



Issue 16

August 20, 2014



Inside this issue

Agents of C.H.A.N.G.E. Youth Summer Camp	2
Congratulations on our 100th Anniversary	3
Our Mission Field	4
Family News	5
FYI Events Calendar	6
Announcements	7
Our Worship Schedule	8

Dear Church Family,

I remember hearing the story of a man who was walking along a road, carrying a heavy burden on his shoulders. A wagon overtook him and the driver kindly offered to give the man a ride. The man happily accepted the offer, but even when he was seated on the wagon, he continued to carry the heavy load on his shoulders.

Perplexed, the kindhearted wagon driver said, "Sir, why don't you put down your burden? There's plenty of room."

"Oh, no," said the man. "I feel it's almost too much to ask you to carry *me*. I wouldn't think of asking you to carry my burden also."

Maybe you can identify with this man. You've allowed Christ to carry you — to be your Savior — but you've been unwilling to entrust a certain area of your life to His care. Maybe it's a difficult relationship with a family member, co-worker, or friend? Maybe it's a constant battle with anger, unforgiveness, self-hatred, lust, or pride? Maybe it's a pressing concern about your health, finances, or future direction in life.

Jesus wants you to surrender your *entire* life to Him. He says in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." This is beautifully echoed in the hymn "*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*":

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations, is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

[Text by Joseph M. Scriven, Music by Charles C. Converse. Originally written as a poem in 1853]

If there is a problem in your life too heavy for you to bear alone, give it to Jesus. He will carry your load. He will give you rest. He will give you the power to overcome. He will give you the strength to endure. The problem may not vanish, but you will have the peace and confidence of knowing God is in control. You will be reminded that:

The same God who was faithful to the men and women of the
Old and New Testament . . .

The same God who has been faithful to His Church ever
since the first century...

The same God who has been faithful to GVBC over the past
100 years . . .

. . . is the same God who is faithful to you today.

His faithfulness continues,
Daniel Matsuda
Associate Pastor, Youth



AGENTS OF C. H. A. N. G. E. YOUTH SUMMER CAMP AT OAK GLEN

COURAGE, HUMILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY,
NON-CONFORMITY, GODLINESS, EMPOWERMENT

BY LAYNE WAKUTA, PASTORAL INTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Youth Summer Camp for our Greenhouse middle school and 180 high school students was held on July 27 through August 1 at Oak Glen Christian Conference Center.



The camp theme was, "Agents of C.H.A.N.G.E." and students were motivated by speakers Hung Thach and Chris Fukunaga to start with the inward change of their hearts before making the transition to being the change in their world for Jesus Christ.

The words of Romans 12:2 rang true for our students as they were "transformed by the renewing of their minds." Other highlights of the week mentioned by students included worship in song, one-on-one sharing times, a Prayer Night where students were able to pray for specific areas of difficulty in their lives and the delicious food served by the Oak Glen staff.

The week was capped off with C.H.A.N.G.E. Night where students shared about commitments for change in their hearts, such as:

Committing to grow closer to God through reading His Word and praying more frequently as well as the changes they want to make in their world, like choosing better friends and witnessing to family members.

This was definitely a camp experience for our students which will lead to true C.H.A.N.G.E. back home!



C.H.A.N.G.E. Night

One-on-one sharing



Speaker Hung Thach

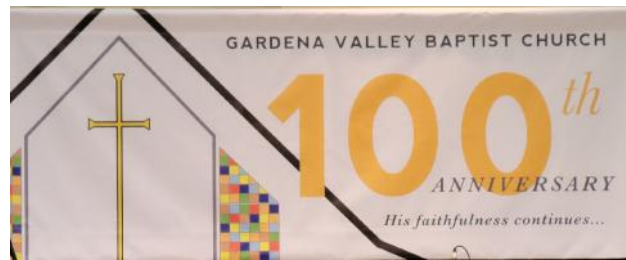


Fun and games



Speaker Chris Fukunaga





CONGRATULATIONS GVBC 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Oh, what a privilege the Lord has given me (us) not only to be acquainted with GVBC since January 1962, but sent out as a missionary with your faithful prayers and financial support for the past 51 years.

May the Lord continue to keep GVBC steadfast in His Word and serve for His glory in reaching the lost with the Gospel message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will continue in prayer that our Lord will bless GVBC abundantly this day and on until the day He returns for us.

Looking Unto Jesus,
Greg & Jane Tanaka



Child Evangelism
Fellowship of Japan

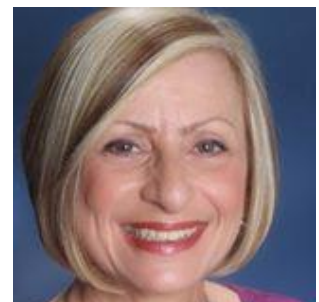
CONGRATULATIONS GVBC 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear Pastor Steve:

I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes on Gardena Valley Baptist Church's 100th Anniversary!

I will not be able to attend the luncheon on Saturday, but wanted to wish you continued success and express my gratitude for the numerous contributions your church has made to our community over the years.

Warmest Regards,
Mina Semenza
City Clerk, City of Gardena



OUR MISSION FIELD

THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS . . . — MATTHEW 28:19

2014 RIFU JAPAN MISSION TEAM

On Thursday, August 7 the 2014 Japan Team — Tommy Park, Tommy Morse, Diana Sakata, and Anna Osato — arrived safely at the Tokyo airport. They stayed in a hotel in Tokyo and fellowshiped with GVBC members in the Tokyo area.

On Saturday, August 9 they traveled to Rifu where they fellowshiped with their host families. A baptism service was held at Rifu Oasis Chapel on Sunday, August 10.

During the following week they met with Pastor Makito Matsuda, the church staff, and talked about the youth program. They made preparations for the upcoming Adventure Camp. Before and during camp they worked on various manual-labor type jobs which included cleaning and cooking meals.

From Thursday, August 14 to Saturday, August 16 they worked with the Adventure Camp staff, taught the kids who attended camp (ages middle school through high school) and helped with sending the kids off in spirit-filled, uplifting way.

They helped with the Rifu Oasis Chapel service the following day. Then, all too soon it was time to say good bye to all their new and old friends. From Monday, August 18 to Tuesday, August 19 they flew back to the U.S.

They have plenty of wonderful stories to tell us about their mission trip to Rifu Japan.



GVBC sendoff at LAX on Wed., Aug. 6



Arriving tired but happy at the Tokyo airport on Thurs., Aug. 7



Meeting with Rifu Oasis Chapel Staff



Bowling team. Tommy said, "We won!"



Café fellowship at Rifu Oasis Chapel



Getting ready for camp with the staff



View from Camp Morigo: Adventure Camp



Tommy Morse & Anna Osato trying to convert *kanji* to see what the sugar level is



FAMILY NEWS

“A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER.” — JOHN 13:34

Our prayers and condolences go to those in our family who have lost loved ones

Dan Watanabe and family in the passing of his father.

Scott & Betty Fujikawa and family in the passing of Scott's mother who passed away on Saturday August 9. The funeral service will be held at GVBC on Saturday, November 8 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Brian Lo will officiate.

Bob & Teresa Matsushima in the passing of Teresa's brother, Russell Takaki. The celebration of life service was held on Sunday, August 17 at the Gardena Valley JCI. Bob officiated the service.

Wedding announcement:

Congratulations to Pastor James & Yuko [Teimatsu] Chang who were married on the beach in San Diego on Thursday, August 7.



Letters to our church family

Dear Friends, On behalf of the City of Gardena, we would like to extend our sincere thanks for your April monetary donation of \$500 [from our LOVE Fund], 16 bags, 5 cases, and 3 boxes of food to our emergency food pantry. Thank you for caring about others in your community. Together we can continue in our mission to try to keep up with the increasing needs of struggling families and individuals in our community during these tough economic times. Sincerely, James Kimmons, Recreation Supervisor, by Susie Santana, Recreation Coordinator

FYI EVENTS CALENDAR

MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE FAREWELL

Friday, August 22, 7:00 p.m., room 218. Greenhouse says farewell to their 8th graders who will be promoted to the 180 High School group. Contact Layne Wakuta, ext. 682, layne@gvbc.net.

BABY DEDICATIONS

Sunday, August 24 during both worship services. If you would like to have your child or children dedicated to the Lord, contact Susan Wakuta, ext. 689, email: susan@gvbc.net. The next Baby Dedication will be in November.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturdays, August 30, September 27, October 25, 8:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m., Community Hall. All men invited.

BAPTISM SERVICES

Sunday, August 31

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION

Sunday, August 31

OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY

Monday, September 1

GVBC JOB CLUB

Tuesday, September 2, 6:30 p.m., Room 119. The Job Club meets once a month on Tuesdays.

WORK DAY CANCELLED

The September 6 Work Day has been cancelled due to a wedding taking place at GVBC. Next Work Day is Oct. 4.

TEACHERS & LEADERS RECOGNITION SUNDAY

September 7 during both worship services.

BILINGUAL SERVICE

Saturday, September 13, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Meets every second Saturday of the month. Refreshments served in Room 201 after the service. Everyone welcome. For more info contact Pastor Eiji Osato, ext. 676, eiji@gvbc.net. Next Bilingual Service is October 11.

PERSPECTIVES

Mondays nights from September 15, 2014 to January 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Rooms 218/220. Family member discounts and scholarships available. This life-changing course will open your eyes to understand God's unchanging purposes and how you can use your skills and passions to glorify God in all the earth. Register online at: www.perspectives.org, click on "Find a Class" then search for Gardena, CA. This is a college credits course.

For more info contact Tommy Park via the office or thomas.y.park@gmail.com.

KEEP GARDENA BEAUTIFUL

Saturday, September 20. Register by this Sunday, August 24 to receive a FREE T-shirt. Register at the Narthex counter after the worship services. Contact Pastor James Chang, ext. 679, james@gvbc.net.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, September 21, 12:30 p.m., Community Hall. This

special business meeting has been called for Pastors Brian Lo and Rodney Tanaka's ordination through GVBC. You can bring your own lunch or order a salmon & chicken teriyaki box lunch from the California Rice Center, for \$6.00 each. Signups will start this Sunday, August 24. Pick up a flyer in the Narthex and give it, along with your money, to Jan at the Narthex Information Counter or the church office. **DEADLINE** to order lunch is Thursday, September 11. Please plan to attend this special business meeting. We need a quorum of voting GVBC members.

WORK DAY

October 4, 8:00 a.m. to noon. Usually on the first Saturday of each month. Come when you can and leave when you must. No experience needed. Lunch is provided. Next Work Day is November 1.

GARDENA HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 4, at the City of Gardena.

GVBC MEN'S RETREAT COMING OCTOBER 4-5

All GVBC men college-age and up are invited to our annual Men's Retreat at Victory Ranch. This year's speaker will be Pastor Tom Demorest of Citylights Church, Long Beach. Great time of fellowship, sharing, support and teaching — and lots of fun, too. Signups will begin Sunday, August 31 after the worship services in the Courtyard. Questions? Contact Kent Komae at kkomae@aol.com or the church office.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND (in lieu of the Women's Retreat)

Friday, October 17, 7:00 — 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 18, 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Friday will be a women's night of worship. Saturday we'll have messages, crafts, workshops, etc. Save the date!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Friday, October 31, 5:30 — 7:30 p.m. Set up will begin on Wednesday, October 29. More info to follow.

TIME CHANGE

Sunday, November 2 Daylight Savings time ends. Fall BACK one hour.

KidZone

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

August 22
August 29

KidZone 5th Grade Farewell
NO KidZone (Labor Day Weekend)

Contact Susan Wakuta in the office or email her at susan@gvbc.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEED PRAYER?

On Sunday mornings, if you would like prayer, a Board of Deacon member will be available to pray individually and confidentially with you in Room 158 (behind the Sanctuary). This prayer time is ongoing every Sunday after each worship service.

After 1st Service until 10:20 a.m.

After 2nd Service until 12:20 p.m.

We also have prayer warriors who are on our prayer chain who can pray for your needs any day of the week. Contact the church office with your prayer request then it will be passed along our prayer chain.

Prayer requests can also be noted on the back of your Communication Slip. Every Tuesday morning after the Staff Meeting the GVBC staff prays for each person who has written down a prayer request.

If you'd rather the request be kept confidential, only pastoral staff members will see it and pray for your request.

You can also call in your prayer request or email it to: gvbc@gvbc.net.

PLEASE BE KIND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

If you park on the residential streets around GVBC, please be kind to our neighbors by not blocking their driveway. If your bumper goes beyond the downward slope of the driveway, you are blocking the driveway. And remember, on Sundays, there are plenty of spaces to park at the Union Bank parking lot on the corner of Western & 158th.



ONLINE GIVING

Don't have a check or cash handy? You can give online! For various opportunities to donate check our website at www.gvbc.net "Give."

NEXT *SPIRIT* ISSUE

Available online Wednesday, September 3 at www.gvbc.net. Hard copies available in the GVBC Narthex and in the back of the Community Hall. All articles should be submitted by Sunday, August 31.

The ***SPIRIT*** is copyrighted © 2014 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.



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Worship Schedule



English Worship Services: 8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School concurrent

Japanese Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Room 206

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24/BABY DEDICATION

Stuck Together: Announcements

Pastor Steve Langley



SUNDAY, AUGUST 31/BAPTISMS

Special Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Shin Asami

Anaheim Free Methodist Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Mission Sunday

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Sermon Topic: Advent Conspiracy

Pastor Steve Langley

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