

Gardena Valley Baptist Church

Issue 13

July 3, 2013

SPIRIT

GVBC MISSION STATEMENT
 Helping people discover Jesus and become His fully devoted followers.

GVBC PURPOSE STATEMENT
 At GVBC, we seek to glorify God by:
 ~reaching the world for Christ
 ~uniting as His family
 ~worshiping Him with our lives
 ~growing in Christ-like character
 ~and serving others in love.

Inside this issue:

GVBC Pre-Centennial Golf Tournament	✝	2
Greenhouse Summer Fun Events	✝	3
KidZone July & August Events	✝	3
Profile of Traci Louie by Kathy Aiso	✝	4
Family News Our Mission Field	✝	5
FYI: Events Calendar	✝	6
100 th Anniversary Logo Winner Announced	✝	7
WANTED: Photos for our 100 th Anniversary Celebration	✝	7

27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27



Dear Church Family,

Recently, the GVBC Neighborhood Ministry began a partnership alongside the Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF). CPAF is a local, non-profit organization which addresses domestic violence and sexual assault in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. They run a 24-hour multi-lingual hotline, an emergency shelter, transitional shelter, children’s programs, and educational classes.

Since its beginning, the GVBC Neighborhood Ministry has been a strong advocate of partnering alongside local community organizations that help to bring healing and restoration to our city. We’re excited to support CPAF and be supported by them as well. We believe this partnership will help us continue to show our community the transformative power and the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.



During a Thanksgiving party, women staying at a shelter work on a craft.

CPAF is currently graduating families out of their program and these women are in need of assistance. Would you consider praying for their needs on a regular basis and possibly seeing if you have any leads to provide assistance? Here are their needs:

1. Employment: entry-level part time job in the South Bay.
2. Housing: studio or one bedroom apartment for rent in the South Bay.
3. Sponsor: sponsors take care of a graduating family’s wish list as much as possible.

I believe it’s a great opportunity to get involved with some serious issues oppressing our community this very moment in time and I would only ask that you prayerfully consider taking part.

If you’d like more information about CPAF, please go to www.nurturingchange.org or contact James Chang: james@gvbc.net. Also, contact me if you can help in any way.

with love,
James

GVBC PRE-CENTENNIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Register NOW

Amateur golfers ONLY please!



Monday, August 12

Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Road, Downey, CA 90241 (562)927-2329.

Check in begins 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. shotgun start

Early Bird Fee: \$125 **DEADLINE** by Sunday, July 14.

Fee after July 14: \$150.

Our annual golf tournament is the kick-off event for our GVBC 100th Anniversary Celebration. All proceeds go to care for the people in the South Bay via GVBC's food ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Gardena, Gardena Human Services, Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF) — a domestic violence intervention organization [see Pastor James Chang's article on page 1], and the City of Gardena's Senior Day Care Center. Opportunities to play golf, donate raffle prizes, be a Tee sponsor, volunteer to help.

Fee includes: registration, shared golf cart, putting contest, hole-in-one on Par 3s, Tee gift, range balls, raffle tickets, lunch & tournament banquet dinner. **Player registration contacts:** Teresa & Bill Louie via the office or email at tlouie17@gmail.com.

Tee Sponsors: You don't play golf? You can still participate by becoming a Tee sponsor with a donation of \$100 per tee sign which will be placed on the golf course and at the clubhouse during the tournament banquet. Tee sponsors come from local business advertisements and church members or friends who want to remember a person with "In Honor of" or "In Memory of." Tee sponsor forms available on the website or in the Narthex. **Tee sponsor contact:** Harvey Ujimori via the office or email at hujimori@sbcglobal.net.

Raffle gifts / donations: We need raffle prizes. Donation suggestions are: golf equipment, accessories, apparel, lessons; gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses; tickets to sporting events (such as, Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, USC, UCLA, etc.); merchandise, small appliances, gift baskets, etc.

Volunteers also needed to help out during the tournament with registration and other duties. **Volunteer sign up contacts:** Richard Imatomi rimatomi@sbcglobal.net ; Frank Nakamura akira777@sbcglobal.net.

Brochures for registration and Tee Sponsors are on the Narthex information counter. .

To see the brochure and print up the registration form go to: www.gvbc.net [click on "Calendar" then go to Pre-Centennial Golf Tournament, click on "Registration." The brochure will pop up and you can print it, fill it out then drop in the offering bag or bring to the office.

Chairman: Tak Shimazaki takshim@yahoo.com

Directors: Keith Kimura cre8ive_soul@hotmail.com; Eddie Yorizane eddiehyori@yahoo.com; Assistant: John Nakamura jtnakamura@verizon.net.

Tournament Sponsorship: Bruce Yonamine byonamine@gmail.com

Chairman: Tak Shimazaki takshim@yahoo.com



GREENHOUSE SUMMER FUN

INCOMING 6TH GRADE TO GRADUATED 8TH GRADE

TUESDAY, July 9 — Greenhouse Ex-sca-v-e-ganza!

6:00 — 8:30 p.m.
 GVBC, meet in room 218
 Refreshments provided
 Cost: FREE

SATURDAY, July 20 — Beach Party @ Torrance Beach

2:00 — 6:00 p.m.
 Please eat lunch BEFORE coming
 Dinner will be provided
 Cost: FREE

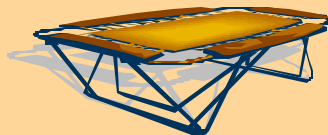


TUESDAY, July 23 — Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park

6:00 — 8:00 p.m.
 1625 W. 190th St., Gardena
 Cost: \$10

Due to the large size of our group, we will be jumping with no shoes and no socks.

NOTE: All participants must have waiver signed by parent or legal guardian in order to attend this event. Waiver can be picked-up at Greenhouse or downloaded directly from <http://torrance.skyzonesports.com>.



TUESDAY, July 30 — Jamie's Gym Night

6:00 — 8:00 p.m.
 GVBC Community Hall
 Refreshments provided
 Cost: FREE

Open to students entering 6th grade through graduated 8th graders.

Questions? Contact Layne Wakuta, ext. 684 or email at: layne@gvbc.net.



KidZone
 Friday Night Activities
 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 Community Hall



July 5 No KidZone
 July 12 Frisbee Golf
 July 19 Vacation Bible School
 Celebration Dinner (starting at 6:00 p.m.)
 July 26 Water Day

August 2 T-shirt Relay
 August 9 Bean Bag Toss
 August 16 Hockey Relay
 August 23 KidZone 5th Grade
 Farewell
 August 30 No KidZone





For further information, please contact Susan Wakuta at:
 (310) 312-5482 or e-mail at susan@gvbc.net

Gardena Valley Baptist Church
 3130 W. 138th ST
 Gardena, CA 90247

A BLESSED CALLING

PROFILE OF TRACI LOUIE

BY KATHY AISO

God will use the underdog, the broken, the misfit. He calls them to display His glory.
—Traci Louie

God used **Traci Louie's** middle school relationships to lead her back to the Lord. As a student in Redondo Beach, Traci described herself as a typical troubled teen.

"I felt left out in middle school a lot," she recalled. At school, Traci had few close friends and those she had gave her a difficult time.

GVBC: a welcoming place to be

Having grown up at GVBC, Traci and her family attended church sporadically. In Traci's elementary school years, her attendance at Sunday school was inconsistent. Amid all the turmoil with her friends at middle school, a thought dawned on her: GVBC was a welcoming place where Pastor Daniel Matsuda [Associate Pastor — Youth] would greet her on Sundays with a warm, "Hi Traci!"

Pastor Daniel's greeting, along with others from the girls in her Sunday school class, stood out to her. It made Traci ponder about attending GVBC regularly where she recognized she would be welcomed and also could make good lasting friendships.

A commitment to follow Christ

As a result, Traci began attending church every Sunday. Her parents wholeheartedly supported her. Traci's spiritual growth through the youth group and Sunday school culminated in her commitment to follow Christ at the youth winter camp in Alpine. The weekend provided a condensed time of teaching and fellowship. It was also a convicting time for Traci as she examined her own faith. That weekend, she opened her heart, spiritually, and rededicated her life to the Lord. After camp, she was baptized.

Her small and sheltered world

Upon entering high school, Traci continued to actively participate in the youth group and attend Sunday school. Through the youth group, she participated in short-term mission trips to Mexico. It was a life-changing experience because she was humbled.

These trips made her realize how small and sheltered her world had been before going to the

impoverished places she visited in Mexico. Traci soon realized, what the Bible says about giving is true. Life is not about receiving, but "pouring oneself out" through giving. Traci loved serving in Mexico and she made new friendships there.

Throughout her high school, college, and young adult years, she made over a dozen trips to Mexico through various programs and churches.

Traci's future plans

Following graduation from Redondo Union High School in June 2007, Traci attended the University of California, Irvine (UCI). During her years at UCI, she was active at Newsong Church in Irvine. Through Newsong's college group, she continued to make trips to Mexico. She also served as a small-group leader for fellow college students.

In March 2011 she graduated with a B.A. in English with a minor in Spanish. Her future plans include getting a Master's Degree in English then possibly a doctorate. She would like to teach English on the college level.

GVBC is a blessing to Traci

Back at home, Traci attends GVBC regularly and is a youth leader with the high school group. "It's a blessing to see high school students, who have chosen to follow the Lord," she shared, "gradually transform into faithful young adults."

God's overriding peace in all circumstances

One of Traci's favorite Bible passages is Philippians 4:4-7, as it reminds her of God's overriding peace in all circumstances for those who abide in Him:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Traci recognizes, whatever the next step God has planned for her, she can be joyful, knowing that's where God wants her to be. Following God's will gives her security and true peace.



Congratulation to:

🔔 Wil & Kathy Honda who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 23.

Letters from our church family

- ✉️ Dear church family, Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement. It was very thoughtful. I'm feeling much better now and it helps to know I have such caring people thinking of me. Love in Christ, Kayo Kuratani
- ✉️ To GVBC, Thank you for your generous flower gift. My father lived his life to the fullest and passed away at the ripe old age of 101. While I lived thousands of miles from him, his presence has always been in my heart. He will be missed dearly. Thank you for your church support. Love, Shigeo Yamauchi
- ✉️ Dear Church family, I want to express a great big "Thank You" for the beautiful flower arrangement delivered to me during my recent hospitalization. It's amazing how something as wonderful as the love and concerns expressed I felt from you truly lifted my spirits. Every time anyone of the hospital staff walked into my room, they commented on how beautiful the flowers were. Some even pinched them because they couldn't believe they were real. I am especially grateful to Pastor Steve for his prayers and bedside visit, even though, I was in an Isolation Room. He wore the TB mask like it was no big deal. I am back at home recuperating well and am so blessed to get a home-cooked meal once again. Thank you, again. Sincerely, Michael Frey

OUR MISSION FIELD

Pete and Sheryl Silzer

In the spring, Sheryl spent four weeks in Malaysia, leading three workshops on cross-cultural issues.



The first workshop was with YWAM (Youth with a Mission), followed by workshops with Wycliffe members or their affiliated organizations.

The best response was through the last workshop, which was due to its mix of six Koreans, four Malaysians, five Americans, and one Dutch. As a result of this workshop, the participants began to have better understand how people's differences might lead to misunderstandings. They left, being able to better anticipate misunderstandings. The participants also had a better understanding of direct versus indirect communication.

Sheryl has also been working with Life Journey (LJ), a nonprofit organization which trains blind people, vocationally. She is helping the director deal with cultural issues which stem from three main ethnic groups in the organization. The issue being discussed was member care. There is a good possibility she will continue to consult with LJ.

In June, Sheryl traveled to Southern California to begin teaching in the new Asian Doctor of Ministry Program at Talbot School of Theology. The intensive lasted for two weeks.

Being in Southern California, she was able to reunite with Pete before they saw their two sons and families. They also attended a family reunion.

Thank you for keeping the Silzers and their ministry in your prayers.



CONTACT: office (310) 323-5683.
EMAIL: gvbc@gvbc.net [put your event in the subject line]. You can also contact event leaders directly.
WEBSITE: www.gvbc.net

♥ **Basic Christianity Class**

*Sundays through October 20, 8:45 a.m., room 113.

*Starts Sunday, Nov. 3 for 30 weeks at 10:45 a.m., upstairs in room 218.

Both classes taught by Pastor Ron Matsuda. No sign up need. For information contact the office.

♥ **GriefShare**

Sundays until August 25, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 218. GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. Each session includes a video seminar and group discussion. The videos feature top experts on grief recovery. You will learn valuable information which will help you through this difficult time in your life. It is a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. The purchase of a GriefShare workbook is optional (\$15). You are welcome to begin attending at any session; each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. To register, please contact the church office or fill out a GriefShare flyer located in the Narthex and place it in the box on the counter. Facilitators are: Terri Yoshimura and Diane Shinmoto.

♥ **Independence Day** Thursday, July 4 office closed

♥ **Special Business Meeting**

Sunday, July 7 at 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Alina Lucas resigned her position as Member-at-Large on the Board. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Vice Moderator Stan Terasaki, is recommending Teresa Takaki Matsushima to fill the position through the end of 2014 [see article on page 3]. We need a quorum so please plan to attend.

♥ **GVBC Bilingual Saturday Services**

Saturday, July 13, 7:00 — 9:00 p.m. Every second Saturday of the month. Refreshments served in Room 201 after the service. Everyone welcome.

Contact Pastor Osato, ext. 676, eiji@gvbc.net.

♥ **Driftwood Healthcare Center Outreach**

Saturday, July 13, 1:50 — 3:00 p.m. Join us for a visit to the residents of the Torrance Driftwood Healthcare Center. We will spend time with the residents to help cheer up their day. For more information, please contact Jodie Rivera at: Jodie_Yoshida@yahoo.com.

♥ **VBS All-volunteer/Setup Meeting**

Sunday, July 14, 12:30 p.m. Community Hall. Lunch will be provided. Contact Susan Wakuta, ext. 689, susan@gvbc.net.

♥ **WANTED: SonWest Roundup VBS Volunteers**

Monday, July 15 to Friday, July 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. REGISTRATION IS CLOSED, however, volunteers are still needed! It's not too late to sign up

to volunteer for VBS. Lots of areas still open. Sign up at the Narthex counter or in the courtyard after the worship services or contact the office.

♥ **Getting to Know Us Luncheon**

Sunday, July 28 after second service, room 113 [room next to the kitchen]. If you have been attending GVBC for a year or less, come meet some of our Pastoral Staff and Board members. Feel free to ask questions about GVBC. Lunch provided. To sign up, check off the "Getting to Know Us" box on your Connection form or call the office, ext. 0 or email gvbc@gvbc.net [Subject line: Getting to Know Us].

AUGUST

♥ **Youth Summer Camp:** middle school & high school, at Alpine Conference Center, Sunday, August 4 — Friday, August 9. Registration has begun. Deadline: Early bird fee is \$266 until July 14. After deadline: \$280.

Registration forms available on our website or see any youth leader or in the office. Contact Pastor Daniel Matsuda, ext. 681, email Daniel@gvbc.net.

♥ **Women's Breakfast** Saturday, August 10, 8:00 a.m., Community Hall.

♥ **Pre-Centennial Golf Tournament** (in place of our annual Seminarian Golf Tournament). Amateur golfers ONLY. Monday, August 12. Check in at 10:00am, 12:00 noon shotgun start. **Early Bird fee DEADLINE:** \$125 by Sunday, July 14. Fee after July 14: \$150. Opportunities to play golf, win prizes, be a Tee sponsor, volunteer to help. Contacts are: Brochures for registration and Tee Sponsors are on the Narthex information counter or go to our website, click on "Calendar," then go to "Pre-Centennial Golf Tournament Registration." You can download the brochure then fill it out and return it. **Chairman:** Tak Shimazaki, takshim@yahoo.com. [See article on page 2].

♥ **Beachcombers Friendship Night** Monday, August 19, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Community Hall (set up Sunday afternoon, August 18).

♥ **Elementary & Middle School Farewells** Friday, August 23 (5th graders move up to Middle School and 8th graders move up to Senior High School).

♥ **Promotion Sunday** August 25 (everybody except high school seniors).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *M.O.M. (Mexico Outreach Short-term Missions)*
 - ◆ October 5, Saturday one-day trip to Tijuana
 - ◆ Dec 20-22 three-day trip to San Telmo

We are collecting soap and shampoo samples all year long for the Mexico Missions' trips. Please bring them to the church office labeled "Teresa Matsushima." Place it behind Jan Magnani's desk on the table in the office. God bless. [NOTE: a U.S. passport is required. Spanish is helpful, but not required]. Contact Teresa Matsushima: treesaw47@gmail.com
- *CERT Meeting:* Mondays of October 21 & November 4, 4:00 — 6:00 pm; Saturdays of October 26 & November 9, 7:30 am — 5:00 pm. Contact Cindy Matsuda
- *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* Monday, Sept. 16, 2013 to January 13, 2014, 6:30 — 9:30 p.m., Rooms 218 & 220, 16 sessions.

100TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO WINNER



The results are in! After narrowing the 30+ contest entries to 10 finalists and two congregation votes with over 300 ballots cast in the final, the 100th Anniversary Committee is excited to announce our winning logo to celebrate GVBC's 100th Anniversary. A BIG thank you to everyone who submitted designs for consideration.

Congratulations to **Matt Butt** for his winning entry. Look for the new logo on apparel and other items available for purchase soon. The logo will also be used in the Spirit, on our letter, website, banners, and other areas.

Online Giving Services Available

Online services are available through our website at www.gvbc.net, "Give."



On Sundays, please note the La Salle parking lot (west side of the church by the Community Hall) is for DISABLED (must have a DMV placard) or 80+ only. Thank you for your understanding.



We are looking for any "old time" photos of GVBC for our 100th Anniversary. Also, if you were married at GVBC, we'd like to have a copy of your wedding photo. You can bring these pictures by the church, we'll scan them, then return them to you. Or, you can email copies to us at: gvbc@gvbc.net [Subject: 100th Photo].



NOTE **Did you know** our sermons are online where you can listen to them? If you miss one, go to www.gvbc.net then click on "Sundays." A big graphic will pop up. Just click on graphic. Then, you can browse the list of sermons for the entire year. There is also an archive list, too. The most recent sermon is usually uploaded by the following week.



Issue 14 will be uploaded to the website on Wednesday, July 24. Hard copies will then be available in the Narthex and Community Hall. All articles should be submitted by Sunday, July 21.

The *Spirit* is copyrighted © 2013 and a publication of Gardena Valley Baptist Church, 1630 W. 158th Street, Gardena, CA, 90247, (310)323-5683, FAX: (310)768-2783, Email: gvbc@gvbc.net, Website: www.gvbc.net, Senior Pastor: Steve Langley (310)323-5683, ext. 0, Editor: Susan J. Shelley, ext. 673, susie@gvbc.net. Office hours: 9:00am—5:00pm. The *Spirit* is published twice a month to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about GVBC and its people. Announcements, praise, prayer requests, and letters are welcomed. Articles are subject to editing and/or postponement.



Gardena Valley Baptist Church
 1630 W. 158th Street
 Gardena, CA 90247-3712

Phone: (310) 323-5683

Web: www.gvbc.net

E-mail: gvbc@gvbc.net

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/gvbc>



Thursday,
 July 4



July 15 to 19



✠ Morning Worship @ 8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
 ✠ Nichigo Japanese-speaking Service @ 10:45am Sanctuary

Sunday, July 7 / Communion

Pastor James Chang ~ Worship, Acts 2:46-47

Sunday, July 14

Pastor Steve Langley ~ Outreach, Acts 2:47

Sunday, July 21

Pastor Steve Langley ~ Leadership, Acts 2

Sunday, July 28

Special Guest Speaker ~ Loving Our Neighbors

English-speaking children's Sunday school runs concurrent with the Worship Services. Nichigo children's Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Room 206.

Steve Langley, Senior Pastor, ext. 0
 Daniel Matsuda, Associate Pastor — Youth, ext. 681
 Eiji Osato, Associate Pastor — Nichigo, ext. 676
 James Chang, Assistant Pastor — Neighborhood, ext. 682
 Annette Kakimoto, Assistant Pastor —
 Leadership Development, ext. 680
 Chris Koga, Assistant Pastor—College, ext. 685 (pt)
 Layne Wakuta, Pastoral Intern — Middle School, ext. 684
 Susan Wakuta — Elementary Children's Director, ext. 689
 J.J. Frey, Worship Coordinator (pt)
 Wendy Nakano, Office Manager, ext. 672
 Peggy Kushigemachi, Financial Assistant, ext. 675
 Jan Magnani, Secretary, ext. 671
 Rei Abe, Nichigo Secretary, ext. 677 (pt)
 Aubrey Matsunami, Christian Educ. Secretary, ext. 678 (pt)
 Susie Shelley, Newsletter Editor, ext. 673 (pt)
 Kevin Hatashita, Maintenance Asst. (pt)
 Socorro "Coco" Kagawa, Maintenance Asst. (pt)
 Kevin Maeda, Maintenance Asst. (pt)
 Gerald Mayewaki, Maintenance Asst. (pt)
 Andrew Sunada, Maintenance Asst. (pt)