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ABOUT CROSSWORDS

Crosswords Newsletter is a quarterly publication of New Hope International Church. The goals of *Crosswords* are to communicate the heart of the pastor, the vision and goals of the church, and important church news, testimonies and events in order to create a sense of family and unity amongst the church members. If you would like to receive a copy of *Crosswords* Newsletter in the mail, please contact the church office at (206) 275-1042.



Easter Service at the North Campus

PHOTO PROVIDED BY: ARTHUR HU

A Tale of Two Easters

by JOCELYN ANDERSON

Having multiple services at New Hope speaks of a dynamic, growing church! But I often wonder how my friends at the other campus are doing and I miss them. *How was their Easter service? What is God speaking to them?*

Easter at the North Campus church was awesome! Not because everything went smoothly; in fact, nothing went according to man's plan. The facilities personnel who usually unlocks the Mountlake Terrace High School building at 8 a.m. every Sunday morning, did not show up on the most important day of the Christian calendar! (We found out a week later that that person switched dates with another person and the other person had forgotten to come.) Peng Chan and the yellow van were left waiting in the rain, and as our faithful set-up crew began arriving, Ps. Caesar Prelow made the important decision to have "church" at his house.

The worship team moved their instruments and equipment to the new location and the kids helped with worship. Gini Hebron sacrificially waited in the rain at the school to direct visitors and members to go to Ps. Caesar's house, while Peng Chan escorted 4 carloads to the Prelows. Everyone helped out where they could to get Ps. Caesar's house ready for the service. The Prelow house was packed to capacity; there were probably over 90 people in attendance including kids. People didn't seem to complain. It was cozy and joyful!

Peter Hu says, "I thought it was definitely one of the most memorable Easters I will ever have. It was really cool because you try hard at church every Sunday to make everyone feel at home like a family. But when

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NEW HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Main Campus	10 a.m. English Service
Main Campus	2:30 p.m. Thai Service
North Campus	10 a.m. English Service

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Mercer Island, WA 98040
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North Campus

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21801 44th Avenue W,
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
www.newhopenorthcampus.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Varun and Da Laohaprasit	Senior Pastors
Caesar and Naly Prelow	North Campus Pastors
Tyson and Peishih Supasatit	Assistant Pastors
Sam and Carlin Yoophum	Thai/Lao Pastors
Kenny and Malee Tsai	Worship Pastors
Neal and Maryjo Calkins	Elders
Yong and Tai Tsai	Elders
Brenda Supasatit	Children's Pastor
Jonathan and Joanne Shea	Campus Pastors
PJ Hancock	Youth Pastor
Victor and Lorena Fonseca	Spanish Speaking Pastor

OFFICE STAFF

Tai Tsai	Office Manager
PJ Hancock	Building Management/ Children Ministry

MINISTRY LEADERS

Ps. Brenda Supasatit	Children Ministry
Phirat Supasatit	Evangelism
Yong Tsai	Management
Ps. Caesar Prelow	Maturity and Care Groups
Jane Plant	Missions
Tai Tsai	Prayer and Intercession
Ps. Tyson Supasatit	Young Adult Ministry
Ps. PJ Hancock	Youth Ministry

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From Our Pastor



PHOTO BY: CHOLATHIT KHUEANKAEW (TOY)

To our family of God at New Hope International Church,

This quarter is a very exciting quarter because the Lord is doing wonderful things through our churches. We are thankful for our new members who just join our church. Our church family welcomes you, loves you and we will do our best to build you up in the Lord. We are thankful for all of our members who have been here with us for a long time. We love and appreciate your dedication, sacrifice, and faithfulness in making this house of God an established church. Without you, we could not come this far. We believe that we have the best members in the world.

We are also thankful for the grace of God that He allowed us to plant two churches in California in January; the River of Blessings churches in Los Angeles and San Diego. We are thankful for approximately 20 churches in Thailand. The churches in Los Angeles and San Diego are growing fast within the last four months. They have many committed members, worship team and new converts. Their hearts are sold out for God to build His church. New Hope International Church has sent our leaders to teach, train, and encourage these churches on a regular basis. We believe that God will continue to open doors for us to go and make disciples of many nations, tribes and tongues, and His fire will spread to many nations.

We would like to exhort you to be alert and build up yourselves in the Lord, ready to do the works of the ministry and testify for the Lord Jesus. We will continually and consistently lift you up in our prayers for joy, peace, and strength for you, and that you will grow in faith and holiness.

We love and appreciate you,

Pastors Lao and Da

North Campus Outreach



PHOTO BY: ARTHUR HU

by MARY KAY SMITH

New Hope International's North Campus congregation is intensifying its efforts to reach out to the local community. Saturday, March 12, a team headed by Jenny and Arthur Hu gathered at Aegis of Lynnwood, an assisted living facility. The outreach was organized as part of an effort to stay in touch with residents of Aegis who were contacted through an earlier outreach in December.

The team gathered in the foyer with about 12 residents attending. Gini Hebron began by reading a scripture passage from Acts 3:6-8. The story of the healing of a crippled man seemed to set the theme for the outreach. Arthur led the team in a powerful time of worship and praise. Several of the residents responded by asking team members to pray for them. Team members included: Brian Lichty, Cindy Matthews, Tammy Yap and Peter and Henry Hu.

On Sunday, April 17, another team headed to the Heatherwood apartment complex in Mill Creek. Monique Edwards and her two sons live in the complex and have been trying to reach out to their neighbors with the help



PHOTOS BY: PARANEE JUDD (JAA)

of Ps. Caesar and Ernest Edwards. In advance of the outreach, Monique, Jaa Judd and Nuye Sophonsiwong canvassed the apartments and personally invited people to attend the outreach. Hoping for at least 60 people to respond, Jenny Hu estimates that as many as 100 people took part.

Team members organized several activities for children, including face painting, origami, hula-hoop contests, balloon critters and sing-alongs. Two young guitar players joined in with Arthur Hu. Both boys and girls participated in the hula-hoop contest, and gift cards were awarded as prizes. The most popular pastime was face painting. Jocelyn Anderson, Rachael Kalawa and



Bryan Calicdan were busy all afternoon decorating faces. Vallye Edwards, Gini Hebron, Nuye Sophonsiwong and other team members served pizza and drinks and greeted apartment residents. Noke Steenerson served up some of her specialty desserts.

Several Heatherwood residents joined the North Campus congregation for Sunday services. The evangelism team members are currently trying to determine how to follow up with guests from the outreach, especially the children. If anyone is interested in joining the Evangelism Team on one of their outings, please contact Jenny Hu for details.

Youth Event:

Youth Spaghetti Dinner & Auction



Youth Spaghetti Dinner Event

PHOTO BY: CHARIS TSAI

by JOCELYN ANDERSON

New Hope's Youth Group held a Spaghetti Benefit Dinner and Auction at the Mercer Island campus on Friday, February 11, 2011, raising \$2,693.39 to donate to Pilgrim, a nonprofit Africa relief organization. (Pilgrim's Executive Directors are Calvin and Dorothy Echodu, members of New Hope's North Campus). For more information about Pilgrim, visit <http://www.pilgrimafrica.org>.

About 80 people attended the Spaghetti Dinner, not including the youth who spent their evening serving food and drinks, and cleaning up. Youth members, Derrick and Debra, entertained guests by playing piano and guitar respectively. Selena contributed 19 framed photographs to the auction raising \$800 alone. Ps. PJ and her sister PK, cooked the delicious spaghetti dinner.

The Youth Group meets twice a week: Fridays at the Mercer Island campus and Saturdays in Shoreline. Their next major event will be a Youth Retreat on June 24-27, 2011. Contact Ps. PJ or Nisa for more information.

Featured Profile:

Keith Theerakulchai

by PS. TYSON SUPASATIT

On any Sunday at the Mercer Island campus, you'll find Keith Theerakulchai at the back of the sanctuary with a video camera trained on Ps. Lao. Keith is 20 years old and came to know Jesus for the first time at New Hope International Church four years ago. "The thing that really impressed me at the church was the love people had for one another," he says. "That first Sunday that I came, I was deeply touched by the worship. I responded to the altar call and gave my life to Jesus."

Keith was born and raised in Bangkok, where he attended a Christian elementary school but never responded to the gospel message. He now lives in Bothell and studies video at Lake Washington Technical College. In September 2010, Ps. Sam approached Keith about helping to film Ps. Lao's Thai-language sermons on Sunday afternoons. Keith was happy to help because he understood the importance of people listening to the word of God and also the impact of visual communication.

Soon after he started filming the sermons, Keith had the idea to make them available to everyone on the internet through a video-hosting site called Vimeo. Keith upgraded his free account to accommodate the hour-long video recordings and started posting the sermon videos online. People in the church started sharing the videos on social networks like Facebook, and soon hundreds of people each week were visiting the church's Vimeo pages to watch and listen to Ps. Lao's messages.

Besides Thai-language sermons, Keith records the English-language sermons

from Sunday and Revival Night. Keith also helps Ps. Lao record special messages for fellowship churches in other cities that need both English and Thai, and plans to help Ps. Lao record sermons translated into Japanese in the coming months. The River of Blessings Church in San Diego, for example, plans to use these recorded sermon messages for their Sunday services twice a month.

As of early May, the church's Vimeo site hosts more than 40 full-length sermon videos. People usually view the videos on the church's website, on the church's Facebook page, or on a Thai-based website operated by a fan of Ps.

Lao's teaching. On average, the videos appear on various webpages 420 times and 50 people play the videos each day. The online videos not only help people in other cities, but people in Seattle, too. "We weren't able to make it that night, but THANKS for this video so that we didn't miss out on the Sermon!" wrote one member about a Revival Night sermon posted to Facebook.

"Being able to use my gifts to serve God is the most fulfilling thing," says Keith. "Recently, I recorded a video for a friend who is a semi-professional scooter rider, demonstrating some of his tricks. That video had more than a hundred comments in just a day, but the satisfaction I got from that is nothing compared to the satisfaction I have in helping to spread God's word. I want people to get touched and have their lives changed by the fire of God. This is what really excites me nowadays. I hope to go with Ps. Lao on future mission trips and make videos of those."



Keith Theerakulchai

PHOTO BY: AARON TOKITA



Trip to China

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: YVONNE WANG

by YVONNE WANG



I have had an opportunity to visit Shanghai, P.R.C. The first impression was economic booming in China, especially in the past ten years, which experts and economists couldn't explain. However, we Christians know why; it is God's Sovereign Plan. *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases"* (Proverbs 21:1).

During my stay in Shanghai, I visited some registered and unregistered churches. There are now four types of Christian

churches in China. Official churches are registered with the government. The second type is the house church and the third type is the underground church. The unregistered groups are still labeled "illegal", but they meet in private homes and have a well-organized network. The fourth one is quite new and called a marketing church. Christian entrepreneurs and businessmen who own properties such as hotels, factories, and companies, etc. use their facilities (office buildings and hotels) to worship God on Sunday. Most church members are their employees.

I admire that Chinese Christians are enthusiastic in the Word of God. Regular Bible studies and seminars are spreading throughout the whole country, including both the registered and unregistered churches. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese Christians were sent by the house churches to Jerusalem. The

missionaries would carry the Gospel back to Jerusalem through the ancient Silk Road. The missionaries took solemn vows that they would die there for God's Kingdom.

Give thanks to all martyrs, both foreign and Chinese Christians. They shed their blood and eventually bear abundant fruit in this land. Twenty years ago, Bibles were scarce in China. But now Bibles are in plentiful supply. Christianity is growing dramatically. There are four or five services in most churches on Sunday. The larger churches have a seating capacity of 1,000. Each service was full and no seats were left for later comers.

Praise the Lord. *"The Lord reigns, He is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength; it cannot be moved."* (Psalm 93:1) The Lord reigns forever and ever.



Mercer Island Easter Service

PHOTO BY: CHOLATHIT KHUEANKAEW (TOY)

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A Tale of Two Easters

you really DO have it at the pastor's house, it brings everyone together. Everyone helped set up and tear down; everyone listened; everyone learned. So all in all, it was more inspiring than anything else that God doesn't need a church building to move, He just needs the people."

About 30 miles south of our cozy celebration, the Mercer Island campus was celebrating Easter as well. Ps. Victor Fonseca wrote and directed a very dramatic and emotional Easter drama, *The Power of the Resurrection*, about some friends who reminisce about the old days and their lives before the rapture. These are the friends that were left behind to live during terrifying times of persecution and hardship—one is arrested by the police for worshipping, another is consumed by worldly addictions and entertainment, while others feel shame for making excuses for not sharing the Gospel and for not standing firm in their belief in Jesus. In the end, the characters find hope through repentance and renew their relationship with Jesus, and Wes, the character in bondage, is set free in the spiritual realm and accepts Christ on Earth. The final scene draws to an end with all the characters worshipping Jesus together.

The talented cast included: Phil Fischer, Chad Robeson, Wes, Phirat

Supasatit, Tim Ritter, Joy Laohaprasit, Irene Chen, Sharene Chen, Sandy Wu, Vivian Wu, Jocelyn Diaz, Martha Bailon, Lisa Fonseca, Mike Chan, Paul Laohaprasit, Ps. Victor and Lorena Fonseca, Neal Calkins, Don Smith, Keith Theerakulchai, Aaron Tokita, Anna Shih and Joanna Shih. Ps. Victor and Lorena designed the stage and props. Brendan Aye and Neal Calkins helped with sound and lighting.

"Ps. Victor did an elaborate job—using props, lighting, songs and a fog machine to create a spiritual darkness as the setting," says Ps. Brenda Supasatit. Incidentally, Ps. Victor is the same person who had designed the cool, pop-up nativity scene in the Christmas Animals play.

Phil Fischer who plays one of the main characters who rejects the Holy Spirit before the rapture shares, *"I was so glad to be asked again to be in the play. I feel in so many ways the message was much stronger....Have a relationship with Jesus now, not later.... Don't be left behind."*

While much of the cast, such as Phil, Joy, Sandy, Vivian and Ps. Victor have experience acting, there were a few newcomers to the stage. Aaron Tokita, 19, who played a cackling demon trying to persuade his victims toward the dark side says, *"It was hard, but we all got through it. It was my first time acting so I was a little nervous, but not that much because I didn't have a speaking part and I had a mask on. I thought the play went more smoothly when we did it the second time at the Thai service."*

Another rookie was Chad Robeson who enthusiastically shares, *"I can hardly wait until the next play!"* Ironically, many of his colleagues and close friends knew that it was a different case a few days earlier.

According to his wife, Manami, one Sunday, Joy Laohaprasit came up to Chad and asked him why he wasn't at the Easter planning meeting; so Chad shows up at the meeting late and they hand him a script. Chad points out, *"I never volunteered to act or do anything except help with the stage. I didn't want to be in it at all! I'm not that kind of person who wants to be on a stage. That's not my gig!"*



Mercer Island Easter Service

PHOTO BY: CHOLATHIT KHUEANKAEW (TOY)



Easter Service at Mercer Island Campus.

PHOTOS BY: CHOLATHIT KHUEANKAEW (TOY)

Begrudgingly, Chad commits to doing the part and complains the whole way through it. Chad recalls, “I just moaned and complained. I was a nasty guy at every practice.” A week before the Easter play, Chad found out that it was Phil who had volunteered him. Chad recalls that whenever he would complain to his friends or leaders, they would kindly pray for him but that’s not what he really wanted. He wanted them to tell him that he should quit. Chad shares, “The Saturday before the play, I was irate. I told Ps. Da, ‘Every time I talked to you people, (it was not a nice thing to say) about how I got bamboozled into all this—all you say is I’ll pray for you!’ But Ps. Da did pray for me and suddenly God hit me... and all the little prayers that everyone had said for me previously...worked. God told me I could do it. My whole perspective changed instantly. God set me free from

what Satan was saying that I couldn’t be on stage—that I couldn’t act. God is so awesome!”

After the play, Ps. Lao spontaneously asked Chad to share his testimony about how God had helped him quit smoking. Having overcome his fear of speaking in front of large crowds, Chad gave his testimony of how Ps. Arash had prayed for him at a Bible study and how afterwards he felt he needed to quit smoking. That night at dinner with Ps. Arash and Phil, Chad threw out his cigarettes and lighters and hasn’t smoked since! “I was a slave to sin and a slave to tobacco. There’s no way I could quit cold turkey like that! God is so awesome!” Chad had smoked for almost 30 years of his life.

Ps. Victor offers his appreciation to the entire cast who worked very hard on the play. He is also very thankful for

Ps. Da, Don, Phil, Patty, Lisa, Tanaporn and Lorena saying, “God provided me with the people and abilities to do things I couldn’t do.”

Ps. Victor admits he was a little worried that there would be chaos saying, “The day before Easter, some of the cast couldn’t remember their lines. But God showed me that He would take care of it. I encouraged them to speak from their hearts and improvise if they forgot their lines.” On the day of the play, the cast did a great job, remembered their lines and improvised so well, no one knew the difference.

I was blessed to hear from my friends at the Mercer Campus and how God is working in their lives. For some of us, this Easter could have been the worst of times but God made it the best of times.



Ministry Focus: **Food Ministry Team**

Thai Service Food Ministry Team

PHOTO BY: PS.SAM YOOPHUM

by SAAN C SAETEURN

WOW, that was such an awesome sermon! We now have another great lesson to download onto our iPods. We are so truly blessed to have such wonderfully anointed pastors, to continuously feed our souls with spiritual food.

But, like what the scripture says in Matthew 4:4: Jesus answered, *“It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* (NIV). As you can see, Jesus indicates that we need both the words of God and the “bread” food to nourish our spiritual mind and our fragile temporary body on earth.

Since we all know that our mighty pastors are the ones that feed our spiritual body, let’s take a moment to honor the other special group of people that nourishes our temporary bodies on earth. Yes, you know who I’m talking about...our talented “Food Ministry Team”!

Did you know how dedicated & generous our volunteer cooks are? Yes, of course silly I’m referring to the

ones that create the mouth-watering dishes that we so much enjoy in the Mercer Island Service, North Campus Service, & Thai Service. Some of the cooks, Sakorn, Nan and Nuntarut, even prepare food for two services on the same day, WOW!

I had the honor to interview a few of these unique individuals. It was a privilege to hear some of their personal stories & testimonies about their life, the adventures they have creating the entrees for us, and how long they’ve been serving in the church’s food ministry. Some of them have helped the Food Ministry Team (“FMT”) since the very beginning when the church started serving lunch.

Some of the Thai service cooks started out with a small “Caregroup” in Ps. Sam’s house with a small group of people and they eventually watched it grow when Ps. Lao suggested to one of the Caregroup members to evangelize with the word of God & cook some great food to bring the people to God. Isn’t God Great? Doesn’t He work in such mysterious ways?

Some days can be challenging when the FMT members feel so exhausted that their minds don’t click for them to think clearly and know what/how to cook the dishes. This often leads to anxiety & nervousness when the time is closing near Sunday. So the anxiety & nervousness levels rise for them; they even start second guessing themselves to see if they have picked-up enough ingredients to prepare for 150+ adults (not including the kids) like at the Mercer Island Service, and a little less at the other services. Now this doesn’t include special events; on those days, they sometimes have to prepare for 200-300 people including the kids.

Sakorn Marley shares that when she feels tired, she remembers Philippians 4:13: *“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”* (NIV). Then after a brief moment in prayer, God reveals His mighty powers by pouring out His strength on them to endure those long vigorous hours. The time always seems to go by so fast for them, they barely find enough hours



Mercer Island International Service Food Ministry Team

PHOTO BY: CHOLATHITKHUEANKAEW (TOY)

in the day to prepare the variety of ingredients needed to cook. I was told that sometimes they would sacrifice their Fridays & Saturdays to go out shopping, chopping, and separating/cleaning the ingredients so that we can have the best quality food possible.

Often times, our cooks & their assistants would have to begin cooking the meat or other ingredients that are needed in the dishes several hours prior to Sunday morning. The process could also begin the night before just so that they'll have enough time to cook it thoroughly. That simply shows how much pride and love they put into the food they serve us; now that's dedication!

Terry Pramoulmetar, a Mercer Island cook, once shared his passion for cooking to Yong by saying, "never take me out of the food ministry. That's the only gift I have to serve the Lord!"

The Holy Spirit restores their confidence by equipping them with past and present knowledge of successful recipes that they have gathered throughout their time cooking with family members or at work. With those recipes, they can either cook the same dishes or put a new twist to it... either way, they're fantastic!

Regardless of all the obstacles & exhaustion that they go through to get the lunches prepared for us, I always see a smile of relief and accomplishment upon their face

knowing that they have masterfully created a delicious lunch and there was enough for everyone to enjoy, with

seconds or extras to take home for those who were lucky enough.

Their joyful faces remind me of the bible verse John 6:1-15: when Jesus and his disciples perform the miracles of feeding over 5,000 people and they were all satisfied with only five loaves of small barley bread, and two small fish.

Our church is really blessed to be multi-cultural because we are able to experience many great dishes from all over the world. Please, take a moment and THANK the members of our "Food Ministry Team"... they truly deserve it for the outstanding job throughout the year(s)!!! Also, if you ever want to serve the Lord, you can always assist and join the Food Ministry Team.

Food Ministry Team Members by Campus

Here are some of the members of FMT-Mercer Island:

Yong Tsai, Terry Pramoulmetar, Gai Lash, Christian Rosas, Jaew Wongsiri, Honorable mentions: Tanida and Brendan Aye, Barry and Yao Chen.

Here are some of the members of FMT-North Campus:

Sakorn Marley, Vhanthip "Nancy" Phokayasupatt, Nan Pormsuk, Ponchai

Here are some of the members of FMT-Thai Service:

Team Bai Tong Thai Restaurant

Team A: Jaew Wongsiri, Mala "Noi" Sripunjabong

Team B: Sakorn Maley, Nuntarut Surakanvit, Promsuk "Nan" Garma
(Team B: also helps out at the North Campus Service)

Team C: Patcharee Chaiseeha, Toungporn "Paew" Tongnum

Team D: Chanhareon "Pow" Creighton, Prapatsorn "Sorn" Entel

*Many thanks to ALL (cooks, assistants, preparers, servers, etc.) who serve in the Food Ministry Team. We are blessed because of you.

Restaurant Recommendations

Some of the restaurants listed below are owned by our Food Ministry Team members. Stop in for a visit! Listed below are some suggestions:

Bai Tong (two locations)

16876 South Center Pkwy, Tukwila, WA 98188
14804 NE 24th Street, Redmond, WA 98052

Pailin Thai Cuisine

2223 California Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116
(206) 937-8807

Top Tim Thai Cuisine

118 W Mercer Street, Seattle, WA 98119
(206) 281-8833

Tasty Thai

3700 Factoria Blvd. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006
(425) 641-1900

Lemon Grass (three locations)

514 12th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 860-8164
1207 S Jackson St # 106B, Seattle, WA
98144-2093 (206) 568-8788
365 S Grady Way, Ste A, Renton, WA
98057(206) 860-8164

All Purpose Pizza

2901 S Jackson St, Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 324-8646

Thai Siam

8305 15th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117
(206) 784-5465



Songkran

April 10th, 2011

PHOTO BY: CHOLATHIT KHUEANKAEW (TOY)



PHOTO BY: PARANEE JUDD



PHOTO BY: CHOLATHIT KHUEANKAEW (TOY)

by JOCELYN ANDERSON

“Dancing granny(s) and desserts!” that’s what Jimmy Khunakorn, a member of the Thai service, says he loved most about Songkran 2011.

New Hope celebrated Songkran, Thai New Year, on Sunday, April 10th with fun, fellowship and fantastic food! There were five food stations, which generated \$1,340, all of which will be donated to the Red Cross to help the Japanese tsunami victims. Entertainment consisted of traditional and modern country style Thai dancing, a Thai “mismatch” costume contest, prize drawings and two testimonies.

Tuk, a professional Thai dancer, shared her testimony of how God gave her a new and abundant life and Ps. Tily (Ps. Arash’s wife), shared about how God had healed her. In Thailand, Ps. Tily suffered from a bad ear infection, which required surgery to fix. Later, she attended a revival service and Ps. Lao laid hands on her; she felt that was healed. When she went to the hospital for surgery, they told her that she did not need an operation. God healed her! Songkran was food for the soul and for the stomach!

Cholathit Khueankaew recalls, *“I really enjoyed both the awesome Thai food and the hilarious, entertaining stage show. Also, there was great fellowship, indeed!”* Over 100 people attended New Hope’s Songkran. Many thanks to all the people who helped make Songkran possible!

To Gilbert with Love



by GINI HEBRON

Our sister church, Desert Revival Church, in Gilbert, Arizona is an amazing work of God's love and grace through the years. The Macasing family, Lee and Kang Ramos and others led by Pastor May have persistently done the Lord's work in Arizona. Gilbert is a fast growing community fueled by technology money, which has sprung up in the last ten years.

Pastor May and her team accepted God's call while serving Jesus in a Hope of God Church in Singapore. Ron and I first visited the church with Pastor Lao a few years ago after becoming friends at our church camp.

Now five years later, it's so wonderful to see the believers' maturity in their faith. The church is growing; it is impacting the community and bringing God's redeeming love to Gilbert. Pastor Lao and Pastor Da had just visited the church a week before we arrived. Fresh winds of fire and zeal were still blowing through their midst. Some of their members had gone to Thailand and been ministered to by Pastor Lao there. We enjoyed rich times of fellowship over meals and in care groups. We

studied evangelism, theology and spiritual roots of our charismatic faith together.

Over the five years, I noticed my friends had grown much deeper in their walk. I could see how God had been blessing them in so many ways. Their joy and love for the Holy Ghost and the work of the Lord was really exciting to witness. I know Gilbert is not an easy place, but our God has a very special ministry for these dear sisters and brothers who are like living roses blooming in the desert.



ALL PHOTOS ARE PROVIDED BY: GINI HEBRON

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2011

SUNDAY, MAY 22
Lunch & Fellowship (MI)
Evangelism Outreach (Bellevue City Park)

MONDAY, MAY 30
Memorial Day (Office Closed)

JUNE 2011

SUNDAY, JUN 5
Baby Dedication

SUNDAY, JUN 12
Lunch and fellowship (MI)
Evangelism Outreach (Westlake Mall in Downtown Seattle)

FRIDAY, JUN 19
Father's Day

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
Revival Service

FRIDAY, JUN 25 - 27
Youth Retreat

SUNDAY, JUN 26
Evangelism Outreach (Bellevue City Park)

JULY 2011

MONDAY, JUL 04
Independence Day - Office Close

SUNDAY, JUL 10
Lunch and Fellowship (MI)
Evangelism Outreach (Westlake Mall, Downtown Seattle)

SUNDAY, JUL 18-22
Very Exciting Bible School

SUNDAY, JUL 24
Lunch and fellowship (MI)
Evangelism Outreach (Bellevue City Park)

AUGUST 2011

SUNDAY, AUG 07
Lunch and Fellowship (MI)

SATURDAY, AUG 13-17
Annual Camp "Fruitfulness"

SUNDAY, AUG 14
Evangelism Outreach

FRIDAY, AUG 21
Lunch and fellowship (MI)

SATURDAY, AUG 27
Church Wide Picnic

SUNDAY, AUG 28
Evangelism Outreach (Bellevue City Park)



Ps. Arash and family

PHOTO BY: AARON TOKITA

New Pastor Joins New Hope International

by MARY KAY SMITH

Ps. Arash Dehghan and his family were preparing to re-locate from Bangkok, Thailand to Adelaide, Australia. Ps Arash was about to pay for his visa when he received a call from Ps. Varun Laohaprasit to come to the USA and minister at New Hope International Church at Mercer Island. Ps. Arash hesitated because he had heard some very negative things about Christianity in the USA. He found that he did not have love in his heart for America or Americans.

After some serious prayer and reflection, the Lord assured Ps. Arash that although many American

Christians have been disobedient and unfaithful, the Lord is not finished with America yet. The Lord promised that He would raise up a new army for an end time harvest. The Lord gave Ps. Arash a new heart to serve in America; he and his family recently arrived in Seattle, and have settled in Bellevue.

Ps. Arash was born in Iran. As a young man, it was difficult for him to find work, as it was for many young people, following the Iranian Revolution. Much like the Prodigal Son, Ps. Arash decided to leave home and seek his fortune in a foreign country. He planned to go to Vancouver, Canada

and tried unsuccessfully for two years to get a visa. One of his Iranian friends came to him and told him that he had good news. Ps. Arash hoped it was good news about going to Canada, but instead, his friend said to him, “*you must come and see what I saw.*” His friend had become a Christian.

Ps. Arash decided to accompany his friend to Thailand. His first contact with Christians was through Hope of God International Fellowship in Bangkok. Ps. Arash was deeply impacted by what he saw there, especially the worship. He said to himself, “*I am in deep darkness.*” He soon made a decision to accept Christ. He joined a care group but by this time he was out of money and for a while, he walked two miles to the meetings. He eventually obtained part time work teaching English.

Two years into his busy Christian life, Ps. Arash developed physical symptoms that caused him to be hospitalized. The Lord spoke to him during that time and warned him that the Lord had a call on his life and that if he did not answer the call, He would be very unhappy. Ps. Arash repented and his life began to improve.

He met Tily, a young Laotian woman, on the Friendship Bridge between Laos and Thailand. He gave her a Christian tract and she later contacted him. Their friendship deepened and they were married in 2001. Their daughter Dina was born in 2003, and their son Daniel in 2006.

Ps. Arash has served as Associate Pastor of Rivers of Life Church and helped pioneer House of Glory Church, both in Thailand. His ministry in Seattle will focus on making disciples and raising up new leaders; he plans to spend time with those who are called to leadership. He also has an anointed prayer ministry. Having met Ps. Arash in Thailand and observed his prayer ministry in action, Gini Hebron described it as a “*spiritual tsunami.*” We are excited to have Ps. Arash and his family join us at New Hope International. Please introduce yourself to him.

Announcement

GRADUATION



Amanda Williams-Lewis.
Seattle University,
Major: Spanish and
Sociology.

I went to Highline Community College and then transferred to Seattle University. Both experiences were amazing and had a great impact on my life. I spent a year in Mexico learning Spanish. After I graduate, I want to eventually go get my master's degree and then become a teacher.



Ribeka Hirokawa.
University of
Washington, Major:
Social Welfare.

After graduating, I will go to the Graduate School of Social Work at UW. College experience was fun and great. Having been away from home the past four years, I found my true identity, life, joy and hope in Jesus, whose love never fails. I am thankful for my family, friends, people, and each season I have been through over the years.



Paul Laohaprasit.
Interlake High School,
Attending Bellevue
College in the Fall.

We are proud to announce that Paul is graduating from high school this year! He has enjoyed his high school experience and feels prepared to study at Bellevue College in the fall. During high school, Paul was loved by all his teachers and friends and participated in many job internships, including Barnes and Noble, Bellevue College Library, Marshall's, and currently at Round Table Pizza. He has been diligent and hardworking for 4 years and can't wait for college. Paul is an inspiration to his family for his appreciation for education.



Aly Richards.
Seattle University,
Major: History.

I am graduating from Seattle University with a bachelor's degree in history and plan on saving up for grad school and traveling after graduation.



Kevin Hsu.
UW, Foster School
of Business, Major:
Accounting and
Information Systems.

UW has provided me with an extensive college experience. From case competitions and group projects to football games and learning where not to eat on the Ave (the hard way), college has been in a word, adventurous. I can't say it was spectacular in any way, but I still thank God for all the unique opportunities He has provided. I have no specific plans after graduation other than finding a job and pursuing my career.



Peter Hu.
Bothell High School,
Attending University
of Washington in Fall,
Major: Engineering.

High school has been nothing but a positive experience for me. I have had the chance to compete in business competitions in Nashville, TN, perform with my orchestra in Los Angeles, CA, and learn a tremendous amount from my classmates in Bothell High School. I've been blessed also with opportunities in my school to serve. Classes, teachers, and academics were all important to me during school but the most memorable moments of my high school have been directly from working with and helping clubs and teams grow. As a former Honor Society Vice President, former tennis team captain, business club officer, and Kiwanis community service club Vice President, nothing has become more fulfilling than to be able to promote club membership and help the groups make an impact on the school and in the community. I also have made many truly great friendships that I will carry with me after graduation into college next year.

As far as future plans go, I will attend the University of Washington next year as an engineering student. It's great that I get to stay local and close to friends, family, and the church. I intend on majoring in bioengineering during college in preparation for graduate school as well as studying business.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS APRIL 30, 2011



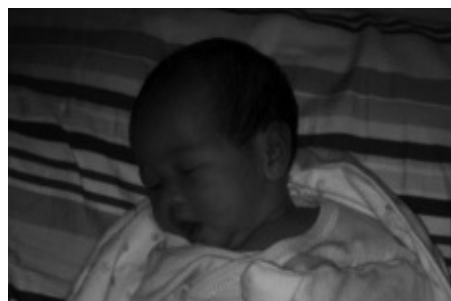
1. Mike Chan
2. Sharene Chen
3. Ribeka Hirokawa
4. Adriane Indradi
5. Jill Okinaka
6. Panadda Rattanaporn
7. Samantha Stotesbery
8. Karen Tokita
9. Gregory Yogiawan
10. Michael Veevalu

BABY ANNOUNCEMENT



Baby's name: Lucy Mbaire Muturi
 Parents' name: Patrick & Ira Muturi
 Birthday: January 14th, 2011
 Weight / lengths: 6 lbs 13 oz, 18.9 in

"Lucy is a healthy baby girl; she is active and smiling a lot these days. We are certainly blessed and overwhelmed with joy. God is to be praised at all times."



Baby's name: Ella Anika Pothisuntorn
 Parents: Ann Pothisuntorn & Danny Nguy
 Born: April 22, 2011 at 9:15 pm
 Weight/Height: 7 lbs 2oz; 20 inches

"Ella is a perfect gift from God. We thank God for our strong and healthy baby girl."

Don't forget to register your child for: **July 18 - 22, 2011**
Very Exciting Bible School



New Hope International Church
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Mercer Island, Washington 98040
www.newhic.org

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Welcome to our New Hope Family