

Issue 3 February 3, 2016



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Dear Family:

Now what happens?

Ever since I announced my retirement, people have been asking, "Now what happens, Pastor Steve?" I must admit it has been a long time since Nancy and I came to GVBC and the GVBC Constitution, which contains the process of calling a new Senior Pastor, has also changed. I thought I would answer some questions about the process so you might be at peace about all that will be taking place.

The first step is choosing who will be selected to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC). There will be 7 members on the PSC – 4 are named because of the positions they currently serve (the Moderator of the Board of Deacons, one member of the Board of Deacons, one Pastoral Relations Committee representative, and one Personnel Committee representative), plus 3 GVBC members. These 3 GVBC members will be selected by the Nominating Committee, which the church membership will then vote on at a Special Business meeting.

This process will take a while because the Nominating Committee will spend time praying and seeking the Holy Spirit's direction before anyone is asked to be on the PSC. Please pray for them: Jim Kawashima, Perry Ishibashi, Frank Nakamura, Carol Allen, Ashley Donald, and Lillian Higashi.

I personally have felt that God has been preparing GVBC for this transition. For the first time, we have been fully staffed since last August. The Lord also provided two former Moderators to serve on our current Board. So there is a lot of leadership experience along with younger members on the Board of Deacons. I believe it is the right time for this change.

At the same time, it is not easy to step down and do what God wants next. I will write and share about that later. But be assured, this is God's timing, and He is the One who is faithful and will bring new leadership to GVBC, "in His time".

His child,

Steve

FROM HER HEART PROFILE OF KATE BUN

"The BEST and most beautiful things in the world cannot be touched, but are felt with the heart." — Helen Keller

KATE BUN cares deeply about her students. In addition to being called Ms. Bun, a few students refer to her as Mom. Kate will go as far as what she calls *nagging* to get a student to complete an assignment or turn in homework. She is also a good listening-ear when a student seeks her out to talk about family drama (i.e., unsettling personal issues at home).

ECONOMICALLY CHALLENGED AREA

Teaching biology in an economically challenged area at Long Beach Polytechnic High School (LB Poly), Kate wants her students to focus on learning and have the opportunity of going to college if they so desire.

During the last school year, Kate's most difficult class gave her many challenges, but she never gave up. Many returned this school year to visit her because they realized all the extra effort and care she put into their education.

HOW CAN ONE BE JOYFUL

While Kate was a student at LB Poly, there was a sizeable Cambodian population. She related well with the students — being Cambodian herself. She achieved the American dream of being the first in her family to graduate from college and get a professional job. In 2002, she received her B.S. in Biology and a Secondary Teaching Credential and Masters in Teaching from USC in 2008. During college, she tutored and discovered she enjoyed helping students.

During her first year of teaching biology at North High School (NHS), she came to know the Lord. Through severe trials and difficulties of teaching, she became introspective. "How can one be joyful when all these negative things happen?" she pondered. A fellow biology teacher, David Aoki, befriended and witnessed to her. At the end of her first year of teaching in June 2009, she received the Lord with David's help. It was a joy-filled moment.

GROWING STEADILY IN THE LORD

David suggested Kate attend GVBC and strongly recommended Pastor Ron Matsuda's "Beginning Christianity" class where she could receive strong biblical teaching. She grew steadily in the Lord as she attended worship services, Pastor Ron's classes (including one session of "Practicing God's Presence"), and the GVBC classes. Kate also joined a small women's Community Group (of 9-10 women) led by Florence Hayashi. She feels close to these women who love and support her unconditionally. Through her Community Group, she began creating her own greeting cards to give in appreciation. The artistically designed cards have been a hit with her Community Group as well as other people who are elated to be recipients.



Kate Bun (back row standing first on left) with her Women's Community Group

SUPPORT AND PRAYERS

Kate's Community Group continually upholds her in prayer in her job as a teacher. After her position at NHS was eliminated, she took a job at a

charter school in Costa Mesa. It was difficult because the science classes she taught were for middle school students. Having had little experience with middle school students, she felt her job was daunting. The Lord was faithful and helped her get through this period. Later, she was able to transfer to LB Poly where she currently works. Upon early arrival at school every morning, she takes time to do daily devotions and spend quiet time in prayer with the Lord.

At GVBC Kate is an active member of our Body. In addition to the Women's Community Group, she is on the church Board of Deacons as a Member-at-large. Also, she enjoys dancing with the Hula Ministry. This past August, she was part of the six-member GVBC missions team who ministered at Oasis Chapel Church in Rifu, Japan.

BORN IN A REFUGE CAMP

(Continued on pag 3)

A native of Asia, Kate was born in the Thailand Refuge Camp during the Khmer Rouge War. Kate's parents escaped from Cambodia and lived in the Philippines for one year before immigrating to the U.S. The Buns settled in Oklahoma where Kate's uncle had lived. They lived there for one year before moving to Southern California. Initially, they lived in Fontana, but later moved to Long Beach. In addition to Kate's parents and herself, the family also includes her five younger siblings.

PLAN FOR WELFARE NOT FOR CALAMITY

One of Kate's favorite Bible verses, Jeremiah 29:11 reminds her that God may place her in situations where she needs to rely on others:

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Being the oldest child in her family, Kate took charge of her siblings and as a teacher was also in charge. When she went to the Oasis Chapel in Rifu, Japan, the tables were turned. Since she did not know Japanese, she relied on her teammates (those who were fluent in Japanese and English) for communication with the Oasis Chapel members. As an adult, this was the first extended period in which Kate had to rely on others for help. Although it felt uncomfortable in the beginning, she grew to accept it, trusting this was part of the Lord's plan. As a result of her experiences, she became more co-dependent and closer with fellow team members.



(L) Kate Bun with Saki from the Oasis Chapel Rifu, Japan Mission Trip

In retrospect, Kate realized God used the Japan mission trip not only for ministry, but as a personal growing experience for her. At the end of the Japan mission trip, she was extremely touched when a woman from Oasis Chapel thanked her for being willing to come and minister, despite not knowing any Japanese. Her acts of kindness touched the heart of this woman. Back home, Kate touches the hearts of many around her through her acts of kindness.

GVBC PRIMETIMER'S EXPERIENCES

2016 Tours

- □ Tuesday, April 19 The Getty Center
- Tuesday, May 10 to Thursday, May 12 Yosemite National Park (3 days / 2 nights)
- Tuesday, September 6 to Wednesday, September 14 Rails & Trails of Colorado's Scenic Splendor and Experience and Amache Relocation Camp
- Wednesday October 19 1-Day Catalina Basic Package + Avalon Scenic Tour (Lunch on your own)
- ☐ Thursday, December 8 Mission Inn Holiday Lights

For more info contact Richard & Keiko Imatomi via the church office or after the worship services in the Courtyard. Fliers and registration forms will be available as each trip draws nearer.

2017 Japan Tour

Honshu Highlights Japan Tour March 28 — April 7, 2017

- •LAX Departure: Tuesday, March 28, 2017
- •LAX Arrival: Friday, April 07, 2017
- •Cost: \$4,598 per person, double/triple occupancy [checks payable to GVBC with Japan tour in subject line]
- Single Supplement add \$720
- •Air Inclusive tour from Los Angeles
- •Round-Trip Airport Transfers in Japan
- "PAY-IN-FULL" by May 27, 2016 and receive 7% discount. Discount also available for people on the waiting list.
- •**DEADLINE**: Deposit of \$200, the Tour Member's Agreement and Tour Application Form are due **May 27, 2016**.
- •Balance is due Dec. 27, 2016

To pick up a flyer, an application, or be placed on the Waiting List, contact Richard or Keiko Imatomi or visit their table in the Courtyard after the worship services.



OUR MISSION FIELD

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

MISSIONS PRAYER GATHERING

Every second Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Room 119. This is a prayer time for our missionaries and GVBC's ongoing missions work. Please join us for prayer. Information on our missionaries and mission projects will be provided. For any questions please contact Linda Hayashi through the church office. Open to all.

KEN & DIANE KUDO, OVERSEAS CRUSADE, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

"Newton has come to Christ and has led several people to Christ, but I want more than good/ above average for him; I'd like him to be the very best in evangelism and discipleship as preparation for whatever God has in store for him. So, I spend time weekly with him to provide input, feedback, and advice on his life and ministry," writes Ken. Newton is pictured with Ken in the Kudo's January/February newsletter. Who is Newton? Fifteen years ago, Newton was a private tutor to high school students. The subjects Newton covered were as varied as Portuguese to math and science. He was an excellent tutor and highly sought after. After a time, Newton felt God directing him to start a school for these students whose goal was to attend elite Brazilian universities. God answered Newton's prayer and guided him to start the college-prep



Alliance School (AS). The standards at AS are high as the staff are graduates of University of Sao Paulo (the most respected university in Brazil). Students from all over Brazil attend AS, which has a rigorous academic curriculum. With so many applicants, it is hard to get admitted to AS. Some past graduates have been admitted to the best medical school in Brazil. In speaking of AS, Newton gives credit to the Lord proclaiming AS represents the Lord Jesus in its code of conduct and ethical behavior. Newton's mother recently went home to the Lord. At the funeral service, Newton shared the Gospel through his and his mother's personal testimonies. Ken presided over the service, giving him the rare opportunity to preach about Christ to over 80 unchurched people. For most of those 80, it was the first time they heard the Gospel. Praise the Lord!



GVBC THAILAND MISSION TEAM

Our Thailand team returned! Below is a pictorial of some of places they visited. They will share later on, which will include a visit to the village where our team put in a water system, and a refugee camp. Stay tuned!



Thailand Mission Team: (L) Pastor Eiji Osato, Izumi Kawasaki, Grace Hayashi, Lauren Yoshiba



Um Pang, Thailand



We visited Mike & Becky Mann at the Lanna Cafe to discuss our future mission work in Thailand.





Returning home. Fight from Chiangmai to Bangkok.



FAMILY NEWS

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

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONE

To Harold & Reiko Kobata and family in the passing of their sister-in-law, Yoneko Kobata, who passed away on Monday, February 1 at the age of 103 years old. The graveside service will be held on Friday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Evergreen Mortuary and Cemetery. Pastor Rodney Tanaka will officiate.

LETTERS TO OUR GVBC FAMILY

Dear GVBC Family, Thank you very much for all your prayers on my behalf during my recent heart surgery and for my speedy recovery. And also, thank you for the beautiful basket of flowers. It is greatly appreciated. All of your prayers have given me and my family much comfort and strength during this period. Sincerely Tom Oyama





Doug Okamuro

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

The Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to the following new members on Sunday, January 31 [pictured at right]. Welcome to our family!



Gardena Valley Baptist Church presents

Celebrating February 12-13, 2016

Calling all couples - engaged, newly married, or married for 50 years! Join us for GVBC's "Celebrating ONE" Marriage Conference on Valentine's Day weekend, February 12-13. God's design for marriage was that husband and wife would be "one flesh." But when our self-centeredness gets in the way, we don't function as one, and we certainly aren't celebrating. But with the example and help of Jesus Christ, we are able to get back to "Celebrating ONE" as he intended!

DEADLINE to register sunday, February >

TIME: Friday, 2/12 from 7-9pm and Saturday, 2/13 from 8:30am - 2:30pm

GVBC Main Sanctuary PLACE:

Full conference: \$35 per couple or \$20 per individual (includes Sat. lunch) Friday only: \$10 per couple or \$5 per individual

Saturday only: \$30 per couple or \$20 per individual (includes Sat. lunch)

DEADLINE: Sunday, February 7

Contact Pastor Daniel at daniel@gvbc.net if you need a scholarship

2015 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SUMMARY BY LINDA HAYASHI

Operation Christmas Child was again a great success as GVBC contributed a total of 568 boxes! We received word of our shoeboxes being sent to Peru and the Philippines. Many children in these two countries have been blessed with the useful gifts and supplies as well as the opportunity to hear the Gospel message in their own language. The children will also be given an invitation to participate in a local discipleship program called "The Greatest Journey."

Special thanks to all who participated in this church-wide project which included the English and the Nichigo congregations, youth and children.

GVBC youth prepared 94 boxes and around 32 students and leaders went to the processing plant to volunteer on November 28. These volunteers inspected the shoeboxes and then prepared them for shipping overseas.

Many thanks to all who helped share God's love through Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for your faithfulness in helping to spread the Gospel around the world through these special Christmas gifts.



FYI EVENTS CALENDAR

OASIS

Wednesday, 6:30 — 8:00 p.m., Room 218. OASIS is a weekly Bible study taught by Pastor Ron Matsuda.

WORK DAY

Saturday, February 6, 8:00 a.m. We start with wake-up coffee and donuts and end with a delicious free lunch. No experience needed. Come when you can, leave when you must. NOTE: April 2 Work Day has been moved to Saturday, March 26 for Easter decoration.

CITY OF GARDENA APPRECIATION WEEK

Monday, February 8 to Thursday, February 11. Join with our Neighborhood Committee and show your love and appreciation for our City of Gardena employees by baking cookies and/or writing encouraging cards. Please fill out the pink flyer on the Narthex counter and put in the black Response Box or contact the church office. You will be contacted and given instructions.

BILINGUAL SERVICE

Saturday, February 13, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Concert by Julie Lowe, classical pianist. Julie will also be giving her testimony. Refreshments served in Room 201 after the service. Everyone welcome. For more info contact Pastor Eiji Osato, ext. 676, eiji@gvbc.net.

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, February 15, President's Day Federal Holiday.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 20, 8:00 — 10:00 a.m., Room 113 (adjacent to the kitchen). We are starting a six-session DVD series by Dr. Tony Evans titled "Kingdom Man." Dr. Evans is the senior pastor at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas. He is a bestselling author, speaker and the team chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST & THE MOVIE WAR ROOM

Saturday, February 27, 8:30 — 11:30 a.m., Community Hall. Cost is \$5 per person, breakfast included. We will be showing the film, *War Room*. The *War Room* encourages and challenges us to take this spiritual warfare seriously and use God's powerful provision of prayer to claim God's victory in our lives. **Registration** begins February 7 and **ends** on February 21. Please invite your friends. Register after the worship services in the Courtyard after first service and Community Hall after second service or call the office.

DAYLIGNTS SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

©Sunday, March 13 Spring forward one hour

CLASSES AT GVBC

Sunday, March 13, 12:30 p.m.

- •101 Class, Membership and Baptism. For high school age and up. For those seeking information about GVBC and who would like to become a member and/or be baptized.
- •201 Class, Designed to help you develop spiritual maturity.
- •301 Class (Part I March 13, Part 2 March 20), Discovering Ministry. Learn about your unique spiritual gifts, your S.H.A.P.E. (Spiritual gifts, Heart,

Abilities, Personality, Experience) and take the next step in the ministry exploration process (must attend two-part series).

•401 Class, Redefining My Life's Mission. Teaches you how to redefine your life's mission and how you can live as a witness to Christ.

A light lunch is provided before each class. Register by checking off the appropriate box on the back of your Connection form or contact Jan Magnani, ext. 0 or e-mail her at: gvbc@gvbc.net [Class number in the subject line].

EARLY CHILDHOOD EASTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 — 11:30 a.m. For nursery through Kindergarten and their family. Please join us for a tasty breakfast followed by special activity stations in our celebration of Jesus' resurrection. There will also be an opportunity to have your family portrait taken. Grandparents, this is an opportunity to bring your grandchildren! See sign up form in the narthex or online.

PALM SUNDAY March 20

MAUNDY THURSDAY March 24

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE March 25, 7:00 — 8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES English March 27, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m., Community Hall, Nichigo at 11:00 a.m.

OFFICE CLOSED Monday, March 28

INSPIRING HYMNS AND HERITAGE TOUR OF ENGLAND Sponsored by JEMS

June 1 – 10. Visit places where hymn writers lived and were inspired to pen hymns proclaiming rich and dynamic biblical truths. Learn hymn writers' history and have opportunities to listen during recitals and evensong at various chapels and cathedrals. Visit famous landmarks: Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben and the Tower of London. Tour price: \$4,495 per person, double occupancy, payment due March 26. More info at www.JEMS.org.

For more information, contact Susan Wakuta at (310) 323-5683 or e-mail at susan@gvbc.net

Gardena, CA 90247

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

February 5- Super Bowl Night
February 12- High School Planned Activity
February 19- Ogreland
February 26- Over the Line

Announcements

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, February 21 12:30 p.m. Community Hall.

Highlights of our Business Meeting are:

- 2016 church vision
- Appreciate our out-going Board of Deacons Members
- Review our 2015 Annual Report

You can bring your own lunch or signup for a Giuliano's junior torpedo sandwich, a bag of chips and a cookie for \$6.

DEADLINE to order lunch is: Sunday, February 14.

Registration forms available in the Narthex information counter. Turn your registration and money into the offering bag or the office. You can also download it from our website calendar section.

YOUTH WINTER CAMP, Middle School & High School: Theme is ABIDE (John 15:1-18)

Friday, February 26 to Sunday, February 28

Where: Oak Glen Christian Conference Center, 39364 Oak Glen Road, Yucaipa, www.oakglen.org

Cost: \$125

DEADLINE to register: Sunday, February 7, **NO REFUNDS!** After February 7, registrations accepted only if space is available. NO registrations accepted after February 14.

Scholarships: Applications available from the church office or from Layne Wakuta. Scholarship applications are due by Sunday, February 7 along with your completed camp registration.

Transportation: Bus (all students ride up and back on the bus. If you need to make other arrangements, please indicate this on registration form).

What NOT to bring: Electronic devises such as iPods, Tablets, Nintendo DS, etc.

What to bring: A sack dinner for Friday night (for eating on the bus), lots of warm clothes (there may be snow), and non-skid shoes (there may be icy walkways). Bring sleeping bag, towels, personal hygiene items, Bible, notebook, pen, and flashlight. Please mark your belongings.

Drop off/pick up: Meet in front of GVBC on Friday, February 26 at 4:15 p.m. The bus will return to GVBC on Sunday, February 28 between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Registration forms have been sent out. If you did not get one, see any Youth Leader or contact Layne Wakuta, ext. 682, layne@gvbc.net.

ATTENTION Amazon Shoppers

AmazonSmile.com is a website operated by Amazon which has the same selection of products and shopping features (including Amazon Prime member benefits) as on Amazon.com.

The difference is, when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice.

Gardena Valley Baptist Church is registered as an eligible organization so please check it out next time you're shopping online. Thank you for thinking of us!

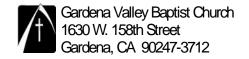


NEXT SPIRIT ISSUE

Spirit Available online Wednesday, February 17 at www.gvbc.net "Our Newsletter." Hard copies available in the Narthex and the back of the Community Hall. All articles should be submitted by Sunday, February 14.

The SPIRIT is copyrighted © 2016 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@gybc.net. Office hours: 9:00am—5:00pm. The Spirit is published twice a month to keep members and friends informed of programs and events of the church and to report news about GVBC and its people. Announcements, praise, prayer requests, and letters are welcome. Articles are subject to editing and/or postponement.





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Marriage Conference DEADLINE to register is Sunday, February 7 Γ



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

Series: The Beatitudes: The Path to Healing

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7/COMMUNION

Pastor James Chang

Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14/VALENTINE'S DAY

Pastor Daniel Matsuda ~ Celebrating One

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Pastor Steve Langley ~ Blessed are the merciful

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Pastor James Chang ~ Blessed are the pure in heart

SUNDAY, MARCH 6/COMMUNION

Pastor Daniel Matsuda ~ Blessed are the peacemakers

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Pastor Steve Langley ~ Blessed are those who are persecuted

GVBC Staff

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EIJI OSATO Associate Pastor, Nichigo ext. 676

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JAMES CHANG Assistant Pastor ext. 679

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EDMOND AVIADO Sunday Services Assistant