



Humble Submission

"6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares about you." 1 Peter 5:6-7

I have realized that most of the struggles, doubts, frustrations, and disobedience in my life come from a common source: My resistance to submitting to the Lord. There are so many desires and expectations that I have for myself and for my family. Whether it is regarding health, finances, comfort, security, or the achievements of my kids, when these desires and expectations are not met, I get disheartened and stressed out. I devote so much of my time and energy to getting what I want, and I lose sleep when I don't. When it comes down to it, I seek first my own kingdom and not the Lord's.

Jesus' earthly ministry is described in **Matthew 8**. In **v1-4**, Jesus miraculously heals a man with leprosy. In **v5-13**, Jesus encounters a Roman Centurion and divinely heals his paralyzed servant. In **v14-17**, He supernaturally heals Peter's mom of a fever which sparks the crowds to bring their sick and demon-possessed to Him. Later in **v23-27**, Jesus' disciples are caught in a violent storm and Jesus powerfully calms it with just His words. And in **v28-34**, He is confronted by two demon-possessed men. Jesus casts the demons out of the men and into nearby pigs that subsequently hurl themselves over a cliff. Then we get to **Matthew 9** where Jesus encounters a tax collector and soon-to-be disciple named Matthew. In **v9**, Jesus simply says "Follow Me", and Matthew immediately gets up and follows Him. And the question is, how was Matthew able to so easily leave everything behind to follow a man he had never met with just a simple command? How did Matthew display life-changing trust, obedience, and submission to Jesus without any explanation or details other than "Follow Me?" But, after reading about

Jesus healing the sick, calming the storm, and casting out demons, the question is no longer "how can Matthew so easily follow Jesus," but "how can he not?" How can you not trust and obey a man who has power over physiological disease and infirmities, natural elements, and supernatural demonic forces? Yet, it is so hard for me to yield every aspect of my day-to-day life over to this same Jesus, Whom I profess to believe.

Table of Contents:

1. Humble Submission - *Brad Toy*
2. Holy Week Review - *GVBC Pastoral Staff*
3. May Board Updates - *Hermann Schurr*
4. Missions Report - *Bob Matsushima*
5. Season of Fasting & Prayer Review - *James Chang*
6. Baptist Response to the War in Ukraine - *James Chang*
7. Family News
8. Calendar

It isn't until we genuinely look at the person of Jesus Christ that we can humbly yield our desires and dreams over to His will. I do not submit to His lordship over my life when I do not trust His authority over all things and His loving care for me. The Bible reminds us of His sovereign power and authority over all things and that He does all things for our good and for His glory. Church family, do we trust that the Lord has the ability to give us what we want when we want it, but lovingly chooses not to out of love?



Do we trust that He can control and orchestrate all life circumstances such that obedience to Him will always be the best choice for our lives? I pray that we would constantly remind ourselves of who God is and how much He demonstrated His love for us so that we would be eager to humbly submit to Him and obey Him above and beyond our own desires and expectations in this life.



College Ministry Director

Brad Toy



Holy Week Review

GVBC Pastoral Staff

This last April 10-17, 2022, we journeyed together with Jesus to the cross in a Holy Week series focused on Philippians 2:1-11 and entitled "Lifted High." On Palm Sunday, we saw how Jesus was "Drawn Close" as he entered Jerusalem as king on a donkey. Pastor James Chang and our Hula Ministry led us into worship service as we celebrated our humble king. On Good Friday, we saw how Jesus was "Brought Low" as the Son of God became obedient even to death on a cross. Brad Toy and our College Ministry led us in an evening service as we awed together at Jesus' ministry on the cross. On Easter Sunday, we experienced how Jesus was "Lifted High," risen from the tomb, ascended into the heavens, and exalted to the highest place. Pastor Daniel Matsuda and our Children's Ministry led us to worship our risen Lord and celebrate the power of his resurrection in our lives. We continue to be deeply moved by our Lord's humble path as he continues to shape our vision and our lives for his glory.





May Board Updates

Hermann Schurr

May 3, 2022 Board Meeting Notes

The board approved the **March 2022 Financial Statement** and the April Income Statement. March finances were closed out with a monthly deficit of approximately \$23,500. However, year-to-date, at the end of March, adjusted annual revenue continues to exceed annual expenditures by just under \$10,000. April income was about 21% under the budgeted amount, and year-to-date income is about 16% under the budgeted amount. Finances remain in the black for the year because annual spending also remains well under the budgeted amounts.

The board met with James Hirano of **Guest Relations** to be updated on, and to continue to be informed about, matters related to the safe-keeping of our church and our church facilities.

The board approved Financial Committee recommendations to approve **Seminarian Scholarships** for Tommy Morse and Ben Lee. Similarly, **Christian Service Scholarships** (for undergraduate education) were approved for Sophie Abe, Hollord Choi, Vincent Fu, Kalani Higa, Jason Shiozaki, David Tsukamoto, and Brendan Yu. Congratulations to all those who were granted scholarships!

Other **financial actions** approved by the board were to close out the fund related to the recently completed Sanctuary upgrades, and, with the recent publication of the GVBC 100-year History Book, to close out the 100-year Anniversary Fund. The board also discussed the process for generating the 2023 budget, as this process will begin in July.

The board was informed by **Boy Scout Troop 719** that the troop had received new information from their current chartering organization and that based on that new information Troop 719 will remain with their current chartering organization, and will not enter into a chartering agreement with GVBC.

The board acknowledged the **removal from membership** of beloved member Elaine Lee (passed away 4/4/2022, member since 7/7/2002) who has gone to be with our Lord.

Please continue to pray for the **Pastoral Search Committee** and for those individuals that our Lord is calling to apply to the GVBC Senior Pastor position. The Senior Pastor posting will remain open until the end of June. Also, please be praying for the Lord's continued guidance as the PSC considers the path forward regarding an Interim Pastor.

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





Missions Report

Bob Matsushima



InterVarsity

Grace Hayashi

First, I'm so grateful for your prayer and financial support. I couldn't do the ministry that I have the privilege to do every day without your generosity. It is such a blessing to have a job that I love, and I'm so encouraged by you. Thank you so much for your support!

Second, remember the small group leader training I mentioned last time? It went live this week! After countless hours, of collaboration, testing, and revisions, we've released our 8-course "Leading Life-Changing Small Groups" training! This was the most courses we've ever created and released simultaneously, and we're getting fantastic feedback from students and staff!

I was involved in nearly every aspect of the project, from written text to handouts to graphics to videos, so your support was essential in enabling this work to be done! And, I've gotten to have fun making things like the animated GIFs above the course titles. :)

Prayer requests

- For all the chapter camps taking place this spring, as students wrap up their school year.
- For student small group leaders who take our training
- For us as we turn our attention toward planning for the fall



Child Evangelism Fellowship

Fred and Jane Tanaka

Fred has had some minor health issues this past year. He comes to the office every day and works as much as possible. Jane has been in the hospital due to a fall at home. Because of the strict Covid restrictions in Japan, Jane has not been able to receive visitors. Please keep them in your prayers.





Overseas Crusade

Ken and Diane Kudo

We have passed two years of lockdown, and we are hanging in there! We have been experiencing ups and downs in our pilgrimage with our Lord. It has been very exciting and very trying. It has stretched us in ways that are beyond our capacity so that we have had to depend on his grace over and over.

What has kept us “on fire?” Over and over the Lord of hosts has done his miraculous and supernatural works by his power to keep us serving him so that his hand of power and grace can be demonstrated in “fruit that remains.”

We have rejoiced and praised the Lord for multitudes listening to the good news. However, what is thrilling is that those who have experienced the grace of the Lord are passing on the good news to those who are lost, as they once were. That has really encouraged us to be strong in the Lord and bold for him. His fruits are so good to see grow and multiply!

So at this juncture in life, in fulfilling our calling, please pray that the Lord of the Harvest will continue to use us to bring about “fruit that remains” ... all over the world, among the people for whom Christ died and rose again and sat down at the right hand of our Father.

Your fellowship in the gospel has been undergirding us for over 45 years. We are truly thankful!



Hope Unlimited - Brazil

Philip and Corenne Smith

Please continue to pray for Corenne who has been in the hospital for heart (atrial fibrillation) and lung issues.





Season of Fasting & Prayer Review

Pastor James Chang

From Wednesday, March 2 to Easter Sunday, April 17, about 40 GVBCers participated in a Season of Fasting & Prayer. We fasted desserts. We fasted phones. We fasted foul mouths. We fasted shopping. We fasted anger outbursts. All our fasts were not simply tasks, but ways that we open our lives to the presence of Jesus to heal, love, and transform us from the inside out. Each day, we read devotionals from 40 Days of Decrease by Dr. Alicia Chole. Each week, we gathered to worship, pray, and encourage one another, both in-person and online. It was a very transformative season and a meaningful way to prepare our hearts for Holy Week as a church family.



Baptist Response to the War in Ukraine

Pastor James Chang



Many of us have been following the horrific tragic events of the Russian-Ukraine war, now in day 73 at this time of writing. In the midst of all the sin and violence, our Baptist denomination has been hard at work. Within Ukraine and also in the countries surrounding--Hungary, Romania, and Moldova--we have a strong network of Baptist churches that responded quickly and mobilized efforts toward the refugee crisis in particular. Over 1000 shelters were quickly established near the Ukrainian border to provide safe places of shelter, food, and rest for displaced persons and families. These efforts have been supported by our denomination's emergency relief funnel called: One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS provides immediate relief to all global disasters, both natural and human-made. From the beginning of this war through the end of May, GVBC will be directing all offerings toward One Great Hour of Sharing, where they have supported this Ukrainian refugee crisis relief through the European Baptist Foundation. Log in online at: ebf.org to see the latest stories and updates. Please continue to pray for those affected by this war and, if you feel led, please give online at gvbc.net/donate or by mailing a check to GVBC with "OGHS-Ukraine" in the memo line.





Family News

Letters

The Gardena Emergency Food Pantry would like to THANK YOU for your generous donation. For over 40years, 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**

Flowers

Donations and Flowers given in honor or loving memory:

From:

Kimi Yogi

To:

Dave Yogi
Building Fund

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

Condolences



Our sincere condolences to the family of **Elaine Lee**, who passed away on April 4, 2022. Please keep her family in prayer.



Services

In-Person English: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM @ www.gvbc.net/bulletin

Online English: 10:30 AM @ www.gvbc.net/bulletin

In-Person & Online Nihongo: 10:30 AM @ www.gvbc.net/jp

Dates

5/13 - Children's Elementary Age Parents' Social

5/15 - Right Hand of Fellowship & Baptism Sunday

5/30 - Memorial Day: Office Closed

6/19 - Grads & Dads: Graduate Recognition

7/03 - Hot Dog Social @ After 2nd Service

7/11~7/15 - Vacation Bible School (VBS): Online registration begins on May 22nd

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

Links

Website: www.gvbc.net

Youtube: www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube

GVBC App: www.bit.ly/GVBCapp

**1630 W. 158TH ST.
GARDENA, CA 90247**

310-323-5683

GVBC@GVBC.NET

