



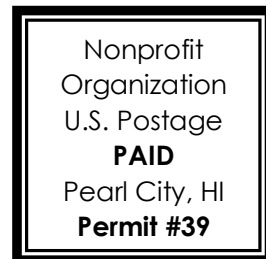
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Missions Corner – Roberta Nagano

Since John and Pen Letaw have retired from the mission field and are now making their home in Thailand, we have nine missionary families left that we support: Ron and Cissy Boyer, Joel and Grace Dasalla, Gay Hongo, Hal and Karen Jensen, Tharshish Johnson, Reverend and Mrs. Yuichiro Nakano, Jeff and Kelly Pagaragan, Eric and Sue Takamoto, and Child Evangelism Fellowship.

A total of \$1,620 is given each month from our Mission Fund, which is funded by those who donate to General Missions. A total of \$825 or more is also designated to them monthly due to the faithfulness and generosity of some of our members. Those who have been called by God need our financial support to do the work they are called to do.

They also need our prayers. Here's how we can we pray for them:

- Pray for marriage and family relationships.
- Pray for spiritual well-being, relationship to God.
- Pray for relationships with colleagues and church leaders.
- Pray for physical safety and health.
- Pray for their financial needs.
- Pray for their ministries as they point people to God.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and prayers for those who have said to the Lord, "Yes, Lord, here I am. Send me."



## 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 – 10:15 AM

**Children's Activities Program (CAP):**  
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Due to the uncertainties caused by COVID-19, please visit our calendar at [westoahuchristian.org](http://westoahuchristian.org) for the latest updates on Worship Services, Sunday School classes and other church activities.**



# KOINONIA

West Oahu Christian Church

Spring 2020

## Pastor's Corner

### Happy Easter!

*"For Christ died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."*  
1 Peter 3:18

As I wrote this article I kept praying, "Lord, what do you want me to say?" One topic tended to invade my mind! I've resisted that temptation, and heard God telling me to focus on what *He is doing at WOCC*.



In early February some folks gathered to watch **The Big Game** (otherwise known as the Super Bowl.) For many years I've been trying to have such a gathering, so this is a small victory! More than I expected attended and cheered for their team. We had lots of pizza and bread sticks, and it all went! Even if their team did not win, everyone seemed to go home blessed by the fellowship!

Heading into 2020, a major goal of the Elders was to focus WOCC on certain foundational values. An acrostic, titled **F.A.I.T.H.**, was developed, and Joel Duldulao, preached his first sermon ever on "T - Teachable!" We also saw a vital need to provide clear guidance on how we at WOCC needed to interact with each other. Our **Social Covenant** describes interpersonal dynamics for a church to be healthy. First, our social interactions are sourced in the **Triune God**. But since we have fallen short, God instructed us in the Bible how to move humanity's broken image of God back toward His perfect character. A key tenet is to humbly consider others better than yourselves, and to "look not only to our own interests, but also the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4.) As we obey our Lord, He grows us more and more into His divine image! Who would have guessed that while we were covering this instruction God would use COVID-19 to test just how much we listened, heard and absorbed His Word.



Due to cancellation of our Sunday services, I have been providing ongoing **spiritual** perspectives on COVID-19 via e-mail and USPS. The devil tries to divide us by focusing us on fear, selfishness and criticism, but our Lord Jesus Christ has an infinitely more powerful message to us – the message of **Easter!** Out of the fears of human instabilities, insecurities and uncertainties, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ emerges as a **hope without comparison** for all of the world to see. In His suffering, Jesus experienced anxiety, loss, rejection and death for everyone for all time! He now calls us to give our anxieties, losses, abandonments and deaths to Him so He may exchange it for **Eternal Life!** It is the **great substitution!** On the third day He **rose victorious over the grave** as proof-positive that His unstoppable hope and promise is available to everyone who trusts in Him!

Why not trust Jesus now to receive true peace for today, and eternal life in the richest fellowship with God! As you do, may you have a truly **Happy Easter!**

In Christ's Love, Pastor Stan



## Elder's Corner

WOCC (walk) by F.A.I.T.H.

Happy Easter! As Jesus lay in the tomb, we can only imagine what the state of the disciples' faith was. To say that it was crushed, would be an understatement. However, a few days later, the disciples' faith was not only restored, it was emboldened. And as we look forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it's a great time to reflect upon the condition of our F.A.I.T.H.

At the beginning of the year we had a series of sermons that summed up the characteristics that we strive to live by as Christians. To make things simple, we used an acrostic titled "F.A.I.T.H." It was a challenging and reflective series of sermons that also served as a call to action. Here's a quick summary of what F.A.I.T.H. is all about:

**F** for Faithful. The foundation of faithfulness is solidified in the ability of a person to suffer for Christ, submit to authority, and delay gratification. Faithfulness is valued much more highly than gifts and abilities because if a disciple is not faithful, it does not matter how gifted they are.

**A** for Available. This statement by Brother Andrew, "God does not choose people because of their ability, but because of their availability," was an important point shared. Also, being available is beneficial for several reasons. It expands your Christian life experiences and wisdom. It enables you to be a blessing to others. It also pleases God!

**I** for Initiative. There are two types of initiative: Personal and Group. Personal initiative is taking care of your responsibilities without being told to. Examples ranged from doing chores/work to being diligent with prayer and reading the Bible. Group initiative is the influence imprinted on others by a person's initiative. Examples include offering to lead a Small Group, volunteering to organize an activity or offering prayer to others.

**T** for Teachable. *No be hard head!* Humility is a key to being teachable. Pride will hinder us from receiving all that God wants us to learn. Can we "fail forward" and learn from mistakes? Do we accept constructive criticism and use it to grow? Lastly, we need to be vulnerable and seek counsel and feedback from Godly people.

**H** for Hear. We were reminded that the heart is deceitful above all things and that we must allow God to gradually transform our heart into His heart. When our hearts are brought into the light and we use our hearts to serve the Lord, we know that we will receive a reward much greater than anything of this world.

I could go on and on about F.A.I.T.H. but, I was tasked with condensing these sermons into a few paragraphs. It definitely does not do the sermons any justice. If you would like to listen to all the sermons, they are available on our website. I believe that they will encourage you to "WOCC by F.A.I.T.H."

By the way, Pastor Stan deserves the credit for the "WOCC by F.A.I.T.H." pun. I thought it was a perfect title for this article. So I decided to borrow it. Thanks Stan!

In Christ's name,

Joel

## Women's Small Group – Roberta Nagano

The Women's Small Group is journaling on the book of Matthew every Thursday at Joan Doi's home, facilitated by Roberta Nagano. This is a sweet time of fellowship and getting to know each other, sharing our burdens, and learning about the Word of God. There are seven women who attend faithfully and it is an on-going small group.



## Christian Education – Gloria Onishi and Joel Duldulao

Sensing the need to spend time with each other outside of the walls of our church, Christian Education held two activities in the month of February 2020. The brave kids in Group C decided to see if they had the courage, brains, and teamwork to escape from an Egyptian treasure Temple at Chambers Escape Games Hawaii. The Young Adults/ Teens decided to hit the lanes and eat some delicious food at Aiea Bowl.

Chambers Escape is the top rated escape room in Hawaii. If you don't know what an escape room is, don't feel bad, neither did any of the kids from Group C. But they decided to give it a shot anyway. Escape rooms bring immersive, high-tech, and exciting experiences from around the world. I would describe it as an "Indiana Jones" type of adventure, complete with clue finding and puzzle solving to find the hidden treasure and escape before time runs out. It tests your wits, skill, and teamwork in a real-life adventure.



We ended up completing the challenge with nine minutes left to spare! From Lauka placing his hand into a creepy opening in the wall to Jonathan completing some ancient Egyptian math, everyone contributed to our success. It was great to see everyone work together and not get frustrated when we were faced with challenging puzzles.

By the time we returned to WOCC for lunch, the treasure hunters were planning their next heist! We were blessed to have a great time together and we look forward to connecting with each other through these kinds of engaging activities.



The following week, the High School and Young Adults spent a fun filled afternoon bowling at Aiea Bowl. Aiea Bowl is a great interactive venue to take youth and adults. The bowling alley was dimmed and lit up with neon lights, making it an ideal setting for all the kids and Henry to make plenty of noise by cheering each other loudly, "high-fiving", and screaming up a storm when they bowled a strike.

Aiea Bowl is notorious for its awesome tasty chicken and, of course, they did not disappoint! The hungry bowlers scarfed down the delicious chicken, rice, cheese pizza, and soda. For some of the youth it was their first time bowling, but even if there were many "gutter" balls, all of our group agreed it was memorable and a fun time. This outing was definitely an outing that we will do again.

## Homework Assistance Program – Jeanne Nagatani

God has given us the opportunity to minister to the little children through the Homework Assistance Program (HAP). There are times when we as workers struggle with helping the children because the ratio of children to helpers is high, but God always provides and our little group "survives." The dedication that these helpers have in loving these children and coming every week to help them with their homework is unmeasurable. They are truly storing their treasures in heaven.

Although we are not a Christian Education ministry, we have come a long way in trying to teach these children about Jesus through prayer before every session as well as trying to provide other ways to tell them about Jesus after they are done with their homework.

My request to our congregation is to have them pray for the children that they get to know Jesus and HAP and to see if they can find it in their hearts to serve Jesus by helping us help the children.

As we struggle in our earthly world of unknowns, John says, "...this is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith", (1 John 5:4b) and "Love because He loved you first", (1 John 4:19).

What better way to show our faith and love for Jesus by helping and loving our future generation.