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BIG TRANSITIONS

The most terrifying thing in life is worse than the tallest roller coaster, worse than the scariest Halloween costume, worse than the angriest 2-year old. Nothing is more terrifying than the uncertainty of a Big Transition.

A Big Transition can take many forms. It can be a life stage transition – graduating, changing jobs, or retirement. It can be a relational transition – dating, marriage, divorce, a birth or death in the family. It can be a situational transition – buying a new house, unexpected financial problems, or health issues. The uncertainty brought about by a Big Transition can be overwhelming. It throws us off balance and causes us to be confused and unsure of ourselves. We just want the Big Transition to pass by so we can move on with our lives, but instead that Big Transition just seems to loom larger and larger until it's all we can think about.

In Joshua 1, the Israelites are facing a Big Transition. After being slaves in Egypt for many years, God rescued them and set them free. Moses has been leading them through the desert and now they are on the verge of entering the Promised Land. But taking the land won't be easy. There are bumps in the road ahead. There are hostile armies that need to be overcome. There will soon be a leadership change from Moses to Joshua, which is huge for people who have depended on Moses' leadership and guidance for their entire lives up until now.

Listen to God's words of encouragement to Joshua in verses 6-9:

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"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

.....

Joshua discovers that strength and courage do not come from self-confidence, but rather from confidence in God!

As we have been facing a major pastoral change at GVBC, our entire church family is going through a Big Transition. Joshua 1:6-9 reminds us to be strong and courageous. As long as we are faithful to Him, we have nothing to fear. We can face the uncertainty of the future because we can hold onto the certainty of God's presence and faithfulness in our lives. May we hold tightly to the encouragement of Joshua 1:6-9. Whatever happens, the Lord our God will be with us wherever we go!

Pastor
Daniel Matsuda



KEEP GARDENA BEAUTIFUL

James Chang



On Saturday, September 17, 2022, GVBC partnered with the City of Gardena to clean up our Gardena streets, parks, and wetlands. This is part of our Local Missions ministry helping us all to realize: we are all missionaries sent by God beyond our church walls to share the good news of Jesus Christ in both word and deed. Over seventy of us came

out and this included: English, Nihongo, Children, Youth, College, Young Adults, and several families from Chapman Elementary. Together, we cleaned up our streets, railroads, and went onto the Chapman school campus for some gardening work. Afterward, we had a Guiliano's lunch together with many volunteers from all over our city.

Please continue to pray for the many connections we made, that the Lord would use us to be the blessing of God here in our city



MISSIONS REPORT

Bob Matsushima



Sophie Abe

Decision Point (Previously National School Project)

Thank you so much for your financial and prayerful support over the past two years. As I wrapped up my time with Decision Point, I wanted to bring you some final updates on the past school year with Casimir Middle School. The Casimir Christian Club met every Friday at lunchtime in Mr. Stoll's room for fellowship, encouragement, and event planning, such as an After School Boba Party. A 3-day outreach was held in March with 34 students in attendance. We had 8 first-time decisions and 17 recommitments. All of the Christian Club leaders from last year will serve another year along with two new leaders. Please continue to pray for all the students, faculty, and Christian Club leaders at Casimir Middle School!



Jojo and Heather DeGuzman

CRU Headquarters, Florida

Thank you for praying for us. God answers prayers. Somehow, despite the strong winds and lots of rain yesterday, God who controls the wind and the rain protected our community. We still can't go outside because of strong winds but we are good. Thank you for praying for us. The flood didn't reach our back porch.

Today, we can still see the tail end of the hurricane (Ina) with stronger winds and loads of rain. They said that there are more people who get injured or killed after the hurricane leaves. Please pray that all of us Floridians be wise as we clean up.



Ken and Diane Kudo

Overseas Crusade

Here we are still pilgrims and sojourners in Brazil! Incredible acts of the Holy Spirit have been going on with attacks by the enemy. Someone has said, "No battle, no victory!" Demonic manifestations are common in Brazil. Please keep praying for us because we are in the midst of a great Harvest. Not only in Brazil but all over the globe!

To God be the glory for the great things He has done, is doing, and will do. Amen and Amen!

OCTOBER BOARD UPDATES

Hermann Schurr

A review of the August Financial Statement showed that August expenses exceeded income by \$12,400, bringing the year-to-date numbers for Adjusted Revenue, through month-end August, into the red by about \$3,500. Preliminary income for the 4 Sundays of September was \$99,600. The board reviewed the proposed 2023 budget. This budget will be discussed and presented to the congregation for approval at the November 13, 2022 Election Meeting. The board acknowledges that this proposed budget shows a significant \$177,000 deficit, which is due to lower anticipated income in 2023 versus 2022. The budgeted expenses from 2022 to 2023 remain nearly unchanged.

In other board business:

- The passing of beloved GVBC member Gordon Woo was acknowledged. Gordon was a member since September 29, 2017, and passed away on September 23, 2022.
- The board discussed the three PPP conversations that were held between board members, members of our staff, and GVBC members. A summary of these conversations will also be shared at the upcoming Election Meeting.
- The board discussed preparations for upcoming conversations that the Senior Pastor candidate Pastor Daniel Matsuda will be having with members of the church family, and also discussed some possible next steps that may be taken if Pastor Daniel is called to become Senior Pastor.

Please note that there are two upcoming congregational meetings in the next several weeks. The first is on Sunday, October 23 at noon to vote on calling Pastor Daniel Matsuda to be the next Senior Pastor of GVBC. All who are interested are invited to attend the October 23 meeting, but only members will be eligible to vote. Members are encouraged to attend any of several meetings to explore with Pastor Daniel his calling to be the next Senior Pastor and his vision for GVBC, so that the October 23 meeting can move relatively quickly to a vote. If possible, all members are encouraged to attend the October 23 meetings in-person. However, a Zoom option will be available for those not able to attend in person.

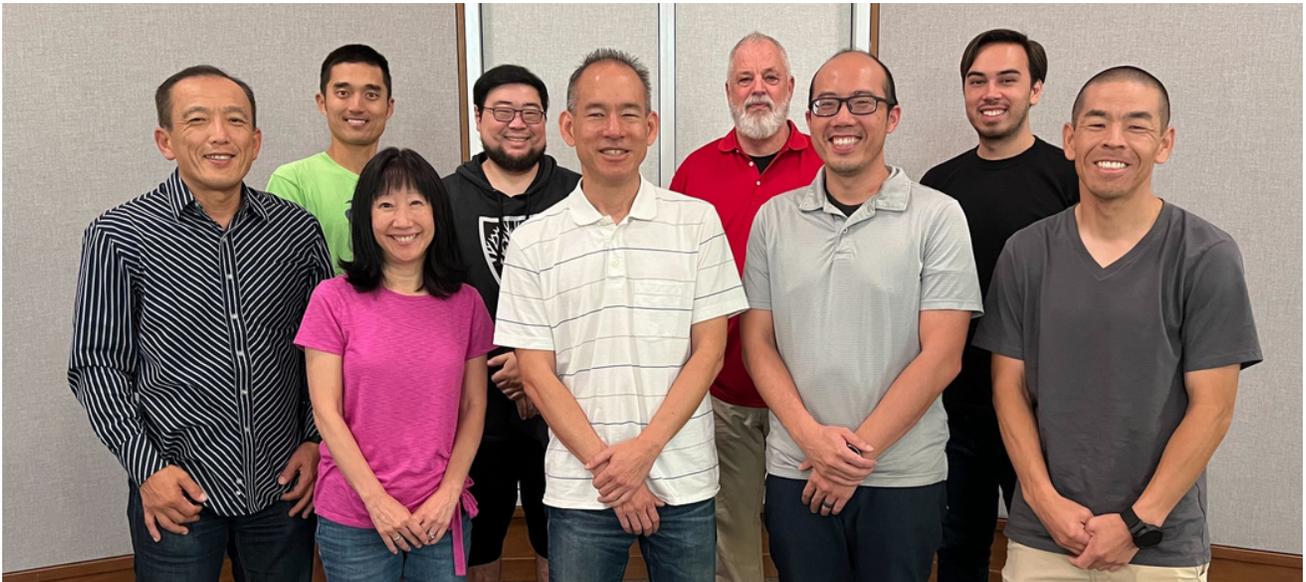
Then, the regular GVBC Election Meeting will be held on November 13. This meeting will be to vote on new board members and to discuss and approve the proposed 2023 budget.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for your Board of Deacons!

PASTORAL APPRECIATION

Norman Nakamura

Greetings Church family! October is Pastoral appreciation month. Our pastors, directors, coordinators, and interns work tirelessly throughout the year, and now is our opportunity to show our appreciation to them. A basket has been set up in the Narthex starting and will remain throughout the month of October. Please take this opportunity to write them a card, drop off a thank you note, etc. These will be delivered to them weekly. I know they will be encouraged and blessed to hear from you. Also, come join us for Sunday service on Oct. 30th to formally recognize and appreciate them for all of the work and love that they share with our church family.



Not pictured: Misaki Tateishi, Vincent Fu, Odelia Hui, and Michelle Schneider

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Teresa Matsushima

The Nominating Committee has prayerfully decided on the four newest nominees for the Board 2023-2025:

- Paul Hirano for Vice Moderator
- Joanne Morimoto for Assistant Treasurer
- Marcy Cottrell for Member-at-Large
- Kenichi Okada for Nihongo representative

All nominees have a three-year term and they will be voted upon at the upcoming Election Meeting on November 13, 2022.

FAMILY NEWS

Donations and Flowers are given in honor or loving memory:

Wilfred & Kathy Honda >>> Mary Nakaoka
Leigh Fukuzawa >>> Frank & Nami Fukuzawa
Leigh Fukuzawa >>> M. Frank Fukuzawa
Glen Ouchida >>> Mary Nakaoka
Bruce & Lillian Higashi >>> Chino Ogata
Chiyo Aiso & David Aiso >>> Chino Ogata
Mary Maeda >>> Mike Maeda
Nelson & Janet Shirota >>> Nobuko Ishibashi

Monetary donations given in honor or memory of loved ones support College Scholarship Fund, unless specified.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to the families of those who have lost the following loved ones. Please keep them in your prayers.

- Derrick and Dawn Glinn on the passing of Dawn's father, **David Kametani**.
- David Clayton and Jenny Yamada-Clayton on the passing of David's sister, **Wendy Malm**.
- The Shimizu Family on the passing of **Lily Shimizu**.
- Debbie Nakata and the Nakata Family on the passing of Debbie's father, **Keiji Nakata**.
- Michael Okada and the Okada Family on the passing of his mother, **Violet Okada**.
- Sharon Woo and the Woo family on the passing of her husband, **Gordon Woo**. The service will be held at GVBC on Saturday, October 29th at 11 am with a reception to follow. Pastor Steve Langley will be officiating.



Wedding

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Kyle and Amie Campbell, who were married at GVBC on September 3rd! Pastor Daniel officiated the ceremony.

SERVICES

In-Person English: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Online English: 10:30 AM

In-Person & Online Nihongo: 10:30 AM

CALENDAR

10/1~10/31 - Pastoral Appreciation Month

10/23 - Special Congregational Meeting

10/30 - Pastoral Appreciation Sunday

10/31 - Harvest Festival

11/5 - Women's Event

11/13 - Nihongo Baptism

LINKS

Website: www.gvbc.net

Youtube: www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube

GVBC App: www.bit.ly/GVBCapp

SAVE THE DATE

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will be held on Oct. 31st from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Families with children in 5th grade or younger are welcome to come out for a fun & safe Halloween alternative!

Annual Election Meeting

The 2022 Annual Election meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th, at 12:30 pm. We'll be discussing the proposed 2023 budget and nominees for the Board of Deacons. Everyone is welcome for discussion, but only members will be allowed to vote. Bring or pick up lunch, or preorder a Giuliano's lunch for \$8.

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