

# 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  
phone: 714.528.3068  
website: c-umc.info

Jerry Owyang, Pastor  
Office Hours: Mon. thru Thurs.  
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM  
cell: 714 287-8221  
pastorjko@sbcglobal.net

Karl Freeman, Youth Director  
cell: 714-482-7590

Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor  
Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



## Mission News

by Wei-ling Louie

During the year we get many requests for aid. One in particular came from a former colleague of Pastor Jerry, requesting support for Dr. Eunice Musa Iliya, who is newly appointed by the Cal Pac conference to the directorship of Evangelism and Stewardship of the UMC in Nigeria. She is a native of Nigeria and joined the ministry in 1991 and worked as an associate and senior pastor in many churches in the Nigeria United Methodist Church system. She received her masters and doctorate in theology, pastoral care and counseling at Claremont School of Theology and is returning to Nigeria to continue her ministry there. She will be working with vulnerable groups, especially battered women, abused children and victims of HIV/AIDS. Our missions committee decided to support her with a donation of \$600. These funds will come from existing Mission funds which were accumulated through the years.

October's Mission Offering of \$620 was collected for Purple Ark to help with the Thanksgiving dinner and food distribution to the needy in Placentia. Over 20 bags of non-perishable foods were also donated to help with this Thanksgiving project. Thank you for your great participation.

Our November offering was designated for the new Emergency Room at the Tansen Hospital in Nepal. Dr. Elma Jocson requested donations to help with the expenses of remodeling the facility where she worked for 8 years as our Covenant Missionary.

She is currently taking a study leave, working on a pediatric surgery degree and plans to go back into missionary work when she has completed all the requirements.

Families with smaller incomes find it even harder to make ends meet during the holidays and difficult economic times. Our church will "adopt" a family of 8 from the Friendly Center in Orange for the Holidays. The Family consists of a Mother, Father and 6 children: 5 girls and 1 boy. Girls ages are 14, 12, 10, 8, and 5; the boy is 6 years old. The 12 year old girl is disabled and can walk but not able to talk. Please look in the Fellowship Hall for the Mission Christmas tree with the family's needs. All gifts need to be wrapped and delivered to Church by December 16th. We will also be assembling holiday food basket for this family and if you would like to help, please contact me or a member of the Missions committee.

Thank you for being a caring and supportive church in all of our mission endeavors. Blessings to all. †

## Missions Ministry in Mexicali, Mexico

Light of the Canyon UMC in Anaheim Hills has a mission outreach team that is currently helping refurbish a church and community center in Mexicali, Mexico. Their team is interested in developing relationships with other churches to help with the projects.

The church in Mexico is the Iglesia Metodista de Mexico and the community center is the Prince of Peace Mission and Steven O. Parrish Community Center.

The future need of the church are: drainage, water, bathrooms, chairs, loudspeakers, air conditioner, a larger chapel and building maintenance.

*Continued on page 2 – Missions*



## Giving Thanks Year-Round

*The Spirit in me greets  
the Spirit in you.*

You couldn't tell from our warm weather, but soon we'll be changing from the Fall to Winter seasons! That's when the "best" holidays roll around as we gather around with lots of comfort food: turkey, ham, pumpkin pie, green bean casserole, candied yams, and jook! Did you know that you can eat these items any time of the year? And here's a God Moment: you can give "thanks" all year-round, especially as you reflect on God's blessings in surprising ways.

We are in the midst of many changes: politics, economics, environment—all the more reason to give thanks to God for his stability. So, I offer this random list of Thanksgiving to last all year round. Let us give thanks to the Lord who is good, for His love is everlasting. Come, let us praise God joyfully:

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors.

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying.

For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love;

For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures;

For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies;

For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values; for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows;

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing.

For God's help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger;

For our church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord.

For the Holy Spirit; who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship.

Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him.

"God is good...All the time" and  
"All the time...God is good!"

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Jerry †

## Pastor Appreciation Sunday

We love our Pastor! We love our Youth Director! We love our Church Secretary! Too often we fail to tell these three servants of God how much we appreciate and love them. They work so hard to bring everything together at CUMC. Their dedication shines bright and the blessings we receive because of them are immeasurable. Our wonderful church staff was recently recognized and honored on Pastor's Appreciation Sunday. Thank you, Pastor Jerry and Julie, Karl, and Anita. CUMC loves you! †



Anita Lee, Church Secretary is not present in the photo.

## Missions *Continued from page 1*

The future needs of the community center are: Electricity, metal doors, air conditioner, stairs and ramp, chairs, fence reinforcement and building maintenance.

Light of the Canyon ( LOTC UMC) plans include: a joint trip with Webster Hills UMC in February or March 2009( tentative).

In addition to work, there are arts and craft activities for the children and providing lunch for the children. Lodging has been available in the past at the main United Methodist Church building in downtown Mexicali.

If anyone is interested in participating in this type of ministry, please let me know. Thank you. †

## Threshold Ministries, Inc.

A warm thank you note was received from TMI to CUMC knitters. "Dear Friends,

We were so blessed by the scarves and hats that you knitted and crocheted for the children in Linjiang. They are beautiful and we know that each stitch was made with love! Thank you so much for taking the time to make these precious scarves and hats that will keep the children warm during the cold, harsh winter months.

Blessings,  
Tammy Pardo †

## New Lifers

The last New Life meeting of 2008 was held at Lydia and Dick Chu's home on Wednesday, December 3rd. After Pastor Jerry's lesson, everyone trooped down to Great Seafood Harbor for a great dim sum lunch. If that wasn't enough to eat, everyone trooped back to the Chu's for more yummys. Desserts galore were spread on the table. Plenty of laughs, stimulating conversation, and plain old talk filled the afternoon hours. New Lifers love to eat and talk! †





### From the Editor

by Mabel Low, Guest Editor

## Chinese UMC, Los Angeles

Joy, Hope, and Peace are words that pop into my mind when I think of the Advent Season. When I read and hear the Christmas Story again and again, I can see the joy the Wise Men and the shepherds experienced as they heard the news of the birth of Jesus. God gave us hope when Jesus was given to us. When we let Jesus become a part of our lives, we look at life differently. We can be joyful even when we are facing problems and situations that we don't understand. God constantly pours love on us and as a result we have love for others. We are given the Holy Spirit that makes God's love real. When we forget what God has given us and focus on ourselves and our unhappiness, then that's when our trouble begins. Jesus came to show us how we can love one another and bring joy to each other. He healed the sick, cared for the poor, comforted the suffering, and accepted all people. To all of these, he gave Hope. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we too, can experience Joy, Hope, and Peace. In doing as Jesus did, we can strengthen our faith. In helping others, we can feel a sense of joy because we are giving of ourselves like God gave His Son to us. We are showing God's love as Jesus did. No matter how big a step we take, we know that there is hope because God is with us. Through Joy and Hope, we can find inner Peace. If we can have peace with ourselves, then we can help bring peace among each other.

We gladly suffer because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with His love.

(Romans 5:3)



## Extension 777



### Extension 777 vs. AMPM Dodgeball Game

\*Cue Dramatic Movie Music\*

With an expert plan of attack, the Extension 777 college/career group proudly vanquished the AMPMers in a tough game of dodgeball.

Okay, so it wasn't that dramatic, but it was a lot of fun. November 2nd, 2008 was the day of the epic challenge between Ext. 777 and the junior/senior high school AMPM group. The game was also a fundraiser to raise money for window coverings for the Sanctuary.



The day started off with the threat of rain, but prayer helped to push the clouds aside and make 2 p.m. the sunniest part of the day.

The weather set the mood for the game. In a bout of five rounds, the AMPMers thought they had the game in the bag by the end of the second round after they had won the first two rounds with hardly any resistance. Rain clouds were starting to form over the college team's heads.

But in the periphery, there was sunshine! Or maybe it was just the cheer team on our sidelines. Nevertheless, Ext. 777 banded together, figured out the AMPMers actually

DO learn things in school, adapted a strategy, and narrowly won the third round by a point. The fourth round was also close.

So, it came down to the final round. A few minutes into the battle, there was one AMPMer left against five Ext. 777-ers. But he was quick and spry! Narrowly missing attack after attack, he maintained his ground until finally, fatigue took over, and the game was won.

A difficult victory, but a victory nonetheless! But this victory came in a different form. The fundraiser raised nearly \$200 toward a fund for the window coverings for the Sanctuary, which was the greatest victory of them all.

Many thanks to AMPM (you guys are the best), Pastor Jerry, all of the spectators, everyone who donated, and everyone who supported the event.

The challenge video is still online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGVGBjogE14>. †

## Celebrations = Free Lunch!

Three celebrations, one week after the other, offered Cornerstone free lunches! What a treat!!

Thank you to Bill and Helene Chan who celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.



To Erick and Angela Canche for a wedding luncheon on their marriage August 28, 2008.

To Joyce Wong for her birthday celebration. We enjoyed every morsel, the fellowship, the fancy desserts, and the pleasure of being served.

Congratulations to each and every one of you. †

## HUGS (Home Under God's Spirit)

by Brad Chinn



Gleaning at Irvine's Incredible Edible Park

"HUGS" stands for "Homes Under God's Spirit", but it might as well stand for "Harvesting Under God's Spirit". Yes, HUGS is the family fellowship group of our church. But, in October and November, we did wayyy more than just fellowship! No, no, much more than that - we also harvested... big time!

On October 25th, we held our annual Harvest Festival. It was a continued success with an estimated 70-80 people in attendance. We ate, paraded in costume, struck poses for the camera, enjoyed tractor hay rides (thanks Alan Rogers!), took

professional studio photos (thanks Ken Wong!), played creative games, won fun prizes, painted our nails/hair/body, and sang karaoke! Thanks everyone! And, new this year, spirited theme rooms and special decorations courtesy of Arleen Hasegawa and Celeste Wong. On the sports court, we had two of the biggest jump houses ever! One combo jump-house+slide, and one rock climbing wall/slide. After the festival wrapped up, the big "kids" took a turn. Jennie Low showed no fear! All in all, it was great to see familiar faces, old friends, and new friends - several of whom were return visitors from our Twilight Basketball Camp in June. Special thanks and appreciation to the many New Lifers who joined in the event and helped tremendously with set-up and clean-up. Wow!

On November 8th, we went gleanig at Irvine's Incredible Edible Park. In past years, August, we harvested (picked) vegetables for the food shelters. This year, November, we planted vegetables to prepare for harvest. We uprooted green onions that were planted poorly, and replanted them row-after-row under an unseasonably hot sun. Always a rewarding experience. Thanks to everyone, including Ext. 777 and New Lifers, who helped feed the needy through your hard work and sacrifice!

Finally, by the time you read this, HUGS will have held their annual Christmas Party at The Nishikawa's home in Yorba Linda. Perhaps, more on that later... †



Elizabeth



Joshua



Brooke





## Cornerstone Connections

*Building Bridges in Small Groups*

### 4CASTers

*by Lisa Sato*

The 4CASTers----formerly Fishers, formerly Connections Group 4, will be assisting in the Operation Christmas Child project. 4CASTers are urged to sign up with Celeste Wong to participate next week. Available days are: Wednesday, December 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Friday, December 12 from 7 -11 p.m.; or Saturday, December 13 from 6 – 10 p.m. The 4CASTers have also tried their hand at bell ringing under the direction of May Lou. We'll see what happens to this endeavor! †

### Ohana Connections

*by Pam Fitch*



Wow! Cool! Beautiful! From a little BMW limo to Ferreri, Rolls Royce, Packard, Hot Rods, and many more, we were dreaming at Crevier Classic Car Company. It was an enjoyable afternoon for Connections 1, 2 and 3 viewing classic and high end cars. We then had a delicious meal at Acapulco Mexican Restaurant nearby sharing "what we want to do when we get old". It was a wonderful evening of fellowship! †

### Connex 6

*by Lydia Chu*

Inspirational, moving, uplifting, and fascinating were some of the adjectives used to describe Leon Leyson's talk about his life as a child who survived Hitler's Holocaust. This program, sponsored by PUMC's women's group, was attended on November 2 by Cornerstone Connex 6 members as well as many other people from our church family.



Leon Leyson's idyllic childhood in a remote region of Poland was abruptly interrupted when he was thrust into the cruel reality of Hitler's push to eradicate the Jewish people. Books and movies such as Schindler's List, and even visits to former concentration camps don't compare to Leyson's first hand retelling of the hardships the Jews endured. Through it all, Leyson survived the war, emigrated to the United States and joined the U.S. Army. He eventually became a teacher in the Los Angeles area. For those of us who have roots in Los Angeles, Leyson attended Manual Arts Evening High School, L.A. City College and Cal State L.A. Plans are under way to have Mr. Leyson speak in Cerritos. You can email me ([chu.lydia@yahoo.com](mailto:chu.lydia@yahoo.com)) for information. (He is one memorable speaker!) †

### Keeping in Touch With Randall Chu



"Lights! Camera! Action!" Simple, right? Well, when producing your

own independent film, it's that and so much more! How about tossing in the search for excellent actors, feeding cast and crew, moving furniture around in your parents' home for indoor scenes, and covering the windows with black trash bags for night scenes? On top of that, how does crouching in the back seat of the car while filming and scrunched in the trunk while doing the sound? And not to mention a limited budget! WOW!

To get more of the inside story on writing, filming, and producing a movie, you'll have to have a cup of coffee (or two) with Randall Chu. Randall, 33, began at CUMC as a pre-schooler in our nursery at Aldersgate many moons ago. Since graduating from Sonora High School and U.S.C. School of Cinematic Arts, Randall has been working in the TV industry. He is currently an assistant editor at The Style Network on shows like "How Do I Look?" and "Clean House Comes Clean". His most recent work is a special called "Most Outrageous Weddings" which airs next week, December 13th.

Randall also recently wrote and directed an independent film that has just been released on DVD. "Captives", is a thriller told in an unconventional way. Instead of concentrating on action and a linear plot the way a Hollywood movie would, he emphasized the characters and dialogue. "Captives" raises questions about how people try to find meaning in modern life. The movie is about two couples. The first couple finds meaning in thrill seeking. They want excitement and danger, and to push their limits. The other couple feels that stability and family give their life

*Continued on back page – Randall Chu*



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...and the  
**cornerstone**  
of the building  
is Jesus Christ  
himself!  
Ephesians 2:20

Nov/Dec 2008

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## AMPM Youth

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*by Karl Freeman*

Dear Cornerstone,

I'm terribly excited typing this. As we enter the holiday season, the youth grow more and more active; our most popular events of the year are waiting just around the corner! The mall scavenger hunt and the mall misions trip are two of my favorites. We will also be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year! The youth are active and growing more incredible by the day. Just now during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Valentine and Easter "holiday season" the youth and I are studying the Feasts of Israel, or the "holiday season" of the Jewish culture as handed down by Moses in Exodus and Leviticus. It's amazing to see how

the feasts both parallel the history of the Jewish people and serve simultaneously as a prophetic indication of the salvific work of Jesus on the cross. It's amazing to see how early Jesus appears in the lives of God's people in scripture!

As our year draws to a close, please pray for the youth. The things that they are studying and doing in their groups are VERY high level. The sort of things that some folks never get to see....ever. Please pray for clear minds and a sense of excitement as they continue in these studies, as they pursue God to their fullest extent. Then watch, as God works in them. Because He IS working in them. And I love it! †

**Randall Chu** *Continued from page 5*

meaning. In the movie, Randall explores the good and bad side of each approach to life. Since it is a thriller, the bad side is emphasized.

Randall says, "I feel like I've learned so much from this experience, and having done so much of it hands-on myself, it makes me understand the over-all process a lot better, and will make me a better director in the future".

For more info, and to learn how to purchase "Captives" on DVD, check out Randall's website: [www.CaptivesMovie.com](http://www.CaptivesMovie.com).

"Captives" is also available by contacting Dick or Lydia Chu. †