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Section 1:

Organization



Agenda

2021 Leadership Conference – 90th Annual Session May 22, 2021

Welcome and Opening Prayer – Superintendent Keith Tanita

Meeting Called to Order – Bishop Matt Whitehead

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Keith Tanita

Free Methodist Way – Bishop Matt Whitehead

BOA Report – Superintendent Keith Tanita

Finance Report – Roy Tsugawa

MEG Board Report – Superintendent Keith Tanita

Announcements – Superintendent Keith Tanita

Closing Prayer – Superintendent Keith Tanita

Ordination Service – Bishop Matt Whitehead

Ordination Candidate – Ed Park



LIST OF MINISTERS

Elders

Linda Akutagawa Clifford Asai Matthew Asami Nathan Cherney David Cobia Tim Coleman Dave Fukuyama

Jason Garcia Eugene Hall

Munetoshi Hatsusegawa

Taka Iguchi Hisashi Ishitobi Wayne Katayama James Miyabe Stanley Nishikubo Katsuya Omine

Kristin Ou

Tsung-Yu Peter Pan

Ed Park

Benjamin Robinson Sunhee Robinson Philip Sakanashi

Jenny Switkes Lori Tamura

Keith Tanita

Dave Watanabe

Kevin Wong

Lauren Fukuzawa Wong

Timothy Wong Andrew Yamazaki Emily Yamazaki

Retired Ministers

Shin Asami Arnold Doi Gary Gaulton Nobuo Ichihara Soki Ito Stephen Kanai Ryohei Kawano Raymond Narusawa Carl Omaye Clifford Rapp, Jr. Kay Sakaguchi Dennis Sato Yoshikazu Takiya

Yutaka Tanabe Nancy Terada Wong Carl Yoshimine

Conference Ministerial Candidates

Jimmy Doan Natalie Iguchi Mitsuru Okubo Ronnette Okubo

Incoming Conference Ministerial Candidates

Michael Fukuyama

Licensed Pastors

Lawrence Bohanon Mari Otsuka



Roster of Lay Delegates

Anaheim (E) – Mitch Born, Carina Ogawa, Ayano Suzuki, Mike Toguchi, Henry Wong; Kumi Akuzawa (Reserve), Grace Ishihara (Reserve), Russell Kido (Reserve)

Anchor South Bay (E) – Edna Yabu; Jon Yabu (Reserve)

Anchor South Bay (J) – Takashi Haruyama; Masashi Maeda (Reserve)

East Bay (J) - Mickie Yagisawa

Lineage (E) – Jerry Pak, Stephanie Peczon, Rebecca Waterbury

Mission Valley (E) - Fred Tsen, Leah Serrano

Mission Valley (J) - Hanna Tatsuki

New Life Community, Clovis (E) - Sam Westra

Rise OC – Mike Kimura, Linda Endo Medved, Max Yamaguchi

Peninsula Hope (E) – David Hoshizaki; Sato Fujikawa (Reserve)

Peninsula Hope (J) - Chie Funatogawa

Venice (E) - David Ersek

Venice (J) - Keiko Ozawa

Voice Church (E) – Kathy Monroy, Rafael Monroy, Aurielle West, Eric West

Westlight Community Church (E) – Alex Ige; Paul Hirose (Reserve)

Key: E = English Congregation; J = Japanese Congregation



Standing Rules

- **1. Robert's Rules of Order** shall be the basis of parliamentary procedure.
- **2. Roll Call:** The Roll Call shall be taken through the use of "sign-in" sheets which shall be passed through the Bar of the Conference at the beginning of each session for the signature of each ministerial and lay delegate. These will be inspected by the Conference Secretary and recorded in the minutes.
- **3. Bar of the Conference:** The bar of the conference shall include a clearly marked section of seats adequate in number to seat the ministerial members and lay delegates of the conference.
- **4. Delegate Seating:** It is suggested that all delegates be seated with their pastor(s), except in the case of the conference secretaries and interpreters.
- **5. Honorary Seats:** All licensed pastors, located elders, local church pastoral staff members, conference ministerial candidates, all officers or elected conference personnel, and other visiting guests or dignitaries as is deemed appropriate shall be granted honorary seats.
- **6. Tellers:** There shall be panels of tellers as needed, consisting of two to four members each, selected during the first sitting of the conference. Unless otherwise instructed by the president of the conference, the tellers shall retire to count all ballots while conference business proceeds.
- **7. Motions:** All motions (except those of an incidental nature), resolutions, and recommendations shall be written in full and submitted to the secretary at the time the motion is made. Typewritten copies are preferable.
- **8. Boards and Committees:** All boards, committees, and councils should have a near balance between ministerial and lay members.
- **9. Board/Committee Reports:** The chair (or other designated person) of each standing board and committee shall prepare a written report including all recommendations to be presented to the conference, to be included in the Annual Reports. This shall constitute the report of the board or committee. Time allotted in the agenda for reports is for the purpose of presenting recommendations and answering questions related to them.
- 10. Ministerial Appointments Committee: The Ministerial Appointments Committee shall consist of the area bishop (as chair), the superintendent (as vice chair), one additional elders and two lay members (with at least one English language elder/lay member and one Japanese language elder/lay member, respectively). The Nominating Committee shall prepare nominations for election; however, nominations shall also be allowed from the floor.
- 11. Nominating Committee: The nominating committee shall consist of three ministers and three lay persons. At least one member shall be from a non-Southern California church. Each member shall serve a three-year term. One minister and one lay-person shall be nominated by the Board of Administration and be elected each year, with a majority vote to constitute election. The committee shall elect its own chair. Consideration shall be given to maintain balance on the committee between English language and Japanese language members, with at most one member elected from the same language congregation of a church.
- **12. Board of Administration:** The Board of Administration shall be composed of the following ex-officio members: The superintendent and the chairs or representatives of: Ministerial Education and Guidance Board, Board of Finance, and Human Resource. In addition, up to seven at large members may be elected, by ballot, by the Leadership Conference.
- **13. Board of World Missions:** The Board of World Missions shall consist of the Missions Liaison and up to six at-large members.



- **14. Ministerial Education and Guidance Board:** The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board shall be composed of the members of the Ministerial Appointment Committee plus one additional elder and one additional lay person.
- **15. Terms of Office:** All newly elected conference officers and standing board and committee members shall take office at the close of the Leadership Conference and shall hold office until the last day of the Leadership Conference, at the end of their term of office. The term of office shall be three years.

16. Board/Committee Procedures:

- **a. Member Notification:** The chairman of each standing board and committee shall notify all members of their election and inform them of their responsibilities.
- **b. Attendance Record:** All standing boards and committee secretaries shall maintain an attendance record of their members at regular meetings and shall send a copy of the same to the chair of the nominating committee by April 1 of each year.
- **c. Absences:** In the event of an intended absence from any standing board or committee meeting, members are instructed to inform the chair of the board or committee prior to the date of the meeting. The nominating committee shall note the attendance of board and committee members and when it is observed that a member has missed three consecutive meetings without excuse, it is authorized to nominate a replacement.
- **d. Board/Committee Chairs:** Current board and committee chairs shall endeavor to prepare one of the members of the board/committee to assume the chair upon the completion of current chair's term. This provision shall also apply to program directors and other task-oriented officers.

17. Board/Committee Minutes:

- **a.** At its first meeting of the conference year, each standing board or committee shall elect a secretary to record the minutes for the meetings of the board or committee.
- **b.** The minutes shall note the roll for each meeting, listing both the members present and the members absent.
- **c.** The minutes, with appropriate supporting material, shall be distributed within 14 days of the meeting to the members of the board/committee, the members of the Board of Administration, the superintendent and the conference office.
- **d.** Recommendations to the Board of Administration shall be highlighted.
- **18. Postponement or Cancellation:** In the event of a national crisis or pandemic, the Conference Superintendent, with the approval of the Area Bishop and the PCJC Board of Administration, has the authority to postpone or cancel the Annual Conference or make the necessary arrangements for the Annual Conference to meet virtually which may include virtual electronic voting.
- 19. Virtual Voting: When the conference as a whole, or a committee of the conference, deems it necessary to conduct a virtual vote or election, the quorum required shall be 2/3rds of the listed membership of the group and a simple majority of this quorum (half of respondents +1) will be necessary to approve (or disapprove) the proposed action. No electronic vote shall allow fewer than 5 working days for responses. The secretary of the committee or board generating the report shall note the results of the election and formal date of final vote tally to the board or committee chair for due processing.



Role of the Annual Leadership Conference Delegate

- 1. Delegates are elected by the local church at the Annual Society Meeting and serve for the calendar year.
- **2.** Delegates represent the society (local church) at the Annual Leadership Conference. They serve as members of the conference only when they are seated and the conference is in session.
- **3.** Delegates serve as a liaison between the local church and the conference.
- **4.** Delegates reflect both the society and their own personal views in their discussions at conference and act on behalf of the good of the conference.
- **5.** Delegates are expected to report significant actions of the conference to their local church. Reports may be to the congregation, official board, society, etc.
- **6.** The delegate (or at least one of the delegates) serves on the local Board of Administration and the Pastor's Cabinet of the church.
- 7. Delegates ensure that pastoral care is provided for the pastor and family by:
 - Appropriately welcoming a new pastor and family;
 - Inquiring as to whether family and ministry needs are being met;
 - Inquiring as to whether the financial compensation needs are being met;
 - Coordinating expressions of love and appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month (October), at Christmas time and other occasions;
 - Consulting with the Pastor's Cabinet and Superintendent in recommending a sabbatical leave for study and/or physical, emotional and spiritual renewal;
 - Ensuring that the cost of Family Camp, the Annual Leadership Conference, pastors retreats, etc. are provided for by the church, if at all possible;
 - Serving as a loyal friend to the pastor—providing encouragement, prayer and counsel;
 - Appropriately thanking the pastor when a pastor is transitioning out of the church.
- **8.** Delegates serve as spiritual leaders in the church and as a liaison from the pastor to the congregation and the congregation to the pastor, all through the Pastor's Cabinet.
- 9. Delegates serve as spiritual leaders in the conference by:
 - Praying for the conference superintendent and staff;
 - Completing the Nominating Committee survey regarding conference leadership selection and superintendent nomination when a superintendent is being nominated;
 - Encouraging the church to keep current in its conference financial support commitments:
 - Seeking counsel for the Pastor's Cabinet (after speaking with the pastor and before approaching the Superintendent) if there is a perceived need for a pastoral change).
 - Assisting in the annual pastoral review of the minister.
- **10.** Delegates enjoy the privilege of seeing, first-hand, the broader vision and ministries of the conference and, in turn, endeavor to share this with the local church.



Glossary of Abbreviations & Terms

APU Azusa Pacific University

ARMS Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses

BOA Board of Administration

BOF Board of Finance

BOT Board of Trustees

BSNA Biblical Seminary of North America

BOM Board of World Missions

COSAM Conference Ministerial Candidate
COSAM Council on Senior Adult Ministries

FM Free Methodist

FMC Free Methodist Church

FMF Free Methodist Foundation

Heavenly Treasures A micro-enterprise network, www.heavenlytreasures.org

HR Human Resource
Licensed Pastor

LMC Local Ministerial Candidate

MAC Ministerial Appointments Committee

MEG Ministerial Education and Guidance

NOM Nominating Committee

Nichigo Japanese-Speaking

PCJC Pacific Coast Japanese Conference

Shuyokai Japanese Family Camp

UMC-HMUnited Ministries for Christ—Home MinistriesUMC-WMUnited Ministries for Christ—World Ministries

WMC World Ministries Center



Section 2:

State of the Work



Superintendent's Report

It has only been six short months since I shared the four signposts, I thought would guide my first year as superintendent. Little did I know how relevant those signposts would become through the events we have experienced. The four signposts of building our ethnic identity of the conference, remodeling the front door through our online platforms, having our Christian witness match the events and attitudes of our culture, and making decisions as a conference to steward our resources and not distribute them through a program, tradition, or entitlement, would become the "footing" from which the conference would make its decisions. The pandemic, the death of George Floyd, the election, capital riot, vaccine, economy, and anti-Asian violence have become front and center issues for each of us, and for the church.

The feelings we have felt, the emotions we have expressed, the perspectives we have developed, and theology we thought would answer life's questions have challenged the way we think and live our lives. And yet, instead of giving up on God, or the church I am sensing a greater anticipation for a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit. With it, a renewed confidence in God's plan and purpose in the life of our churches and conference.

As we navigate our way out of this pandemic, I still believe the signpost are relevant for now. However, I think they will have a bunch of sticky notes on them.

Here are the sticky notes I would stick on the signposts.

Signpost 1: "Building our ethnic identity of the conference" Sticky note: We carry the privilege to be the image bearers of diversity in God's Kingdom.

As an ethnic conference we have a unique opportunity as "image bearers" of God to add our faces to the diversity of God's Kingdom. Without our faces, the Kingdom of Heaven is incomplete, as is the church. We also bear the responsibility to protect and proclaim in Jesus' name the dignity and worth to all people.

As a Free Methodist Conference, our denomination was birthed out of a "love driven justice." As stated in our Free Methodist Way, "LOVE IS THE WAY WE DEMONSTRATE GOD'S HEART FOR JUSTICE by valuing the image of God in all men, women, and children, acting with compassion toward the oppressed, resisting oppression, and stewarding Creation. We devote ourselves to our founders' deep convictions around matters of injustice as they took their stand against the evils of slavery, the oppression of the poor, the marginalization of women, and the abuse of power in the church."

The escalation of Anti-Asian hate and violence has brought this issue to our doorstep. As the church, I think it is time to let them into the doors and let them experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Signpost 2: "Remodeling the front door through our online platforms." Sticky note: Stethoscopes and coffee cups.

Our Sunday online production quality has improved incredibly over the last year. You can now watch a message or stream a service and get a good feel for the church, the pastor's teaching style, and maybe a little of the personality of the culture. Which is good because church online is here to stay. It should be incorporated into every church's outreach and discipleship strategy.



However, one of the biggest downsides to an online ministry is the lack of orthodoxy in the search for answers. Anyone can build their theology with an eclectic collection of beliefs that matches their world view. Like convincing yourself of having every symptom when looking it up on Webmd, it is easy to build a spiritual life absent truth and conviction. When building our online ministry, we need to put the same effort and resources into our discipleship link as we do for our Sunday experience.

Our Sunday services will have different expectations when people walk through the doors. People have watched our edited, no gaffe, 10 minutes sermons, and are used to them. The transitions have been worked out and rehearsed. Which makes for a seamless experience. That is what people coming back or checking you out for the first time in person are going to expect. When we transition back, we have to be sharp and on point.

People will be craving community. Not Zoom, but person to person interaction with a cup of coffee. People will be primed and ready for small groups, life groups, Bible studies, and fellowship groups. Start recruiting leaders now.

Signpost 3: "Having our Christian witness match the events and attitudes of our culture". Sticky note: God-Given Revelation.

The Free Methodist Way

"WE HOLD UNWAVERINGLY to our conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and our final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

Drawing on our Wesleyan heritage of engaging with Scripture through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience, we keep Scripture primary. While the church will always be tasked with authentically communicating and applying biblical truths with sensitivity to cultural dynamics, we do not subjugate the Bible's timeless truths to cultural norms or social trends. The Free Methodist Way is to fully align our lives and our movement on the unshakable foundation of God's Word."

Signpost 4: "We make decisions as a conference to steward our resources and not distribute them through a program, tradition, or entitlement." Sticky note: Stewardship is not the same as equity.

The conference stewards its resources based on the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Since the conference has a limited amount of resources from which to build the conference and churches, we are careful to spend those resources to get the best return on our investment. We budget, spend and reallocate our funds in order to fund our vision to recruit highly contextual leaders and to plant, grow and recalibrate churches.

This pandemic and all of the other issues and events that we have experienced isn't too big for God's church. He has entrusted to us the gifts, abilities, creativity, courage, convictions, and leaders to grow and thrive in any circumstance. As we move from the here and now to the next normal, we do so with a God who goes before us. It might not look the same but His purposes will remain until He comes back for His Bride.

Keith Tanita



YOU'RE INVITED!

As we re engage in face-to-face ministry, the PCJC leadership wants you to be refreshed, challenged, equipped and focused on what God has for your church and community in the days ahead.

We encourage you to take advantage of the amazing location in **Dana Point** which is within walking distance of the harbor and just a few minutes drive from San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente where there are lots of activities and restaurants for you and your spouse to enjoy.

The **Doubletree Suites in Dana Point** has set aside rooms to accommodate couples, individuals and teams and extended Recalibrate rates pre and post meeting dates:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

King, Double, and Double with fold-out couch rooms are available starting at **\$169.00** per night excl. room & tax.

To reserve a room, please contact the reservations department at the Doubletree or book directly through the link below:

RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY

All reservations must be made by **September 17, 2021** to receive the negotiated rate.

For more information about the hotel and location go to Dohenybeach/doubletree.com

Recalibrate begins on **Friday at 1 PM** and will run through **Saturday at 12 PM**. A group dinner is scheduled at the hotel on Friday evening.



Section 3:

Ministry Team Reports



Board of Administration

Members of the Board Administration:

Rev. Keith Tanita, Superintendent, PCJC, Chair of BOA, ex officio, Chair of MEG Board Rev. David Fukuyama, Lead Pastor, Mission Valley Free Methodist (English)

Rev. Hisashi Ishitobi, Lead Pastor English and Nichigo, Rise OC

Erik McBeth, Anchor-South Bay

Roy Tsugawa, ex official, Chair of Bds. of Finance and Human Resources, Anchor–South Bay

Yayoi Kaneko, Peninsula Hope Nichigo

Natalie Iguchi, Co-Lead Pastor, Voice Church

Summary of Actions Taken During 2020-2021, All of Which Were Motioned, Seconded and Approved:

- Election of corporate officers: Keith Tanita, President; Erik McBeth, Secretary; and, Roy Tsugawa, Chief Financial Officer.
- Approved Minutes of the 2020 Leadership Conference.
- Approved the 2020 financial reports.
- Approved the 2021 budget.
- Dissolved the Northridge Free Methodist Church as a corporation with the California Secretary of State.
- Approved as a co-maker a Promissory Note for a loan from The Free Methodist Foundation to the East Bay Free Methodist Church in the amount of \$2.5 million for the purpose of remodeling.
- Approved (L) Leah K. Serrano MV to the MEG/MAC.
- Approved the COVID relief fund of \$5,000 be reallocated to the LeaderShape intern program.
- Approved the dissolution of the New Life Christian Church, Glendale society.
- Approved the sale of the New Life Christian Church property.
- Approved the funding of Reimagine Church.
- Approved the disposition of the Memorial/Minister's Home Loan Fund as follows:
 - \$10,000 into a Board Designated Scholarship Fund.
 - \$5,000 into a Board Designated Leadership Development Fund.
 - \$67,976.57 into the Board Designated Church Growth Fund.
- Affirmed the closing of Becoming Church.

POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION: In the event of a national crisis or pandemic, the Conference Superintendent, with the approval of the Area Bishop and the PCJC Board of Administration, has the authority to postpone or cancel the Annual Conference or make the necessary arrangements for the Annual Conference to meet virtually which may include virtual electronic voting.



Due to the pandemic, the recommendations to the leadership conference have been referred to the PCJC Board of Administration for approval.

Summary of Actions Taken by the Board of Administration, All of Which Were Motioned, Seconded and Approved:

Nominating Committee:

- Approved the nominations of (E) Munetoshi Hatsusegawa (2024), (L) Erik McBeth (2024), (L) Lisa Wada (2024) to the Board of Administration
- Approved the nomination of (E) Kevin Wong (MAC, MEG, 2024) (L) Max Yamaguchi (MEG, MAC, 2024) to the Ministerial Appointment Committee and Ministerial Education and Guidance Committee
- Approved (E) Wayne Katayama (2024) (E) Jenny Switkes (2024) to the Local Global Partnership Team
- Approved (L) Mark Kaminsky (2024) to the PCJC Finance Committee
- Approved (L) Ron Yorizane (2024) to the Human Resources Board

Ministerial Education and Guidance:

- Approved Michael Fukuyama as Conference Ministerial Candidate.
- Approved Ed Park as full member and ordained elder
- Declared Paul Kim withdrawn according to the BOD ¶ 5500 C. Credentials be declared null & void.
- Declared Yongsu Park withdrawn according to the BOD ¶ 5500 C. Credentials be declared null and void.
- Accepted: Trent Meng's credential be voluntarily deposited in the conference office.

Board of Administration:

- Approved the 2021/2022 PCJC budget.
- Approved (L) Koh Ikeda (2022) as Annual Conference Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Tanita, Chairperson



Ministerial Education & Guidance Board

2021 Leadership Conference Report

Members of the Ministerial Education & Guidance Board:

Rev. Matthew Whitehead, Bishop, FMCUSA

Rev. Keith Tanita, Superintendent, PCJC

Rev. Jenny Switkes, Rise OC

Max Yamaguchi, Rise OC

Koh Ikeda, Mission Valley Free Methodist

Leah Serrano, Mission Valley Free Methodist

Personnel

Michael Fukuyama - Approved as a Conference Ministerial Candidate

Ed Park - Approved for ordination to Elder's orders

Paul Kim - Be declared withdrawn by a majority vote of the conference according to the BOD ¶ 5500 C. Credentials be declared null & void.

Yongsu Park - Be declared withdrawn by a majority vote of the conference according to the BOD ¶ 5500 C. Credentials be declared null & void.

Trent Meng (E) – Credentials be voluntarily deposited in the conference office.

Nancy Terada Wong (E) – Retired from active ministry from the PCJC

Lawrence Bohanon (LP) – Renewed as Licensed Pastor

Mari Otsuka (LP) - Renewed as Licensed Pastor

(Continued)



Continued as a Conference Ministerial Candidate

Mitsuru Okubo 2019

Natalie Iguchi 2019

Ronette Okubo 2019

Jimmy Doan 2020

Discontinue as Conference Ministerial Candidate

Amy Meng 2019

Given Certificate of Standing

Haruhiko Hirayu (E) Evangelical Free Church Japan

Affirmed the Integrity and Christian Discipleship of each Ministerial Member of the Conference in Accordance with \P 5310 of the Book of Discipline with No Exceptions.

Recommendations of the 90th Leadership Conference

Michael Fukuyama – Be received as a Conference Ministerial Candidate

Ed Park - Be received as Elder

Paul Kim - Be declared withdrawn by a majority vote of the conference according to the BOD ¶ 5500 C. Credentials be declared null & void.

Yongsu Park - Be declared withdrawn by a majority vote of the conference according to the BOD ¶ 5500 C. Credentials be declared null & void.

Trent Meng (E) - Credentials be voluntarily deposited in the conference office

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Tanita, Chairperson

Ministerial Education and Guidance Board



Church Reports

Anaheim Free Methodist Church

2020 Church Vision: "Becoming a People of Love" was manifested in unexpected ways during this pandemic season.

- 1. Community during the pandemic the pastoral staff created online sermons on YouTube, held Sunday service watch parties on Zoom followed by group discussions, established the Pandemic Assistance fund, and started new virtual groups life groups, support groups, growth groups were formed. Our church has amazingly found new and creative ways to stay connected, do ministry, and walk with each other through all the stages of the pandemic.
- **2. Cause** our "Taste of AFMC" event transitioned to a "Taste of Service" project partnering with "Together We Rise" a non-profit organization in Brea, CA which supports the needs of children in the foster care system. AFMC also allocated approximately 10% of the surplus income to two local food banks to aid in pandemic relief in orange county.
- 3. Creativity In-person services moved to virtual online services; monthly Saturday parking lot worship paved the way for weekly Sunday parking lot worship services; weekly Children's Sunday school met on ZOOM; YouTube sermons transitioned to live stream Sunday services; new senior meal delivery ministry was facilitated by Pastor Kristin Ou. Lastly, our 3rd service ("Revive") also transitioned to zoom gatherings, online devotionals, and creating online content.

Nichigo transition: before the pandemic hit, Pastor Tae Horiuchi sensed her calling was not as the senior pastor of a congregation and stepped down in June of 2020. The Nichigo leadership team has stepped in wonderfully and served the needs of the congregation since then. We continue to be in search of a new Nichigo pastor.

Pastor Kevin Wong









Anchor South Bay

This time last year, I asked a few of our senior adults if they had ever experienced or encountered anything resembling what we all are going through today. "Nope." It is an understatement to say we are living in unprecedented times. One of the many questions we had to answer as a church was, 'How do we continue to stay connected when we aren't supposed to see each other in person?' One answer to this inquiry, was Zoom. A member from our church donated a paid Zoom account to us and we've made good use out of it. Since April 2020, we have moved all of our ministries and groups to Zoom. We have prayed, worshipped, taken communion and shared together this past year, virtually. On Christmas Sunday, we had to be a little creative in celebrating the birth of Christ. We had a good time (see picture). We have created groups for people to connect, and found that we are able to 'see' each other way more often than if there wasn't a global pandemic. Although we are not able to connect with everyone in the church, this is a definite praise, despite the times we are in.

On a personal note, pre-Covid, I enjoyed going to the gym and working out. With gyms being closed during this time, I've had to be creative in getting a workout in. I talked to one of our young adults from the church, who also enjoys working out and we decided to workout weekly with anyone who was interested. Since then, we've had a steady group of people working out every Sunday night on Zoom. In fact, one of our other young adults recently became a certified yoga instructor and leads a yoga session every now and then (see picture).

Pre-recording my 'Sunday' messages was definitely an adjustment. I never thought I would get used to talking to a single camera in front of my face, with one other person in the room. But I got used to it. Talking to people live (whenever that will be) will be another adjustment to tackle.

Planning ahead has been difficult because of the simple fact that the future is unknown at this point. So we would appreciate all the prayers and wisdom as we attempt to move forward in this current season. We are also taking baby steps in looking into the needs of our local community and planning seeds for future ministry abroad.

Pastor Wayne Katayama









Anchor South Bay - Nichigo

Praise Report

- An average of 70 people watch our worship service each week on YouTube. Before the COVID-19, average attendants were around 40.
- A person request to be baptized in November 2020. The baptism will be held in April 2021.



- We moved to a new ministry site in mid-January 2020.
- We canceled all on-site services and meetings. Started prerecorded worship services on March 15, 2020.
- In January, we decided to pause our after-school children's ministry, Anchor Club. Our volunteers requested a break. This difficult decision was made before the pandemic.

Pastor Mick Okubo





East Bay - Nichigo

Sunday worship:

Message series (from last October to February)

- 3-R series from Galatians.
- 3-R (Reflection, Renewal & Revival)
- Total 23 sermons

Message series (March to December)

- Pandemic: Shelter in Place series.
- "Learn from Moses' s Faith " Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy
- Total 39 sermons

Topics

1. "I can be online" ZOOM learning class (March 15th after service)

- Power on your device (smart phone, iPad, iMac, PC etc)
- Download App (sign in App Store or make Apple ID) (Download ZOOM)
- Let's install ZOOM on your device.
- Can you see me, hear me (How to get on Zoom meeting and end it)

All members finished class and ready to online worship service through ZOOM. Sunday worship and Wednesday prayer meeting, bible study in ZOOM started March 22nd.

2. Baptism Ceremony at Lakeside Church in Folsom. Ca (February 29th)

- Samantha Davidson & Luke Davidson
- 3. East Bay Japanese language school in person class shut down due to school district order on March 14th. 3 weeks no school. School moved in Zoom since April 18th.Graduation in Zoom. June 6th.
- 4. Our beloved elder Kahoru Saito went back to heaven on March 20th 9:28 pm. (94 years, 60+ years membership in East Bay Church)
 - March 27th Cremation service at limited occupancy inside of Sunset mortuary.
 - July 2nd burial service at Sunset mortuary
 - Memorial service will be held after the shelter in place is lifted at East Bay Church
- 5. Good Friday service (April 10th, 9:00 pm on Zoom)
- 6. Christmas Eve Service (December 24th, 9:00 pm on Zoom)
- 7. New Year's Eve Count down service (December 31st, 11:30 pm on Zoom)

Remarks

• Lineage to merge to East Bay Church building

Pastor Ichiro Nakahama





Lineage

2020 was a momentous year for us. We have gone through the most significant transitions in the history of our church thus far. Here are some of our biggest highlights and moments from the past year:

We launched a major capital campaign to raise funds for our building project

For over 17 years we have been dreaming and longing for a permanent space. Now that God has provided a building for us in El Cerrito, we needed to raise at least 1.5 million dollars to renovate the space in order for us to occupy it. We have never done a campaign of this magnitude before but God moved powerfully in the hearts of our people and even others outside of the church to commit to donate over the span of the next two years. Though we did not reach our \$1.5M goal exactly, we are believing God to provide and meet all the needs of his house as we move forward with Him!

We experienced a seamless transition to online services

When the shelter in place order was put in effect, we felt that the Lord had prepared us and we were even excited for what God could do in the midst of such uncertain times. Thanks to our new videographer that we had hired months before not knowing what was to come, we were able to make a seamless transition to church online and we were able to do it with excellence. We're also thankful to have not experienced a decline in attendance or giving and that we've even been able to thrive and grow in different ways.

Summer Initiative: Let Justice Flow

In response to the social unrest of the summer with the murder of George Floyd and many other black Americans, we launched a six week initiative that engaged the entire church in matters of social justice. We held virtual seminars on racism, provided spaces for lament, started a blog, held public rallies of worship and prayer on the streets of Oakland and more.

Local Outreaches

2020 also gave us opportunities to reach our local community like never before. We partnered with our local schools to provide school supplies for teachers and students as they have had to navigate the transition to online learning. Our members volunteered every Saturday morning at our local homeless shelter preparing meals for the residents, and one weekend, we were able to distribute more than 300 boxes of groceries for families in need in El Cerrito. We were able to pray and minister to those who received groceries and God met them powerfully outside of our building. We are looking forward to more opportunities to serve the surrounding community in this way especially when our building is ready to open.

We Changed Our Name!

We are no longer Living Hope Christian Center. We are now Lineage Church. This is one of the biggest changes we have made this year and perhaps in the history of our church thus far. We feel that the new name is a more accurate representation of who we are as a church. Just as God renamed many of his sons and daughters in the Bible, propelling them further into their God given destiny, we believe our new name is a step forward into the call that God has upon our church to reach the Bay Area and beyond for his Kingdom.

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We expanded our full time staff

We are very thankful to report that 2020 has been a year of growth for us, especially as it pertains to our full time staff! We have promoted two of our part-time employees and in doing so, we now have a full-time campus pastor for our San Francisco campus and full-time worship pastor/director of prayer. We thank God for the opportunity to grow in this way.

We are making progress and moving forward with our building project

Though we have experienced a few setbacks with the city of El Cerrito due to the pandemic, we have been making steady progress towards our building project. Drawings and plans have been submitted to the city and we are now waiting for final approval to begin construction. We are eagerly anticipating the day we can worship together in person in our very own permanent space. We are so close to crossing the threshold into the promised land and enjoying the fruit of years of prayer and fasting, hoping and dreaming. God has been tremendously good to us and we give Him all the glory!

Pastors Benjamin and Sunhee Robinson





New Life Community Church

2020 was a very challenging year for New Life Community church to say the least. I don't think any of us saw what was coming or the length of time that the pandemic has paused our regular church activities.

That being said, what an awesome response from my church family! We as a church family found new ways to stay in touch with each other. We developed a team of people who made sure that every member of our congregation received a phone call each week! That way we were able to meet needs in a way that we had not done before. Also we continued to take emails and phone calls and meet the needs of the community whenever possible.

We had services in our parking lot whenever possible and our online presence grew at a rapid and amazing rate. My tech team learned to broadcast like professionals and I am so very proud of their progress.

March 7 will be our first time meeting in the sanctuary in over a year! We are excited to be together again so please pray for us here in Clovis, Ca. We definitely need it. May God be glorified by our actions!

Pastor Lawrence Bohanon





Mission Valley Free Methodist

The disruption COVID-19 caused to our society created a "new normal" for how churches do ministry.

To continue ministering under these circumstances, we transitioned to a virtual ministry environment by live streaming our services. We created a "Dream Stream Team" of A/V, Worship members, and staff to provide our services online. I am eternally grateful to Sherwin Seranno and his team for giving us the capability to live stream our services.

Since we could not meet in person, we prioritized engaging our church members and those who visit us online. To increase our engagement with people we did the following:

- **1.** Increased our Zoom Accounts so our Life Groups, Youth Groups, Boy/Cub Scouts, Seniors, and Children's ministries could meet online. Zoom has allowed people who live outside the area to join some of our groups to experience life withing God's community.
- 2. We organized an online prayer meeting every Thursday evening.
- **3.** Krystyna Matsuda and Kiki Penano facilitate Missions Kids Midweek to connect with our children once a week outside of Sunday School.
- **4.** A team made up of 19 staff and church volunteers implemented a week long VBS program for 55 children via Zoom. Three of them made a decision for Christ!
- **5.** Kiki developed a virtual 8-week Family Fun Series of different home challenges and virtual events. Kiki and Krystyna organized an Ice Cream Sundae event for our children by visiting them and making sundaes for them outside their homes.
- **6.** The staff organized a Falling into Fun drive thru event as a Halloween alternative. Children drove through with their families to play games and collect prizes. We also organized an outdoor Thanksgiving scavenger hunt for the children.
- **7.** Michael Fukuyama guided our online youth programs. The youth experienced worship, teaching, fellowship, cooking classes, art classes, movie and game nights via Zoom.
- **8.** We celebrated Mother's Day with the staff personally delivering staff made gifts and cookies to all the women in our church. We did the same for Father's Day delivering brownies (made by our Women's Ministry) and MV face masks to the men in our church. We also made Christmas gifts for our church members which our Staff and Board delivered to our members along with our pictorial directory.
- **9.** Provided six Seniors "Bento" (Japanese boxed lunches) pick ups so our Seniors could enjoy premade lunches.
- **10.** We are currently testing "Text in Church" which allows us to gather information, communicate with visitors, and connect with our members via text.







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- **11.** Created a counseling ministry with qualified church members to provide counseling in the areas of finance, emotional well-being, career, and spirituality to help people deal with the effects of COVID-19.
- **12.** We had offered an outdoor worship service in Sept. and temporarily closed as the increase of new COVID-19 cases threatened to strain our health care system beyond capacity. We will resume outdoor services on April 4.

We organized our first virtual Town hall and "Huddle" (Annual Society) in 2021. The Town hall meeting was organized to answer any questions our members might have about the 2021 budget, selection of leaders, and the online voting process. At the Huddle meeting, we communicated the results of the vote, 2021 vision, and viewed videos with testimonies and 2020 highlights.

Staff Transitions

- We hired Nathan Shin as our Worship Coordinator
- Pastor Mako transitioned out to become the Administrative Pastor at Evergreen Baptist SGV.
- Krystyna Matsuda's hours were increased so she could become our Administrator/ Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Even though we continue to struggle through the challenges of doing ministry under our current conditions, God is still at work because:

- Eight people made decisions for Christ.
- We welcomed 10 new members.
- Seven new families joined our church.

Pastor Dave Fukuyama







Mission Valley Free Methodist - Nichigo

In the 2020 fiscal year, the spread of the new coronavirus infection drastically reduced church evangelism and missionary activities. We couldn't hold an annual outreach event, but I am grateful that everyone had the time to share God's love with people around them even in the corona disaster.

In the midst of the corona disaster, the way of worship has changed and the way of fellowship with brothers and sisters has changed. However, we have been praying for God's guidance on how to adapt the mission to the changing times. I am confident that the missionary activities of the Mission Valley Church will continue to pour the Lord's blessings on as many people as possible in the San Gable community and in the Japanese community. I expect and pray that the gifts and services of each believer will unite the vision of the church and all its work and that the Lord will use it abundantly.

In order to prevent the spread of virus infection, worship at the church was canceled from Sunday, March 19 according to the government policy, and only online worship is available (http://mvnichigo.org/live). As a result, the preparation and form of worship service changed significantly, and especially the pastor and the praise and worship team had a challenging year in recording and broadcasting the service every week. Since we started online worship at the end of the previous year and asked for donations for media evangelism at the beginning of the year, we were able to purchase video and audio equipment in a timely manner and smoothly transition to online worship. This was truly a great blessing for the Mission Valley Church. Regarding music for worship, the gift of Mission Valley Church music such as remote creation of worship songs and praise songs by Youth Strings with the cooperation of various musicians who have participated in M-cubed. I am also grateful that the musical gifts of Mission Valley Church were used a lot. The style of worship has changed little by little, with the need for online worship, but we will continue to love, praise, worship, and serve the Lord with joy. I hope that my beloved Mission Valley Church will grow by the will of the Lord. Even now, there are some believers who cannot participate in online worship services or ZOOM itself. For those people, we send sermon notes by the pastor and church bulletins by mail. In addition, not only pastors but also church members encourage elderly people and people living alone by phone or email.

ZOOM Activity

- **1. Coffee Hour -** After worship service, we have coffee hour on ZOOM. We are sharing about the blessings of the message of the day and the events of the week. At first, there were many people who were not good at sharing their stories, and it seemed that it wouldn't go smoothly, but now we are receiving greater blessings from the heartfelt sharing of the participants.
- **2. Bible Study -** There was a Bible study on ZOOM using the Bible study materials made by Rev. Park. People who do not usually participate in Mission Valley Church can also participate, and we plan to continue this Bible study on Zoom.
 - July September, 2020: "To Your Tomorrow Starting Now"
 - October, 2020 January, 2021: "Mature Christian life"

Next Generation

1. J-Kids

- Every Sunday at 1:30 pm
- Program
 - Read Bible picture books and have quiz games afterwards
 - Share what made them happy or sad as we make crafts relating to the verse of the day
 - Memory verses
 - Pray for each other using everyone's prayer request
 - Get together at church at Thanksgiving and Christmas and serve

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2. J-Girls

- Youth group gatherings for the girls from middle school to high school started on October 18th.
- Sunday from 1:00pm to 2:30 pm
- Program:
 - Ice-break Time using online games or topic discussions
 - Sharing Time share whatever they learned from past week's quiet time
 - Sharing Time share whatever they learned from the sermon on Sunday
 - Sharing Time share their joy and struggles
 - Fellowship through craft time or hiking as we keep our social distance
 - November 1st: Craft Day and Boba Outing
 - November 22nd:Thanksgiving Gift Making
 - December 23rd: Christmas Cookie Making
 - December 31st: Beach Outing
- As companions who believe in Jesus Christ, I pray that they will grow into sisters who encourage each other's faith with love and compassion.

3. J-Youth

- Sharing time after the service on ZOOM
- Program
 - Prayer
 - Confirmation of the sermon of the day (they participate in the worship service of adults and explained the content of the message again in English because the message is in Japanese)
 - Sharing the blessings from the sermon
 - Hang-out

Evangelism Ministry

- 1. Music Ministry (Concert Ministry M-cubed, M3)
 - March 8th
 - March M3 Remembering Japan with Gong Min and Gwansig Park
 - 出演: Gong Min (piano) / Gwansig Park (sax) / Yoshiya Matsuura (drums) / Sho Ichikawa (bass)

2. Mommy & Me

- January and February
 - Pastor Park, Hanna Tatsuki, Marimo Otogura, and Maiko Izumi made delicious lunch and served for the mothers and children who came to the event.

3. Bible Study for Mothers and Parenting Seminar

- We did this only twice one in January and one in February in 2020.
- 4. After March, these events have been canceled due to corona.

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Events

- **1. New Year Celebration (January 1st)** We celebrated the beginning of a new year with the members of the Church. Brother Noda and volunteer sisters prepared ozoni, and we all had time for games and fun fellowship over the delicious meal.
- **2. Father's Day Gift Visits -** In June, Rev. Park visited the home for Father's Day gifts. In the corona pandemic, he visited men and those whose husbands couldn't come to church, delivered the gifts for Father's Day, and had prayer time together.
- **3. Drive-through Thanksgiving (November 22nd) -** We couldn't meet the church members for a long time because of the corona, so we held an event where we could meet each other while maintaining a social distance. Pastor Park prayed after listening to your prayer requests. Sister Tatsuke held an outdoor mini-concert with the youth orchestra. It was a great blessing to have a fellowship for the first time in a long time, as we couldn't meet in person for a while.
- **4. Christmas Outdoor Concert (December 20th) -** Like Thanksgiving, the youth orchestra held a concert outdoors. Audiences sat in seats with a social distance or watched from inside the car. The church gave Christmas cards and gifts.

Baptisms

1. April 5th: Brother Tomoya Iwaki

2. November 15th: Brother Elton Kuo

Prayer Requests

- 1. Unless we raise the next generation, Nichigo has no future. To do that, we need people who will work with a vision for the next generation. Please pray that there will be people who love children and have a vision for the next generation.
- 2. We plan to expand our ministry activities through the Internet. Please pray for the sound engineer and CG expert to do so.
- **3.** Please pray that the church will be financially satisfied.

Pastor Ed Park



Peninsula Hope

2020 was a year of transition, and it was a year of God opening our eyes to what is important and what we need to focus on, which is Him. I am so grateful to God and how He used volunteers and their many gifts to help us shift to services online very quickly. It was such a blessing to see people use gifts they may not have previously and how people learned the importance of quality communication, as in-person meetings were not possible.

In 2020 we saw a near 50% increase in participation in groups like Bible studies and other Christian book studies. We also made a shift to running community groups every week, which many members have reported has allowed them to get to know people better than they ever have. We also made an intentional shift to challenge people to dig deep and learn to be transparent and share from the heart. This has added to the connections members are feeling. We were also blessed that despite not meeting in person, we were able to celebrate our 69th anniversary with our Nichigo brothers and sisters on Zoom. It was a great way to celebrate God's faithfulness for the last 69 years.

Some of the challenges we have faced are how to stay connected with people who are not comfortable with technology, those who are experiencing Zoom fatigue, or who are uncomfortable with communication that does not take place in person. Please pray that the Holy Spirit guides us in ministering to this population and also for His guidance in each of the phases of re-opening the church.

Pastors Andrew and Emily Yamazaki







Peninsula Hope - Nichigo

It was a year in which church activities were restricted in many ways due to the pandemic, but even so, we have received many blessings from the Lord, and I would like to share.

The Study on Membership

Before the church was closed, we could hold the study group on membership and more than 30 people had attended. Through this membership study, people could better understand the blessing and responsibility of being members of the church. I believe this was one of the reasons why we can get through this hard time together.

Worship Service

Online worship service is streamed from the pastor's house on Facebook live every week, and nearly 40 people have participated in. The communion service, children story time, tithes and offerings, and even the fellowship after the service are streamed online. The worship service is posted on Youtube so that it can be viewed other than Facebook, and for those who cannot watch it online, a printout of the message is also delivered weekly.

Sunday School and Youth Group

In addition to weekly children's stories, we had summer VBS, Easter Egg Hunting, , Christmas goody bags mailed, and Christmas plays. Youth participates in a Bible study by a pastor from LA every week

Prayer Meetings and Small Groups

The prayer meetings on Zoom have more than 30 participants every time. Many of the small groups have continued using Zoom, and they all are encouraging each other and not losing faith in this difficult time. They are thirsty for the Word of God, and we could see it has been filled. This is simply a grace of God to see that non-Christians have also participated in these groups and the evangelism has been done even online.

Due to the Shift to Online...

People who could not participate due to distance and time restrictions can now participate in various activities. Many people also participated in Good Friday, candle service, and year-end prayer meetings. In addition, we helped each other so that they could participate in Zoom, solicited donations for children's goody bags, and so on, and helped each other as much as we could. I think it was a year when the Lord gave a great blessing to the unity of all the people connected to the church through the church activities that went online.

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Vision of the Year

Regardless of the reopening of the church, we will think concretely and put into practice how we can evangelize and minister online and expand the kingdom of God.

"The good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing." his way into it." (Luke 16:16) In order for this word of Jesus to come true, I would like to extend the love of God to the people of the world and expand the gate of the kingdom of God not only by words but also by deeds while adjusting to the current situation.

Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa







Reimagine

Reimagine is a new church plant utilizing a hybrid digital and physical approach to focus on reaching out to people who no longer see church as relevant in our culture. Utilizing original weekly digital message video content combined with Sunday Brunch gatherings and a discipleship model built on the historical practices of Spiritual Direction, Reimagine is seeking a new form of church that is both accessible to outsiders and in-depth for everyone.



We will be launching this Fall with three Sunday Brunch communities (about 25 people in each) — one on the East side of Los Angeles (Glendale/Los Feliz area); one on the West side (Marina del Rey) and one online community (no geographic boundaries). Through the Spring and Summer, we are running several six-week online "preview series" to help us build a core team.

Please pray with us for God's blessing as we seek new ways to reach out and make disciples!

Pastor David Cobia



Resplendent Light

During these unprecedented times, Resplendent Light has not "skipped a beat". March 15 was the last Sunday we were physically able to meet as a Church, but thankfully our son, Matthew, stepped up and directed and produced our Sunday worship and midweek service on zoom starting March 22. We are thankful for Matt's servant's heart. We are thankful that the Lord equipped Pastor Cliff to continue to lead our Church and bring God's message each Sunday morning and also share on Wednesday evenings how God is moving in our midst. The bible says, "The Lord inhabits the praises of his people". We are thankful and blessed that we are ushered into the Lord's presence each Sunday morning in praise and worship by our worship leader, Eddie Hailey.

The Church is not a building. In the Bible, the word, church is a translation of the Greek word ekklesia, meaning, "a calling out". It never refers to a building or meeting place, but always to people, the ones "called out" of the world's society by God calling them into His service. We are the Church reminds us that despite the current circumstances of not physically meeting together due to Covid-19; we are thankful to be serving on the front lines whether through mentoring, teaching, visiting, giving and ministering to others.

On the Beach Ministry celebrated its second anniversary serving and praying with the homeless, local residents and visitors in the Santa Monica area. We share this ministry with other churches in the area as a cooperative effort to share the Good News of Christ together. Danny Ige, who leads this ministry, shares, "...we are a church, a community and an outreach providing social services to unsheltered people. Because of your prayers and support we are able to share meals, pray for each other and encounter the Holy Spirit." Our Tuesday and Thursday Bible study led by Paul & June Sumida have continued to meet with several seniors from various churches and provide on-line teachings with other people who were unable to travel.

Our church meets three times a week via Zoom with a mid-week Fellowship co-lead by Dr. Jeff Shimoyama, a prayer support group on Fridays led by Pastor Cliff, and our Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Cliff has continued his Chaplain duties at the Santa Monica Police Department and counsels, prays and develops fellowship with staff, Police Officers and other public safety personnel twice a week. Matthew 5:16 says, "…let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Pastor Cliff Asai





Rise OC

In 1979, Orange Coast began as a church plant in Costa Mesa, and in 2014, RIZE began as a church plant in Huntington Beach. The two churches merged in 2018 and on Easter 2020, we became Rise OC! We had been preparing for more new people to join the church by planning events for them to get to know us and creating opportunities for them to get plugged in. But due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to postpone the relaunch celebration as Rise OC and other events. At first, we were hoping for outward growth but unexpectedly, God led us to grow stronger internally. Throughout the difficult seasons of last year, the church family, both English and Japanese, grew to love one another with support and prayer. Through the unity that God has given us in 2020, we will rise up as servants and witnesses of Jesus in 2021 and beyond! We are thankful for the digital front door that opened up for us and we will adopt the hybrid model of in-person church and online church moving forward. We do not know what exactly will work for us in the days ahead, but we hope to be agile in making quick pivots to improve and be innovative to find exciting ways to reach new people.

Pastor Hisashi 'Tobi' Ishitobi









Venice Free Methodist

The 2019 - 2020 year has been a strange and challenging year. 2020 has not been a normal year. In the Spring we were hit with the Covid – 19 virus. It changed so much for our church. We stopped in person worship services and started live-streaming, halted all in-church group meetings and found ourselves ministering to a people who could not come to events here at the church. There was much that was unknown and new behaviors were required. We decided to change our theme to "Uncharted" to reflect the new conditions. No one knew what was going to happen, much had been changed and there was little predictability about our lives. We chose Isaiah 43:2 – 3a as our theme verse, "Why you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." We chose as our sermon series the NT believers after Jesus' resurrection for they too did not know what was going to happen, how to continue the devotion to Christ. We are now in the book of Acts following the Holy Spirit's work to lead the followers of Jesus.

We learned to use Zoom for group meetings and we are getting by with it. It has enabled us to stay in touch and to minister and meet where we could. One advantage of the live-streaming and Zoom is that we have people joining us who are out of our area. We have people who tune in to our worship services regularly from Washington state, Montana and Arizona! In our Tuesday night Men's Bible Study we have men connecting from Hawaii and Tennessee. We are also able to minister to people who cannot attend our services through Zoom and live-stream. We anticipate continuing to use these programs even after we are able to host attended services and classes.

Our latest work has been to provide for an outdoor worship service on Sunday mornings. With the Covid hospitalizations going down and increasingly more people being inoculated we restarted our attended outdoor worship service.

We continue to struggle to think of new ways in which to minister to a church family whom we do not see and who are isolated and uncertain. And it is particularly grievous when people are critically ill and yet we cannot be there for them.

Hopefully, with the gradual decline of the Covid virus contamination the condition will improve and we will be able to get back to some normalcy. Our goal at that point would be to learn from the difficult aspects of the year and appreciate the new tools and methods we have used in this past year.

Again I cannot say enough about our church staff. Pastors Nathan Cherney & Linda Akutagawa, and also Ken Koshimizu, Julianna Uyeda, Jodi Yokota, Michelle Stultz and Kevin Sakamoto are to be commended for their adaptability, devotion and cooperation in this year. Each has taken their own initiative to help out and continue the ministry of our church. I also credit the Venice Church family for their cooperative spirit, willingness to help out and encouragement of the staff. Together we will get through this Covid – 19 pandemic. And may our Lord Jesus Christ be honored and glorified even more because of the virus!

Pastor Jim Miyabe





Venice Free Methodist - Nichigo

The year 2020 was a challenging year for the church. We needed to think about how we can strengthen our bond as God's family and how we can encourage members' spiritual growth under the situations where we cannot get together. To that end, we decided to mail weekly sermons and newsletters to the members. Since we have many elders in our members, the number of the people who participate in the worship service on YouTube are low. On the other hand, we are thankful that we did not need to panic when the actual church gatherings were banned due to pandemic since we had already started to have YouTube worship on February 16th. In response to a request for the newsletter, "Please make our heart feel at ease," we continue to include the words, information, and the latest status of God's family, which are necessary for our brothers and sisters, with pictures. Currently, 37 mails are sent. There was also a request to send the same things to Japanese family and acquaintances. The stamp cost alone cost \$680.

To avoid congestion, staff gather on Saturday to record a sermon on YouTube, but sometimes we invite only a few to have a birthday party. In addition, we go to the sister's house, which is too old to maintain the backyard, and spend half a day cleaning the garden with seven people, and we go out to work on request as well. Grocery shopping for the elderly and mailing of books are also available for the members.

We have also made new connections through the newsletter. Now non-Christians visit every Saturday. I would like to enhance the team ministry so that I can further expand the evangelism which is unique to the corona wreck. I look forward to God's guidance in the future.

Pastor Mari Otsuka





Voice

This year has been full of challenges for Voice Church, just like it has been for everyone. Yet, even amidst difficulty, God has always provided. We began the pandemic filming from our home and having our worship pastor film from his, and piecing a service together out of it. As time went on, we wanted to try to get the team together again to put together the band and have a more cohesive service. We moved our services to our office, which we made into a temporary broadcast center. As time went on, however, we realized that with what scientists were telling us, that the safest way for our team to be together was outdoor. This began a search for a way to do outdoor filming. What turned out happening was an even bigger blessing. Because of a connection with Pastor Jason, we have been able to film our services at an outdoor location overlooking Backbay. The space was so large that we could begin to invite people to attend our live broadcast. Since then, people have been meeting with us (in smaller numbers) for safe, socially distanced, masked outdoor services.

It has been one adjustment after another, but amazingly in all of it, we were able to launch several new online small groups, do 2 new baptisms, and have had many brand new attendees get plugged in and participating in church through a variety of ways. We were also able to launch Mike & Tiffany Orta after 2 years of training as they plant their own church in Milwaukee, WI. God used them greatly here in Tustin, and we know He will do so again in Milwaukee! God is continuing to be faithful with our finances and has provided in every season. We are finally now being allowed to meet back in the Tustin area as the parks have opened up, but our timeline is crunched for finding a more permanent location to the end of July. We are praying for a wonderful facility we can settle into and for more leaders to help us carry the burden.

Pastors Taka and Natalie Iguchi





Westlight Community

Without knowing of the ensuing craziness of 2020, Westlight's leadership came up with the theme of A New Humanity. We believed that God wanted to challenge us to be transformed into His image.

Unfortunately, a typical pattern for transformation is that it is usually accompanied by hardship. As we all have experienced, the numerous events of 2020 (pandemic, wildfires, racial injustice, riots, divisive politics, etc.) have both revealed and refined who we are. Many members rose to the occasion to make adjustments...

The occasion to make adjustments to our systems to translate well to virtual ministries. One of the strengths of our church community is the ability to adapt to new circumstances.

In 2020, we were amazed by the many powerful, but subtle movements of God within and through our church:

- We quickly and smoothly moved our physical Sunday service to YouTube (Westlight Live) and a midweek pastoral video (Dear Westlight). Within 40 weeks, we've had over 10,000 views from over seven countries!
- We set a goal of a collective 1200 hours of blessing our community outside our church before the pandemic. While we were doubtful that we would reach our goal while in quarantine, we ended up clocking in 1350 hours!
- Members of our church created a ministry called WeCare. People donated resources to other church members who were in need, similar to what was recorded in Acts 2. We had over 100 WeCare packages delivered!
- Our Life Groups grew by 10% in 2020. We believe our growth happens in small communities where people are encouraged to share their doubts, struggles, and celebrations.

In 2021, we face a few challenges, and we are, once again, placing our trust in Jesus. Please join us in praying for the following:

- We are a portable church, and as of March, there is no news from LAUSD as to whether we can resume using our usual facility. In case they are not allowing us to return to our usual meeting space, we have put together a Facilities Advisory Team that has been scouting alternative locations.
- We plan to open our physical gatherings through Life Groups before we begin our large gatherings on Sunday mornings. Once we receive the green light from our government medical officials, we will begin gathering in the safest way possible. We have assembled a Medical Advisory Team that will guide us through this process.
- There is a possibility that we will move towards a hybrid model of Sunday Service. This will probably require extra funding (for equipment, reliable internet service, etc.), more volunteers (camera operators, etc.), and many adjustments in operating.

Through the pandemic, it has become increasingly difficult for us to measure the health of our congregants. If they are not in a Life Group, not extroverted enough to live chat during Westlight Live, and uninterested in participating in our weekly Zoom discussions, we do not know how they are doing. This long season has drawn some members closer to one another while alienating others.

2021's theme is New. We sensed that God is moving us to reassess the design of our church. If there's ever a time to "reset" a ministry or the entire structure of a Sunday Service, it is now. We will also be taking a deeper dive at how the Holy Spirit is shaping us. We will be wrestling with difficult questions that will surely make all of us uncomfortable.

Pastors Kats Omine and Lori Tamura





Board of World Missions

2021 Annual Leadership Conference Report

Dear PCJC Pastors, Delegates and Guests,

Due to Covid-19 restrictions around the world, churches had to be creative and innovative in participating in global and local missions. Even though this past year was different and challenging for us all, God was still faithful. We wanted to share God's faithfulness in this report that despite the difficult times we are in, His Spirit in moving around the world.

Gene and Minori Hall

Gene and Minori Hall continue their work preparing workers to serve in Southeast Asia and Japan from their current location in Higashi Kurume (Tokyo). Pastor Gene has been conducting training with church leaders in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as periodically filling the pulpit at a local church. He recently completed teaching a capstone course for leaders in Thailand, and learned these leaders are sharing their knowledge with their own local leadership. Minori is teaching Japanese at the Christian Academy of Japan, a school that serves many expatriates to help support their family. She has found opportunities to share their missionary vision with her students. The current pandemic precludes traveling to Southeast Asia, but Gene has been able to use Zoom and other resources to provide the aforementioned training programs. They ask for continued prayers for both their work and their family (both children are in colleges in the US) as well as developing financial partnerships for support.

Paul and Rie Mizuki

Paul and Rie Mizuki (Anaheim FMC) arrived in Osaka, Japan, to begin missionary work in March 2020. The Lord has been faithful in keeping the doors open for them to meet and build relationships with neighbors, co-workers, church members, and other kingdom workers. Paul and Rie work alongside fellow JEMS missionaries, Pastor Kuni and Sooyun (Kristin) Onishi. They are on the core staff of "The Church without a Name." Paul works three days a week at the headquarters of the company he worked for in the U.S., and by the power of the Holy Spirit, he is trying to be light and salt. Rie has provided debriefing for missionaries, a mental health consultation to campus ministers, and premarital counseling. Together, they teach an after school English Bible class. Rie co-leads an evangelistic Bible Study and a Moms in Prayer group. Paul and Rie enjoy building relationships with new friends, with the hope of drawing each into a closer relationship with Jesus. One significant new project that Paul has been called on to head up is the establishment of a JEMS office in Japan. Paul and Rie hope to serve God in Japan for the next 5 to 10 years.

Nikkei Conference in South America

For 2021, the BOWM hopes to partner with the Nikkei Brazilian Conference and Free Methodist World Missions with a project in Argentina. The PCJC's relationship with the Nikkei Brazilian Conference has existed since the 1960s, when Rev. John Mizuki joined the PCJC from the Nikkei Brazilian Conference, and the PCJC commissioned Rev. Shonori Sugiyama to missionary service in Paraguay, and later to Argentina. In 1974, Rev. Ray & Ryoko Narusawa were appointed Free Methodist missionaries to Brazil. 1 Youth teams and representatives from the PCJC and Nikkei Brazilian Conference have attended respective symposiums and summer camps. Also, individual PCJC churches have sent teams to Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.



In January 2021, the PCJC BOWM met via Zoom with Ricardo Gomez, Latin America Area Director of FM World Missions, Bishop Daniel Abe for the Nikkei Brazilian General Conference, and Tanya and Rodrigo Rosado, Missionaries to Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Rosados hope to relaunch the Buenos Aires FM Church as the Harbor Project. This church was founded by Rev. Sugiyama in the 1970s. After he returned to the United States, PCJC Nichigo pastors Rev. Nobuo Umekita and Rev. Hiroshi Ushimaru served as missionaries to this church. For the past three decades, attendance and membership at the church has declined. The Rosados shared their desire to outreach to the community, especially university students. The present church members are willing to support and encourage this endeavor. We are excited about the potential to assist in this project.

2020 PCJC Missions Giving

Wanted to note again, that several years ago, FMCUSA decentralized church-based missions giving. Which means, today, there is no 3% rule and there is no rule that all missions giving be to FMWM. Although we do encourage you to designate 3% of our budget towards missions giving and to include FMWM, we invite you to seek God for your church's missions giving, both locally and globally.

PCJC Missions Giving Vision

In 2020, PCJC churches gave \$97,827 towards FMWM. Although this number is a touch short of what our conference gave last year, we still praise God for this! Again, we realize 2020 has been such a challenging year for us and our local churches, but are blessed to know that missions giving is still a big priority. We have been thankful to connect with our FMWM family around the world and look forward to a time when it is safe to connect in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Wayne Katayama, Koh Ikeda, Alan Oda and Pastor Jenny Switkes



Section 4:

Finance



Board of Finance Report

2021 Leadership Conference Report

Assessment Income

- PCJC's primary income source is from assessments on church income
 - From 3/1/20 through 2/28/21 (COVID-19 pandemic months) half our societies (8 of 15) had increased income compared to the same period last year
 - Aggregate church income (adding all of our churches together) was 0.7% higher than last year
- PCJC's assessment income pays for operations
 - Income was sufficient for paying operational expenses in 2019 and 2020 but is forecast to fall short in 2021 (due to payroll))

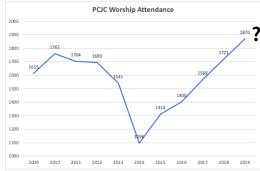
Investing for Our Future

- We have money in the bank designated for church growth (\$555.9K on 3/25/21) that we continue to invest in growing God's Kingdom
- PCJC invested \$38,959 in 2020 to support our 5 part Vision
 - Almost all of our 2020 Vision investment went to church planting
 - In 2021 we are investing \$130K in planting Reimagine Church

Our Plan for the Future - Grow

- The solution to poor cash flow:
- Growth
 - Recalibration
 - Church Planting
 - Leadership Development
 - Network
 - Next Generation
- Not only does growth let us make more disciples for Christ, it helps us financially

PCJC Growth Metrics



? - 2020? (Due to COVID)



2020 Slowed Things Down, Yet We Continued to Invest in Our Vision

Category	Income	Expense	Difference
Vision Ministries	\$2,236 \$37,438	-\$41, 195 -\$40,436 -	-\$38, 959 \$2,997
Operations	\$565,158	-\$470,311	\$94,847

- Total cash assets increased in 2020 by \$17,396
- Balance was \$1,023,686 on 12/31/2020
 - \$1,074,433 on 3/25/2021

Designated Funds 3/25/2021

- Church Growth Funds: \$555,888
- Camps and Retreat Funds: \$32,895
- Scholarships and Leadership Development: \$14,705
- Retired Ministers Shinoda: \$20,352

In 2021/22 We Continue to Invest for Future Growth

- 2022 income budgeted to be equal to 12 months of history 3/1/20 through 2/28/21
 - Plus interest on proceeds from anticipated sale of Glendale property
- Investing \$250.5K in 2022 for PCJC's 5 part Vision (mostly for church plants)
 - Budgeting \$233K for church planting in 2022
 - Recalibrate and Internship programs continuing

2022 Post Pandemic Budget

Category	Income	Expense	Difference
Vision	\$0	-\$250,500	-\$250,500
Ministries	\$45,180	-\$32,000 -	\$13,180
Operations	\$618,431	-\$587,761	\$30,670

• Anticipate sale of Glendale property (assessed at \$3.2M)

Let's Move Forward in 2022

- Expect \$250.5K investment in our Vision
 - Reimagine Church plus a new church plant
 - Recalibrate, Leadership Development, Interns
- We have over \$1.0M in the bank so let's continue to plant seeds for God's Kingdom
- By growing and recalibrating our churches, we are more than breaking even financially
- As we Thrive, we will have more resources to invest to bring more people to Christ

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Tsugawa, Chair, PCJC Board of Finance



Section 5:

Special Reports



Association of Retired Ministers & Spouses

2021 Leadership Conference Report

The last in person gathering of our ARMS group took place in February, 2020. We will have a virtual gathering by Zoom in the Spring of 2021.

Nancy Shigekawa went to be with the Lord on May 31, 2020, at the age of 89. She joined her husband, David, who went to be with Jesus 11 years ago. Nancy and David were a wonderful pastoral couple who served the Lord and our conference for many years. Let us continue to pray for Nancy's daughter, Wendy Okada, and her family.

Yoshiro Roy Yunouye went to be with the Lord on January 6, 2021, at the age of 81. Yoshiro was a lay leader in the Venice Church before being ordained and pastored the Phoenix Nichigo Church. Please lift in prayer Yunouye-san's wife, Ryoko, and son, John.

Thank you for continuing to pray for Gary Gaulton's recovery from lung cancer surgery.

Here is a list of the retired pastors and their spouses:

Shin & Mary Asami	Arnold & Sandy Doi	Gary & Kathy Gaulton
Haruhiko & Yoko Hirayu	Nobuo & Rowena Ichihara	Soki Ito
Stephen Kanai	Ryohei & Ryoko Kawano	Miyoko Mizuki
Ray & Ryoko Narusawa	Carl & Pat Omaye	Cliff & Linda Rapp
Kay & June Sakaguchi	Dennis & Naomi Sato	Yoneko Sugiyama
Yoshikazu Takiya	Yutaka & Mitsuyo Tanabe	Miyoko Umekita
Junko Ushimaru	Carl & Miko Yoshimine	Ryoko Yunouye

As the retired ministers and spouses of this conference, we want to thank you for your prayer support. As a group and as individuals, we pray for you.

Respectfully submitted, Koji Carl Omaye, Director June Sakaguchi, Secretary







2020 was as we all have experienced was a year of uncertainty, change and truly leaning into God's plans. Our store has been closed since March 16th, 2020 and we were unable to do pop up events, and our mission team to Kenya was postponed, however, we trusted God had and always has a bigger plan!

The artisans immediately were impacted as tourism is the main source of income for many of them. So we have done what we can to help them in this season, the first of which was to help provide love packages of food, basic pantry staples, hand sanitizer and masks for artisans in Kenya, India, Guatemala and Thailand.



We began doing Facebook Live shows twice a week, highlighting products and stories. We were consistently getting new viewers each show. We also started doing private online parties for individuals and groups! This has enabled us to help some of the artisans with small orders.

They are still really struggling as many have not been able to have vaccines or ppe, and sickness is surging. Hope seems to be far from some of their hearts and minds so we are doing what we can to try to encourage them.

We hope that in 2021, churches will come on board to do some of these online parties or host events to help an increase in sales for the artisans, as we really missed our church partners this past year. Many who joined our online shows tend to be unchurched people from across the nation who love fair trade. This encouraged us to start a 3x a week live devotional in 2021.



Kathy Gaulton, our founder, was able to work from home and finish her book!! It was released in March and people are really being encouraged through reading it. It's an amazing story of how God can take an ordinary person and do extraordinary things. From real life, vulnerable experiences, growing up in the church to falling away to going into pastoral ministry with Gary, raising kids and starting Heavenly Treasures. Her book is available online at shopwithamission.com for \$20 including shipping. We would love for each of you to consider reading it and inviting Kathy to come share at your churches.

If any of your churches would like to host a virtual shop with a mission party, contact caroline@heavenlytreasures.org



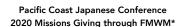
God is really good all the time. That is the practical lesson we have all learned this past year, and he will continue to be as time goes on.

Love, Heavenly Treasures Mission Team Kathy Gaulton, Christina & Dan Gruenberg, Caroline Sakanashi, Christine Gross, Kigen Teimuge

heavenlytreasures.org | shopwithamission.com (626)963-7717







Set Free Bishop Crisis Response Grand Total	\$3,589 \$1,500 \$97.827
Yangon Ministry Center	\$8,000
Heavenly Treasures	\$31,543
Other Missions Giving	\$44,633
Thailand	\$104
Church Planting & Development	\$104
Persing	\$932
Land	\$1,347
Asia Area Director	\$4,767
Wilkins	\$5,948
Sauder	\$6,000
Keith & Julie	\$6,214
Hall	\$27,884
Missionary Support	\$53,091



FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS makes disciples by mobilizing the global church and empowering international leaders to establish transformational churches.

Mobilizing the Global Church through Missionary Support

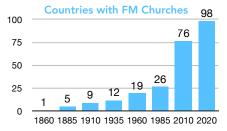
Free Methodist missionaries extend the mission reach of the FMCUSA into all of the world. Most often, their primary purpose is to serve international leaders as they seek to establish the Free Methodist Church in their own countries. In their disciple-making role, our missionaries contribute to church planting movements, leadership development, and where appropriate, pioneer new work.



Empowering International Leaders to Establish Transformational Churches through Church Planting & Development

Free Methodist financial resources are focused on developing leaders, churches and ministries. Church Planting & Development contributions resource these priorities:

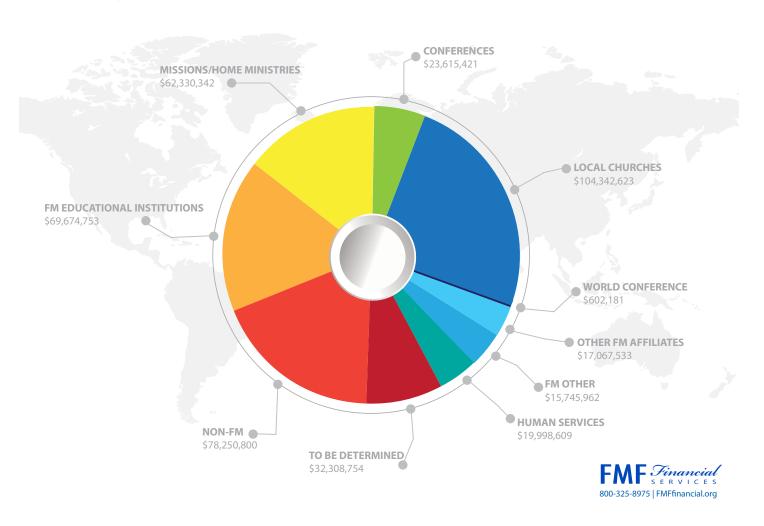
- empowering fruitful and emerging leaders through training and spiritual support,
- establishing life-giving and multiplying churches for new and existing believers, and
- fueling transformational ministries to expand education, alleviate poverty, fight for justice and bring wholeness.



^{*} includes only funds given through FMWM

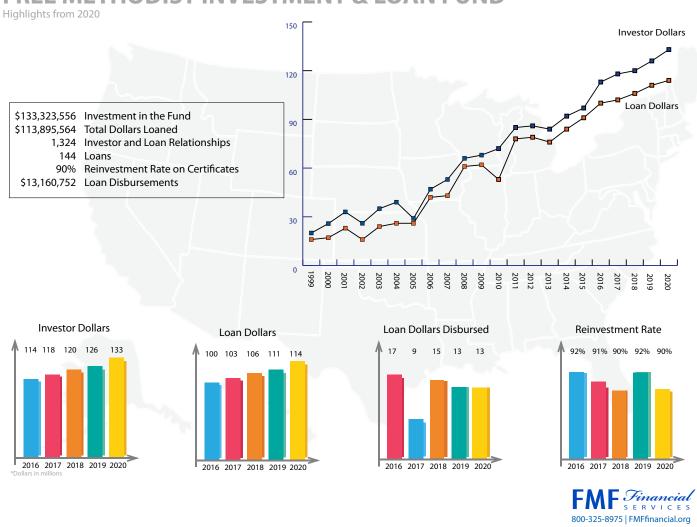


GIFTS DESIGNATED TO MINISTRY TOTAL \$423,936,978





FREE METHODIST INVESTMENT & LOAN FUND









2021 Update

The Free Methodist Church is 160 years old! In the Historical Center and FM Archive we have preserved the story and heritage of the church and made it available to the global church both online and in print. How do I access this you may wonder?! Check out our website <code>fmcusa.org/historical</code> for great resources. Contact us at history@fmcusa.org.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

The Marston Memorial Historical Center has been closed to the public for more than one year. Flat B.T. & Ellen Roberts have been "holding down the fort" while masked and socially distanced! However, staff has stayed connected online through "FM History Update" and on social media. Some topics included —

- ♦ FMs during the Spanish Flu Pandemic
- FMs and politics
- ♦ FM Black History

Check these out on Facebook @MarstonMemorialHistoricalCenter



Cathy Robling, director 770 N High School Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46214 317-244-3660 x281





ACCESS ONLINE

E-books are available online at https://

place.asburyseminary.edu/freemethodistbooks/

These items and *more* can be found on the MMHC website—fmcusa.org/historical -

 The Kirundi-English and Kinyarwanda-English Dictionaries

- Ebembe Hymnal
- Decision to Discipleship
- Book of Discipline

The Hugh A. White Library located at the Free Methodist World Ministries Center in Indianapolis, IN has expanded. Soon the card catalog will be available online.

"Mining the past to resource the Church today!"



50 YEARS OF MINISTRY

311 FM HISTORICAL

SOCIETY MEMBERS

over 128 inquiries annually

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNIES

VISIT FMCUSA.ORG/HISTORICAL

OR GIVE.FMCUSA.ORG/GIVEMARSTON





WE'RE CREATING TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

Over the past 10 years the Set Free Movement has been mobilizing people towards creating transformational impact. Our teams around the world are working to create new futures, build community resilience, and reduce vulnerabilities to human trafficking. Through teams, donors, faith communities, and individual champions, the SFM is incubating and accelerating. In 2020, the Set Free Movement launched two new, independent ministries out of our team process: Set Free Movement Monterey Bay; and MyPlace, a rental living space for vulnerable youth aging out of the foster care system.

This year we are expanding our work in Colombia, Hungary, and foster care support ministries. We are continuing to partner strong with SEED Livelihood Network and International Childcare Ministries, working to launch a new initiative creating and distributing sustainable menstrual health supplies and education.

We are a global movement seeking to end modern slavery and create new futures within their local context by:



REBUILDING COMMUNITY AND SEEKING SHALOM



ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



REDUCING VULNERABILITIES TO ABUSE + EXPLOITATION



LEARN MORE AT WWW.SETFREEMOVEMENT.ORG























ABOUT OUR WORK

ASIA/AFRICA

- > SFM is educating communities on protecting children from abuse and reuniting families in India.
- We are discipling and supporting female migrant workers in Taiwan.
- > In Kenya, SFM partner organization THRIVE is educating and protecting young women from the vulnerability of gender based violence and human trafficking.

LATIN AMERICA

- > We are excited to add a Latin America Coordinator to the team in 2021!
- > In Colombia, the team is supporting and mentoring children and youth, letting them know they are loved and made in the image of God.

UNITED STATES

- > Teams are engaging in their community in innovative ways, leading prevention efforts through community awareness events
- > Thousands of youth are educated on the dangers of human trafficking yearly.
- > Our team in Canfield, OH is connecting and serving in strip clubs. In the long term, this ministry will help to build relation-ships necessary to help women get out of the industry.

EUROPE

- > Our team in Spain is part of the Mosacio Center in Rivas Vaciamadrid, Spain and is hosting students for English courses.
- > We are preventing the exploitation of at-risk children and ethnic minorities in Hungary.
- > Partners in Bulgaria are nearly ready to receive residents at the St. John's Home.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us:

- @TheSetFreeMovement
- @SetFreeMovement
- ☑ @SetFreeMovement

Sign up to receive emails:

SFT > FRFF

www.setfreemovement.com/connect

ALL OF US HAVE A PLACE IN THIS MOVEMENT.

These are some of the ways you or your church can join us in 2021:



JOIN US FOR FREEDOM SUNDAY



on September 26, 2021 More at SetFreeMovement.com/Freedom-Sunday



HELP US SUSTAIN THIS WORK

100% of profits are re-invested in the work of Set Free. Shop at: ShopSEEDmarket.org/set-free

BUY OUR T-SHIRTS



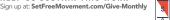
JOIN OR START A SET FREE TEAM Many of our teams operate out of Free Methodist churches. Engage yours today! Email us at team@setfreemovement.org



BUY FAIR TRADE COFFEE



from Camano Island Coffee (Set Free receives 10% of your purchase): CamanoIslandCoffee.com/SetFree



SHOP ON AMAZONSMILE Select "Set Free Movement" and we receive a portion of your purchase (at no additional cost to youl)



LEARN MORE AT WWW.SETFREEMOVEMENT.ORG

