



GARDENA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2020





PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Douglas Brown, Senior Pastor
Rev. James Chang, Associate Pastor-Neighborhood/Worship/Prayer
Rev. Daniel Matsuda, Associate Pastor-Community
Rev. Eiji Osato, Associate Pastor-Nihongo
Susan Wakuta, Children's Director
Michelle York, Youth Director
Bradley Toy, College Director
Tammy Hernandez, Early Childhood Coordinator
Emily Noguchi, Nursery Coordinator

INTERNS

Michelle Dresser, Media/Youth Intern
Vincent Fu, Media Intern
Shoki Hioki, Nihongo Worship Coordinator Intern
Ben Lee, Worship Music Intern
Tommy Morse, Nihongo Pastoral Intern

SUPPORT STAFF

Wendy Nakano, Office Manager
Peggy Kushigemachi, Financial Assistant
Jan Magnani, Secretary
Julie Shiota, Revenue & Property Assistant
Rei Abe, Nihongo Secretary
Pauline Kaneshige, Banking Help

Gerald Mayewaki, Facilities Assistant
Socorro Kagawa, Maintenance Assistant
Jai Phetsomphou, Maintenance Assistant
Brandon Hirano, Sunday Services Assistant
John Noguchi, Sunday Services Assistant
Jason Shiozaki, Sunday Services Assistant
Wesley Shiozaki, Sunday Services Assistant

BOARD OF DEACONS

Wes Harada, Moderator
Perry Ishibashi, Vice Moderator
Rex Hayashi, Treasurer
Jim Kawashima, Assistant Treasurer
Nelson Shiota, Church Clerk
Bill Dresser, Member-at-Large

Minako Fujimoto, Member-at-Large
Grace Hayashi, Member-at-Large
Keiko Imatomi, Member-at-Large
Brandon Tsukamoto, Member-at-Large
TJ Yee, Member-at-Large
Traci Yorizane, Member-at-Large

CORE MINISTRIES CHAIRPERSONS

Silvio Carrara, Financial Stewardship
Howard Imatomi, Property
Ken Kawahara, Missions
Cindy Matsuda, Evangelism
Stephanie Nagami, Hospitality



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah 43:19

DOING A NEW THING

It is doubtful, in our almost 107-year history, that GVBC has had a year like 2020. The year began like most have. We brought in the New Year by installing our Board officers and members-at-large. Our annual mission trip to Thailand was a resounding success. The Marriage Conference featuring speakers Greg and Monica Mah was well received. Also in February was the celebration of our widows with the annual Sweetheart Snack. Later that same month, a number of our church members blessed our city by taking cards and goodies to City Hall and expressing our appreciation to Gardena's city officials, as well as policemen and firemen. Youth Winter Camp and College Winter Retreat were both off site events, one in the mountains and the other in the desert. Sadly, these were the last in-person retreats of 2020.

Then, as we entered the month of March, our lives and ministries radically changed. Prerecorded services were reluctantly launched and we scrambled to adjust to the "new normal". For the first time in our church's history, we did not gather together for Easter. Our ministry model morphed in an effort to stay connected and engaged. Youth Summer Camp and College Summer Retreat were digital events. Vacation Bible School (VBS) was also a digital experience, but one that was done with an energetic excellence. Hula Ministry continued to bless us through their worship. Weekly pastoral letters were sent for half the year to update and encourage the congregation. Stories of Faith were featured weekly in which our own members testified to God's faithfulness. In July and August, we spent 31 days praying through the Epistle to the Ephesians. Then as the election drew near, we participated in 30 days of prayer for our country. Heal Our Land podcasts were an effort to focus our energy and attention as intercessors for our nation. Harvest Festival was a drive-by experience in which our members as well as the community were blessed by the visible demonstration of love. Thanksgiving service featured testimonies of God's goodness throughout the year. Advent season was enriched by the children enjoying a four-week Advent video series. Christmas Eve service was an inter-generational effort joyfully celebrating the incarnation.

GVBC was able to sustain and even thrive during 2020 because of the faithfulness of God's people. Your faithfulness was demonstrated through your prayers, participation and giving. Our giving in 2020 was only 1% lower than 2019, but because our expenses were 7% lower, we ended the year in the black. The Paycheck Protection Program funds the congregation approved in our April Special Business Meeting remain in our possession as we prayerfully consider our options. Major investments in audio-visual equipment made possible the live-streaming services which began in September. And with the approval of additional funds to update the audio-visual equipment as well as other upgrades to the sanctuary in November's Annual Election meeting, we've created multiple use options for that part of the building. These adjustments were made because we serve a God who is doing a new thing in the midst of our challenges.

As we look back, we must also look forward. In 2021, how can we respond to the crises around us and serve the world with what God has entrusted to us? We must continue to be servants of the Word who help people discover Jesus and become His fully devoted followers!

Looking forward to the new things God will do!

PASTOR DOUG
SENIOR PASTOR



MODERATOR'S REPORT

It was just a year ago. We were gathering together, worshiping and spending time in fellowship. Youth Winter Camp was in full swing and the Thailand Mission Team was building a water system overseas. It started as just another year in the life of GVBC. Then our lives were thrown a curve ball. A pitch like nothing ever seen. COVID-19 changed the lives and behaviors of everyone.

For the safety of the congregation, GVBC was forced to shut its doors. But while the doors of the building may be closed, the church remains operational. Many of you answered the call of God by stepping up to help deliver the gospel. I am thankful for those who have sacrificed their time to help give us some sense of normalcy during this time of uncertainty. There are many people within our congregation working behind the scenes. It's amazing to see how GVBC has adapted in the way we worship over the past year. We saw videotaped sermons progress into live stream messages on YouTube. Community Groups and Sunday School have been able to meet using Zoom. The worship teams look and sound the same as being at church. The technical improvements have enhanced the worship experience.

The church budget was set at the beginning of the year and the COVID-19 virus was not known at that time. By the grace of God, we ended 2020 just 2% short of our revenue goal. I shouldn't be surprised but it amazes me how we were able to maintain the income considering the volatile economy that exists to this day. Because of your giving, GVBC is able to continue to support the various ministries here on campus as well as the overseas missionaries while still maintaining a healthy reserve balance.

I was pleased that GVBC was able to provide programs such as VBS, Harvest Festival and the Christmas Service. They were modified due to safety concerns but it was good to see programs that are encouraging to children.

Worshiping online may not be the primary choice for attending church, but it has given us a tool to reach outside of our community. I was told there have been people coming to Christ because of the live stream. That is an added blessing. I must admit that I like the flexibility of being able to watch the worship service at a later time if I cannot watch it live. Also, I may do a quick rewind if I missed something.

The improvements to the sanctuary continue while the campus remains closed. We have that to look forward to when we return to worshipping together. Hopefully, it will be soon as I miss seeing all of you. God bless..



WES HARADA
MODERATOR

2020 RECAP



CITY APPRECIATION



KIDS WINTER CAMP



MARRIAGE CONFERENCE



SWEETHEART SNACK





THAILAND MISSION TRIP



YOUTH WINTER CAMP



FRIDAY FOOD MINISTRY



RECORDED WORSHIP



ONLINE NIHONGO



VBS



STORIES OF FAITH





SHOKI HIOKI

Hello GVBC family! My name is Shoki Hioki and I am Cindy's husband. My wife and I moved back to the South Bay area from the Dominican Republic at the end of the 2019 as I ended my contract with my previous employer. In early 2020, I was asked by Pastor Doug to consider serving as GVBC's Nihongo Worship Coordinator Intern.

After a few months of praying, taking care of a family member's passing, and adjusting my immigration status, I finally decided to get my foot into the door. My experience as an intern has been unique and memorable due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the most memorable events that I have participated in was an All Leaders Online Meeting. At the meeting, I was encouraged to be intentional in connecting with people through phone calls, text messages, and/or video chats. Afterwards, I was able to follow-up with a non-Christian friend of mine and help him invite Jesus into his life.

Also, I have been learning to film and prepare pre-recorded Nihongo services. I have edited a handful of media projects and facilitated Nihongo services as a service leader as well. Lastly, I have been updating the Nihongo Ministry web page, shared in J-Night online gatherings and attended weekly staff meetings. It is my privilege and honor to be involved in the Nihongo Ministry. especially during this difficult time.

My wife and I would like to thank God and the GVBC family for supporting us so we can continue to participate in the Lord's work, helping people discover Jesus and become His fully devoted followers..

BRANDON TASAKI



COMMUNITY

Entering into the 2020 year, my community group was in discussions to “multiply” since we had grown too large and had developed members capable of leading in their own capacity. We decided to multiply in August, which would present the opportunity for college graduates to join our multiplied groups.

Our leadership team, consisting of Kyle York, Tommy Park and I, prayed about the multiplied groups’ leadership and God presented us with two groups: one led by Tommy, Amie Komae and me and the other led by Kyle & Michelle York and Shoki & Cindy Hioki.

Since we multiplied in August, our new group has met exclusively online. We studied through the book of Ephesians together from September through December, shared testimonies with one another, played online board games and even had a few worship nights at the park (back when they were still open).

Despite the difficulties of 2020, our group has experienced incredible growth both spiritually and relationally. Plus, we have had the pleasure of having someone from Malaysia in our group this entire time, which is only possible because we meet online. Even though I miss being able to meet in person and everything that comes with it, I must admit that there are unique possibilities that online meetings allow, as seen with our group.

I have been truly blessed by this new community group and we have grown so much (spiritually and in number) that we are definitely looking at another “multiplication” happening sometime in the future.





LO FAMILY

Undoubtedly, we will be living with the consequences from the events and hardships that occurred in 2020: pandemic shut downs, physical disconnections, grief and loss, stress and anxiety...

Yet, God remains faithful and loving. The Holy Spirit continues to reside in us and can be witnessed through all the helpers: neighbors helping neighbors, healthcare providers risking their own health to care for us, farm workers and store employees supplying food and goods, teachers reaching out through screens to not only teach their lesson plans, but to give virtual hugs and encouragement.

Our family has been privileged to be able to embrace a slower paced life. We formed "The Lo Academy: School for the Extraordinarily Gifted". We began doing things that we never seemed to find time to do before such as making volcanoes erupt in our backyard, teaching our kids how to cook and use the stove, creating art and going on extended bike rides, which culminated in a 26.5 mile ride with an 1100' elevation gain!

We want to thank you, our church family, for all the ways you have continued to bless us. We are so grateful, especially to Susan Wakuta and all of her KIDS Church volunteers, for all the efforts they have made to provide GVBC kids continuity during such uncertain times. From the virtual VBS to the drive-by Harvest Festival to the weekly Sunday school and KidZone lessons, GVBC continues to love kids.

To all the teachers, event volunteers and staff...thank you! Our kids have felt Jesus' love through your dedication and service.

IZUMI KAWASAKI



MISSIONS

January 2020 was GVBC's fifth Water Project in Thailand. This year we went to a Lahu village, Pa Sang. Our GVBC team was truly amazing on this project.

Each team member worked incredibly hard and did all he/she could do at every moment. No matter how tired or hurt we were, Becky Mann, the Integrated Tribal Development Foundation (ITDF) staff, the villagers and the team helped and cared for each other. We simply spent all the time together, filled each other's needs, helped where we could and had an awesome time!

Some people spent their time playing sports, playing with the children, talking with the villagers, or cooking. I enjoyed learning the Thai language and teaching English, too. Our team relationship has been ongoing. Some of the team members helped Becky's family move to Los Angeles, helped with the Advent Conspiracy fund, supported the Thanksgiving ITDF retreat last fall, and joined the ITDF team Zoom Christmas Party. Due to the COVID-19 situation, we cannot visit in person, but we can connect in person in so many other ways. The relationships of GVBC and the missionaries all over the world are surely closer as we collaborate more closely. As I prepared this testimony, I realized that we can sincerely pray for each other more and more.

"Be fair to the poor and to orphans. Defend the helpless and everyone in need." Psalm 82:3
"With all my heart, I will praise the Lord. Let all who are helpless, listen and be glad. Honor the Lord with me! Celebrate His great name." Psalm 34:2-3

I realize that God is calling us every day. He is whispering where to go and work every moment. Going on a mission trip is one of the ways to answer Him. I could go even though I was not in the best health at the time. It is amazing that everyone breathing on earth can go on a trip to spread Good News and God's blessings.





KIANE WANG

I think that something that I'm learning is that there's nothing in me that makes me more favored than others by God or makes me more likely to be chosen to serve. God is faithful to provide for His church and His people; He doesn't need me but He has allowed me to be a part of His work.

It's been a privilege to serve and continue to have opportunities to serve the body in a practical way even though we cannot meet in person. I think that's still something that God is teaching me, not being prideful in my abilities, but remembering that these abilities are all God-given and so there is nothing for me to boast in but Christ. Serving is a privilege that many people don't get to do right now, and I continually need to remind myself what a joy it is to be able to do so!

While God is really growing me in this area, I've also been really encouraged by the people I've gotten to serve alongside. I am encouraged by how each of them are uniquely gifted and talented, and how they are willing to use their gifts for ministry in such uncertain times. It reminds me that the people that make up the church are all very different, and each is needed and important.

I'm really thankful for the people I've been able to get to know and the opportunities I've gotten to grow and serve, and I am excited to see where God will lead me in the future!

MICHELLE VALENCIA



YOUTH

2020 was a year that clearly defined a rollercoaster for a lot of people, as well as myself. Going to school was cut short, and my athletic season got cancelled. I was away from extended family for a while, and I was struggling with a bit of anxiety not knowing what the rest of the year was going to bring.

As much as people would've blamed God and turned away from Him because of the experiences of this past year, I did the opposite and lifted all my worries and struggles to Him. Throughout this year, I realized that God can put situations in our lives that may leave us confused. But through it all, He is still a faithful God who pulls through no matter how we may feel. So instead of focusing on the bad things, I focused more on the positives that God has brought out this year.

I got to go to my first summer camp where I learned that we as Christians are Imago Dei, made in the image of God. I spent more time with my family and got so much closer to my little brother who is now in sixth grade. But most importantly, this was the year where my relationship with God strengthened even more.

As 2021 comes in, I am asking myself, "What do I aspire to achieve this year?" Quite frankly, it's simple. Continuing to root my faith while learning more about God and spending more time doing godly things than in worldly things.



BAPTISMS

Mitsuko Kono



WEDDINGS

February 1, 2020

Tommy & Yumi (Ikeda) Morse

February 29, 2020

Kyle & Michelle (Law) York



BELOVED DECEASED MEMBERS

Chris Bishop
Miwa Fukushima
Mark Gohata
Yoko Kikukawa
Harold Kobata
Alyce Kuranaga
Kayo Kuratani
Stan Kuroda
Janice Law

Nancy Miyaguchi
Nancy Murai
Rick Nakayama
Joshua Obra
Yasuko Ogasawara
Mae Puni
Emi Takamatsu
Mayko Tarumoto



NEW MEMBERS

Yuji Idomoto

Yumi Idomoto

Yumi Ikeda

Lauren Kuriki

Kazuki Leonard Matsumura

Naomi Osato

Hiroshi Ozasa

Paul Kazuo Tamae

Chiye Tateyama



BABY DEDICATIONS

February 19, 2020

Gabrielle Lo

TREASURER'S REPORT

2020 will always be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic and the suspension of most in-person GVBC ministries and Sunday worship services. Our church needed to adapt to ministries that were streamed over the internet. Our supporters were remarkably steadfast, and some were extraordinarily generous to offset those who had to lower their support.

Comparing the donation levels of 2020 to 2019, we were merely **1% lower** in total donations of **\$1,540,759**. Because of the open pastoral position and lower facility and ministry costs, we spent **\$1,406,054 (7% less than 2019)**. With this large savings and the budget approved transfer from the Intern Fund (raised through the 2019 Golf Tournament), we had a **surplus of \$146,285 for the year**. This is included in our Total Fund Principal of **\$259,962** which is our operational savings account. Last November, the congregation approved the needed replacement of our outdated audio-visual equipment and sanctuary improvements.

Beyond the above donations, there was a record high offering of about **\$70,000 for Advent Conspiracy**, which will allow us to continue to partner with our missionaries in Brazil, Japan, and Thailand.

We are thankful that in the midst of an uncertain year, 2020 can also be remembered as one of generosity and God's wonderful provision for His work.

REX HAYASHI
TREASURER

Gardena Valley Baptist Church
Balance Sheet
December 2020

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents		
100000 - Petty Cash	\$250	
Union Bank-Checking Accounts	\$743,142	
Savings Accounts	\$584,815	
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,328,207	\$1,328,207
Land & Buidlings		\$9,137,229
Other Assets		
100400 - Co-investment-Torrance CA	\$196,988	
Total Other Assets	\$196,988	\$196,988
Total Assets		\$10,662,423

Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Payroll Taxes Payable	\$33	
Flexible Spending Accounts	\$1,291	
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,324	\$1,324

Long-term Liabilities

200500 - CARES PPP Loan Payable	\$170,100	
Total Long-term Liabilities	\$170,100	\$170,100

Total Liabilities

\$171,424

Fund Principal

399999 - General Reserve Fund	\$113,677	
Net Revenue/(Expense)	\$146,285	
Total Fund Principal and Net Revenue/(Expense)	\$259,962	\$259,962

Restricted Funds

Total Temporary Restricted	\$500,637	
Total Permanent Restricted	\$9,730,399	
Total Restricted Funds	\$10,231,037	\$10,231,037

Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

\$10,662,423

**Gardena Valley Baptist Church
General Fund Revenue & Expense Summary
December 31, 2020**

	Actual	Budget
General Fund Revenue		
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,468,763	\$ 1,524,485
Special Offerings	\$ 69,842	\$ 54,000
Specific Donations	\$ 225	\$ -
Other Revenue	\$ 1,929	\$ -
Total General Fund Revenue	\$ 1,540,759	\$ 1,578,485
General Fund Expenses		
Children	\$ 11,866	\$ 21,150
Community	\$ 7,303	\$ 13,000
Discipleship	\$ 8,793	\$ 15,675
Evangelism	\$ 4,391	\$ 7,800
Financial Stewardship	\$ 408	\$ 1,000
Hospitality	\$ 1,088	\$ 6,400
Membership Service	\$ 9	\$ 475
Missions	\$ 105,217	\$ 107,939
Neighborhood	\$ 2,048	\$ 2,700
Nihongo	\$ 3,369	\$ 12,700
Prayer	\$ 53	\$ 1,000
Property	\$ 78,563	\$ 128,600
Worship	\$ 40,569	\$ 24,850
Youth	\$ 9,799	\$ 27,200
Target Ministries	\$ 4	\$ 800
Pastoral Staff	\$ 615,400	\$ 716,013
Support Staff	\$ 249,952	\$ 240,229
Staffing	\$ 185,049	\$ 217,910
Administration	\$ 80,275	\$ 75,970
Board of Deacons	\$ 1,901	\$ 3,800
Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 1,406,054	\$ 1,625,211
Net Operating Revenue/(Expense)	\$ 134,705	\$ (46,726)
Transfer from Intern Fund	\$ 11,580	\$ 11,580
Adjusted Revenue/(Expense)	\$ 146,285	\$ (35,146)





GVBC

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