

Making International Friends ...

Reaching out in the love of Christ

On Fri., Sept. 25, our church hosted the quarterly Welcome Dinner for International Student Fellowship. There were about 100 attendees, both students and volunteers. **Students make new friends**

Many members of our congregation came out to meet and welcome these new international students to America. Rev. Sunao Shimada made a special effort to personally introduce himself to each of the Japanese students who were in attendance.

ISF is a campus ministry which serves the needs of international students by providing a safe place for them to come and practice their English language skills, learn about American culture, and make new friends. Although all of the volunteers are Christian, the focus of ISF is on friendship ministry. Through building relationships with the students, many of them have visited the local churches of the volunteers, attended ISF sponsored Bible Study, and some have accepted Christ and have been baptized before returning home!

Every quarter, hundreds of new students come to America to attend Cal State University East Bay, Chabot College and other local colleges and English language programs. It is as if God is bringing the mission field here to us for those of us who are not able or called to go where these students live over seas. We have been truly blessed by this ministry, building lasting friendships with students from all over the world and sharing the love of Christ by serving their needs.

ISF meets regularly on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. at Neighborhood Church in Castro Valley. For more information on how you can be involved, please talk to Jeff Chun, Todd Fong, or Tien Pham.

-- *Todd Fong*



Praise and thanks to God for working through the ministry of Harvest Festival! About 300 adults and children attended, almost half of which do not attend SanLo regularly, so it was definitely a great opportunity for outreach! God faithfully answered our prayers for enough helpers, food, candy/prizes, good weather, and safety.

Thank you again to everyone who supported this ministry by welcoming guests, helping with the games, helping in the craft/story area, praying for the event, and your generous donations.

-- *Judy Sugiyama and Aza Jow*

Thanks to all who brought the great food!

LOVE SAN LEANDRO – A Time to Serve

Thank you to everyone who participated from our church in the “Love San Leandro” event! Your contribution and efforts made it a great success to partner with various churches across San Leandro and make an impact in our community for Christ. The event entailed about 300 people from various churches like Creekside Community Church, Faith Fellowship, Bay Area Chinese Bible Church, and others. Several of our members had a great time serving in various service projects like a baby shower for teen pregnancies, making Christmas cards and boxes for military service-men and women, basketball tournament for local urban church, making fleece blankets for the elderly, and building projects as well.

Personally, I felt really blessed by the time of worship that we had before the day began. It was a wonderful sight to see all of God’s church come together for one purpose. It was a grand picture of what heaven will be like when every tribe, tongue, and nation worships our Lord and Savior. I also had a fantastic time playing basketball with an urban church plant in Oakland even though I felt like I was always a step or maybe two behind. It was a really positive event to help the church reach out to its local community. Please come join us next time as this is a bi-annual event to serve our Lord and our community.

To His Glory, Pastor Eric

Helping out with the Christmas cards for the service men and women was very gratifying. All of the cards had verses and personal messages to show God’s love and to let each person know that people back home care are praying for them. With the thought that the cards will touch someone’s heart and make them feel appreciated gave me a pleasant feeling knowing that I was working for God. God is all around us and we can show people His love in different ways, no matter how big or how small.

--- Naomi Agraz

It was so exhilarating and a blessing to be a part of “Love San Leandro.” I helped make fleece blankets for residents at Bancroft Senior Center. They were taken by a team of us to the Senior Center where we played Bingo with the seniors. It was a joy to see the smiles on their faces as they yelled out “Bingo” and chose a blanket. In the end, they all received one. I look forward to the next Love San Leandro event!

--- Roxanne Jang

It was a privilege to participate in “Love San Leandro” in October. I played in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament that included players from a couple of churches and players from the local San Leandro/Oakland communities. I got to know a kid that was on my team and was greatly encouraged that he was attending church and had positive influences in his life, despite living in a rougher part of town. Another man we played with, a worship leader at the Urban Church, moved to the Bay Area to attend Bible College and has hopes to start a foster home for boys, much like one that he grew up in. It was extremely heartwarming to see his desire to serve God and the needy. Needless to say, basketball was just the icing on the cake compared to the awesome people I was able to meet. “Love San Leandro” was a great way for us to practice the O (Outreach) in SANLO.

-- Ben Wu

