

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

Worship the Lord with Us

Sunday Mornings

- 10:00am Adult Sunday School
- 10:30am AMPM Sunday School
- 11:30am Worship Service
- 12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

Wednesdays

- 11:00am New Life -Seniors
1st Wednesday of the month
- 7:30pm BASIC Fellowship for Young Adults
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month

Friday Night Fellowship

- 7:30pm Adults/Family Fellowship
& Kids Club
- 7:30pm AMPM Youth Fellowship
for Middle – High Schoolers
- 8:00pm Ext. 777 College Group
Call church office for information

Cornerstone UMC

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Placentia, CA 92870-2040
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website: cornerstonesocal.org

Pastor SonHye Kim
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9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at home
cell: 808-421-8439
pastorkim@cornerstonesocal.org

Family Life Ministry Director
Pastor Ewin Grace
Office Hours: Mon thru Fri
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Newsletter Co-Editors–
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Missions

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Thank you to all who attended the CASTeam meeting on Sunday, January 15th. It was a good opportunity to discuss past and future projects! The Mission team has taken your selections for Projects and Mission Opportunities for 2017, and will be sending out an organizational chart soon. Be on the watch for it.

The Mission team would like to thank you all for your wonderful participation in all the great mission endeavors and projects of 2016. Below is a recap of all the Mission Offerings and Projects for 2016. We

thank you for your generosity and giving spirit, donating not only your resources but also your special talents and precious time.

Being in Mission is a chance for you to serve God and your church, as well as a chance to help meet the needs of the less fortunate in our community and in the world. Being in Mission with Jesus, we establish our own personal relationship with Him, and discover Him in our everyday experiences.

Blessings to you all,
Wei-ling Louie †

2016 Mission Offerings and Projects

- JAN - **Pathways of Hope:** 35 bags of groceries + \$525 offering
- FEB - **Family Support Network:** \$859 offering
- MAR - **UMCOR** One Great Hour of Sharing: \$532.69 offering
- **Easter Baskets: Friendly Center:** 50 Baskets,
WTLC: 25 Baskets (CASTeam #2)
- APR - **Assistance League of Fullerton Thrift Shop:** 68 bags
of gently-used clothing (CASTeam #1) - **WTLC:** \$598 offering
- MAY - **UMCOR** Disaster Response Earthquake in Ecuador: \$455 offering
- JUN - **H.I.S. House:** purchase household goods using \$440 offering (CASTeam #3)
- JUL - **Blessing Bags:** 80 bags (CASTeam #5)
- **Pathways of Hope, H.I.S. House and WTLC:** 60 school backpacks
[20 to each organization] + \$531.25 offering (CASTeam #2)
- AUG - **Threshold Ministries:** partial sponsorship \$1,000 for 2 Chinese orphans
from mission funds + \$450.27 offering
- SEP - **Project Independence Walk:** 11 volunteers + \$595 offering
- **UMCOR:** \$1,000 for Cleaning Buckets
+ \$1,000 for U.S. Disaster Response from CUMC Mission funds
- OCT - **Operation Gratitude:** 291 letters to military + \$461 offering (CASTeam #6)
- NOV - **Asian Pacific Women's Center:** \$507 offering
- DEC - **Good Samaritan's Operation Christmas Child:** 63 shoeboxes (CASTeam #3)
- **Friendly Center** Adopt-a-Family: Christmas gifts + \$438 offering to
buy grocery cards & household supplies (CASTeam #3)
- **Threshold Ministries:** \$710 to complete sponsorship of 1 student for 1 year,
1 student for 7 months, and \$50 for Holiday gifts from Mission funds

Monthly Mission Offerings: \$6,392.71

CUMC Mission funds: \$2,000

Anonymous gift for Threshold sponsorships: \$1,020

Total monies for Missions: \$9,412.71

In-kind goods distributed:

Estimated \$6,800+

Message from Pastor Kim

Dear Cornerstoners,

I used to go to a Presbyterian church in Korea but when I came to the United States, I didn't know which church to go to. While I was thinking of attending a church, one of my co-workers invited me to her church, a Methodist church. She gave me a ride to church, sat with me during worship service and lunch time, and introduced me to the church members. Having her by me helped me to feel comfortable at a new church where I could have been nervous and uncomfortable.

When I said 'yes' to her invitation, she was surprised. She didn't expect that I would say 'yes.' Inviting someone to church is not easy because we all have a fear of rejection. When we invite people to church, we are not doing it to increase the head count. It is to bless people with the wonderful love of Jesus Christ and eternal life. There are people who are searching for the truth and are willing to explore Christianity. An invitation provides them with an opportunity to discover the truth in Jesus Christ and to find a church where they feel at home.

I have had many invitations from Christians to their churches and small groups. I rejected some and accepted some. When I was in college in Hawaii, one of my classmates invited me to his small group. It was a non-denominational college and young adult small group. I turned down the first invitation because I was not interested in a small group and was too busy. He was always smiling and nice. Even though I rejected his invitations many times, he was still kind to me and kept inviting me. I reached the point that I had to go to that small group at least once; I just went there to do him a favor. I didn't see any benefit that I would gain from this small group. Even though I went to church, I didn't know much about God and faith. I didn't have a personal relationship with God. I didn't know what it means to believe in God and

Jesus Christ. Going to church was more like a social activity than a spiritual one.

In that small group, I saw genuine, spiritual, God-loving people. I felt that they had something that I didn't have. I had a burning desire to have what they had. So, I continued to attend the small group, which was instrumental in leading me to Christ. When I was invited to the small group, I didn't know what to expect, but God blessed me abundantly. There are people who do not know the blessings through Jesus Christ. They need to be where the Holy Spirit moves and to be touched by the Spirit so that they will be able to open their hearts to Jesus.

God wants to save everyone in the world, and wants to use us as His instruments. In Luke 15, Jesus tells a story of the shepherd who goes after one lost sheep leaving ninety-nine sheep in the open country. When he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then, he calls his friends and neighbors, and rejoices together with them.

Jesus also tells a story of a lost son. The father, whose son left home with his portion of inheritance, waits for his son to return home. Even though what his son did to him was something terrible, the father still waited for him. When the son returned, the father ran to him, welcomed him, and restored him.

We need to have the heart of the shepherd and the father. God wants us to go after those lost sheep and lost children of God. We are to reach out to them, and tell them there is a God who gives hope to the hopeless; who forgives our sins; who wipes away our tears; who brings healing to those who are suffering; who strengthens the weak; who is waiting for them to come to Him.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us have a passion for lost sheep, and go after them. Cornerstone UMC will have a Be-Our-Guest Sunday four times in 2017. Invite your friends, family, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to church. Pray for them,

show them the love of Jesus Christ, and invite them. January 29th is our first Be-Our-Guest Sunday. Look around, and see whom you can invite to be our guest. And pray. It is God who will move their hearts to come.



*Peggy Lowe, Pastor Ewin Grace, Pastor SonHye Kim & Celeste Wong
Prayer Walk, Oct. 25, 2016*

Pastor Ewin, Celeste Wong, and I have been doing prayer walks every Tuesday. We walk around our neighborhood, and pray for our neighbors. We have encountered our neighbors, and blessed them. We have heard their prayer requests, and we pray for them in our prayer meetings.

In February, we will ask the congregation to join the prayer walk. We will divide our neighborhood into 20 sections, and have church members sign up for one section. Two people will sign up for one section, and at least once a month, they are supposed to walk around and pray for the section. They also need to pray for the section at home in their personal prayer time.

Congregation Prayer Walk will start on February 19th. There will be a short training before the Prayer Walk. The sections will be announced on February 5th, and sign up will start on that day. As we plant the seeds of prayer in our community, God will make them grow and bring a harvest. God will work through our prayers, and show His glory to our community and to our church. What a privilege and honor to be His partners in His field! Thanks and praises to be to God!

Your Pastor & Friend,
Pastor SonHye Kim †

Ext.777

Nov-Dec 2016

November and December were busy months for Ext.777! In November, we went shopping at Walmart for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We also had our first Friendsgiving outreach event with 25 people attending, including 11 new friends! It was a fun night of board games, a movie, and tons of food, as we celebrated Thanksgiving together.

In December, some Ext.777 members

went to the Operation Christmas Child warehouse to pack shoeboxes. We also had our annual Christmas party with a couple of big group games, White Elephant, and Secret Santa gift exchange! Also, a few Ext.777 members went Christmas caroling with Pastor Kim and the rest of the church family on the day before Christmas Eve. ☺

In terms of the study, we have been continuing Colossians, and plan

on finishing it by March or April of this year. Even though the book is only 4 chapters, we have been taking it slowly so that we can delve deep into each section of the book...it's full of wisdom and encouragement on living a Christian life!

As the year begins, it is our hope to deepen our relationships with each other, with the community around us, and above all else, with God. †



Friendship!



Getting ready to play a group game!



Our Friendsgiving banquet table!



White Elephant!



Annual Christmas Party!



Ext 777 Group

CASTeam #3



December is the time for wishful dreaming. The children were hoping for new clothing to wear to school. Maybe there would be a new shirt, jeans, a warm jacket/sweatshirt, or new shoes and socks. Since they were making a wish list, how about a soccer ball, a Spiderman action figure, a Barbie toy, a wrist watch, or a wallet? Or a Target gift card would be so awesome! Dad would like new clothes or shoes. Mom was thinking of things for their home, like bath towels,

a toaster, shower curtains, a grocery gift card, or a microwave to warm up their meals. If only dreams can come true...

This needy family of five boys and a girl were part of the Adopt-A-Family program, selected by the Friendly Center in Placentia. You, CUMC members, have made a difference in their lives. By donating gifts and by contributing to our December's mission offering, you have given them a wonderful Christmas with dreams fulfilled. CASTeam#3 thanks you for your generous support to our annual Adopt-A-Family program. †

CASTeam #6

CASTeam#6 participated in many fun-filled activities in 2016. As a group, we enjoyed several lunches together, prepared three Sunday Lunches for the church, and helped with other CASTeam mission projects. In addition, CASTeam#6 was in charge of the November mission project, Operation Gratitude, which was a letter-writing campaign for members of the Armed Services. During our enjoyable lunches, we talked story to learn about each other. We also played some card games, and worked on mission projects.

We hope and pray we will have another successful year in 2017. †

Thanksgiving Luncheon - Abundant Blessings!

Nov. 20, 2016

Our church family is blessed with many talents and gifts! We thank God for the many volunteers (our organizers, creative decorators, many wonderful cooks) for bringing together a beautiful smorgasbord of turkey, stuffing, gravy, salad, yam, side dishes, and desserts - a feast to your heart's delight! We are so thankful for this delicious Thanksgiving luncheon and our many blessings. Thank you, Lord Jesus! †



Young Adults

Nov-Dec 2016



The Young Adult group enjoyed a festive cocktail party together to celebrate Christmas!

Jesus comes not for the super-spiritual but for the wobbly and the weak-kneed who know they don't have it all together, and who are not too proud to accept the handout of amazing grace. – Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*.

The Young Adult Group at Cornerstone is embarking on a journey through Brennan Manning's book,

The Ragamuffin Gospel. We'll be taking a deeper look at the Gospel, God's grace, humility, and how all of those things can be applied to our lives today.

Are you a young adult out of college? We hope you can come join us! Starting in February, we're meeting the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Feel free to email me at chen.cheryl.d@gmail.com for more information.

Do you know a young adult out of college? Invite them! Let them know about our group. We're on Facebook if you search Cornerstone UMC Young Adults.

If you are neither of the two, we hope you will pray for us as we deepen our walks with the Lord into our adult lives. †

Election Day - Nov. 8, 2016

CUMC had a Hospitality Booth where they served refreshments for the neighborhood voters on Election Day.



How Great Our Joy!



Christmas concert by the Gary Bonner Singers at the Orange Covenant Presbyterian Church in the City of Orange on December 2, 2016.

Dr. Gary Bonner is the founder of *The Bonner Institute for the Advancement of Choral Music*. †

New Life

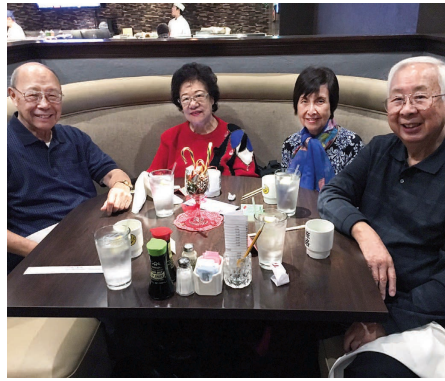
December 2016

What could be a better way to fellowship with friends at Christmastime than with a dinner and concert?! Forty-one New Lifers, including guests, Pastor Ewin and Robert Grace, enjoyed an authentic Japanese dinner at the Tabi-Ji Restaurant in Orange. Ten lucky people won a Christmas goblet filled with sweets by beating their tablemates over a "Rock-Paper-Scissors" game.

We all caravanned to the Orange Covenant Presbyterian Church, where 10 more New Lifers joined

us for an awesome Christmas concert by the Gary Bonner Singers. It was a truly wonderful, inspirational concert, complete with a fine orchestra. It was a great finale to 2016.

Betty Loh-Chen was introduced as our next New Life coordinator at our first meeting of 2017. Betty has fresh ideas for 2017, and we're looking forward to activities, speakers, and an excursion under her leadership. Thank you, Betty! †



Evan Disney Brings Magical Evening To Cornerstone

By Ewin Grace

On Friday, December 2, 2016, Evan Disney, the “Magician on a Mission”, brought a night of fun, intrigue, and marvel to Cornerstone as one of the final Special Events of the year. Originally planned as a “Parents’ Night Out” party for children whose parental units needed a kid-free Christmas-shopping night, the event gradually morphed into a come-one-come-all evening of magic and illusion. And it proved unforgettable.

Playing to a packed Cornerstone sanctuary, Disney performed card tricks, disappearing-object illusions, and mind-bending mysteries that reached kids of all ages. At least one-fourth of the crowd were guests from the community who don’t yet call CUMC their church home. Disney did not disappoint, as he pressed various audience members into service, often leaving them the most baffled of all as to how on earth he performed the

sleight-of-hand and utterly amazing “ESP”-type tricks that he produced. His ‘magical’ high jinx, and droll stage presence, brought consistent, thunderous applause and immediate calls for him to return in the near future for an encore performance.

Disney, a recently-transplanted performer from Missoula, Montana, now living in Fullerton, is a graduate of the world-famous “Academy of Magical Arts”, set in The Magic Castle in Hollywood. For over 15 years, he has performed for world-famous stars of TV and film, athletes, politicians, and personalities from around the world. His shows frequently benefit such causes as the American Heart Association, Big Brothers & Sisters, Boy Scouts of America, Foothill AIDS Project, Loyola Sacred Heart, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, and St. Jude Medical Center.

John Engen, Mayor of Missoula, Montana, has said about the performer, “As someone who works with a wide variety of folks who engage audiences in one way or another, I recognize that Evan has a keen sense of his role and relationship with his audience and adjusts his act to match the crowd. He’s honest, competent, and entertaining.” We, at Cornerstone, would definitely agree, and – speaking of mayors – so apparently, would the Mayor of Placentia, Craig Green, who was present with us at Evan’s Cornerstone performance on December 2nd, and who almost clapped his hands raw in acclaim of “the Magician on a Mission’s” utterly mind-bending *tour de force*. We are already working on re-booking Evan Disney for a command performance in 2017. †

