

Spring Banquet

This year we are trying out a new venue. We're going to the Salvation Army's Kroc Center. Na Hoaloa will return to provide the smooth sound of Hawaiian music. The banquet falls on Palm Sunday this year what a poignant lead in to Easter Week. We hope that you plan to join us for an evening of good food and fellowship, tasty treats and fun.



Many blessings

Tena Ponder Thacker



Baptisms and Membership



Our Lord Jesus Christ gave his church the commission to make disciples of all Nations. It is with joy that during the Worship Service on February 25th Myrna Alik and Gordon Thacker chose to make a public statement of discipleship by being baptized with water! Later in the service we received into membership Gordon Thacker and Donna Kikuchi. Together let's encourage each other to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ at WOCC!

Please plan to join us for our Easter Weekend services this year. Let's join together to praise God for His love as we remember Jesus' death and resurrection!

Jesus is Risen!

3/30/18 Good Friday Service
7:00 pm

4/1/18 Easter Sunday

Early Service	8:00 am
Breakfast	9:00 am
Regular Service	10:45 am

West Oahu Christian Church
94-420 Farrington Hwy Waipahu HI 96797

High School Christian Education

Stepping Out in Faith

When I was approached in March of 2017 by Elaine Wong to co-teach with Henry our high school students at WOCC, I was initially stunned. Somehow I never envisioned myself teaching high school Sunday School. I felt very comfortable facilitating bible study groups with women, but high schoolers???? Who me????? No, way. Not qualified enough. Not eloquent enough. What if they don't listen to me? What if they get bored? Can you find someone else? (Does this dialog sound familiar - like a reluctant Moses speaking to God about delivering the Hebrews out of Egypt?) Besides, I rather be a student and learn from someone else (excuses..excuses..).



Over the next several MONTHS, Henry REPEATEDLY encouraged me to accept this challenge and obey God's calling. After much coaxing I finally relented and with a great leap of faith, told Elaine okay. After getting over the initial "stage fright" of working with 12-15 high schoolers in 9th-12th grade, we began to see God working through us in mighty ways. God has indeed given us the needed tools, motivation, and best of all, the enjoyment of working with our youth. It is an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity.

I urge all of you to step out in faith, do it afraid, without hesitation and watch God work through you.

Gloria Onishi

The F-E-A-T that Demonstrates the FACT of Resurrection (CR1)

Hank Hanegraaff summarized the substantial amount of research surrounding the first Easter weekend. An honest evaluation of the facts leads to only one conclusion, that Jesus was executed, buried, and raised on the third day! Hank uses the acronym F.E.A.T. to describe what Jesus did for humanity on that first Easter.

Fatal torment: "The best medical minds of ancient and modern times have demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that Christ's physical trauma was fatal."

Empy tomb: "...early Christianity simply could not have survived an identifiable tomb containing the corpse of Christ."

Appearances: "Christ's post resurrection *appearances* cannot be explained away as legends or hallucinations."

Transformation: "What happened as a result of the Resurrection is unprecedented in all of history. In the span of 300 years, a small following of seemingly insignificant believers succeeded in turning an entire empire upside down and conquering it."

God provided an indelible trail of facts that reveal to all generations that "Jesus Christ died for our sins ... was buried ... was raised on the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:3). But behind these historical facts is the *heart* of God who loved the world so much that He gave His only Son Jesus Christ to save us from the penalty of our sins. Place your faith in Jesus Christ today, and receive God's gift of eternal life!



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Prayer Requests

Winifred Y, Brian Y's mother, has progressed and can walk without a walker a short distance. Keep praying for full recovery.

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

Frank B's - 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. Keep praying 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 – Praise God Katherine's strength is increasing, but she needs to get stronger. Pray for her transition to her home.

Nona N – Pray for God's strength and stamina as she cares for her mom.

Rei S – Rev. S's wife, Rei has Stage 4 cancer. Please pray for effective treatments.

Ruby M – Please pray for Ruby to recover fully from her infection and regain her strength.

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

WOCC Building improvement – Pray for God's guidance for facility upgrades to enable WOCC to better fulfill Christ's mission: 1) classroom space, and 2) building addition.

John and Pen L serving in Japan with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM).

New Church Structure – Please keep praying for our transition.

*"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:
 Mar. 25
 Spring Banquet
 Mar. 30
 Good Friday Service
 7:00pm
 Apr. 1
 Easter Sunday
 Early Service - 8:00am
 Breakfast - 9:00am
 Reg. Service - 10:45am

KOINONIA

West Oahu Christian Church Spring 2018 Volume 17, Issue 1

Pastor's Corner

Philip's Egg (Source Unknown)

Philip was born with Downs Syndrome. He had many health problems, but was a pleasant child, and went to Sunday School every week. As he grew, he became increasingly aware of the difference between himself and other children and feeling accepted was difficult.

When he was in the third grade his Sunday School teacher had an idea for Easter. The teacher gave empty plastic eggs to each child in the class. He instructed them to go outside, find a symbol for new life, put it into the egg, and bring it back to the classroom.

The children ran all around the church grounds, gathering their symbols, and returned to the classroom. They put all the eggs on a table, and the teacher began to open them one by one. When the first egg revealed a flower, the children ooh-ed and aah-ed. Another egg contained a little butterfly. Some third-graders laughed as one egg contained a rock.

When the teacher opened the next egg, there was nothing inside. The children, as eight-year-olds do, mocked, "That's dumb! Somebody didn't do it right." The teacher felt a tug on his shirt and looked down. "It's mine, Philip said. It's mine." Some children scolded, "You don't ever do things right, Philip. There's nothing there!"

"I did so do it right!" Philip said. "I did do it right. The tomb is empty!"

There was stunned silence. From then on, the children took Philip in as part of their group. Philip was set free from the tomb of his different-ness.

Philip died that summer. At his memorial service, his Sunday School classmates and teacher marched up to the altar, not with flowers to cover over the stark reality of death, but with an empty plastic egg.

The Bible says that "*Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep*" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Jesus' resurrection is but a foretaste of eternal resurrection for all those who follow Him. Moreover, Jesus sets us free now from our dark tombs of rejection, addictions, and sinful habits. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior today and experience the new life of freedom God desires for you!

Grateful for His Resurrection,

Pastor Stan