

March/April 2014

Volume 15, Issue 19

# Koinonia

West Oahu Christian Church  
Stan Miyamoto, Pastor  
Office/Fax: 808-671-0699  
Email: [stanmiyamoto@gmail.com](mailto:stanmiyamoto@gmail.com)



## 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:

Good Friday Service:

April 18 @ 7:00 PM

Sunrise Service:

April 20 @ 7:00 AM



## Father, Take This Cup From Me

What was so repulsive to Jesus on the night he went into the garden of Gethsemane to pray? The gospel writers say that emotionally Jesus felt anguish, distress, and overwhelming sorrow to the point of death. Physically his body experienced such extreme stress that his sweat was as drops of blood.

It may be that the prospects of impending physical execution was enough to cause Jesus to beg the heavenly Father to not to have him “drink the cup” that was before him. Surely the expectation of torture would cause anyone to cringe with anxiety – even the Son of Man.

Yet the Bible alludes to something more. For millennia the Jews obediently remembered the first Passover at a special meal called the Passover Seder by using four cups of wine representing four things God did for them that night: **Cup of Sanctification, Cup of Deliverance, Cup of Redemption, and the Cup of Protection.** All of these cups are embraced and celebrated with thanksgiving to God. And rightly so.

But there is another cup, a fifth cup, which the Jews pour, but do not describe. It is called the **Cup of Elijah.** It is poured at the beginning of the meal, left untouched, and at the end, poured back into the wine bottle! The Cup of Elijah is ... the cup of **God's wrath.**

How can God's wrath be understood? Jeremiah 25 gives us an idea. It describes a cup that's filled with the **wine of God's wrath** (v15) and it is given to **Israel, Judah, and all the nations** (apparently in the form of a vision). That means *everyone in the world.* This cup is described with words such as punishment, judgment, putting the wicked to the sword, disaster, a mighty storm, slaughter, shattering, destruction, and laying waste. This fifth cup is **God's damnation of all the nations.**

With that background, Ray Vander Laan<sup>1</sup> describes the scene in the garden: Jesus on his face, his entire being wracked with agonizing anticipation of drinking a cup by the will of His Father. It is the Cup of Elijah, the **cup of the wrath of God.** Jesus cries out “***I have to drink it! No! Not that cup! Let it pass!***” Through intense prayer Jesus settles the matter: “***If it is Your will, I will drink it.***” The soldiers come to take him away ... the disciples abandon him ... He drinks the cup ... *every last drop.* The cup ... is **empty!**

*(continued on next page ...)*

<sup>1</sup> Ray Vander Laan, Focus on the Family, special series on the Passion Week, Youtube.

**Father, Take This Cup From Me (continued)**

Jesus absorbed the full fury of God's wrath for your sins, and mine. He said, "**Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.**" - John 15:13

May you experience a meaningful Good Friday and Easter on this most holy weekend.

In His Love, Stan

**Easter Celebration Activities**

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

- |                  |            |  |
|------------------|------------|--|
| Friday, April 18 | 7:00 p.m.  | Good Friday Service (at WOCC) in partnership with Mililani Christian Church          |
| Sunday, April 20 | 7:00 a.m.  | Easter Sunrise Service   |
|                  | 8:00 a.m.  | Breakfast  |
|                  | 9:00 a.m.  | Children Church  |
|                  | 9:15 a.m.  | Adult Sunday School  |
|                  | 10:45 a.m. | Easter Worship Service with songs and testimonies by the children and youth of WOCC. |

**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*

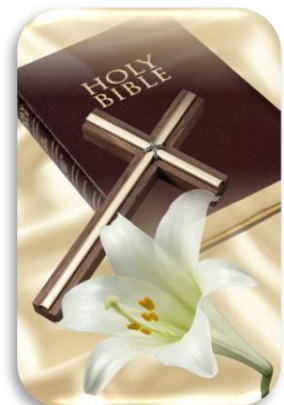
**Rev. Kazuo and Koko Uyemura** - Pray for God's comfort and deep peace as Sensei receives comfort care at St. Francis Hospice.

**Carol Nakasone** - Pray for God's presence to sooth Carol's soul as her husband George departed to his eternal home with the Lord.

**Jane Ishikawa** - Pray for God's comfort and presence as she was admitted to Pearl City Nursing Home due to her physical weakness.

**Youth and Youth Ministry** - Pray that our youth will go deep with Jesus Christ. Pray for our Youth Ministry to grow and develop. Pray that God will provide more youth leaders to help disciple these ones who Jesus loves!

Praise the Lord for the many disciples He has provided at WOCC. Pray that God will take every believer deeper and expand our discipleship to impact those beyond WOCC.



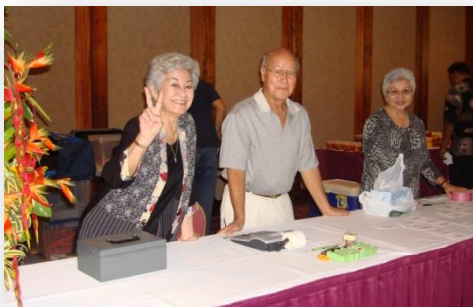
## Spring Banquet 2013 by Tena Ponder Thacker

What a wonderful blessing this year's Spring Banquet was! The Lord blessed us beyond our imagination! We returned to the Honolulu Country Club for food, fun and fellowship all of which was available in abundance. Martin Arinaga served as our energetic emcee again this year and Joyful Noise joined us once more to provide us with uplifting music. Lovely centerpieces graced our tables, fun games were played, and our slideshow highlighted special times from the past year. In keeping with the start of Spring our overall theme was 'Renewal in Christ'.



Our speakers, Daniel and Susan Miyamoto, shared in their testimonies the precious gift of renewal that only our Lord can give. Their open and authentic sharing about God's renewing touch in their lives after trauma, loss or isolation touched many a heart.

As is our way we had a well stocked Country Store. The variety of pickled goodies seemed endless! We had homemade kimchee, homemade sweet chili cukes (cucumbers) and of course homemade pickled mango. We even had homemade body scrubs and massage bars! There was a line formed well before the store officially opened.



The Silent Auction this year was a bounty of treasures. There appeared to be something for everyone. Young and young at heart alike were watching their items with eagle eyes! It is a mystery and a wonder each year to watch the 'hot' items create a bidding frenzy. And bidding we did! This year we collected a little over \$1,500 in proceeds to be divided between two of our church funds.

If you haven't attended the Spring Banquet before plan to come out next year and have a most enjoyable evening with your church family. This was the first year for the youth to attend as a group and all sit together. The

feedback from them was really positive considering they had to work for their supper!

If it is God's will we hope to see EVERY ONE of you next year!



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

Psalms 90:14a

Editorial Staff: Neal Takamoto, Nancy Shimokawa & Joyce Tanji  
For info or questions regarding this Koinonia, please contact Joyce at (808) 737-4561 or email at [jhtanji@gmail.com](mailto:jhtanji@gmail.com)

## WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

94-420 Farrington Hwy  
Waipahu HI 96797

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pearl City, HI  
**Permit #39**

*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)

### VISION STATEMENT

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