



GARDENA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Crafting Children To be Like Arrows

BY PASTOR DANIEL

One thing I love about GVBC is that we have great parents who deeply love their children and are seeking to point them to the Lord. If you currently have one or more children (ages 0-18), I'm especially talking to you right now. But for the rest of our church family, please listen in very closely... because parenting is hard, and the decisions that parents make today can affect the spiritual health of our church for generations to come. We need to join together as an entire church community to consistently pray for the parents of our children and youth here at GVBC.



What is in this issue?

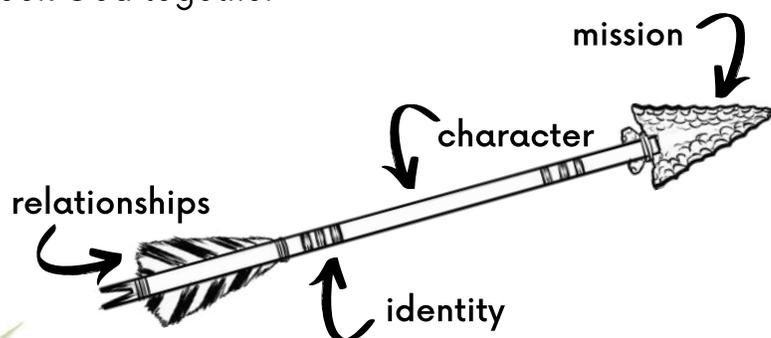
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Parents, now that we're slowly emerging from COVID isolation and your kids' activities are starting to ramp up, do you find yourself getting anxious and frazzled? Do you find yourself caught up in what's **urgent** and losing sight of what's truly **important**? Is your household struggling with family conflict or relational dynamics, making it difficult to experience God's peace in your home? Let's take it even deeper. Do you have a clear, God-centered vision for where God wants to take your children? And are you and your spouse on the same page with this vision?

Starting this fall, we'll be launching "Re|Focus," a brand new 9-week parenting program based on FamilyLife's "Art of Parenting" curriculum. The key image that ties this curriculum together is the meticulous art of crafting a unique arrow that will one day be launched to make an impact for God's Kingdom. Psalm 127:4-5 uses this same image: **Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.** As you move through the lessons, you'll discover that the arrow's shaft represents your child's **character**, the arrow's nock and feathers represent your child's **relationships**, the arrow's cresting represents your child's **identity**, and the arrow's point represents **mission**.

Here are the primary ways that I believe God will use Re|Focus to transform your family life:

- Deepening your own walk with the Lord as He grows your character
- Deepening your relationship with your spouse as you complete the weekly "**Arrow Projects**" together
- Deepening your relationship with your children as you gain a fresh vision for how God can use you to craft each arrow for His glory
- Deepening relationships with other parents as you maintain accountability, share your lives, and seek God together



Parents, please know that you matter to GVBC! The Children's and Youth Ministry staff earnestly desire to partner with you, encourage you, and pray for you. Other GVBC programs like parent workshops and Re|Focus will help to provide the resources you need to stay faithful to the awesome task that God has given to you – crafting your children to be like arrows, to be launched one day for the glory of God!

His servant,
Daniel Matsuda
Associate Pastor, Community Life

Holy Week 2021

BY PASTOR JAMES CHANG

For Holy Week this year, GVBC held a livestreamed Palm Sunday service, a livestreamed Good Friday service, and then our very first hybrid livestreamed and in-person worship service for Easter Sunday. What a momentous way to celebrate our risen Lord Jesus Christ together! In total, about 100 congregants gathered together alongside hundreds more online. In-person was a touchless service, maintaining all health and safety protocols. As the Lord continues to lead us through this, we look forward to continuing worshipping together in a way that simultaneously reaches both in-person congregants locally and online congregants globally. Every week, in-person registration begins Tuesday at noon and will be available online (gvbc.net/inperson) or through our GVBC app (bit.ly/gvbcapp). Let's continue to worship our faithful and wonderful Savior together!



Kids Church Easter

BY DIRECTOR SUSAN WAKUTA

On Good Friday, KidZone welcomed 21 children to a virtual Easter Party. All children received an Easter package from KIDS CHURCH which included craft supplies to make a cross picture and butterfly led by Diane Wang. Jeff Fujimoto gave a devotional on extraordinary events which pointed to the resurrection of Jesus. The KIDS CHURCH Easter episode accessible on the GVBC KIDS YouTube channel, shared the Good News that Jesus is alive with our community.



Youth Park Day

BY ERIK URATSU, YOUTH INTERN

As over a year has passed since our Youth Ministry went online, we have gained new leaders who have never met the students in person, as well as new students who have never met the leaders in person. Specifically for the junior high leaders, being online and trying to establish relationships with these students had proved difficult. Though there have been glimpses of relationships being built, it was still not quite the same as it could have been if we were gathering in person.

However, at long last we have finally begun meeting in person for special events and hangouts. Not only has this time provided leaders with opportunities to build real relationships with the students, it has given the students an opportunity to get to know, bond, and build friendships with their fellow students outside of interactions through a screen.

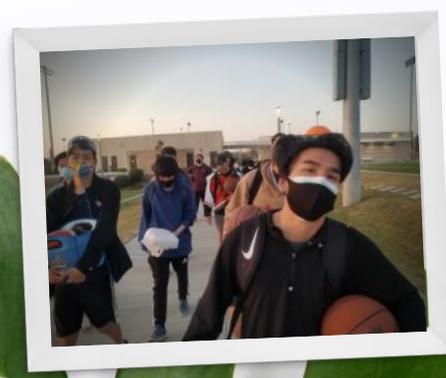
This past March, we organized a youth park day and were able to have a wonderful time of fellowship and games at Guenser Park. Over twenty students were able to join us as well as five youth leaders. It was a huge blessing to see the students' personalities come out, in their interactions with each other, senior and junior high, and the leaders, in a way you just do not get to see on an online platform. We are continuing to seek the Lord in prayer, in what it will look like for the Youth Ministry to return to in-person meetings, but this was definitely an encouragement to continue to be patient and wait on the Lord and his leading.



College Park Day

BY VINCENT FU, COLLEGE STUDENT

On March 26th, GVBC college group met at Orange County Great Park for a fun day of sports and fellowship. Hosted by Jonathan Ikemoto and Kalani Higa, our college students were able to reach out to their friends and invite them to this event. Through sports and casual talk, new relationships were formed and connections deepened. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect in a time of disconnect.



Missions Report

BY BOB MATSUSHIMA



Cyril Nishimoto

Iwa

Things have been challenging but going well during this season of the coronavirus pandemic. God has been very gracious and good to us.

Here's a description of Iwa's Japanese Tea Ceremony Project along with an update on what we're working on right now:

In the process of studying how Christianity was instrumental in the development of the Japanese tea ceremony, we discovered some groundbreaking insights that can significantly impact the way Christians and churches do outreach and ministry to people of Japanese and Asian ancestry. We began to test some practical applications of these insights in real-life outreach and ministry. We wanted to serve tea as communion

to as many people as we can, and see how God can use it as a transformative experience that connects them with God and other people in a way that nothing else can.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to serve tea as communion as we planned. Instead, Iwa President Stan Inouye has written down the insights God had given him about how each step of the Japanese tea ceremony is correlated to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. This seventy-page document will serve as the basis for developing other short publications that will enable individuals to have a truly spiritually transformational experience through the tea ceremony. Stan will create other written materials that will be used to recruit people to join the team that will work with him to bring the spiritually transformative tea experience to the Japanese- and Asian community, and beyond. These materials will be used for publicity and fundraising purposes as well. Please pray for us as we continue in this process.

Rifu

The Brown's have ended their service at Oasis Chapel in Rifu. They will be returning to Federicksburg, Texas where Dan has family. They eventually would like to plant a church but the timing is up in the air.

They visited GVBC around Easter and they thank us for our support.

Please pray for and remember the people at Oasis Chapel as they recently experienced a 6+ magnitude earthquake and it brought back fear and memories of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.



Dan and Cazi Brown



Tommy Dyo

Cru Epic Movement

Since January 2021 my wife Mellisa and I have been volunteering at the Long Beach Covid mass vaccination site. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside the front line workers providing vaccination for two to three thousand persons per day. Besides the vaccine, we are providing hope. But as a minister to the gospel we are pointing toward a greater hope in Christ Jesus. Following Jesus gives us hope both now and for eternity.

Family News

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of **Herb Kawai**, who passed away on March 15th.

Our sympathies are with Kimi Yogi, Mike and Judi Kitano Yogi, Katherine, Matthew and Daniel on the passing of husband, father and grandfather **Dave Yogi**. He passed away on March 18th. His memorial service was on April 3rd at Green Hills.

Our condolences to Greg and Chai Tsujiuchi, and their son Travis on the passing of mother and grandmother **Jane Tsujiuchi**. She passed away on March 17th. Pastor Daniel will be officiating a gravesite service for her on Friday, April 23 at Noon at Inglewood Park Cemetery. GVBCers are welcome to attend.

Our deepest sympathies are with the family of **Marilyn Sunahara**, who passed away on April 1st at the age of 86. There will be a gravesite service for her on Tuesday, April 20 at Noon at Green Hills, with Pastor Daniel officiating, and you are welcome to attend.

Please keep Perry Ishibashi and family in prayer, as his mother **Nellie Ishibashi** passed away on April 4 at the age of 97.

Flowers

Donations and Flowers given in honor or loving memory:

From:

Yuri Ogawa
 Amy Yasuda-Lee
 Kazuko Okazaki
 Elaine Maeda
 Sharon Fujihara
 Pamela Yuyama
 Miyoko, Mary, & Jim Yogi
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Nakata

Jane Tokubo

Kathryn Nakata

Hope Anderson

Randi S. Tahara

Gerald Mayewaki

Michelle Kato

Todd Yogi

Danny & Wendy Nakano

Danny & Wendy Nakano

Howard & Sawako Imatomi

Howard & Sawako Imatomi

Amy Kato

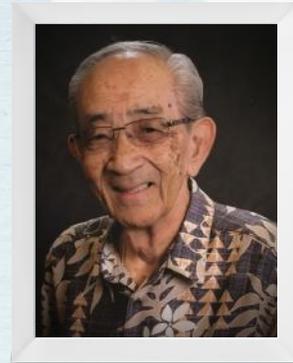
Janice Higa

Janice Higa

Jean Nojima

To:

James Ogawa
 David Yogi
 Building Fund
 Harold Kobata
 Building Fund
 David Yogi
 Building Fund
 Jane Tsujiuchi
 Jane Tsujiuchi
 Jane Tsujiuchi
 Mary Sakatani
 Lyman Nojima
 Easter



Herb Kawai



Dave Yogi



Jane Tsujiuchi



Marilyn Sunahara



Nellie Ishibashi

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

Services

Online English
Online Nihongo
In-person English

10:00 AM @ www.gvbc.net/bulletin
10:45 AM @ www.gvbc.net/jp
Register @ www.gvbc.net/inperson

The Latest

Missions Zoom Seminar 4/23 @ 7 PM - 8 PM

Important Links

Youtube www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube
After Service Fellowship www.bit.ly/GVBCfellowship
GVBC App www.bit.ly/GVBCapp



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