the lowly, nearby, Jewish shepherds to the noble, far off, Magi foreigners - came to honor the one born the king of the Jews. The big picture reminds me that in God's grand scheme, Jesus Christ came for everyone far and near. It shows that God's son, even from birth, experienced the troubles of humanity.

The disadvantage of the big picture is that it's easy to overlook important details about Jesus' birth. One that has been pressing on my heart has been the fact that in ancient times, when one was born a king, it meant that the child has an inherited royal lineage. While this may be somewhat wonderful, it brought enormous earthly dangers along with it! Many people would



(continued on next page ...)

Born a King! (continued)

want to cut off your head! King Herod demonstrated just how dangerous it was to be born a king under his kingdom Jesus was not insulated by some impenetrable force-field bubble or high density skin like we see in sci-fi adventure movies. His life had to be protected by practical actions of the Magi and of his parents!

My prayer is that you will enjoy the panorama of God's Christmas plan, and all the amazement that comes with the big picture of God's sovereignty. May you also rest in the assurance that even though you may face hardships and trials, God is looking out for YOU just as He was looking out for Jesus in His helpless state.

May you have a **Merry Christmas** as you honor the one who was **Born a King!**

In His Mercy,
Stan

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

A total of **30 “earthly angels”** have responded to the call to “adopt” at least one child from our Children’s Church (CC). Thus far, **43 children** have been adopted and will be receiving their special gifts on Saturday, December 21st after their Christmas performance. More children may later qualify (they need to attend CC at least 6 times during the designated three month period). A majority of the children live in the low income complex of apartments infamously known as the “Pupu---district.” Thank you to all for your financial support and prayers for this meaningful project.

Visit the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary!

The Christmas ornaments on the tree were created by the children for their “secret angels.” After the Christmas season, these ornaments will be distributed to their “angels” and can be used as a refrigerator magnet keepsake. Besides their photos, on the back of the ornaments are listed their birth dates and addresses in order for their “angels” to pray and/or send them a birthday card on their special day in the coming new year. Thanks to Martha Kawai and her volunteers for so lovingly decorating the beautiful tree.



Thanksgiving Luncheon by Tena Ponder Thacker

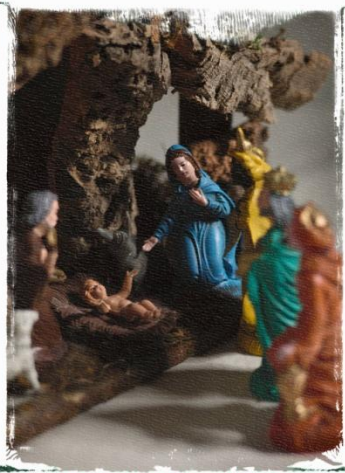
The WOCC Thanksgiving Luncheon was a feast to behold. Our feast was full of the richness of love and spirit to be found in the body of Christ. The tables were heavy with many dishes prepared by hands of experience and hearts of love. There was something to please all the senses, beautifully presented dishes to please the eye, wonderful smelling ones to please the nose, many varied textures and tastes to please the palate, beverages to quench our thirst. And the sounds of saints sharing and appreciating each other's company could be heard at every table. It was a wonderful feast indeed! I extend a heartfelt **Thank You** to all who served

alongside our wonderful Fellowship committee to make this luncheon great.

As we move on toward Christmas and enjoy all the blessings of the holiday season I plan to have a 'time out'. I've chosen a passage to feed my spirit through this advent season, John 6:35 "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" Remember to take a 'time out' to feed *your* spirit. I hope that you have a blessed Christmas and very happy New Year!



Christmas Super Heroes



On Saturday, December 21, at 6:00 PM, the keikis from our Children's Church will be presenting a Christmas Pageant, coordinated by our very own Elaine Wong, entitled: "*Christmas Super Heroes*". Come and support the children of West Oahu Christian Church as they celebrate Christmas in this unique rendition of the traditional birth of Christ.

In addition to the pageant, there will be a photo booth for family picture taking, a clothing giveaway, and light refreshments.



Editorial Staff: Neal Takamoto, Nancy Shimokawa & Joyce Tanji
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Christmas Program



*From all of us at WOCC,
Have a Very Merry
Christmas
and a
Wonderful New Year!*

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