



*"To Discover and Grow in God's Grace and Love"*

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April

WE BURNED THE MORTGAGE!



TIME TO FIRE UP THE GRILL!

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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**Join us on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM as we....**

**“Burn the Mortgage, Not the Burgers”**

For the past 40 years there has been a mortgage on the property of our church. One of our goals in 2020 was to pay off the church mortgage. We were planning to have a fundraiser called *“Burn the Mortgage, Not the Burgers”* and then the pandemic hit. The Montessori School closed, renters left and weddings were postponed. We called Farmers and Merchants Bank and asked if we could delay our mortgage payments for three months. They kindly granted our request. People in our congregation stepped up with sacrificial giving. On March 25<sup>th</sup> I received a congratulatory letter from Peter Meyers, First Vice President of Farmers and Merchants Bank that our mortgage was paid off and our property is free and clear (see letter on page 7). I want to thank all of you for your contributions and for making this goal a reality.

Come and join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, burn the mortgage, and eat burgers outside. I want to also thank Eleanor Phillips for inventing the game “9”. People responded by giving amounts of 99 cents to \$999.99 to eliminate our mortgage. Eleanor would like to share these words of thanks with the church: *“Thank you to our Father in heaven, to those that have paid on the mortgage and to those that have played NINE. It came from your heart, and now I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. We will now be able to give more.”*

During the barbeque following Easter worship we will celebrate Eleanor's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday! We will social distance and eat together under the trees. Please call the church office (714-776-0960) and let us know if you are able to attend so we can prepare the right amount of food. We will social distance and comply with Orange County Health Regulations. I praise God for His provision and for people's generosity!

Looking forward to our celebration,

Pastor Jim

*(Continued on Page 7)*

# **Connect**

## **Sunday Morning Worship**

10:30am, Sundays

We are holding worship in person and on Facebook Live.

## **Church Facebook Page**

“Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim”  
*Here, you may access Sunday morning worship and our encouragement videos.*

## **Encouragement for Today**

Pastor Jim, Pastor Emily and friends are sharing short encouraging videos on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week through Facebook Live.

## **Operation Bless Food Distribution**

Wednesday, April 7th and  
Wednesday, April 21st from  
4:30-6:00pm. Set up starts at  
3:30pm.

## **Small Group Study: The Book of James**

Groups will pick up with the second half of James starting the week of May 2nd.

All are welcome—you do not need to have participated in the first half of the study to join us.

Email us to join a group:  
fccaooffice@gmail.com

Tuesdays: 6:30-7:45pm

or

Wednesdays: 7:00-8:15pm

## **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 4th

Worship with us at 10:30am in person (social distanced) or on Facebook Live. We will have a “Burn the Mortgage, Not the Burgers” BBQ following worship! Celebrate with us!



# FCCA Updates

## Small groups are studying the book of James!

We are studying the book of James in a 2-part series. Groups are taking a break and will pick up with the second half of James starting the week of May 2nd. You do not need to have participated in the first half of the study to join us! Email the church office at [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) to sign up for a group.

### Group Options:

- Tuesdays from 6:30-7:45pm
- Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15pm.



## Operation Bless Food Distribution

Drive thru for some free food! The food distribution continues every other Wednesday. Setup starts at 3:30pm and food is distributed between 4:30 and 6:00pm. If you would like to volunteer, call or email the church office – we would love to get you connected.

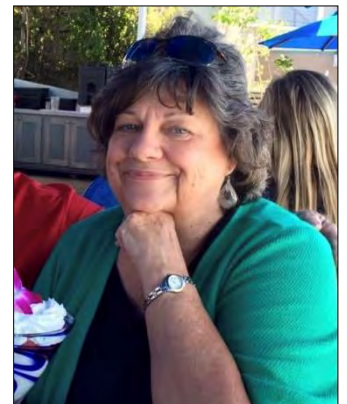
- Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00pm
- Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-6:00pm

## Volunteer Opportunity for Grandma's House of Hope

Grandma's House of Hope is having a Virtual Gala on Saturday, May 22nd. They are in need of in-kind donations (Target gift cards, other gift cards, items for auction baskets, etc.). Closer to the Gala, they would also love volunteers to help assemble baskets. If you are interested in getting involved, contact us at the church!

## Linda Hill Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for Linda Mae Hill was held at the church on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. We had a luncheon on the lawn following the service. It was precious to hear memories of Linda – her love of God, people and nature were so apparent as family and friends shared. She is dearly missed.

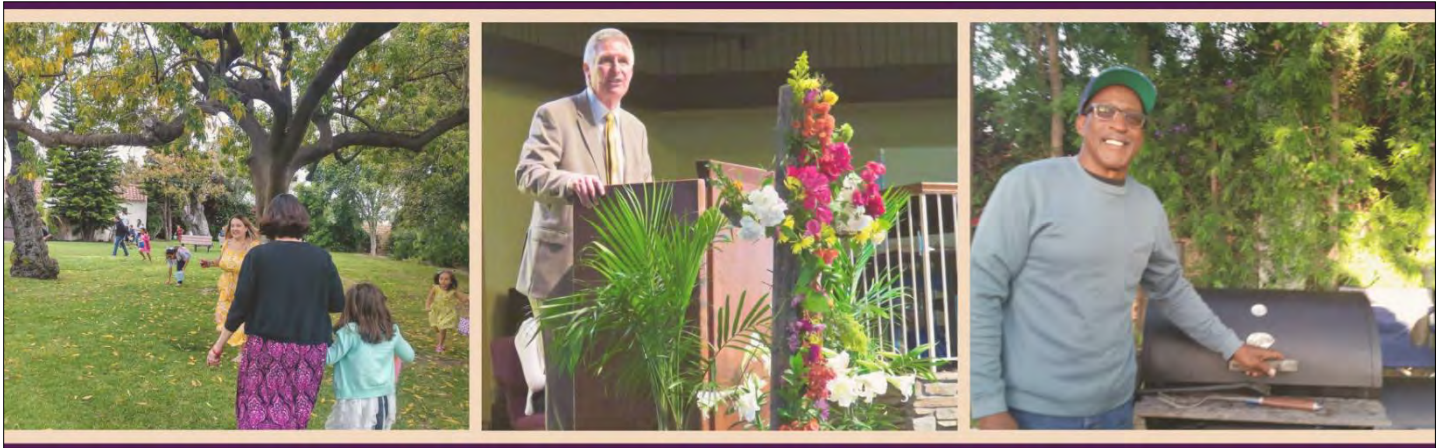


# "Burn the Mortgage, not the Burgers!"



We have received the full amount to pay off the mortgage!

We will celebrate the burning of the mortgage as part of our Easter celebration. As we celebrate this milestone, we celebrate Christ's living presence with us. Christ has provided for us and guided us through many seasons-- now even through a pandemic. He is truly alive! Following worship on Easter, we will have a BBQ on the lawn.



## Holy Week and Easter Services

\*If you attend in person, we will wear masks and social distance to help protect those who are not vaccinated.

### **Maundy Thursday Service**

Thursday, April 1st

7:00pm Service, Main Sanctuary

On Facebook Live or in Person

### **Easter Sunday Worship**

**Outdoor BBQ Lunch to Follow**

Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

10:30am Worship, Main Sanctuary

On Facebook Live or in Person



# DEEP WELL PROJECT AT EASTGATE FRUITFUL LIFE LEARNING CENTER

**"Dreams become REALITY when we put our MIND to it."**

It was early 2020 when one of Mission Ministries Philippines' (MMP) friends, Bro. Michael "Mike" Villarreal from First Congregational Church of Anaheim (California, USA) and the MMP team visited one of our partners, Eastgate Fruitful Life Learning Center in Brgy. Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal. The purpose of the visit is for Bro. Mike and the team to have a concrete preschool exposure, to see the learning development of the children, and to meet the teachers. During the visit, Pastor Rodel Alcantara, the school administrator and head pastor of Eastgate Fruitful Life Community Church, shared his vision and dreams of his church and learning center. He also shared the current condition of the community where he is serving. The families living there have limited access of water for drinking and other household use. The community has only one (1) deep well to cater hundreds of families. Pastor Rodel, along with some of his church members, uses his tricycle to transport all their water containers to the deep well area and have it refilled. It usually takes them several hours to be served due to the long line. Pastor Rodel has been in the community serving God for fourteen (14) years. Upon seeing the plight in the community, Bro. Mike's heart was greatly moved. He then shared his visitation experience to his congregation, addressing the needs of the community. By the grace of God, He used the leaders and members of the First Congregational Church of Anaheim to install deep well to the said partner learning center and church.

The installation of deep well project started last February 1, 2021, and after one (1) month, the deep well is completely finished and fully operational. The DREAM of Pastor Rodel became a REALITY because of faithful donors and prayer warriors like you.

"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants". Isaiah 44:3





## Knowing Mission Ministries Philippines

**Mission Ministries Philippines** is an institution established in 1984 to help churches, different groups and individuals to develop a spiritual, educational, social, and economic ministry among impoverished communities.

One of its methodologies to mobilize communities/churches is to develop an Early Childhood Education Program for indigent children where they assist the organizers by providing the curriculum, workbooks for children, and other materials following a Progressive Philosophy of Education.

MMP provides seminars and workshops for teachers, administrators, parents, and staff to better equip its partners in managing and sustaining a Developmentally Appropriate Early Childhood Education. Their vision is, All preschool children in vulnerable communities have access to quality education.

To date, MMP has established more than 1,000 Preschools/Day Care Centers catering to urban poor communities, mostly in partnership with churches.

## People Behind MMP

**DR. LORISA "CORRIE" ACORDA-DE BOER** is the Co-Founder and presently the global ambassadress of the Mission Ministries Phil. Inc. She held a Ph.D. in Organizational Development, Doctor of Ministry in the Renewal of the Church for Mission, Master of Science in Social Development, Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Science in Social Work.



Dr. Corrie believes that caring for the poorest while developing a path to provide a more fulfilling life through Jesus, is the most desired result of all God has envisioned in her heart. Her passion is following Jesus in His mission to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in word and indeed. She dreams of catalyzing a social movement producing leaders who transform themselves, their families, and cities for God. She envisions becoming a catalyst, ushering people to enter the City of God.

**PROF. CHONABELLE DOMINGO** is currently the President and CEO of the Mission Ministries Philippines, Inc. She started as MMP's first preschool teacher among the poor in 1986 and became MMP supervisor of partner teachers.



Through her diligent, visionary, and proactive leadership, she and a team of faithful and hard-working staff, supervisors, and University of the Philippines Christian professors have been able to create a social movement of early childhood schools all over the Philippines and trained leaders in Thailand and Myanmar, India, Budapest, and the USA. Prof. Chona loves Jesus and has a special calling to develop early childhood centers among the poorest of the poor. She is serving as an adjunct faculty at Asian Theological Seminary and is completing her Doctor of Transformational Leadership at the Bethel Bible Seminary under Bakke Center for Urban Transformation in Hongkong.

### Yes! I want to join in providing a brighter future for children living in poverty

☐ **\$200** will supply a poor child with school books and tuition for one year. ☐ **\$500** Tuition fee for one teacher living in a disadvantaged area to enroll in the training certificate course in Early Childhood Education. ☐ **\$2000** will enable a school to be set up in a disadvantaged area for one year. Includes curriculum, learning materials, training, and coaching of teachers.

**My best gift of: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **to help as many children as possible who are living in poverty.**

**All training programs for children accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission of the Government.**

Mission Ministries Philippines, Inc.

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Tax deductible donations (USA): Mission Ministries USA,

PO BOX 6546, Santa Ana, CA. 92706 | Ph: 909.305.3739

Email: missionmin@aol.com

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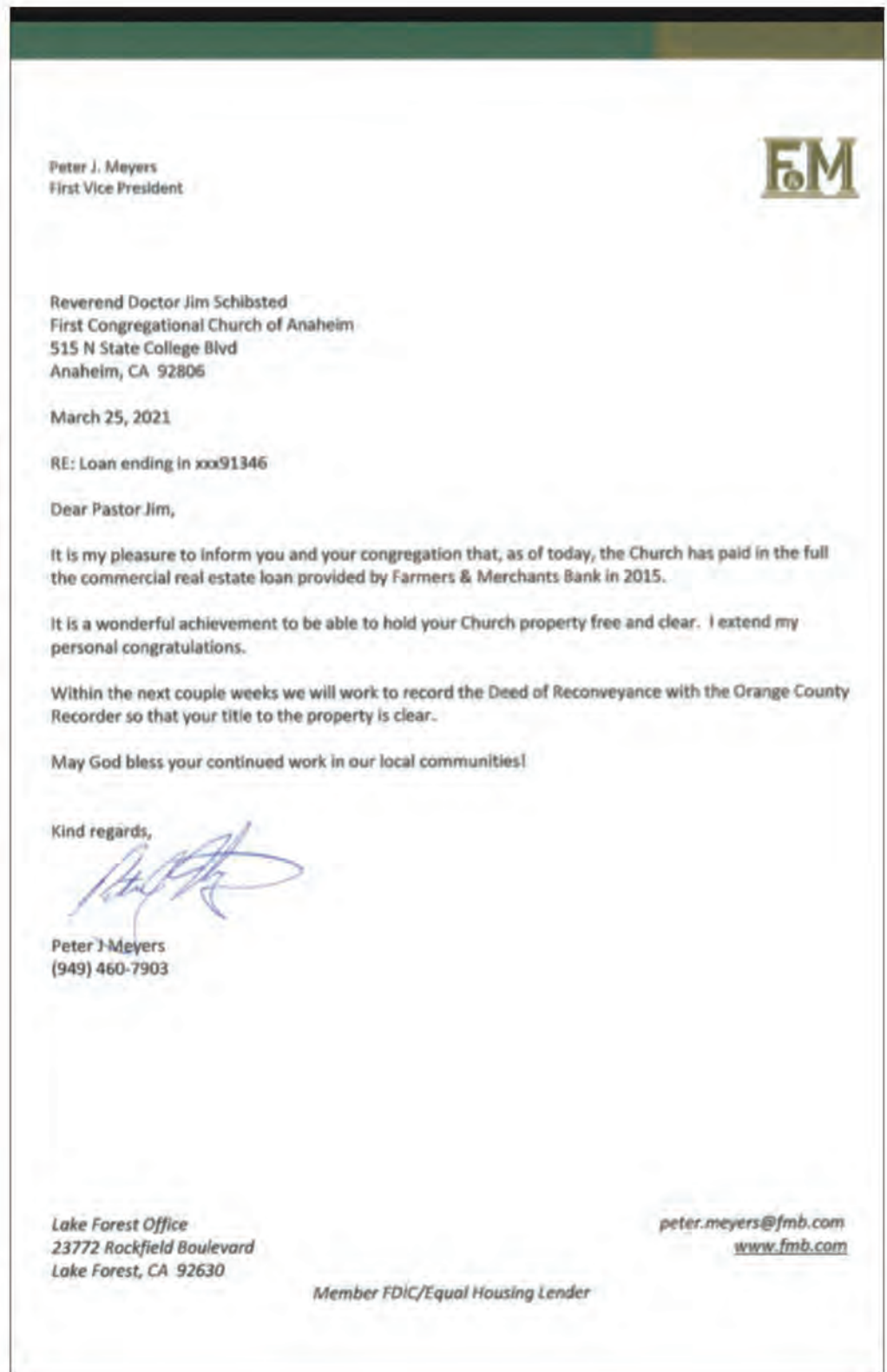
## April Birthdays

4-Apr Shiana Carrington  
4-Apr Cecilia Morales  
5-Apr David Haas  
5-Apr Gabriel Velasquez  
6-Apr Dick Purvis  
8-Apr Sean Sham  
10-Apr Eleanor Phillips  
12-Apr Mike Austin  
13-Apr Jim Taylor  
16-Apr Rev. Sandy Freud  
20-Apr Leslie Nelis  
20-Apr Bethany Crouch  
29-Apr Jim Frannea

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com).

### "Burn the Mortgage" Continued...

See the letter below from Farmers and Merchants Bank. It is official! We have paid off the mortgage! We thank God for providing and we thank you for your generosity.



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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