

Women's Ministry Breakfast - Ruby Miura

The WOCC Women's Ministry held their first ministry event after a lapse of several years, at the Waialeale Country Club on November 9, 2019. It was a day set aside for the women in our fellowship to come together as one, strengthen our relationships with one another, and a time for relaxation and rest.

After a hearty breakfast buffet, **Koko Uyemura Sensei** shared a powerful message on our breakfast theme taken from Ezekiel 36:25-28 on the four steps to be renewed, restored and refreshed; in conclusion, only God's Spirit can work in our lives.

Fun ice breaker games were played between **Aiko Sprinkel** who gave her testimony on how the Holy Spirit gave her peace, comfort, and joy after a devastating trial, and **Tena Ponder Thacker** shared how God worked in and through her life.

We had a time of sharing with an open microphone so that everyone could introduce themselves, ending with several lucky recipients receiving door prizes. The comments received at the conclusion of the breakfast were so favorable; we look forward to where God leads in the coming year.

Much appreciation and special thanks to Roberta Nagano, Donna Kikuchi and Sharon Kishaba for their assistance in helping with the planning, preparation, and support to make this event possible. Mahalo to Pastor Stan and the Elders for their prayers, encouragement, and support of our ministry.

Aloha Reception 2019 - Lorraine Respicio

Every year, WOCC hosts an Aloha Reception Luncheon to re-affirm our support and church leadership for our pastor and his spouse. It was the church's honor to show our support and appreciation for Pastor Stan and Amy Miyamoto. The luncheon provided a time of sweet fellowship to all that attended, including a lunch buffet that exceeded the expectations of our church family with many tasty entrees and desserts.



Many of you have received our Building Project fundraising letter. We are asking God to provide funds for a new building as the annex building we currently use for classrooms is quite run down. We praise and thank God for those who have already responded and for all the support we have received in the past from our members and friends. We are excited to discover God's direction and see how He will provide for our needs as we carry on the work here in West Oahu. If you would like to learn more about our building project and how you can help, please email me at daniel.miyamoto@hawaiiantel.net.

High School and Young Adults - Gloria Onishi

As 2019 draws to a close, we feel humbly honored and privileged to have the opportunity to impart our Lord's life-giving and inspiring messages to our High School and Young Adults during such a critical and influential time in their lives. This year, it has been gratifying to see the progress, development and growth of our youth as we bond with them week after week. Our Sunday School curriculum is divided into 3 sessions during the year. We have focused on the following themes in 2019 using bible as well as present day Christian characters/personalities:

Spring Theme: "Be Better" – We discussed the benefits of developing good and consistent habits, making wise choices, adopting positive attitudes, being loving & accepting, acknowledging perseverance/effort pays off, coping with setbacks, doing the small things, being selfless, having goals and being grateful.

Summer Theme: "Tree of Life" – We examined the importance of having a strong foundation which is rooted and grounded in Christ, bracing yourself to withstand challenges (storms), waiting and trusting God (when nothing is happening), then branching out and flourishing.

Fall Theme: "Developing Godly Character" – We are currently stressing to actively seek, follow, align with, and obey God, avoid the pitfalls of rebellion and disobedience, and understand the grave consequences when we stray from God.

Blessing Report!!! Blessing Report!!!

We would like to acknowledge the recent achievements of 3 of our youth: **Kerriann Antibas** – In her senior year, Kerriann was accepted as a Pharmacy Tech intern at Longs Pearl City Pharmacy. She has completed her required hours and will receive her certificate in a ceremony at KCC in May recognizing her achievement.

Keanu Lani – Has been employed at the airport since graduation (1 ½ years). He has just been promoted to Lead Person and has received pay increase.

Burnalee Schmidt – Has enrolled in Job Corp in the Painter's program. He recently has been promoted to Foreman of his apprentice group. Burnalee will finish in August of next year.

Congratulations to our three awesome youth for hanging in there, not quitting, and reaping the benefits!!!!



Small Group

Let's play a Bible trivia quiz.

Who came first? Samson or Solomon? Elijah or Elisha? Daniel or David?

Which came first? Temple or Tabernacle? Greek Language or Roman Roads? Paul's Trials or his Missionary Journeys?

Who was the king with the half heart? Who was the only female judge? Whose death caused the expansion of the gospel to Judea & Samaria?



Most Christ-followers know the stories of the Bible but they don't know how they all fit together. Many are hungry to understand the Bible but most don't know where to start.

Over the course of eight weeks, 40 participants from WOCC along with a dozen of their friends journeyed through the 100 Great Events of the Bible taught by Gary Lau. Using a simple drawing methodology, each person learned the important people, places, and events which make up the 66 books of the Bible. (You can ask any participant to teach you how many books are in the Old and New Testaments.)

When asked why he teaches this class, Gary said, "When it comes to the Bible, I want to help Christ-followers move from confusion to clarity, from intimidation to confidence, and from frustration to celebration. When they get into the Bible, the Bible gets into them and the Holy Spirit can transform

our hearts so we can make God famous."

Gloria Onishi said, "This course was excellent. Just exactly what I needed to get a comprehensive overview of the Bible yet simple to understand."

Jeanne Nagatani wrote, "This class is so awesome that in many ways I wish it were longer in time and meetings."

Tena Ponder Thacker commented, "This class is great for new and seasoned Bible readers. It connected the Old Testament to the New Testament and Christ."

So how did you do on the trivia quiz? The answers are Samson, Elijah, David, Tabernacle, Greek Language, Missionary Journeys, Solomon, Deborah, and Stephen.



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Missions Corner - Roberta Nagano

As 2019 draws to a close, I would like to thank all of you for your support of the 10 missionaries we partner with. Our missionaries go out into the world to spread the gospel and win the lost for Christ. They have sacrificed the comforts of home to live in a foreign land and have had to adapt to new cultures, languages, customs, and a diet of strange and different foods. They have said, "Yes, Lord, send me."

The **Pagaragan** family's vision in Tokyo is to provide a place called The Neighborhood Student and Ministry



Center for young people to gather and relax in a safe environment while building healthy relationships. They began 2 new ministries this fall--Life Group which meets twice a month and averages between

10-18 young people, as well as a Kid's English class which meets every Tuesday.

Please pray for the family as they are working with several realtors now and are having a difficult time finding a facility to rent for the family, team, and the Neighborhood Center that is within their budget.

After spending almost 2 years in Japan, WOCC'S own short-term missionaries **John and Pen Letaw** and their daughter **Mele** will be leaving the mission field and moving to Thailand to live near Pen's family, with Mele's education being a priority. We appreciate their service at Karuizawa and Yamanaka Chalet. They will be leaving Japan on January 10, 2020. Please pray for them during this time of transition.



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

December 22
Joint Christmas
Service &
Luncheon to follow



KOINONIA

West Oahu Christian Church Christmas 2019 Volume 18, Issue 3

Elder's Corner

"400 years of silence"

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Merry Christmas! During these past few months, WOCC and other churches had the pleasure of attending Pastor Gary Lau's class "100 Great Events of the Bible" held on Thursday evenings. In one of our classes, Gary taught that there was a 400-year period of "silence" between the Old Testament and the New Testament. During this time God did not speak through patriarchs, judges, kings or prophets. Prior to this period, God regularly spoke to and through them. In the preceding scripture, Isaiah made the prophecy of Jesus' virgin birth about 700 years before it occurred. And the prophet Zechariah wrote of a future king riding into Jerusalem on a humble donkey about 500 years before Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

What is also interesting is that although God may not have been speaking to these people, he was definitely still at work. During this 400-year period, Alexander the Great from Greece came to power and Greek became the new language that united the lands of the ancient world. This eventually led to the translation of the Hebrew Torah into Greek. After the demise of Greece, the Roman Empire came to power. And as the empire expanded, roads were built to move its people throughout. These same roads would be used to eventually spread the Gospel!

Today, God speaks to us in many ways. Through the Holy Spirit, prayer, and miracles, just to name a few. God is never silent. He is always working and communicating with us. However, oftentimes in relationships with others, miscommunication and the lack of communication can be huge barriers. It can lead to misunderstandings, damaged relationships, and malaise. As fallible humans, we do not know what's on each other's minds and hearts as God knows of each of us. Thus we cannot afford to be silent. We need to encourage each other to be open and honest in communication. We should strive to engage in healthy confrontation and active listening. And as we faithfully communicate with God, we should also try to do so with each other. Thereby strengthening our relationships and the church.

During this season of joy, God stopped being "silent" and lead with action. He sent His son Jesus Christ who openly communicated and demonstrated His love for everyone. It is my prayer that we follow God's example of healing and strengthening relationships by opening up communication. I encourage you to have that talk with that someone you have been meaning to talk with. Or if that's a stretch, maybe a nice card or a text message just to get started. I don't think we can wait 400 years!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Joel Duldulao