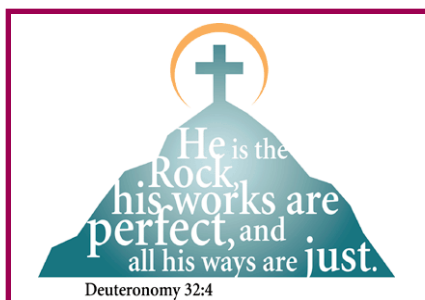


cornerstone news

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)



Cornerstone
 CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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, Chairperson

INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK WITH ORANGETHORPE UMC

Orangethorpe UMC had problems with the heater in the Fellowship Hall and consequently the 9 guests were never moved to OUMC. Guest stayed at First UMC in Fullerton where we were directed to bring their meals.

Anita, John and Crystal Lee, Bock and Wei-ling Louie served dinner on Feb. 28. Dick and Lydia Chu, Richard Fitch, Nell Mitchell, Pastor Jerry and Julie served dinner on Mar. 2.

EASTER BASKET PROJECT

Mission committee purchased 75 baskets, cellophane wrap and ribbons. The committee also purchased children's Easter workbooks and story books for each basket. Congregation members provided hygiene items, small toys or gifts, books, wrapped



Easter candy, refillable eggs and Easter grass. Over 50 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall on March 29 and helped to fill and wrap the 50 baskets for Friendly Center and 25 for WTLC. Pastor Jerry, Pam, and Richard Fitch and Bock and Wei-ling Louie delivered them on April 6th.



MISSION OFFERING INFO AND UPDATE FOR APRIL, 2009.

During prayers and praises at the New Life Meeting on April 1st, we were made aware of an immediate need affecting orphans in Kyrgyzstan, a country in Central Asia. It borders the northwestern part of China. Charlie and Minnie Lou's son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Nicole Lou have been in the process of adopting a son from Kyrgyzstan for almost a year. They have been experiencing many set backs and restrictions in the adoption process. Nicole will be traveling to Kyrgyzstan with "Lambs and Possibilities Internationals" in mid April to visit their son, Aaden as well as bring aid in the form of clothing, food, medicine, and hygiene supplies for other children at several Orphanages in the countryside of Kyrgyzstan.

Our Mission funds for April totaled \$739 which was donated to Nicole Lou to help with her project in Kyrgyzstan. She offered to come to Cornerstone after she returns and give us a first hand account of her time in Kyrgyzstan.

MAY MISSION OFFERING:

In May, our Mission offering will help the Family Support Network in Placentia. The Family Support Network helps families with special needs children in Orange County. This organization helps needy families with children who have special needs by providing access to early screening

Continued on page 2 – Missions



Why Pray?

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

We recently completed a life-awakening series (One Month to Live) and celebrated our new life in Jesus Christ with Easter—yet, you only need to catch a drifting conversation about current events and you know that all is not right with the world. And so we pray—but maybe with an honest question: Why? Why pray a hundred times when God knows my heart's desire before the words leave my lips? Why cry out for justice repeatedly when God knows the depths of need more than I ever will? Why echo a prayer when God has already heard it countless times before? Why does prayer have to be so, well, mysterious?

Wanting candid answers to prayers, I read the familiar story of God's voice in the life of the prophet Elijah. Called to take on the false gods and unrighteous leaders of his day, Elijah finds himself on the run, a burned-out, exhausted prophet who wants to give up. He hits rock bottom and is ready to throw in the towel—and then God asks Elijah a simple but profound question: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah doesn't hold back: "I've been working my heart out for the GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies...The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, destroyed the places of worship, and murdered your prophets. I'm the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me" (1 Kings 19:9, MSG). Elijah's life is on the line, yet God doesn't answer any of his concerns. For a moment, this verse makes me feel better about myself—I'm not the only one whose laundry list of prayers seems to go unanswered. Then God tells Elijah to stand on the side of the mountain and wait—can you imagine the conversation Elijah has with himself as he huffs to the edge!

I wonder if God transported Elijah to Southern California—he feels the hurricane-like Santa Ana winds ripping at his cloak; next comes an earthquake straight from the San Andreas Fault; and finally Elijah sees wildfires coming up the canyons. Suddenly, all is still and Elijah experiences what he has been waiting for: God draws near to the worn-out prophet in the quiet, gentle whisper.

We're reminded that God was not in the wind, earthquake, nor in the fire. Yet God used these events to prepare Elijah for an encounter with Himself. The repeated display of power didn't just grab Elijah's attention—it kept it! And then, God asks the question again: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" This time, God generously provides physically with food; emotionally with friendship; relationally with a wingman (sorry, I just saw a movie clip of Top Gun!), Elijah; and spiritually with encouragement. God whispers life into Elijah.

This story has always reminded me of just how much I need to be able to recognize God's whispers—those moments when He draws near and breathes words of life into my soul. Maybe as we look at our world and those whom we love, even when our prayers seemingly for the moment are not answered as we might expect, we'll be able to hear God's whispers, too.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jerry †

The TRUTH

Friday nights at the CUMC campus has added another feature: The Real Truth. You may be surprised to learn that many things we have been taught and our children are learning are actually false. Many aspects of popular culture have become so common place that we don't realize they influence what we believe. To find out the REAL TRUTH come and find out on Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. It's important for YOU and especially important for OUR CHILDREN!! †

Missions *Continued from page 1*

and intervention for developmental, behavioral, emotional, social and other "at risk" conditions in children ages 0 through 5. Our Mission donations will be directed to the Emergency Needs Program which helps to provide needy families with new car seats, cribs, strollers, diapers, high chairs, as well as formula and food.

Parents can often have a difficult time coping with the stress and anxiety that come along with having a child with a disability. The Emergency Needs Program helps to lighten the burden on new parents and help make their situation easier so they can care for their child. †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups

CONNECTIONS SUNDAY

by Lydia Chu, chairperson

March 29 was Connections Sunday at Cornerstone! The eight new groups met in Fellowship Hall and various classrooms to get acquainted, choose group coordinators and make initial plans for the year.

Coordinators already chosen are:
Group 1—Yin Wu and Myrna Chow;
Group 2—Minnie Lou and Calvin Lowe;
Group 3—Ed Joe and Alex Yu;
Group 4—Richard & Pam Fitch and Kevin Okada;
Group 6—Betty Yee and Lisa Sato;
Group 7—Ruth Wong and Anita Lee;
Group 8—Lydia Chu and Arleen Hasegawa.

Our purpose will continue to be getting to know church family members better, care for each other, and work together on church and missions projects. Groups will have about one activity each quarter. Thanks to Arleen Hasegawa, Lisa Sato and Betty Yee for helping to organize the groups. Feel free to ask us if you have questions. †



The Word as a Spiritual Mirror

(As God Revealed to Me)

by Guest Editor

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. James 1:22-24

God's mirror (word) shows us what requires correction. It's great that we learn about what God teaches us through the verses. But the hard part is asking the questions that are personal. Questions that cause us to meditate on what He is telling or asking us to do. Such as: Why do I not obey? How does it affect or speak to me? How should I change? Why don't I want to do it? What sin is he addressing in me?

God told me that is why I do not grow more than I should. I learn what the Bible says in my mind but I don't allow it to change my life. Maybe that is why we as a church are not growing like we should. We are not willing to open up to each other as we learn. We need to share and ask these tough questions with one another. Share from our heart. Not just learn head knowledge together. We must not be afraid to share of ourselves. To admit what our short comings are. That is why we need to have fellowship together. We must share, support, and encourage each other as we share these questions. We need time together to read the word and allow God to reveal Himself to us and we to Him. Spend time asking the tough questions from these revelations. We must share, support, encourage and learn from each other.

That is why I do not grow more. I do not spend enough time in the

word really studying and meditating on these questions. I don't share my struggles with others and I need to do this so that not only I can grow, but others can grow too.

We must spend time studying and sharing together so we all can grow as a body! †



Extension 777

By Cheryl Wong

Extension 777 (in addition to preparing for their May 24th Sunday Service, which you all should come to) has been learning a lot about hope and what it means to be a Christian. After doing a series on the topic of hope, the entire group took turns leading a Bible study. We got a variety of message topics. Some of them were the link between hope and perseverance, the contrast of hope and laziness, the importance of a growing relationship with God, and the intertwining nature of hope, trust, and faith. The group as a whole has been delving into this idea of living a life of God's hope, learning that the world's hope will only disappoint and let us down, but God's hope will not disappoint, even if we don't get what we expected.

We've also been relating that idea of hope to understanding God's character and what his character means for our lives as Christians. One aspect that really stood out to me was that living a life of hope means risk. If you hope for something, you are putting your comfort and your emotions on the line. You are taking a step out into the open.

So often, mainstream Christian society today sends out that message that being a Christian will reward you with a life of comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-11). To an extent, that is true. God's love and grace and the fellowship of other believers give us a support system like no other.

But at the same time, God also tells us that being a Christian means that things won't be easy. We will often have to be exposed, risking

potential pain. In Romans 12, we are called to be living sacrifices, and in 1 Peter 4, Peter says that by living for Christ, we are hereby participating in Christ's pain and suffering that He endured on the cross. Wow. That doesn't sound like fun.

That is why living a life of hope is so difficult, especially in such a depressing society. It leaves us exposed to get hurt, to feel let down, to being uncomfortable. ***But our faith in God comes in to fill those holes, and He calls us to live a life that demonstrates His story, not ours (Matthew 5:14-16).***

With that being said, Extension 777 is excited to bring all of the things we've been learning to the table and present the congregation with what we hope will be a meaningful and empowering service on Sunday, May 24th. Come join us! We'd love to share with you what we've been learning.

For those interested in learning with us on Friday nights, we meet every Friday in the Blue Room at 8pm unless otherwise stated on our message board (www.ext777.proboards85.com). †

Good Friday Services

by Virginia Quon.



Temple City UMC hosted a combined choral presentation of "Come, Touch the Robe". Narratives were given in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English before each musical rendering telling the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. Our very own Pastor Jerry narrated the English portion of the program. This was one of the best presentations ever. It was very moving and reached the hearts of everyone. Several CUMC members were in attendance to observe the annual Joint Good Friday Service. †



KFC Corner



KFC sleepover at church

A KFC Poem

Eggs and grease and bacon too,
I made a GREAT BIG MESS, did you?
Cut the berries, wrap the smokies,
There's no time to be pokey.

Breakfast-for-Lunch seemed a fine plan,
But not scouring and scraping
with bare hands,
So next time KFC serves lunch,
We'll just do sandwiches. And punch.

HUGE THANKS to everyone who helped cook,
serve and clean with the KFCers! The kids had
a great time and we couldn't have done it
without so much help.



KFC sleepover at church



KFC sleepover at church



Roasting hot dogs at the fire pit.



We're not ready for bed!

Farewell KFC Grads

by Sheree Low

What do sugar, a janitor and snoring have in common? Read on to find out! We gathered to send off last year's grads (who've since joined AMPM) with plenty of fun, prayers and well wishes. Back in January, we met at Castle Cornerstone where we feasted in the Formal Hall of Fellowship on pizza, roasted hot dogs, and pretty much everything unhealthy except for fresh lemonade. Did you know a perfect cup of lemonade needs just half a lemon (Pat Gayle's home-grown variety is best), ice-cold water, and like TEN PACKETS OF SUGAR?

KFCers set up for the overnigher and made room for Katie's roller suitcases, stuffed animals, laptop and

giant air mattress. Matt and Austin liked high sleeping quarters on lined-up chairs; Baylee and Lizzi preferred lower ground. Gary led games of jumbo beachball keepaway. Cheryl planned a treasure hunt and get-to-know-you game (doesn't anyone want to learn Japanese like Ryan??). The evening ended with popcorn, hot chocolate, and a private showing of Get Smart. Then everyone snuggled cozily into pj's and dozed peacefully through the night. Yeah, right!!! More like the adults (Cheryl, Calvin and myself) tried to sleep while the youngsters chatted and giggled...and had a great time!

Things started to settle down

when suddenly we heard strange sounds coming from the hallway. A door creaked open and an unfamiliar voice called out, "Hello?" Brave Calvin bounded out of his chair-mounted sleeping bag to assume security guard duties and asked the MIDNIGHT JANITOR not to clean our room.

Finally, blissful silence descended. Except for plenty of SNORING and sounds of Kyle dragging his sleeping bag around to different parts of the room. The next morning was bright and sunny, full of breakfast goodies, more beachball games and trenches to dig...and the welcome sight of parents driving into the parking lot. Garrett said brightly, "Can we do this again?" †

HUGS (Home Under God's Spirit)

by Brad Chinn

The HUGS ("Homes Under God's Spirit") young family fellowship group kicked off March with a special "The Way We Were" luncheon (a.k.a. "New Lifer Appreciation Day"). Well, actually, while this was a HUGS-sponsored event, it was really the brain-child and work of the ever-talented Celeste Wong! She had the awesome idea to show our appreciation for the more senior, experienced, and mature members of our church family. HUGS supported her 100%, but she did all the planning and execution. A delicious lunch was served and enjoyed, followed by the highlight of the day: Celeste had solicited wedding and childhood photos from everyone, and posted them all around the room. She also presented a slide show game, where people had to guess the treasured church member in the photo. The beautiful grandparents of our church were knock-outs in their younger days! Whether it was Henry Fong romantically carrying adorable wife Sherrie in his strong arms, Roger Davidson's movie star good looks, young stud J.C. Dear, or the countless, glamorous others... it was a fun remembrance of the way we were!

And, if that wasn't enough to keep her busy, Celeste Wong (and hubby, Al) also spearheaded our Friday evening "Love & Respect" study for HUGS parents. That completed in April, when Al & Celeste moved us right along into the next exciting "Truth Project" series (www.truthproject.org) - open to everyone!

Yes, the past few months have been filled with Celeste activities and EASTER, where we attended a joyous celebration of our risen Savior during service, followed by our annual Easter egg hunt for the young kids (thanks to Karl Freeman and his AMPM youth group), plus scavenger hunt for the older kids (thanks to Cheryl Hasegawa).

UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Sat 5/2- Ladies Day
- Mon 5/25- L.A. Bike Tour
- Sun 5/31- Family laser tag at Huntington Beach Central Park (lotsa fun!)
- Sat 6/13- Mens Day
- Thu 7/23- HUGS Camping at Refugio State Beach!

If you'd like to learn more about HUGS activities, please contact Brad at 714-505-4650. †

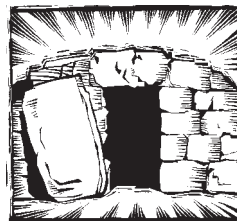
Youth Sunday



Like a fresh Spring breeze, AMPM presented a refreshing worship on Youth Sunday filled with rousing music, skits, and a powerful message.



The AMPM Praise Band played beautifully with blended voices and instruments. All AMPM'ers were active participants in conducting the Sunday Service. With poise, aplomb, and confidence, the youth shared their testimonies with "Shards of Clay" as a theme. Each testimony revealed how God allows us to be "broken"; yet He builds us up again to become stronger and more resilient. From dealing with the death of a loved one, broken friendships, a family breaking up, facing an incurable disease and the loss of a home, God gives us strength and courage to face the brokenness, to heal, accept, and forgive. How awesome is our God! †



Easter Joy

The tomb is empty but our lives are full because of you.

Enthusiastic, beautiful, joyous music greeted worshippers to Easter services at Cornerstone! To celebrate our risen Christ, we sang our hearts out!



The Children's Choir sang four happy songs proclaiming that "Jesus is Here". Sixteen strong voices memorizing all those lyrics were impressive indeed!



A special rendition of "He Will Carry You" by the Men's Acappella Quartet sent shivers up many spines. More-moremore!! The Praise Band brought everything together by leading us in old favorites and new music on a very beautiful sunny Easter Sunday.

And that wasn't all! An awesome Easter lunch was enjoyed by all as CUMC carried on the tradition of truly magnificent buffets.

Kids of all ages enjoyed their Easter Egg Hunt, scrambling, squealing and scurrying about collecting their surprise filled eggs. We can't wait for next year to once again celebrate the mystery and miracle of Easter! †



Prayer Pieces

Here's an easy way to remember the "pieces of prayer":

- P** Praise God. Thank him for his goodness and all the blessings he gives you.
- R** Report your sins. Request God's forgiveness if you have hurt or disappointed someone.
- A** Ask your needs and the needs of others.
- Y** Yield. Give your prayers to your heavenly Father and trust Him to listen to you and answer your prayers.

Remember the pieces of prayer:

- P – Praise**
- R – Report**
- A – Ask**
- Y – Yield**