

Calvary Church
2343 Country Club Blvd
Stockton, California 95204

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COMING UP @ CALVARY

Don't miss these exciting events! More information is available online and in service.

Help deliver gifts to kids around the world for Christmas through
Operation Christmas Child
Kickoff on October 10th

Learn more about *Leadership*
at the next **School of Theology**
Monday, October 11th
7:00-9:00pm

Learn what it means to become a member at Calvary Church at the next
Membership Class
Sunday, October 17th
1:00-3:30pm



Enjoy fun and fellowship while learning to knit!
Join us for
KNIT NITE
Fridays, 6:30-9:00pm

Enjoy guy time at the next
Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, October 23rd
8:00-10:00am

Help prepare and/or deliver meals to the homeless!
Mercy Ministry
Tuesday, October 26th
2:00-4:00pm

THE CALVARY PRESS



Publication of Calvary Church, 2343 Country Club Blvd, Stockton, California 95204

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Weekly Ministries

Sunday Worship Service
10:00am

Sunday Prayer Night
7:30-8:30pm

Wednesday Prayer Walk
2:00-3:00pm



Too Good to Be a Scam

Is there more to life than this? What's my purpose? Is there a God, and does He have a plan for my life? Over the last several weeks a couple dozen people have gathered to ask and answer some of life's most significant questions at Alpha.

We've explored ideas and thoughts about each of these questions and many in the course have learned the purpose of Jesus' life and his death on the cross. Perhaps the most frequently asked question, however, from my time running Alpha has been "But why would Jesus give us such an important gift, completely free?"

The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God" (Ephesians 2:8). He goes on to say that there are no visible works or actions you can take to earn this gift.

Many skeptical people rightfully get squeamish when they hear of a free gift, since most "free" things either have a catch or are a scam.

I decided to clean out my spam folder a few weeks ago and I was shocked to find thousands of emails from Nigerian princes, businessmen with "proposals" and subject lines that read "FREE GOLD NOW."

There was even one from my grandmother that read "I need you to do me a favor. Can you send an Amazon gift card for me from your account. I'll pay you back later."

To be sure, they were all scam emails. But the message from my grandmother concerned me. After calling to confirm that the email wasn't from her she discovered her account had been hacked.

CALVARY BOARD REPORT

Board Member Devotion

Do you have a sense of God's presence?

Steve's testimony: He has felt God's presence and direction in events that led up to his and Barbara's decision to move to Kansas. They left the timeline up to God. Everything was moving so fast, yet falling into place with God's reassuring presence and a sermon they heard regarding being called to do God's will.

Steve Takemoto's Board resignation:

Steve Takemoto resigned from the Calvary Board. The position will remain vacant until his term is filled in January 2022. The Facilities Chair vacancy will be filled after January 2022 election.

We thank Steve & Barbara for their many years of serving the Lord in many various ministries at Calvary. Calvary has been blessed by their presence and leadership. They will be greatly missed. Pray for their move to Kansas, getting settled and for new opportunities to serve the Lord.

August 2021 Financials

Income: \$28,562.58

Expenses: \$13,952.09

Net Income: \$14,610.49

Helpful tip: To practice good stewardship, please return unused offering envelopes and pens to the foyer after worship service on Sunday. Thank you in advance for your stewardship!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

In Memory of

Miki Kagoshima – Aiko Aoyama

Tadashi Agari – Dorothy Nishioka

Roy Yoneshige - Hiro & Ann Taniguchi

Patsy Utsumi, Ted & Sue Yoneda,

Frank Yoneshige, Ruth Yoneshige

Vacation Bible School

Jim & Sally Tsunekawa

Deacon's Fund

Aiko Aoyama

Joyce Nakashima

In Honor of Anniversary

Jim & Sally Tsunekawa

School Supply Drive

Janice Ishimaru

Freddie Peoples

Birthday Offering

Joyce Nakashima

John & Ruth Oda

Jim & Sally Tsunekawa (Milia Tsunekawa)

Send off wishes for Steve & Barbara Takemoto

Jean Carter

George Watanabe

Hanae Watanabe

Operation Christmas Child

Joyce Nakashima

Generosity changes lives! John 3:16 says "God so loved the world that He gave..." Your generosity is living proof that God is still transforming lives today.

Ways to Give:

1. Complete an offering envelop and mail it back to the church.
2. Go to calvarystockton.church/give to set up automatic or one-time giving. It's a safe, convenient and easy-to-use way to stay up to date on your giving!

PRAYERS and THANKSGIVINGS:

- Thank you, Lord, for the United States of America, this blessed country we live in.
- Thank you, Lord, for the brave people serving our military.
- Gary K., for healing of eye surgery complications.
- Ike, for growth in his Christian life.
- People in the flood areas of Louisiana.
- Help in ending the wildfires.
- Afghan Christians who are being targeted by the Taliban for their faith.
- Afghanistan: American citizens trying to get home, American allies, Afghan women and girls.

CELEBRATING TATSUMI STEARNS

for her many years of service as church custodian

After close to 30 years of faithful service to Calvary, Tatsumi Stearns has retired from her position as the church custodian. While we are sad to see her step down from all that she has done for the church, we also celebrate with her as she enjoys the new adventures of retirement. Thank you, Tatsumi, for all you have done. Our words cannot express how grateful we are to you.

If you would like to send notes of celebration and encouragement to Tatsumi, please send them to the church office and we will be glad to forward them to her.

BIBLE TRIVIA

Who was Samuel's father?

How many horses appear in the book of Revelation?

Who did Peter raise from the dead in the city of Joppa?

Who is the oldest man in the Bible?

Answers from August's trivia: Hail; Miriam; 88; Bathsheba

- Those working behind the scenes and under cover in Afghanistan to rescue the stranded.
- All war veterans, the fallen and their families.
- For the Mercy Ministry.
- Comfort and healing in Angola.
- Nichole healing and comfort from breast cancer.
- Steve and Barbara, for a smooth, safe transition in their move to Kansas.

CONTINUOUS PRAYERS:

- Healing of the COVID virus.
- Tatsumi, healing of arthritis in the knee.
- Joe's continuous healing prayers.
- Guidance for the Calvary basketball program in sharing the salvation of Jesus.



FACILITIES REPORT

- ◇ A BIG thanks to Bill Paxton, Allen Fong and Kevin Wong for their many hours of hard work and dedication on completing the updating of our sound and audio-visual system in the sanctuary over the last 2 months.
- ◇ A special thank you to Allen Fong for replacing the lighting in the conference room.
- ◇ Thank you to the many unseen members that have worked tirelessly for several years to make sure our Church is a safe refuge to all.
- ◇ The Facilities Committee extends our appreciation to Mrs. Tatsumi Stearns for over 30 years of service to Calvary. Our hope is your retirement will be filled with more time to enjoy time with your husband, Peter, and your children.

Submitted by Stephen Takemoto

PASTOR'S LETTER (continued from page 1)

I assured her that none of her friends would be gullible enough to fall for this, and surely no one would blindly send Amazon gift cards to an unknown source without checking with her first.

And you think – no one is gullible enough to fall for that. Until you hear of someone who does. To my surprise, she called me back shortly after to say that one of her friends had responded. She had sent \$200 worth of Amazon gift cards to a scammer with no way to get the money back!

And we're so suspicious that we think God is offering this free gift through Jesus. There must be a catch. Or, this must be a scam.

But there isn't. The gift is free. The gift is grace. The gift is Jesus.

But while it might be free, it isn't cheap. It cost Jesus tremendously as he sacrificed his life for you and me on a cross. This is the truth of the Gospel and the truth we have been learning through Alpha.

Indeed, it wasn't cheap for Jesus and it isn't cheap for those who believe either. Jesus says those who want to become his disciples must both consider the cost and give up their former life (Luke 14).

But incredibly, the promise of God's free gift is that a life with Jesus is worth more than anything it might cost you.

Grace and Peace,

Andrew J. Phillips

Pastor Andrew

He is not afraid of or disgusted by what He'll find when He looks deep inside us. He frees us from past hurts and *generously* forgives us forever.

"Faith makes all things possible... Love makes all things easy." - Dwight Moody

Submitted by Charise Masada

CATALYST MINISTRY UPDATE

This past month is a very special month for Catalyst because it marks one year since the start of this young adult ministry. Over the course of this past year, we have seen God move in some unexpected and incredible ways. We have seen the LORD work in mighty ways through our ministry in the lives of those around the world. Navigating this young adult ministry through the quarantine wasn't easy, but it has also allowed us to reach those in different cities, states and even countries with the Gospel of Christ. One of the most common phrases repeated over the course of this past year from those within the young adult ministry is this appreciation of being able to build faith-encouraging friendships with one another. This aspect of "living life together" has been one of the core values of our young adult ministry. We ask for your prayers that as we move onto the second year of our young adult ministry, the LORD would continue to move in powerful ways as we strive after Him alongside one another.

Submitted by Brett Nakashima



It's been decided! TWIDDLE MUFFS is the chosen project for this year and next!

Come learn what they are and how YOU can knit or crochet these very comforting muffs for dementia and Alzheimer patients. Easy, fun and on the care centers' wish list. YOU can help fulfill those wishes. The more hands the merrier!

There is FREE yarn, FREE crochet hooks
FREE knitting needles, and FREE instruction!

Every Friday from 6:30pm to 9ish in the Social Hall.

No need to sign up. Just come as you are!!

Great fellowship and delicious potluck food!

Call Sally @ 209.478.8543 for more information

SUN	M	T	W	TH	F	SAT
26 Worship Service: 10:00am	27 Prayer Night: 7:30pm – 8:30pm	28 Small Group: 7:30pm – 9:00pm	29 Small Group: 10:00am Alpha Course: 7:00pm - 9:00pm	30 Weekly Email Newsletter	1 Office closed Open Gym and Worship Service: 6:00pm – 9:00pm Knit Nite: CANCELLED	2
3 Worship Service: 10:00am Holy Communion Prayer Night: 7:30pm – 8:30pm	4	5 Small Group: 7:30pm – 9:00pm	6 Small Group: 10:00am Alpha Course: 7:00pm - 9:00pm	7 Weekly Email Newsletter	8 Office closed Open Gym and Worship Service: 6:00pm – 9:00 Knit Nite: 6:30pm – 9:00pm	9
10 Worship Service: 10:00am Operation Christmas Child Kickoff Prayer Night: 7:30pm – 8:30pm	11 CP Deadline School of Theology on Leadership: 7:00pm – 9:00pm	12 Small Group: 7:30pm – 9:00pm	13 Small Group: 10:00am Alpha Course: 7:00pm - 9:00pm	14 Weekly Email Newsletter	15 Office closed Open Gym and Worship Service 6:00pm – 9:00pm Knit Nite: 6:30pm – 9:00pm	16
17 Worship Service: 10:00am Membership Class: 1:00pm – 3:30pm Prayer Night: 7:30pm – 8:30pm	18	19 Small Group: 7:30pm – 9:00pm	20 Small Group: 10:00am Alpha Course: 7:00pm - 9:00pm	21 Weekly Email Newsletter	22 Office closed Open Gym and Worship Service 6:00pm – 9:00pm Knit Nite: 6:30pm – 9:00pm	23 Men's Fellowship Breakfast: 8:00am-10:00am
24 Worship Service: 10:00am Prayer Night: 7:30pm – 8:30pm	25	26 Small Group: 7:30pm – 9:00pm Mercy Ministry: 2:00pm – 4:00pm	27 Small Group: 10:00am Alpha Course: 7:00pm - 9:00pm CP Mailing	28 Weekly Email Newsletter	29 Office closed Open Gym and Worship Service 6:00pm – 9:00pm Knit Nite: 6:30pm – 9:00pm	30
31 Worship Service: 10:00am Fall Festival: 1:00pm – 3:00pm Prayer Night: 7:30pm – 8:30pm	1	2	3	4	5	6

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Working together to bring Christmas to children around the world

Accepting donations of school supplies, clothing and toys to bless a child in need, now until November 7.

Donations can be dropped off at the back of the chapel on Sunday or delivered to the Calvary office.

For more information, contact Joyce Nakashima at auntieosa@comcast.net or call 209-474-2477.