

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF
ANAHEIM



The Call

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

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August



INSIDE

- MISSION FUNDRAISING UPDATE
- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN FIJI

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IN THIS ISSUE

CALL Article	2
August Calendar	2
FCCA News	3
JOG Flyer	4
Missions' Corner	5
Birthdays	7

"Grateful for the Past—Hopeful for the Future!"

Being Transformed in Fiji!

“Bula!” That is the word of greeting from Fiji which is a beautiful island country with warm, kind people. Pastor Emily, Rick, Shalend, Robert, Pastor Jim and I recently returned from Fiji after attending the International Congregational Fellowship meeting there. The experience was amazing!

As Emily wrote in the FCCA E-News, “We had a wonderful time!” The conference sessions were held at a church founded by Rev. Simon Gounder, whom many at FCCA have met. The current pastor and his congregation fed the approximately 60 international ICF attendees for the 6 conference days. They also provided wonderful music and children’s dance troupe performances. The children at this church were so precious! They were happy and also worked hard! We saw the children always busy singing, setting up chairs, serving food, watching younger children. They played heartily too and their sounds of laughter and big smiles were everywhere!

A highlight for many of us was visiting church members in their homes. Each conference participant I spoke with afterwards had similar experiences where they were moved by the warmth and joy of these people. Our visit was with the Dimanoseva family. Their small, simple home was on the grounds of the local elementary school where the mother is a first grade teacher. The father had previously worked at a restaurant that was closed during COVID and has not re-opened. He is currently unemployed. Many people lost jobs as a result of the pandemic which was hard on the country’s economy. But the 4 children of the Dimanoseva family are happy, bright and active children. The oldest is in 11th grade, a serious student focusing on advanced biology courses who wants to become a medical doctor. She knows there is a great need for more medical professionals in Fiji.

(Continued on Page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Connect Online

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

NorthEast of the Well

Every Monday, 6-8pm

Dinner: 6pm, Hall

Worship: 6:45pm, Sanctuary

Concert in the Park

Thursday, August 3rd, a group from the church enjoyed a summer concert at Tri City Park in Placentia.

Sharing from Fiji Conference

Sunday, August 6th

Those who attended the International Congregational Fellowship Conference in Fiji will share during worship.

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, August 14th

Speaker: Isy Martin, Jr.
12:00-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

FCCA News & Events

Women's Lunch

At the July women's lunch, we enjoyed Liza's fabulous cooking! Women made DIY lamps to take home after reflecting on a devotion about the light of Christ. Our next lunch together will be held in September—watch the enews for a specific date in the coming weeks.



Your Generosity to Fiji

A group from our church attended the International Congregational Fellowship Conference in Fiji.

Thanks to individual donations from our FCCA church family, we blessed the host church with two pop-up tents that would have been much more expensive to purchase in Fiji. Samuil and Rumyana's t-shirt shop, Tee Like Yours, donated boxes full of solid t-shirts that we gifted to the church. We also brought small, personal gifts for host families such as instant coffee, candy for the kids and decorative Christian items from Hobby Lobby. For more information about the conference, read the wonderful reflections written by Penny Schibsted on page 2.

A Thank You Note from Pastor Jim

I want to thank everyone for their kind words, birthday cards and gift cards to various restaurants. The birthday cake was delicious as we celebrated my 70th birthday. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a loving church!

Gratefully, Pastor Jim



INTERNATIONAL
CONGREGATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE

Fiji 2023



JOG Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Isy Martin



Isy is a talented handyman, tennis pro and guitarist. He is a three-time Rock n Roll Hall of Famer and a former member of Motown's Undisputed Truth. He has performed and recorded with numerous recording stars: Marvin Gaye, Ray Charles, Rose Royce, Jr Walker, Santana, Jackson Brown, Claudia Lennear, Gap Band, Roy Aires, Sly Stone, and many more. He was signed to Whitfield /Warner Bros in the late 70's and signed as a writer at A&M records in the 80's. He now plays with a top R&B funk and gospel group

"Mamatapee." Please join us for an entertaining and inspiring testimony. A good time to bring a guest or two.

When: Monday, August 14th, 2023

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Where: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

515 North State College Blvd Anaheim, Ca 92806

Cost: \$12

Enjoy the music of singer and guitar player Bob Goodrich, as well as the humor from Normandy Veteran, Jack Gutman, and football coach, Tom Meiss. We will have an excellent meal planned with tables always filled with good fellowship.

Please RSVP via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com or
call Chuck at 714-350-8983

JOG



Of Orange County

Just Ordinary Guys (& Gals)

Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

Missions Corner

June Missionary Visitors: Mission Ministries Philippines

On Sunday, July 9th, we joined together in worship with United New Life Church and hosted guests from Mission Ministries Philippines!

After worship, all were welcome to a potluck lunch in the school courtyard. During June and July, we collected free will offerings for Mission Ministries Philippines. We have calculated the total raised!

Below is a letter from our Missions Chair, Linda Freud:

With much gratitude and praise to God, your Mission Board is happy to report that \$2,098.00 was raised for Mission Ministries Philippines in June and July.

My heart was filled with joy as we celebrated Dr. Chona Domingo and Aida Aquino's visit to FCCA on July 9th with the United New Life Church. It was such a glorious service and luncheon, and I thank all who helped make it possible. I want to add a special word of thanks to Jim Weddell. It was because of his efforts and expertise that I was able to share pictures from MMP each Sunday as we led up to Chona's visit. Let us continue to keep the work of MMP in our prayers. They are a mission that is doing God's work among the poorest of the poor in their country.

Linda Freud

Missions Chair



Missions Corner Continued...

Thank You From Dr. Corrie DeBoer, Mission Ministries Philippines:

Dear Pastor Jim and Penny,

Thanking Jesus for your love, support, prayers and partnership in mission all these long years! May He continue to bless and use you significantly. May His mercies and loving kindness run after you all the days of your life! May you see your children's children to the third and fourth generations!

Love & Prayers,

Corrie



Above: The cake shared during MMP's visit.

Mission Ministries Philippines provides quality Christian education for children that are among the poorest of the poor in the Philippines through a curriculum that encourages an entrepreneurial spirit and service to community. They also consider the wholistic needs of the children and help to provide for necessities like food.





August Birthdays

5-Aug Rummyana Staneva

6-Aug Jonathan T. Yip

7-Aug Paul Haas

13-Aug Blake Ramsay

14-Aug Jan Briley

19-Aug Julia Swagerty

21-Aug Joan Edwards

27-Aug Adrienne Villa-Real

28-Aug Marsha Robinson

(Being Transformed in Fiji Continued...)

The younger 3 children also are eager to learn and participate fully in life. The youngest had a broken arm from playing Rugby! They are active in their church throughout the week. Each child recited to us a different Bible verse that was their individual “verse of the week.”

At the end of our afternoon time together we all joined hands and prayed while sitting in a circle on the floor. The children prayed fervently from their hearts, asking God to help them and asking for other people to also be helped by Jesus. I will always remember these children and want to continue to pray for them.

There were many good discussions amongst conference attendees about what they were seeing and the topics presented by Dr. Brian Kolia, the featured speaker from Samoa. Brian and his family were another gift to this gathering and it was good to hear the issues he as a pastor and theologian felt were important in church communities of the Pacific Islands and in the world at large. The church needs always to be focusing on God’s love while making changes in the ways it responds to the communities and cultures it serves. The theme of the conference was Transformation; how individuals, churches and communities are being transformed by the love of God.

Fiji is a beautiful country with tropical rain forests, many islands and beaches. We got to swim in the warm waters, walk the beaches and see a variety of amazing sea life while snorkeling. God’s plants and creatures both above and under the sea are incredible!

The main take-away for me from this trip is a reminder that there are such basic and beautiful things shared in common with people whatever part of the world they are from and that faith in God helps individuals and communities so much! I am very grateful I got to see this during this trip wonderful visit in Fiji!

Penny Schibsted

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.

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