

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers



Worship the Lord with Us

Sunday Mornings

- 10:00 Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:30 Worship Service
(Nursery care is available)
- 12:30 Lunch & Fellowship

Church Ministries

- Cornerstone Connections
- Chinese Language Class
- Church Choir
- Sports Ministry
- HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit)
Fellowship for Families & Young Adults
- Men's & Women's Bible Studies
- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
- New Life Bible Study for Seniors
- Praise Band
- Youth Groups: (Jr High & High School)
(*AM/PM* A Methodist People Machine)
Ext. 777 (College)



Reaching out to the
Asian-American community
2050 Valencia Ave
Placentia, CA 92870-2040
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Jerry Owyang, Pastor
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Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



Mission News

Our April Mission Offering was collected to help refurbish and furnish a Habitat for Humanity home in Santa Ana. Ken Wong, who works for Memorial Care participated in The Memorial Academy's project in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity to refurbish a home for the Usman family in Santa Ana. The Usman family currently lives in an apartment in Garden Grove. One of their 3 daughters has cerebral palsy and the home refurbishing includes wheelchair access and other features to accommodate this six year old's special needs.



Cindy Reynolds, founder of Threshold Ministries, Inc. and our Pastor Jerry Owyang

On April 13th, Cindy Reynolds founder of Threshold Ministries, Inc. in Linjiang, China came to Cornerstone to share her story of New Hope International Orphanage. Cindy and her husband went to Northern China about 12 years ago and became aware of the extreme poverty in Linjiang. They started a home to help children who were orphaned and/or living in poor conditions. Our congregation at Cornerstone generously sponsored 17 children from this orphanage and

some of our women, led by Lydia Chu are having knitting and crocheting workshops to make scarves and hats for all the children in the Orphanage. Helen Rogers is donating beads and jewelry making supplies to help with the cottage industry work at the orphanage.

In honor of Mother's Day in May, the Mission offering was originally going to provide Layette Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). That same week, Cyclone Nargis hit Burma (Myanmar) and then an enormous earthquake hit Sichuan province in China. UMCOR sent out an urgent plea for help. We decided to divert the funds for the layette kits to disaster relief as well as have a special offering for the victims of the cyclone and earthquakes. We will help with the layette kits in the future. Please keep the victims of the cyclone and earthquakes in your prayers. Thank you for your generous support for the survivors of these natural disasters.

Our Covenant Missionary, Dr. Elma Jocson sends her greetings. She is extremely busy with her studies and hospital rotations in pediatric surgery. Please keep her in your prayers as well.

Wei-ling Louie – Mission Chair †



Dads and Grads will be honored on June 15 with a very special luncheon and program. Not to be outdone by the dads and men, the moms, women, and children have something up their sleeves to honor dads and grads. We can't tell you our little secret, but know that your tummies will be happy and your hearts will be filled with joy! †



I Could Be Wrong

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

In the many years I've served the Lord at Kairos Prison Ministry, I have never met an inmate who said that he was wrongly convicted. This is a contrast to my "former life" with a federal public defender office when the oft-repeated phrase from clients was, "I didn't do it!" I wish I could have said to them, "Tell yourself often, 'I could be wrong'"—especially in the face of overwhelming evidence!

Humility is one of the most important virtues to take with you into court—and to any culture, especially when crossing into the culture of politics. As we progress along the presidential campaign trail, we are reminded that Christians throughout history have engaged with their political culture—and the results (as we see in today's media) have been mixed. From time to time, influential people forgot the reminder, "I could be wrong." And from time to time, they were.

Humility is not restricted to just the politics of elections but can, and should include, all issues across the political and cultural spectrum. Last week, I saw *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, a film about the censorship of the discussion of intelligent design theories (versus Darwin's theory of evolution). This week we have witnessed the heart-rending devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in Sichuan, China. In both cases, we have seen political posturing that is anything but humility that shows the self-serving futility of dominant and controlling viewpoints that serve no Godly purpose. So, what's with humility?

Humility is quick to listen and slow to speak. Although I may not always be very vocal, I can have an opinion on just about anything. But when I listen, I'm more likely to make out ways to build bridges between

political stances instead of creating relational chasms. One of the goals of Kairos is to "Listen, Listen, Love, Love" the inmate. This reflects some good, solid advice from James 1:19-20, that "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."

Humility treats people with dignity. I often enjoy political cartoons that engage in social and political satire—Pogo, Doonesbury, Shoe, and even Peanuts. But now it seems that satire has turned into contempt. Yes, politicians are flawed—we all are! But wait, there's more: We all bear the image of our Creator. That image gives us a value and dignity awarded to no other part of God's creation—and that's true of all political candidates, those presiding in any government, all residents of a correctional facility, you, and me. Practicing humility means I will remember this God-given dignity even in the heat of my convictions.

I could be wrong, but I believe that the Bible has a lot to say about how faith and politics (national and international) mix. God's Word provides a framework for guiding our values and convictions. And it describes how we should "do" politics—essentially the same way we "do" all of our relationships: with humility, for starters. While I could be wrong about some of my opinions, I very much want to be right in how I represent God in my speech and actions. I could be wrong, but God is always right! †

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jerry

Clicking Needles and Yards of Yarn

Click! Click! Click! They go faster than the bullet train! And even faster than Superman! There have never been so many knitting and crochet needles working faster and more furious than those of the girls and

women of CUMC!! Ever since Cindy Reynolds and The Threshold Ministries visited us in April, our thoughts and actions have been with the children of northern China. The hope is to send as many scarves and hats as possible to the children before the bitter cold of winter sets in.



Women have volunteered to teach others to knit and crochet. Yarn is being donated by the bagfuls. If you would get your needles and yarn out of storage boxes, the children could be wearing your scarves and hats this winter! Scarves should be approximately 10" wide and 60" long and be very tightly knitted or crocheted. The tighter it is, the warmer and thicker your scarf would be. For more details, see Lydia Chu.

If Dick Chu can knit and Rosey Grier can needle point, the men of CUMC can too! We need to keep those kids warm! †



New Lifers

On April 2nd, the New Lifers had a wonderful fellowship at the beautiful home of Art and Betty Yee. Our talented Lydia Chu led us in singing lovely hymns. We were entertained by Margaret Wu's anecdotes which were a real joy; her testimony of faith touched our hearts. The scrumptious potluck was a real delight. We thank God for all the blessings! †



There's a childhood ditty I remember very well. "There was a little girl who had a little curl, right in the middle of her forehead. And when she was good, she was very very good. And when she was bad she was horrid." That ditty came to my head one day when nothing was going right. Everyone has good days and bad days. Whenever you have a good day, it is very very good. And happy. And fun. But when the day is bad, it is a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

So what did I do about my bad day? I pulled out a book that a dear friend had given me called "Simple Abundance". It's a daily reader and although I've had the book for several years, I have only read through March 21. It was suggested that each day you jot down 5 things that make you grateful. I thought reading it might shed some positive feelings on a dark day.

Here are some "gratitudes" that I found. January 25: 'Time and energy to exercise. Phone call from Dave.' January 26: 'Good sermon at church. Hot soup on this cold day.' January 28: 'Caring church family. Eating out.' January 31: 'Good neighbors. Jose turning on the laminator before school. Missy had dinner ready!' February 4: 'Daffodils came up today. Sarah and Eric, whose lives I touched today.'

Such simple stuff! On that particular bad day, this is what I was grateful for: 'Good leftovers. Enough gas in the tank to last the weekend.' My gratitude of things past had made that dark day brighter. My bad day was made good by gratitude!

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." †

by Melody Beattie



Home Under God's Spirit

by Brad Chin

The Cornerstone "young families" group, also known as HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit), continues to strengthen current relationships and welcome new ones via fun, exciting, and interactive fellowship.



Dan and Jeffrey Nishikawa proudly show their catch of the day! They caught the big one—the little one got away!

On Sat. March 29, Al Wong took us all fishing at Irvine Lake! It was a blast. Fisherpeople, young and old(er), learned the basics of fishing and caught around 20+ trout! Cooked Chinese style with ginger, green onions, and soy sauce...YUM-il-i-cious!

On Sat April 26, HUGS sponsored a bowling/dinner fellowship for all ages from kids to grandparents. We had over 40 bowlers on 9 lanes, and about 50-60 for a Hawaiian BBQ dinner and games. Excellent fellowship! See other article in this newsletter for more...

By the time you read this, the beautiful women of Cornerstone will have enjoyed their annual "Mom's Getaway" in honor of Mother's Day. Led by Wendy Yu and Jeanen Chau, the ladies will have visited the Norton Simon Museum, followed by downtown Old Pasadena shopping & dining! You can also read more about this in an article that follows.

So, what's next? When will you be HUGS'ed again? The Dad's will get-a-day on June 7 in honor of Father's

Day. Our church will again sponsor the Family Fun Week basketball camp during the week of June 16. And, we will bike to the beach on Sat June 28. And, more! Interested? Please contact Brad at (714) 505-4650.

And, don't forget, HUGS is not limited to fun and fellowship. Al and Celeste Wong just finished leading a fantastic, informative series on "Raising Teenagers", and they lead Sunday morning bible studies. Thank God for them and all they do! Join us! Sundays at 10:00 am.

Get HUGS'ed. †



The HUGS event on April 26, 2008 at Concourse Bowling filled the cavernous bowling alley with laughter, shrieks, and high-fives as 60-plus kids, their parents, and New Lifers enjoyed a relaxing day. Bowlers young and old tossed, threw, and rolled their colorful bowling balls down the alley either with the grace of ballerinas or the klutz of jumping beans. But no matter—one by one, all those pins fell like they were supposed to.

A tasty Hawaiian dinner followed at church. Some interesting facts were revealed during a "Who Am I?" session. Did you know that there's someone at church who has kayaked with a whale? Or who has traveled across the continent camping along the way? And someone once worked as a radio DJ! Did you know that someone has met Stevie Wonder and Jimmy Buffet? Or which adult do you know who now weighs the same as he did in high school? And someday, we will have in our midst a heart surgeon and a jazz musician! There's a person whose quest is to serve his church all the time, anytime, and in any way he can. What awesome people at Cornerstone! †



Friday Night Live!

Friday nights at CUMC is a rocking time!!! If you feel like you need a night of fun and exciting fellowship, just drive over to church and you'll be amazed at what's going on! All ages, all types of activities, and lots of laughter. You'll see children with their families having a quick bite to eat before the crowd arrives. The teens are setting up their room with games and music. The college group prepare for their music practice, and there's another group of praise singers in the sanctuary. Although the course is finished, there was a group of young parents getting helpful hints on "Raising Great Teenagers". There's even a senior group practicing and learning Mandarin!

After a week of school, work, and the daily grind, Friday nights at church is a great way to de-stress. Try it! †



New Life News

It was SRO at the last gathering of New Lifers held at the home of Pam and Rich Fitch. Pastor Jerry's topic, "It Happens Every Spring", elicited many interesting and varied responses. Spring is a wonderful time of year when new life begins to spring from the ground and in the air.

It was almost a festive atmosphere in which there was a sumptuous potluck feast and congenial, sincere fellowship. Of course, there was also a circle of knitters and crocheters in lively discussion and demonstration of how to knit/crochet just the right scarf and hat for our children of Northern China. Later, a group went to see "Expelled—No Intelligence Allowed". This was a documentary which makes an argument for intelligent design over the theory of evolution. It's a "recommend to see" film! †



(AM/PM)
A Methodist
People Machine

AMPM: Youth News

On March 30, 2008 we were treated with a superb performance by the AMPM Youth. They took over the entire Sunday Worship Service.

Worship began with beautiful music by the Youth Praise Band followed by a warm Welcome by Alina Viera & Rebecca Rogers, Prayer and Praises by Scott Lee, Childrens' Moments by Karen Wong and Jamie Yu and the Sermon "The Boomerang Effect" by the entire Youth Group. The service was guided by our much-loved Youth Director, Karl Freeman. †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups



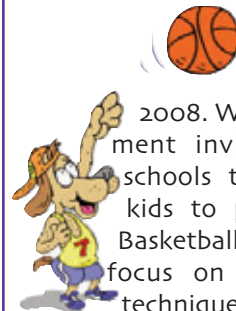
Ohana Connections

by Randy Wong

The Ohana group met at Pam and Rich's house on March 30. After dining on salmon, Korean shortribs, and other delicious goodies, we discussed possible mission events and activities for the year. We unanimously decided to provide breakfast and lunch at the next workday, which is tentatively scheduled for the week prior to the 2nd annual basketball camp in June. Other suggestions for activities include a trip to the Ronald Reagan museum in Simi Valley and a visit to the Crevier classic car collection. †

Our 2nd Annual Twilight Basketball and Family Fun Week

is scheduled this year for June 16–20, 2008. We opened enrollment invitation to new schools to enable other kids to participate. The Basketball Clinic will again focus on teaching basic techniques and promoting good sportsmanship. The Kid's Club will provide crafts and fun activities for all participants. This outreach program provides activities for all ages including Seminar programs for parents. †





Mother's Day

Somewhat the 11th day of each month rings a little bell in the back of our heads. But on the 11th day of May, 2008, bells AND whistles chimed joy at CUMC. The air was filled with anticipation, excitement, and the Holy Spirit as we celebrated both the Day of Pentecost and Mother's Day. Music filled the air too, as a Men's Quartet gave a beautiful



barbershop rendition of "Gentle Shepherd". The children also paid tribute to moms with "A Mother's Heart".

And that's not all! Mothers were



presented with a special gift and a beautiful rose. Special tables for moms were decorated and best of all, the children served all moms! Thanks to the dads, men, and children of CUMC—Mothers felt very special on May 11, 2008! †



HUGS (Home Under God's Spirit) Cont'd

Day out with the Gals

by Wendy Yu

Last Saturday, May 17th, we had a fun day out with the ladies despite some mishaps along the way. We decided to spend a day out in Pasadena to get in some culture, dining, and shopping. Our first stop was



the Norton Simon Museum and ten of us met there to enjoy the paintings of the nineteenth and twentieth century and some sculptures too. It was a hot day, so we were thankful for the air conditioning. We had a hard time following the rules though as we got in trouble for drinking our water (we had to check it in), trying to keep track of the women by talking on our cell phones, leaning against a wall, and basically being a noisy group of excited gals. Jeaneen Chau even had to wear her backpack purse in front and got reprimanded for sitting Indian style on the bench. Boy, even though we enjoyed the museum, once we were able to walk around, we were afraid of breathing and walking at the same time. Fortunately, we were able to stay and enjoy our favorite paintings by different artists like Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh and others. Later, we took a small break at the Garden Café. Cheryl Hasegawa also got her dream day which was getting to go to a nice museum... awww!

After getting our fill of some culture for the day, we were off to Old Pasadena to have a drink at the Boba World. The restaurant that we want-



ed to go to unfortunately had closed down, but we were thankful to be able to get a table at the Cheesecake Factory nearby. Five more gals joined in on the fun there, and we enjoyed a nice dinner followed by a little celebration of Dianna Wong's birthday which happened to be that day! After the wonderful dinner, we walked it off by shopping in Old Pasadena. We shopped and then some of us got some gelatos to end the day on a sweet note. All in all it was a great day of fun, fellowship, culture, and dining and soon it was time to leave...until the next annual gal's day out:). †

A Memorial Day Tribute

by Bill Chan

On this Memorial Day, I would like to pay tribute to all those who were in uniform and served our country. My tribute goes especially to my 71 shipmates who were buried at sea at which I was a witness.

During World War II, I was on the battleship U.S.S. Mississippi whose length was over two football fields. We survived seven battles and two suicide plane hits. We were shot at in every way, including torpedoes. My battle station was a 14"gun pointer. The bullets were so large that I could actually see it in the air after I pulled the trigger. The first suicide plane hit us while I was steering the ship going about 25 miles per hour. A few months later, the second suicide plane hit while we were in anchor. This one missed me by about 5 seconds.

I thank the good Lord for sparing me and may He be with the loved ones of those who were not as fortunate as I. †