



THINK Before You Speak

"Who am I? I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cruel and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed. My victims cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments and ruin marriages. I wreck churches and separate Christians. I spawn suspicion and generate grief, making innocent people cry on their pillows. I am gossip."

Gossip is very common in our society, and even filters into the church. We have an unfortunate fascination with gossip. According to Proverbs 18:8, *"The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts."* When we gossip, we feel better about ourselves as we focus on someone else's shortcomings. The New Testament Greek word for "gossip" is *psithuristes*, meaning "a whisperer," someone who whispers behind your back with the intention of hurting you.

The problem with gossip is that it can quickly get out of control. James 3:5-6 states: *"Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body."* Gossip is a wildfire that quickly spreads. Gossip can be all truth, or part truth, or all lies... but in every case, it still spreads a negative message and makes someone else look bad. The more gossip is heard and passed on, the more likely there will be false details in the negative messages, causing even more hurt and confusion. Worst of all, gossip destroys the community. According to Proverbs 16:28, *"A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends."* In a few seconds, gossip can ruin a friendship that took years to build. People may even leave the church when they have been wounded by gossip.

The Church is the Bride of Christ. Christ loves the Church and desires that we live in holiness. Ephesians 4:29 states: *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."* As God's people, we need to move from gossip to encouragement. We need to focus on building up one another. Here's a helpful acronym to guide what you say about others:

So before, you speak, THINK! If someone hurts you, deal directly with that person instead of gossiping with others. If you are around people who are gossiping, either walk away or redirect the conversation to another topic. My GVBC family, let's use our words to build up others instead of tearing them down. May God be honored in the way we treat one another!

T = is it **True**?
H = is it **Helpful**?
I = is it **Inspiring**?
N = is it **Necessary**?
K = is it **Kind**?



Associate Pastor, Community Life

Daniel Matsuda





Profile: Eltheia Shiozaki

Cynthia Copeland

Pastor Ron Matsuda asked Eltheia Shiozaki if she was familiar with the meaning and origins of her name. While she recognized that the name her father gave her was unusual, she was unaware of its meaning. He shared that it was of Greek origins and meant truth. "My immediate and unspoken reaction was I don't want the weight of this name upon me!" Her life reveals that her father's choice was fitting.

During a 14-day period of quarantine, Eltheia practiced mindful hula meditations as she danced to heal her body and counter the boredom. This discovery of self-renewal resulted in Eltheia beginning a Hula/Movement group on Zoom incorporating singing and movement as a midweek reminder that no matter how hectic one's day might have been, we can return to a place of peace and tranquility. One of the group's favorite songs is The Hawai'i Blessing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxQ0RnKjrY>.

Born in Hawaii, her father's job relocated the family to Orange County. Though this was a difficult transition for an 11-year-old, she looks back and realizes that He was operating in her life, planting her at Wintersburg Church where she began to feel a spiritual grounding that has been flourishing throughout her life. "We may not see the purpose of an unwanted event in our lives until much later." During her time at university, she was an active participant in AACF while studying physical therapy. Her tangible gifts are demonstrated as she lays hands upon her patients. Her clients, primarily women, suffer from conditions that can be distressful and sometimes embarrassing. Before beginning her work day, she prays and pours herself into each of her patients, melding professional knowledge with a true servant's heart.

Eltheia has gone on two mission trips to Japan expecting to serve. But His plan for her mission trips was also to open Eltheia's eyes to what a true Christian community looked like in a country in which those that profess a belief in Jesus face discrimination and even rejection by their families. She saw how the love of Christ can transform a congregation into a true Christian community.

As the GVBC church family begins to meet in person, while circumstances have been difficult for many in the past 2 years, the pandemic has borne fruit. In 2021 she was asked to consider being on the Board. She lifted this decision to God and felt Him directing her to accept the position of Member-at-Large by reaching out, listening, and sharing with the Board what the congregants were experiencing during this challenging season.

Her hope is that people in the congregation will know board members and feel free to share all that is on their hearts. COVID has created other unique opportunities to reach out. "People seem to show more of an effort by befriending people they don't know, by providing meals, sending cards. He wants all of us to try a little harder. Why can't this continue? Especially during this period of transition and the pastoral search, I see many people reaching out in Christ's love."

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:14





Mike Lowery Introduction

Hermann Schurr

Mike Lowery will be joining our GVBC staff part-time for a three-month period through mid-September. Mike's role is to help encourage, come alongside and support our Associate Pastors, Directors, Coordinators, Interns, Core Ministry Leaders, and other congregational leaders while Pastors Daniel and James, and Brad, continue to assume extra responsibilities while there is no Senior Pastor. Mike's role will not be that of a traditional Interim Senior Pastor and he will not be assuming the duties and authority of a Senior Pastor. Rather, that authority will remain, as it is currently being administered, in a partnership between Pastors Daniel and James, in cooperation with the Board and the Personnel Committee.

Mike and his wife Jill reside in Torrance. Prior to coming to Torrance, Mike and Jill spent 26 years with American Baptist International Ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where Mike was Senior Pastor at the International Protestant Church in Kinshasa and a teacher of theology at the Baptist University of Kikongo, preparing African pastors for ministry in the rural areas of the country. Mike is an ordained American Baptist Minister and has both an MDiv and a DMin from Fuller Theological Seminary. Jill is on staff with International Ministries as West Coast Donor Advisor, a role that often has her traveling to various churches in the region.



June Board Updates

Hermann Schurr

June 7, 2022 Board Meeting Notes

The board approved the April 2022 Financial Statement and the May Income Statement. April finances were closed out with a monthly deficit of approximately \$7,500. Adjusted Revenue remains in the black for the year, however, by about \$4,600, because annual spending also continues to remain under the budgeted amounts, primarily due to unfilled staff positions. The May income was about 5% below the budgeted amount.

The board reviewed and approved the job description for a "Ministerial Consultant" and then approved the hiring, starting June 16, of Pastor Mike Lowery into that position.

The board approved modifications to the hours of the Evening Property monitor so that now the Narthex will be monitored from 6:30-10:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Other board discussions included the re-allocation of various church accounts, the Hula Boutique fundraiser (which was approved), the hiring of a media intern through the summer, and Pastor James' Ordination (please hold the date and join in on the festivities on August 28).





Missions Report

Linda Hayashi



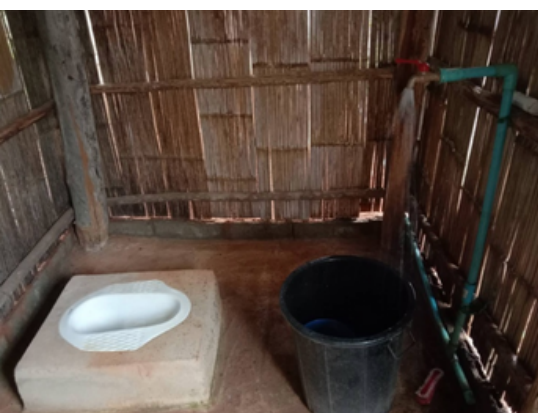
ITDF - International Ministries

Becky and Mike Mann

Becky Mann visited GVBC on May 15, 2022, and spoke to the congregation about the work and ministry the Manns oversee in Thailand called Integrated Tribal Development Foundation (ITDF). Since 1989 they have worked with the Baptist churches thereby assisting with water, agriculture, health, and education. They have completed over 300 water projects for hill tribe villages without access to clean water. Becky shared that 40% of their projects are initially with non-Christian villages, and of those, over time 60% have become believers in Christ. Since 2015 GVBC has sent teams to partner with ITDF for 5 water projects. In 2020 and 2021 when teams could not be sent, our church sent Advent Conspiracy funds to cover 2 water projects per year. As a result of our assistance, Becky shared specific thanks from the Ja So Pa village in Chiang Rai Province, which now has access to clean water, and is experiencing better health, sanitation, and agriculture.

The Manns are currently at 75% support level and their goal is to be at least 88%, if not higher, by August 1. They can be supported at the IM website

<https://www.internationalministries.org/author/bm-mann>





Hope Unlimited – International Ministries
Corenne and Philip Smith

Corenne had heart surgery in April and appreciates all the prayers as she recovers in Indiana. The ministry to the children in Brazil continues with onsite staff, as no teams are traveling to Brazil yet. There is one way that anyone from GVBC can bless Hope children in Brazil, and that is by joining in a fun, interactive zoom birthday party that GVBC will host on August 26 from 4-5 pm. All that is required is a willingness to spend a fun hour together online with games, sharing scriptures, and encouragement. Contact Linda Hayashi at lindahayashi@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.





Tommy Park Update

Tommy Park

Hello GVBC Family!

Praise the Lord, I am fully supported and am starting preparations to leave for Japan! It's been humbling being a recipient of the love and care from everyone at GVBC, and I am truly grateful for your prayers and support. The Lord has shown His love for me through so many of you in so many unexpected ways, not only through your financial support, but also by offering to watch over practical things for me while I'm away like the house, checking in with me while I'm away, and even checking in on my mom. I've been truly blessed, and am so thankful to the Lord for you.

I've been reassigned from Tokyo to the city of Hirosaki in the Aomori Prefecture of Japan. It'll be quite a change, being that it's close to the snowiest city on earth, but I'm excited for the things God will do in and through me in this new assignment. It will allow me to do more things than I would have been able to do in Tokyo, and most people I've talked to have affirmed that this will be a good change.

July 3rd will most likely be my last Sunday at GVBC for a while, as I'm planning on leaving for Japan later that week. At the moment I'm waiting for paperwork from Japan to allow me to get a visa, and am communicating with the Japan field to figure out where I might live. At the same time I've started to make final preparations with finances and responsibilities, fixing up stuff around the house, and the normal moving choices: take, leave, or throw away. It'll be a busy season but I'm trusting God will continue to see me through this stage and remind me of His goodness and faithfulness.



Until I leave I'll be saying a lot of goodbyes: my last day of work was in early June, stepping down from ministries, selling the car, and saying goodbye at a family reunion. It'll be bittersweet, knowing that for some it might be the last time I see them on this earth, but am trusting them to the Lord and His care.

As I say goodbye (for now) to the fellowship here at GVBC, I ask that you remember me in your prayers. Thank you again for all your support, and hope some of you might be able to come and visit while I'm away. God bless you all!

Tommy Park





Family News

Letters

The Gardena Emergency Food Pantry would like to THANK YOU for your generous donation. For over 40 years, the Food Pantry has been able to extend a helping hand to individuals & families in our community with food, bus tokens, case management, and homeless services. Our resources have been impacted due to COVID-19 but your donation allows us to continue to serve our Gardena residents. We appreciate your support, together we will overcome and continue our mission to assist our community. Thank you for continuing to make generous contributions to our cause!

With gratitude,
Team Gardena Food Pantry

The **Women's Ministry** would like to thank Mayor Pro Tem Rodney Tanaka and Councilman Art Kaskanian for their thoughtful and generous donations. We very much appreciate their support as we continue to minister to the women at GVBC.

Flowers

Donations and Flowers given in honor or loving memory:

From:

Amy Kato

To:

Bob Kato

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

College Grads

Michael Hill

The University of Oklahoma, Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy

Keito Hino

Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Associate of Arts in Merchandising and Marketing

Thomas Kaneshige

UCLA School of Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Lauren Kuriki

UCSB, Bachelor of Arts in Communications

Allison Louie

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Master of Science in Nutritional Science

Marina Mongaki

El Camino College, Associate of Arts in Economics

Matthew Nakayama

CSULB, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Ephraim Pang

CSULB, Bachelor of Arts
Psychology Minor in Entrepreneurship

Linnea Swanson

CSULB, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Kristy Takahashi

Pepperdine University, Master of Science Applied Behavior Analysis

Samuel Taniwaki

CSULB, Bachelor of Science in Finance

Misaki Tateishi

CSULB, Bachelor of Arts in Child Development & Bachelor of Arts in Family Life Education



Services

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

Online English: 10:30 AM

In-Person & Online Nihongo: 10:30 AM

Dates

6/19 - Grads & Dads: Graduate Recognition

6/26 - LAST DAY OF VBS REGISTRATION

7/03 - GVBC Summer Celebration after 2nd Service

7/11~15 - Vacation Bible School: Food Truck Party

8/08 - 2022 Golf Tournament @ Rio Hondo GC

8/12~14 - GVBC Family Camping Trip @ Big Bear

Links

Website: www.gvbc.net

Youtube: www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube

GVBC App: www.bit.ly/GVBCapp

High School Grads

Victoria Crudup

Christy Kaneshige

Hannah Lee

Duke Sanders

Daniel Sardar

David Tsukamoto

Michelle Valencia

Kelli Wang

Middle School Grads

Kellen Comfort

Celeste Crudup

Kristin Nakamura

Tegan Park

Ava Reed

Malia Stibbie

Faith Thor

Ashley Trevino

Rhys Vizthum

Kyler Yee

Taylor Yee

Jake Yokoyama

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