



Christian Ed Dept. Presents... We Have a Savior

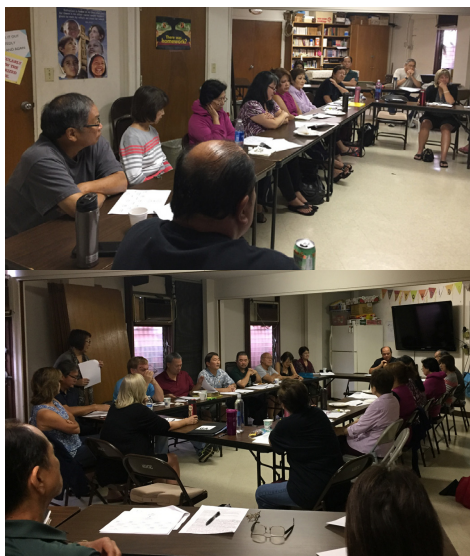
Christian Ed Dept. Presents... We Have a Savior

This year's program was held on Saturday, December 16 at 6 pm.

The CE Dept. has been the connection to our community through the children that come every Sunday. Last year, we were able to serve a dinner consisting of shoyu chicken made by Darren Nako and the youth boys. The sanctuary was filled as family and

friends enjoyed a night of songs and dances performed by the Sunday School children. Their performances were heartwarming and fun. We presented the year's events with a slideshow that the children enjoyed. Thanks to the many donations; we had an overwhelming turnout as we gave away bags (and bags) of new and gently used clothing.

This year plans to be just as exciting as the children are getting prepared to sing their hearts out. Our theme this year is, "We have a Savior," and indeed we will send that message to neighbors and friends. Come join us. Invite your friends to see God in action as we witness to others the Good News of Jesus. If you want to help, please let us know. Peace and Joy this holiday season....



Values Retreat

Here is the Elder update:

We recently held our second Values, Mission, Vision Retreat where we discussed the responses to a questionnaire, asking the Congregation to give us feedback about what they felt were the issues and concerns of the church and its people. Thank you to all who gave feedback and attended the retreat. The results were passed out and are being considered by the Elders, and several changes have already been implemented. One specific result was that the people wanted to see the vetting process for the Elders, so a handout was put together with various criteria, and is available on the back table of the Sanctuary. Look forward to even more exciting things in the near future!



*"Come and see the works of God,
Who is awesome in His deeds...
Psalm 66:5*

Worship Services:

Japanese Ministry
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

English Worship
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunday School:

Adult 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 (CAP):
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Dec. 24
Christmas Service
& Luncheon

Small Groups

Dr. Patrick Zukeran, founder and Executive Director of Evidence and Answers, a research and teaching ministry specializing in Christian apologetics, held an Evidence & Answers series providing reasons for faith and hope from September 21 to November 9.

Pat Zukeran's got it down to a science. He answered the most thorny questions (e.g., "Why would I want to go to Heaven when so many of my loved ones won't be there?") with aplomb. In the 8 weeks of apologetics at WOCC, I was a guest from another church who found it to be wonderfully stimulating and educational. He covered the following topics:

1. TRUTH: ABSOLUTE OR RELATIVE?
2. TOLERANCE GONE TOO FAR
3. FAKE NEWS
4. CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENTALISM
5. HOW TO WATCH A MOVIE
6. TERRORISM AND JUST WAR
7. ISLAM
8. IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY?

Each session was fascinating and thorough in delving into the topic; although Pat admitted that, for the subjects of "Terrorism and Just War," as well as "Islam," we were only able to scratch the surface with the 1 1/2 hours given.

Using photos, graphs and such to enhance his message, Pat made his lessons visually interesting and provided time for questions and answers throughout. He also provided a workbook with outlines for note taking, as well as some additional articles.

I am impressed with Pat's worldwide experience and education. Yet, he's planted right here on Oahu to be our local apologist, at our disposal to help us with our efforts to defend our faith. Of course, an additional benefit of Pat's messages is the strengthening of one's own faith. As we hear of the research, studies, science, logic and discoveries surrounding Christianity and the Bible, we can be assured that what we believe is the truth.

I'm thankful that WOCC brought Pat Zukeran to their church for this 8 week series because I've learned important and powerful evidences and answers that affirm Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior...our only way to the Father.

Article by Tracy Yamamoto





Stan Miyamoto, Pastor • Office: 808-671-0699 • stanmiyamoto@gmail.com
 Editorial Staff: Nancy Shimokawa, Joyce Tanji, Bill Kawai
 For information or questions regarding this Koinonia, please contact Joyce at
 (808)737-4561 or email jhtanji@gmail.com

94-420 Farrington Hwy
 Waipahu HI 96797

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Prayer Requests

With great sadness we bid farewell to **Randy Hongo** as he has gone home to our Lord. Please pray for God's immeasurable grace and strength for Randy's wife, Gay, his son Andrew, and Christian Vision.

Winifred Y, Brian Yamada's mother, has progressed to walking on both feet! Keep praying for full recovery.

Jason R – continued improvement for his right side strength and motor skills.

Frank B - Keep praying for his overall health.

Betty A suffers from dementia and needs encouragement.

Stan and Jean S - God's strength as Stan struggles with Lewy Body dementia. Pray for Stan to be able to sleep well which is important.

Merle M – God's Presence through her dementia. Pray for her husband George as he cares for her.

Renee K needs the right combination of medications to treat cancer and pain. Pray for strength and healing.

Katherine N – Intestinal surgery was successful. Pray for her regaining strength to be able to walk. Currently she is in a care home and could use visitors.

Nona N – healing from surgery and regain stamina. Pray for peace of mind in caring for the needs of her mom.

Rei S – Please pray for Rev. Seki's wife, Rei. Doctors recently found three tumors – one in her lung, and one on each femur bones near her hip joints.

Government leaders - God's guidance to deal with a host of state, national, and international issues.

Terrorism threats in the U.S. and the world - Pray that God would thwart the efforts of terrorists and open their eyes to Jesus Christ.

WOCC Building improvement – Pray for God's guidance for facility upgrades to enable WOCC to better fulfill Christ's mission: 1) two converted shipping containers for classrooms, and 2) building addition.

Eric and Sue T and family ministering in Ishinomaki, Japan.

John and Pen L are preparing as missionaries to Japan.

WOCC - Smooth transition to a new church organizational structure.



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Pastor's Corner



Recognizing Jesus at Christmas

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” - Matthew 25:40, ESV

Isn't it wonderful that Christmas provides an extra focus on the Lord Jesus Christ? Music of the baby king is played in stores, scripture verses are written on shelves and windows, nativity scenes glow in park displays. We are so fortunate to recognize Him! Or do we? Melvin Newland writes a quaint story that illustrates our difficulty in Recognizing Jesus:

The old shoe cobbler dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So, the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

As the hours passed, Jesus didn't come, but an old man came for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.

Still the cobbler waited. Jesus didn't come, but an old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way. Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus.

Then the cobbler heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So, he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.

When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were empty. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, “Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?”

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, “Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave food to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street.”

Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.

Jesus is there when we serve “the least of these.” Do you see Him? As we focus on Jesus Christ this Christmas, may we recognize Jesus, not only in our friends and family, but in shoppers, drivers, the homeless and hungry, the infirm and home-bound. He is all of those to whom we give ourselves. As we celebrate Jesus this Christmas, may we recognize Jesus all around us!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Stan