



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

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# January



Happy  
New  
Year!

We look forward to  
seeing how God will  
lead us and strengthen  
us this year.

## STAFF

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor  
Rev. Emily Raasch—Associate Pastor  
Susan Fraker—Office Assistant  
Tyler Robinson—Music Director  
Angella Kissoon—Accountant  
Linda Freud—Missions  
Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)  
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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

# **“Collaboration: Why Working Together as Churches Makes a Difference!”**

A Letter by Pastor Jim

We live in a world that often celebrates individual achievements and the value of teamwork sometimes gets overlooked. Yet, when people come together, sharing their knowledge and resources incredible things can happen! Collaboration isn't just a workplace buzzword; it's a powerful tool for achieving goals, solving problems, building stronger connections as we impact the world with God's love. I listed the following benefits of collaborating with the other churches on our church campus.

## **1. Diverse Perspectives Lead to Better Solutions**

When individuals from different backgrounds and cultures come together, they bring unique ideas, skill sets and viewpoints. This diversity fosters creativity and innovation, allowing teams to find solutions that a single person might overlook. For example, planning the Multicultural Festival with the other churches brought us together in a wonderful way. It was a lot of work but also a lot of fun.

## **2. Shared Workload Reduces Stress**

Tackling a big project like the Multicultural Festival alone can feel overwhelming. However, working together allows tasks to be divided based on strengths, making the workload much more manageable. It's not simply about getting things done faster—it's about doing them better while maintaining balance. Some people enjoyed planning and keeping us organized, others are good at set up, cooking and clean up. Contacting the vendors, putting together the entertainment and publicity were shared by various people thereby reducing stress. *(Cont. Pg. 7)*

# **Connect**

## **Sunday Morning Worship**

*10:45am on Sundays*

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School meets every Sunday in the Griffith House during worship. Kids may go to Sunday School with the teachers right before the message.

## **Connect Online**

### **Facebook:**

Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

### **YouTube:**

First Congregational Church of Anaheim

### **Instagram:**

FCCAnaheim

### **Website:**

[www.fcca.org](http://www.fcca.org)

## **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**

*Monday, January 13th*

12-1:30pm

McKenzie Hall

Cost: \$12

First Time Visitors: Free  
Join the guys (& gals) of JOG for lunch, comedy, music and a testimony the second Tuesday of every month.

# FCCA Updates & Events

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

This year, we decided to revive Christmas caroling! On Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> a small group carpooled to 5 different church family homes in Anaheim to sing Christmas songs. It was a joy for both those singing and those hosting. One family that hosted the group indicated that it will be the highlight of their Christmas season.

## **WOMEN'S LUNCH**

Women from the church had a wonderful

Christmas luncheon in December at Bev Aye's home. Carol Peterson and Bev Aye worked together to host a wonderful meal and to provide beautiful décor and fun activities for the group.

## **OPERATION BLESS TOY GIVE-AWAY**

Unlimited Church hosted a toy give-away in December and invited campus churches to get involved. Many toys were donated by FCCA thanks to your generosity! It was precious to see families taking wooden cars and toys carved by Carson Davis, who passed recently.

## **PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS**

Each December, the Panamerican Institute (a school we support in Tijuana) provides Christmas Food Baskets for families in need based on the amount of donations received from churches and individuals. *Thanks to your contributions, the church sent \$1,029 this year (or 17 baskets)!*

## **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys (& Gals)**

We were planning to honor Jack Gutman at the December JOG luncheon. Unfortunately, due to a fall, Jack was unable to attend. Soon after the fall, Jack went to be home with the Lord. Jack Gutman was a WWII veteran and an integral part of the JOG. In addition to being a comedian for JOG, Jack wrote *One Veteran's Journey to Heal the Wounds of War*, a book about his pain after participating in the Normandy invasion and Okinawa battles. Jack lived an incredible life and had





a true heart of service. He will be dearly missed. *Next JOG: Monday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 1:30pm*

## Missions' Corner: Mission Ministries Philippines

Dear Pastor Jim and FCCA Family,

Today, we had our final fellowship with Bro. Michael via Messenger before his departure on Sunday. On behalf of Mission Ministries Philippines (MMP), we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, love, and support.

Your generous contribution of \$800 has been added to our general funds, which will be allocated for the printing of our books next year. Additionally, we are deeply thankful for the \$900 given (and to be given) to the three schools we visited with Bro. Michael.

Prior to the visit, we already had plans on how the funds could be best stewarded by the partner schools. During our visitations, we confirmed these plans with key school leaders. Below are the details:

### 1. Synagogue for Jesus Learning Center (Burgos, Rodriguez, Rizal)

This new MMP partner school has been severely affected by a series of storms (e.g., Typhoons Catrina in July, Marce and Ofel in November). The school is currently filled with mud, making it impossible to conduct classes. While we pray for God's provision for



minor repairs

to the church that also serves as the school, the children will temporarily hold their Remedial Reading Program at a nearby church.

The teachers have expressed the urgent need for 25 reading textbooks for the children. On December 5, we provided 25 sets of reading books, funded with a budget of Php10,000 (approximately





\$180). Attached are pictures during our visit and a picture of Bro. Michael and me handing over the books to one of the teachers.

### **(Missions' Corner Continued: Thank You Letter from Mission Ministries Philippines...)**

#### **2.AGBN Learning Centers: A Community and Church-Based School (Katipunan. Quezon City)**

This school is a community-based institution where a church was born out of the vision of its teacher, Ann Natividad, who is married to a pastor. From the very beginning, since the school's establishment in 2007, it has been Teacher Ann's vision to use the school as a platform for evangelism. By the grace of God, this vision has come to fruition. AGBN is not just a community school but also a church-based school, where a significant number of parents (in fact most of the members are products of the school !!!!) have become active members of the church. As suggested by Teacher Ann, there is a need to construct a toy cabinet for the students. To support this, an amount of Php5,000 (US \$90) has been provided. Once the cabinet is completed, we will send you a picture. Attached are photos of Teacher Ann and her students.



#### **3.Kaingin Baptist Learning Center (Pansol, Quezon City)**

##### **Unique MMP Partner School: Resilient Growth Amid the Pandemic**

This school began in June 2010 and stands out as a unique partner of Mission Ministries



Philippines (MMP). During the challenging pandemic season, while many schools either closed or experienced a significant decline in enrollment, this school thrived. It managed to gather a remarkable number of students despite the circumstances.

Currently, the school has over 80 students, a

testament to its resilience and effective outreach. This number was even higher before the pandemic. Notably, a substantial number of the church's members are alumni of the school. Bro. Mike witnessed a touching moment where former students greeted the Pastor with a

#### **(Missions' Corner Continued: Thank You Letter from Mission Ministries Philippines...)**

traditional Filipino gesture of respect called "*mano*"—a custom where the back of an elder's hand is touched to one's forehead as a sign of honor.

Given the high number of students and the growing connection with families, the Pastor has suggested hosting a series of quarterly parenting seminars. These seminars will introduce the gospel while addressing practical topics tailored to the needs of parents. The sessions will be based on a parenting book, which will also be distributed to selected parents who diligently attend the training. The funds provided will be used to purchase these parenting books to equip and bless the attendees. The allotted budget for this is Php5,000- equivalent to 35 books (US \$90).

#### **4. Blessing Teachers This Christmas**

On December 7, 2024, fifty (50) teachers received a love gift and biscuits amounting to Php30,000 (US \$540). Mission Ministries Philippines (MMP) has been faithfully blessing teachers with monetary love gifts since the year 2000. However, this tradition was paused during the pandemic. Thanks to your generous donation, we were able to revive this meaningful gesture. Many of these teachers continue to faithfully serve the Lord despite not receiving commensurate income for their dedication. It

was a joyous and heartwarming moment to bless them again after nearly five years. All the teachers went home with smiles, feeling that Jesus Himself had given them a special gift on His birthday.



Once again, thank you for being part of this ministry and for enabling us to bless these schools and communities. We are currently preparing a summary of our tour with Bro. Mike, along with a proposal that we are prayerfully submitting for your approval.

**Hebrews 6:10** – *"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them."*

With Much Respect & Appreciation,

Chona & MMP staff





## January Birthdays

1-Jan Salend Krishna  
3-Jan Rachel Rolnicki  
5-Jan Noah Torres  
11-Jan Greg Ramsay  
15-Jan Cindy Hamann  
11-Jan Grace Hoke  
18-Jan Connie Phillips  
21-Jan Dennis Johnson  
24-Jan Jeffrey Williams  
25-Jan Andrew Ramsay

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).

*("Collaboration" Continued...)*

### **3. Builds Stronger Relationships**

Collaboration can strengthen bonds between people. Whether it's coworkers, friends, or churches. Working toward a common goal fosters trust, understanding, and a sense of camaraderie. These relationships often lead to long-lasting partnerships and friendships. When Pastor Max from Unlimited Church passed away many churches pooled their funds to help defray the funeral expenses.

### **4. Encourages Growth and Learning**

Working with other churches exposes us to new ideas, skills, and ways of thinking. It's an opportunity to learn from others and grow as an individual. Every collaboration can become a learning experience.

### **5. Creates a Sense of Purpose**

Being part of a team working toward a shared goal gives a sense of purpose and also belonging. It reminds us that we're stronger together and that our collective efforts can impact our society with God's love. By collaborating with the other churches toys were distributed to needy children through Operation Bless. We also experienced inspiring worship in four different languages during the Thanksgiving celebration and the feast that followed. I'm grateful how our hearts have been knit together as we pray with leaders from the other churches.

In a nutshell, collaboration with other churches is about amplifying strengths, supporting each other, and achieving more than what's possible alone. In 2025, I'm looking forward to what lies ahead by collaborating with the other churches on our campus.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Jim

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