

High School and Young Adults Update - Gloria Onishi

Bonding Events

On April 20, 2019, the WOCC youth had a fun filled day at the Newtown Recreation Center in Aiea celebrating Josh Nukuto's high school graduation and Carmella Bien's belated birthday. We had a great turnout of 20 youth (five middle schoolers, 10 high schoolers and five young adults) including chaperones Henry and Gloria Onishi including their daughter and her boyfriend, Joel Duldulao and Elaine Wong.



ourselves with buttered popcorn, arare, churros, hot dogs, nachos, pizzas and candies from the concession (all HEALTHY food, right? ☺). The movie was an enjoyable live remake of the original animated movie. The Wongs picked up Bira Dawos, who now lives in Palolo, to join us since we miss her very much.



The youth took full advantage of the many amenities -- the large swimming pool, basketball courts, ping pong and pool tables, and showers. Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch with cake and ice cream in the covered pavilion. Fortunately, there were not many residents during our time there, so it felt like an exclusive private party!

On May 27, 2019, Memorial Day, 11 youth (nine high schoolers and two young adults) attended the Aladdin movie at Pearl Highlands Theatre in Pearl City. John and Elaine Wong joined the Onishis as chaperones. We stuffed



High School Graduation

On June 16, 2019, WOCC honored two high school graduates -- Josh Nukuto (from Adult Friends for Youth Program) and Henneson Tonda (from Kalani High School) earning their high school diplomas. We are so proud of these two fine

gentlemen who "fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the **FAITH**" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). A major accomplishment and a job well done.

Elder Update - Joel Duldulao

Aloha everyone. This year, 2019, has been a year of transitions for the Elders. Daniel Miyamoto, Stephen LL, and Joel Duldulao were voted in as Elders of the church during a congregation meeting conducted by Pastor Stan in early January. Concurrently, a mission statement for the church was established and shared with the congregation. The goal was to create a clear and concise statement that was easy to remember, yet clearly defined where God is leading us. As such, the WOCC mission statement calls us to S.E.E.D.:

- Share the Good News
- Empower one another
- Encourage one another
- Disciple and make disciples



Many issues have arisen and Pastor Stan reminded the Elders of Nehemiah who was tasked with rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. During the rebuilding process, Nehemiah was met with heavy resistance and he encouraged his men to "work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon." Pastor Stan encouraged the Elders to focus on our duties but to also remain vigilant to all the chal-

lenges that will continue to arise.

Some notable highlights of this past year include the creation and implementation of the WOCC Safe Church Policy that provides clear guidelines for people who work with children and vulnerable adults. In addition, a policy regarding animals in church buildings has been created and will be implemented. This policy aims to create an atmosphere in WOCC that is inclusive to people with animals while respecting the concerns of other members.

Sadly, Stephen LL resigned his role as an Elder in July. Stephen obediently heeded the call of God to expand his role in working with missionaries. Stephen's leadership, passion, and good sense of humor will be missed. We will continue to prayerfully support Stephen and Toni as they carry out God's new calling. With Stephen's departure, Joel Duldulao was elected to be the Elder Chairperson.

Although we have progressed and completed several issues, there is much to be done in the weeks and months to come. And as the year comes quickly to a close, we humbly ask for your prayers and support so that we may lead WOCC as God calls us to.

DISCIPLESHIP
CONFERENCE

HOW TO GROW. HOW TO HELP OTHERS GROW.

Maj. Gen. Jerry White, PhD
Fmr President of the Navigators

Saturday, October 12, 2019
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
at the Honolulu Christian Church, 2207 Oahu Ave.
Lunch and light breakfast included
Cost: \$20 regular, \$15 early registration before Sept 6
\$10 currently enrolled students (undergrad & below)

REGISTER AT:
<http://honorchristian.org/discipleship-conference/>

Campus group will connect with these students to help them become established in their faith.

Three weeks ago, she attended an Every Nation World Conference which is held every three years. She received a sponsorship through "Serve the World" sponsorship which is given to only 200 people across the world to cover the registration fee and hotel costs. There were over 600 people present with 80 nations represented.

Because of constant pain from her neck to her left knee since the beginning of the year, a friend, who is a physical therapist, has been helping her and the pain has gone away. She requests prayer as she exercises to lose weight and become stronger.

Eric and Sue Takamoto and family are currently on a 6-month visit to the U.S. for a time of transition and a chance for renewal and rest, even with a fairly busy schedule. Owen (11th grade) and Annie (9th grade) will be attending a Missionary Kids Transition Camp. They will also begin college touring for Owen and will be looking at a good local school in New Jersey for Ian (4th grade) and Olivia (7th grade) to attend for four months.



The family also led another ministry team to Cambodia in May. Sue is working for a team from their Cambodian ministry partners to create a sewing project in that region to provide much-needed jobs for vulnerable women similar to how Sue began the Nozomi Project in Ishinomaki after the Great Earthquake and Tsunami. God has given new vision and purpose to some of the Nozomi staff who have also gone to Cambodia to serve.

Please pray for the family during their stay on the mainland and as they travel.

The Lord uses whatever we can donate to reach people around the world.

Aloha Fellowship Events - Lorriane Respicio

Mother's Day and Father's Day/Dads and Grads luncheon events have long been a way of our church to show our love and appreciation to our parents, parental members, guests and graduates.

This year, it would not have been possible without the help and planning from the irrepressible Tena Ponder Thacker who graciously gave herself to the task and Jeanne Nagatani who put her creative mind into making the favors that were given to the moms.

Also, many thanks to the talented cooks who continue to share their many delicious recipes with us.

Blood E ho'omaika'i'ia ke Akua i na mea a pau--Blessed be God in all things!!

Missions Corner - Roberta Nagano

After a short trip to Hawaii (April 22-May 10), **Tarshish Johnson** (affectionately known as T) is back in London doing her Campus Ministry and preparing for their Student Mission Week, which is the 3rd week of September. They will be having a team coming from South Africa with at least 12 students, therefore, T and her





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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:

Children's Church
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM
Children's Activities
Program (CAP):
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

WestOahuChristian.org

Upcoming Events:

Aloha Reception
September 22
after Sunday Service.

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- Connect the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
- See how all 66 books of the Bible fit together
- Understand the major people, places, & events
- Know the big picture so you can go deeper

Thursdays, Sep. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24
Nov. 7, 14, 21 (no class Oct. 31)
6:30-8:30p. *** Room
Sign up ***
Each participant is required
to purchase a \$10 workbook



Gary Lau
Instructor

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KOINONIA

West Oahu Christian Church Summer 2019 Volume 18, Issue 2

Pastor's Corner

Aloha,

It's been nearly a three-year journey going through the **Gospel of Luke**. That's just as long as Jesus' ministry, so we should be wonderful disciples by now! We have read, considered, and endeavored to obey the teachings of Jesus Christ, and, most importantly, get to know Him better. We "heard" Jesus teach some things about the Kingdom of God that reveal just how *un*-kingdomlike we are, and hence our need for Him! Preaching sermons covering the end of Jesus' ministry gave me my first platform to preach a sermon on the end-times and the **mark of the Beast**. I think we would agree that there are things occurring in the world today that enable end-times prophecies like no other previous age. By God's grace may our eyes be opened to possible traps that Satan has in store for humanity, and may we choose to firmly follow Jesus!

Our upcoming sermon series is on **The Church**. The Church is God's amazing manifest presence on earth, and God's Word gives believers a target at which to aim. The series will include material that I go over in WOCC's Membership class: **What is the OMS Conference? Who is WOCC? What is a Believer in Jesus?** And what is my **philosophy of leadership**. While everyone who became a member since I arrived at WOCC has been through this material, it should be very beneficial to *everyone*, even long-time members.

In recent years our **Small Groups ministry** has offered general teaching sessions on specific topics on Thursday evenings during the Fall. This year WOCC is sponsoring **Gary Lau** in teaching **100 Great Events of the Bible**. As a preview and teaser, Pastor Gary will be speaking at WOCC's Sunday Worship Service at 10:45 on **September 8**. Bring a friend!

Beneath all the various topics and activities that we do at WOCC, what drives me is an unrelenting gravity to make disciples. I constantly think and imagine what it means to make disciples, and how WOCC can pursue Jesus's primary command. Because many others have this passion, on **October 12** the Hawaii Region OMS Churches will be hosting a **Discipleship Conference** for our Conference churches, with other churches being invited. The speaker, **Dr. Jerry White**, along with his wife **Mary**, have international experiences that enabled them to see that discipleship is not about methods. What works in one country will fail in another country. Jerry quotes from A.W. Tozer's book, *The Root of the Righteous*:

"As the needle of the compass has an affinity for the north magnetic pole, so the heart can keep true to its secret love though separated by miles and years. What the loved object is can be discovered by seeing what direction our thoughts turn when they are released from the hard restraints of study or work when we are free to think whatever we will ... When we are free from our assignments, what really grips our hearts? ... This reveals what we really are."

As I listened to Jerry, two words came to mind, love and authenticity. You can find more information about the Discipleship Conference on the inside of this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

God Bless,
Pastor Stan