



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

Vol. 376 No. 3

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March 1, 2023

March

SAVE THE DATE

65TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!



03

12

23

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

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
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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

CELEBRATING OUR JOURNEY –

JOIN US FOR FCCA'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

In May of 1996 I was talking with Rick Sudik who almost died in a parachuting accident. He was facing further surgery and said to me, "Jim, I've begun to recognize the fact that the light at the end of the tunnel (heaven) is the ultimate goal. But the journey is the important part because that is where we do all the learning. I've learned to never wish away one minute because every one is important. We have a limited amount of minutes and each one is as important as the next." I had the honor of officiating at Rick Sudik's funeral a few months ago. His words from our conversation in 1996 still ring true.

The process and not just the final destination is most important. Enjoying each minute on this journey called life is an idea we should each take to heart.

This idea of celebrating this journey called life is the theme of our church's 65th anniversary. On March 12th at our 10:45AM worship service we will celebrate God's faithfulness to us as a church. Members living outside of the area are invited to join us for this time of celebration. Dr. Lowell Linden, a former minister of FCCA, and Dr. Peter St. Don along with many other special guests will join us for this gala event as we celebrate God's faithfulness to us during these past 65 years. A special Power Point is being prepared for this important celebration by Jim Weddell. Following our worship service we will take an aerial group picture. Rick Raasch (a professional photographer) has also volunteered to take individual pictures that may be included on a church coffee mug. Any donations over \$15 will be matched by a fund for a new Sunday School director. A bounce house for the children will also be on our church premises that day. Please RSVP to the church office if you haven't signed up yet so we know how much food to prepare. The church will provide the main dish and beverages. If you are able, please bring a dish to share. Also remember to invite your friends to this gala event. Finally, take a few minutes to reflect on the following lyrics.

THE JOURNEY IS OUR HOME

By Nancy Hollis Dillard & Allen Pote

St. John's Presbytery, Orlando, Florida

Awake, arise, the journey's begun.

We travel on together as one.

(Continued on Page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Join us in person or online! You may join live on Facebook.

Connect Online

Website: www.fccanaheim.org

Sign up for our weekly enews by emailing the church at fccaoffice@gmail.com.

Sunday School

Offered every Sunday this month! Children may go with the teachers before the sermon.

6-Week Small Group Study

Jesus' Farewell Message by Francis Chan

Wednesday or Thursday evenings starting March 1 and 2

65th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, March 12th

Group photo and meal to follow worship

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, March 13th

12:00-1:30pm, \$12 for lunch

Featured Speaker: Chris Stanton

Women's Lunch

Monday, March 20th

11:30-1:00pm in the library

FCCA Updates & Events

Lenten Small Group Study: *Jesus's Farewell Message* by Francis Chan

A 6 Week Study starting March 1 & 2; Small Group Options are...

Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm facilitated by Pastor Emily

Thursdays from 6:00-7:15pm facilitated by Pastor Jim

Free Small Group and Devotional Resource


As part of our new small group series, our entire church has access to rightnow Media, a platform that is like Netflix for Bible Study and Devotional videos. Use the QR code to setup your own account FREE on any device.

rightnow MEDIA

A GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH

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65th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, March 12th: We look forward to celebrating the church's 65th anniversary during worship! After worship, we will take a group photo outside the sanctuary before our meal. Rick Raasch is planning to bring his drone for an overhead photo of the group. Rick will also be taking individual or family photos for those who would like to participate in our fundraiser. See below for more information!

Anniversary Fundraiser for Children's

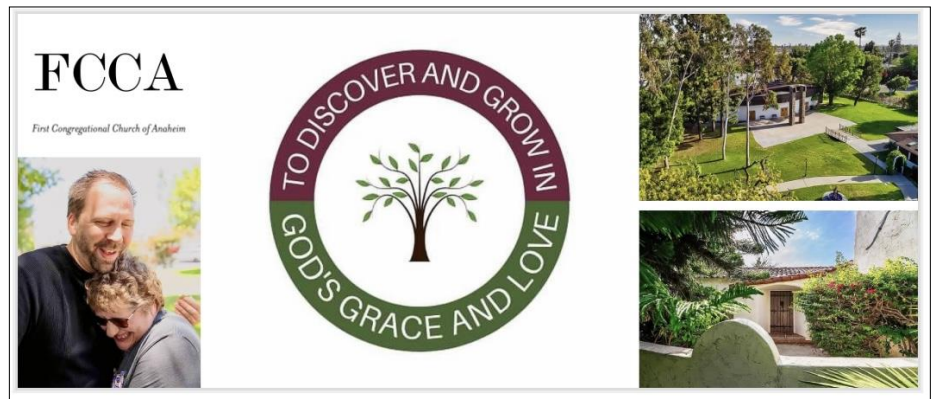
Ministry: "Put Your Mug on the Mug!"

We are raising money to build our Children's Ministry! With your donation toward our goal, you will receive a coffee mug that includes the church



group photo and a photo of yourself

(see a sample layout pictured)! \$15 covers the mug, and gifts over \$15 will go toward our Children's Ministry. Any



gifts over \$15 will be matched by an anonymous donor, up to \$2,000. Come celebrate with us, donate to the church and help us grow our ministry into the future!

March Women's Lunch: *Monday, March 20th from 11:30-1:00pm*

See the weekly church enews for more information in the coming weeks.

Sunday School: We are excited to offer Sunday School every Sunday in March! *Children who would like to participate in Sunday School are welcome to leave with the teachers before the sermon. Teachers and kids meet in the first room of the Griffith House.*

Just Ordinary Guys Luncheon: Featuring Guest Speaker, Hedieh Mirahmadi

Monday, March 13th from 12:00pm - 1:30pm; Cost: \$12



Hedieh was born in Iran but raised in Beverly Hills where her father was a doctor. Her undergraduate degree came from UCLA, and she has a Juris Doctorate from USC. Feeling set apart from her peers in school, Hedieh seriously searched for her identity. She then became a devout Muslim. She is an author, an attorney and now a columnist for the Christian Post. Her exceptional knowledge of the Mideast culture enabled her to have an incredibly significant career as a counter-terrorism expert. She spent over twenty years with the FBI and other contract companies as a senior advisor. She was often sought out for intelligent briefings at the White House where she served both the Obama and Bush administration. Hedieh has appeared on CNN, Fox News, CSPAN and CBS News. Her podcasts can be heard weekly. Find what is truly in her heart as she shares her amazing testimony.

Missions' Corner: An Update From Linda Freud, Mission Chair

This month I want to highlight Mission Ministry Philippines (MMP) by providing some background about their founding, their work, and their current needs.



Mission Ministries Philippines initially started in 1984 as a vision when Chaplain John Lindvall from our own church visited the Philippines in 1984 and witnessed firsthand the conditions of poverty as people's lives lay in decay. Chaplain John's heart opened wide as he became an eyewitness to the scope of the depravity. In sharing his passion to help the Filipino poor, Chaplain John Lindvall contacted a friend, Dr. Stewart De Boer, the President of the Asian Theological Seminary, Philippines. Having the same heart to serve, both men collectively utilized their own resources and contacts. Soon after, Mission Ministries Philippines was established.

In 1985, Pastor Jim and 5 members from our church were invited to the Philippines to visit among the poor. Later on John Mark Lindvall, current president of Mission Ministries USA, and Mrs. Janice Bowers, national delegate of FCCA, also visited the Philippines. FCCA provided financial support and Mission Ministries USA gave administrative support for MMP along with ongoing encouragement and friendship. Most recently, in early 2020, Mike Villa Real, our new church moderator, visited MMP.

In 1986, Dr. Corrie De Boer was installed as the Director of Mission Ministries Philippines. A trained Social Development Practitioner, with a heart for the urban poor, Corrie pursued a vision for MMP to become a significant social movement initiating early childhood programs through local churches in slum communities. Prof. Chona Domingo, a qualified and well-educated teacher joined MMP as a teacher in the slum communities for several years. Taking a leadership role, Chona & MMP developed a highly regarded curriculum for preschool learning centers written and published in partnership with University of the Philippines Christian professors. Chona continued to develop into the leader of the early childhood development ministry, where she currently serves as the Director and has recently received

her Doctorate in Early Childhood Education. Chona has formed a team of like-hearted servants whose passion is to serve the needs of the poorest children.

From a single school planted in the poverty-stricken community of Bagong Baryo (1984), Mission Ministries Philippines has established over 1,000 Early Childhood Education learning centers in the most impoverished areas of the Philippine slums, providing the poorest families with the means of educating their children in their early years of life. Today, MMP has matured into a highly qualified team with respected attributes of leadership and management. New strategies are continuously being implemented to strengthen a greater holistic early childhood and developmental approach within the urban slum culture.



The MMP website lists the following under WHAT WE DO:

- We establish child learning centers in vulnerable slum communities
- We help those who have the least
- We nurture children in Christ, creating a smile that only God can ignite
- We empower children to bring ideas to life, unleashing the potential in each child
- We publish developmentally appropriate books in early childhood education, which children receive for free
- We have courses and seminars to train teachers and workshops to help parents strengthen a child's home life

Forward to 2023 -- MMP's director, Dr. Chona Domingo and her program director, Aida Aquino, have been planning a fundraising endeavor to the United States. Aida has had difficulty obtaining a visa, but Chona scheduled the trip for the summer, hopefully in July. Their goals for this trip are to strengthen existing bonds of friendship and partnership and to develop new partnerships. The current financial needs of Mission Ministries Philippines have been heavily affected by the pandemic. In fact, according to a recent email from Chona, the current budget of MMP is reasonable only up to April 2023. Chona is assured by Isaiah 20:22 that when the time is right, the Lord will make it happen.

Chona and I have been in touch because I want her to definitely have an opportunity to speak at FCCA when she is in the states. Also, I have informed her that she and Aida have a place to stay at my home while in Southern California. Let's continue to pray for Mission Ministry Philippines, their work, their challenges, their leaders, their students.



March Birthdays

2-Mar Linda Freud

3-Mar Samuil Stanev

11-Mar Doug Ramsey

12-Mar Rishon Krishna

12-Mar Kevin Rapp

13-Mar Jim Weddell

24-Mar La Nona Hoke

26-Mar Noel Hummel

28-Mar Raffia Thomas

28-Mar Rachel Haas

30-Mar Bev Aye

30-Mar Mariah Robinson

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or fccaooffice@gmail.com.

(Pastor's Letter, Continued...)

*We know not where the road will lead,
But we move in faith
Making love our creed
As we follow: the journey is our home.*

*Good travelers walk with company,
Sharing bread with those in need.*

Giving help along the way

To those who fall,

Who wander astray

As we follow: the journey is our home.

Join with us in jubilee

Celebrate God's family,

Sing together joyfully,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Praise for evermore!

God moves with us as we go.

He hears our cry, our pain He knows.

Yet far beyond the setting sun,

There shines a light of victory won;

The journey, the journey is our home.

From the children of Israel traveling to the Promised Land to the disciples following Jesus, this theme of journeying with God and one another is found in the Scriptures. My hope and prayer is that we will celebrate our journey with gratefulness to God for his faithfulness on our behalf. I am looking forward to greeting you on March 12th, and remember to set your clocks ahead the night before!

Enjoying the journey,

Pastor Jim

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960