

THE AACCS ANCHOR

A Publication of Asian American Christian Counseling Service, Inc.

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19

Aug./Sept. 2015

Message from the Board...

Mutual Provisions For A Greater Good A New Future For AACCS

As many of you know from past newsletters and mailings, our Board of Directors have been seeking a viable path for AACCS to sustain its mission and purpose for the next generation. In particular, we have had a tremendous need for new leadership and infrastructure support. We are pleased to announce that the Lord has provided for these needs in a remarkable way. On May 20th, the Board of Directors of Logos Evangelical Seminary agreed to acquire AACCS after a year of deliberations and waiting for God to affirm this match. We are delighted and excited for the possibilities this partnership will bring to both our organizations.

We were first introduced to Logos Evangelical Seminary through one of our clinical staff members, Dr. Anthony So, who is also a faculty member at the seminary. Nestled in El Monte on a four acre campus, Logos seeks to cultivate spiritual formation, academic excellence, godly living, and ministerial competence in the lives of its students. The seminary offers multiple degree programs in a Chinese bilingual environment through its main campus here, a campus in Chicago, and through a newly formed e-campus. It was formed in 1989 by a group of visionary pastors and lay leaders from the Evangelical Formosan Church (EFC) community. It is the only Asian American seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada and by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). To date, Logos has more than 550 alumni serving in over 20 countries worldwide.



The obvious question is how can AACCS, a primarily Asian American, English speaking counseling service with roots in the Japanese American community be suitably matched with a Chinese seminary? As we learned more about each other, we came to appreciate our shared vision of faith and calling. We also came to recognize the mutuality of our work and how the possibilities of joining together could complement each other's mission and purpose. It became evident that we could collectively and corporately have greater impact and influence more people for a greater good.

It was Divine timing. Praying in parallel, we had each been asking God to provide for specific current and future needs to help us meet critical strategic goals. Along the way, we were surprised to learn two things about Logos. Under the leadership of Dr. Kuo-Liang Lin, its new

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Navigating the *Onsen* While Doing Member Care

Stephanie Nakayama, LMFT



As marriage and family therapists, Emi Bojan and I had the privilege of representing AACCS in Nikko, Japan for the Women In Ministries 2015 Spring Retreat on March 4-6. Prior to the trip, AACCS psychologist and member care (aka missionary care) specialist, Rie Mizuki, explained that Emi and I were to provide formal and informal counseling time for the missionaries which included informal sessions in the *onsen*. Rie provided instructions on how to navigate the *onsen* since it was my first trip to Japan, and I was unfamiliar with this cultural practice.

The first step is to disrobe in the locker room, then walk to the shower area where you wash up. Next you walk to the natural hot tub where you soak, relax and converse. You are not allowed to bring a bath towel in the shower or hot tub since there is no place to hang it up. Only a small wash cloth is allowed to bathe with, and many place it on top of their heads in order to keep the hot tub sanitary. I felt more anxious about the *onsen* than flying for twelve hours by myself. I requested prayer support from my family, friends and churches, especially regarding the *onsen* experience. I didn't want to limit what God could do based on my self-consciousness.

During the retreat Emi and I participated in all of the activities: ice breaker games, meals, speaker sessions, free time and *onsen*. We interacted with about 70 women who represented 17 mission agencies, pastor's wives and others who are serving in Japan. Judy Stier from Australia (Barnabas International) was the main speaker. Emi and I were able to talk to the women and provide support and encouragement to them as they shared their experiences about serving the Japanese people while living far from their own homes and family. Most of these women came from parts of Europe (e.g. Scotland, Ireland, Germany) and a few were from the USA. They all spoke English, so I didn't have to speak Japanese, although I learned a little in Junior High. The missionaries were fluent in the Japanese language and told me that language school was part of their required training. I told them that they were more Japanese than me.

Navigating the *Onsen* While Doing Member Care *(Continued from page 2)*

The missionaries only had contact with their family and friends through FaceTime and Facebook or during “home assignments.” Some of these missionaries served for a couple of years and some for over 30 years. Many felt isolated, alone and sad with grief, both for the lack of connection with their loved ones and the fact that Japan’s Christian population is less than one percent. They all felt called to serve the Japanese and had a heart for the lost. Some of these mission agencies bought the abandoned houses that were left standing after the Tsunami hit Japan in 2011. They lived in the communities among the survivors so they could provide practical help and comfort. These missionaries struggled with survivor’s guilt as they heard stories of the Tsunami victims who lost everything, including their loved ones.

I was reminded of God’s great love and compassion for those who are suffering great loss even when they are unaware that Christ suffered for them. I felt gratitude for the freedom that we have to worship our Lord Jesus and the fact that we can walk into a church in almost every neighborhood. I was also humbled by the strength, courage, endurance and faith of those who obey God’s call to go and make disciples of all the nations. God allowed me to experience His peace that surpasses all understanding as I took my first international flight with my first passport in hand and dipped my toes into the *onsen*.

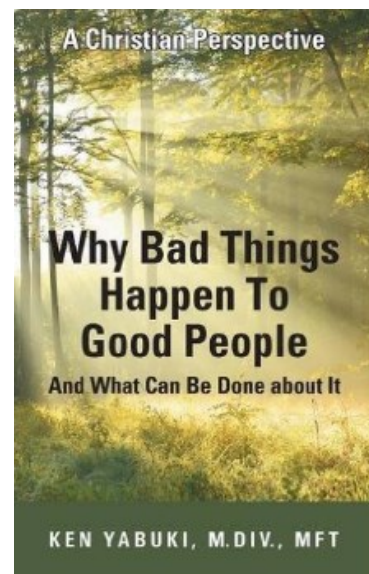
Why Bad Things Happen To Good People And What Can Be Done About It

A new publication by Ken Yabuki, LMFT

Congratulations to AACCS board member and therapist, Ken Yabuki, on the recent publication of his new book, *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People And What Can be Done About It*. It has been Ken’s heartfelt desire to share through his writings what he has learned as a former pastor and from his more than 40 years of work as a mental health counselor.

Ken is a graduate of Waseda University, Japan and later received his M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and an MA in Psychology from California State University, Los Angeles. He has been on the Board of Directors of AACCS for more than 25 years and has been a clinical staff member of the agency for over a decade. Ken also has expertise in the art of listening and has been conducting listening workshops for Christian groups in both Japan and in the United States.

Published by Westbow Press, the book can be purchased at www.amazon.com as well as through AACCS by sending your inquiries to kenyabuki@yahoo.com.



AACCS Kindness Luncheon 2015: A Place Of Abundance

Arlene Yee, LCSW, Luncheon Chair

*We went through fire and through water; yet you brought us out into a place of abundance.
Psalm 66:12B*

Friends, family, and supporters of AACCS gathered on April 19, 2015 at Almansor Court in Alhambra, CA to support the mission and ministries of AACCS.



We were blessed to hear a message of encouragement from our speaker, Vivian Mabuni, who is a wife, mother, cancer survivor, and an EPIC National Executive Team member with CRU. Vivian shared her inspiring cancer journey with us and reminded us that "This abundant life Jesus offers is not one that is pain-free and smooth, but it is rich, rewarding, messy and best lived out with people." She encouraged those who are on a difficult journey not to isolate, but to find community and support along the way.

For the past several years, an integral part of the Kindness Luncheon has been the awarding of the Ryo and Jean Komae Scholarships. This year, the scholarships were presented to Grace Ou, an MFT student at Fuller Theological Seminary, and Hyun Kyung Carol Sim, an MFT student at Azusa Pacific University. We were honored to have Ryo and Jean and the Komae family present to award the scholarships along with AACCS board member, Aileen Hong, who chaired the selection committee.

The silent auction and raffle followed which included the an ipad mini, Disneyland park hopper tickets, hotel accommodations in Hawaii, and much more. Thanks to our many sponsors and the many donated prizes from businesses and friends of AACCS, we were able to raise nearly \$15,000. We are also grateful to our luncheon committee volunteers, Yan-Yee Quon, Naomi Sakata, and Liz Shimoda, who have faithfully helped to organize this annual event.



(Left to right) Aileen Hong, Grace Ou, Jean and Ryo Komae, and Carol Sim

2015 AACCS Symposium Connecting With Grief For Healing

Jessica ChenFeng, LMFT, Ph.D., Symposium Chair

AACCS held its Fourth Annual Asian American Christian Counseling Symposium this year on Saturday, May 2nd. We were blessed to have Dr. Jeney Park-Hearn share her wisdom with us on the *"Unacknowledged Grief of Asian Americans: How Talking About Race and Theology Promotes Healing and Spiritual Connection."*

Dr. Park-Hearn holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Claremont School of Theology, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and serves as adjunct faculty at Seattle University and Fuller Theological Seminary.

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Mutual Provisions For A Greater Good—A New Future For AACCS

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president since 2014, plans were underway to launch a new Family Ministry program with the goal of offering a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. For Logos, acquiring AACCS could accelerate the implementation of these plans, including having a counseling service of their own. With AACCS, they would not need to start a counseling program from scratch, but would instead inherit an established and experienced counseling service with a critical mass of veteran Asian American Christian therapists, many of whom are bilingual and bicultural in multiple Asian languages.

The additional surprise was that Dr. Lin, as a seminary president, possessed a unique combination of academic and professional training and experience. We felt an immediate kinship with him when we learned that he is not only a former pastor with a divinity degree, but he also holds a Master in Social Work (M.S.W.) degree specializing in marriage and family therapy from the University of Pittsburg. He additionally received a Ph.D. in Family Studies from Purdue University.

Dr. Lin envisions building a strong family ministries program with curricula and resources that will also contribute to strengthening the emotional and interpersonal lives of Logos seminarians. He also hopes to equip them with knowledge and skills about counseling so that they will be better able to serve their future congregants. With regard to Asian American ministries, Dr. Lin cares deeply for the spiritual and emotional well-being of the 1.5, 2nd and 3rd generation English speaking children and grandchildren of immigrant churches. He is committed to developing Asian American ministries at Logos and is looking to AACCS to help advance new initiatives through our network of Asian American churches, para-church organizations, and community resources.

What AACCS gains from Logos is invigorated new leadership and broader based infrastructure support. This means that as our operations improve, we will be freer to invest more time and energy in helping more people. Our platform to build our referral network and to reach more people will be strengthened and expanded. Program development activities that are now being deferred will have a greater priority. Our administrative team will receive much needed practical support from Logos' HR, IT, and finance/accounting departments as well as business and fundraising expertise. In time, AACCS will receive partial or full funding for its long awaited Executive Director position. Interested AACCS therapists will have opportunities to participate in the Logos academic community through collaborative research, writing, and teaching.

While Logos will help underwrite some of these organizational needs, a condition for the acquisition of AACCS is that we must remain self-supporting. Because Logos' own fundraising objectives are to graduate their students debt free, their fundraising efforts target the scholarship needs of their seminarians. We will steward our mission and purpose as we have for nearly 30 years by maintaining our fees for services, church support, grant writing, and fundraising activities.

AACCS' conditions for this acquisition have included keeping our name as Asian American Christian Counseling Service and our legacy of relationships in the Asian American

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Therapist Corner

June Sano, LMFT, Clinical Director



New to our clinical staff are Angel C.R. Chen, MFT Intern, Daniel Jeung, MFT Intern, and Daniel Lee, MSW Associate. Each brings a depth of experience before coming to AACCS. Angel is a graduate of Hope University and currently works at a large church counseling center as well as with AACCS in our Alhambra office. She is fluent in Mandarin, Taiwanese, and Italian. She lived for a time abroad and studied art and design before the Lord touched her heart for missions and ministry. She is especially interested in children with special needs.

Dan Jeung was called to a second career after previously working many years in the field of finance and investments. He is a graduate of Fuller Theological seminary, and his experience includes training in Restorative Therapy, working with at risk youth, and counseling all ages with a myriad of problems, such as family and marital conflict, depression, anxiety, family of origin and acculturation issues, and matters related to masculinity, identity, and faith. Dan is also very involved in church ministry, short term missions work, and member care.

Daniel Lee comes to AACCS with years of experience working full time as a psychiatric social worker at another local agency. He specializes in working with children (5+), teens, and young adults. He is skilled in the use of play therapy and has counseled individuals and families with problems related trauma, depression, anxiety, generational issues, and ADHD. Dan is also experienced in helping clients cope with school and academic-related concerns, suspensions, truancy, student discipline, foster care, adoption, chemical dependency, and stage of life transitions.

Both Daniels work from our Alhambra and Torrance offices. They will also be involved in clinical outreach to our local churches. To make an appointment to see either Angel Chen, Daniel Jeung or Daniel Lee, please call (800)970-1112.

Mutual Provisions For A Greater Good—A New Future For AACCS

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community. Our administrative and clinical staff will remain with us, and we will continue to serve clients in our current office locations. We will continue our work in member care and continue offering the annual symposiums, the Komae scholarships, externships, pastoral assessments, speakers bureau services, clinical supervision for pre-licensed therapists, and consultation to pastors and other community groups.

The final steps of this acquisition will not be completed for a few more months, but the covenantal relationship between AACCS and Logos has been established. We are grateful for how the Spirit of God has worked in bringing us together and look forward to the greater good that will come from the marriage of our organizations. We covet your blessings and prayers. We still need your support and hope that you will walk with us in the future God has planned for us. We thank God for you always as faithful partners in this ministry.

Eleanor Huang, LCSW
Co-Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Executive Director Consultant

Recent Presentations and Events

Rie Mizuki, Ph.D, Speakers Bureau Coordinator

- 06/28/2015 “Healthy Growing Families” for English speaking congregation, Evangelical Formosan Church, Irvine – Rhonda Gee, LCSW
- 07/20/2015 “Stress Management,” Staff training, Asian Rural Institute, Tochigi, Japan – Joseph Ozawa, Ph.D.
- 07/24/2015 “Basic Counseling for leaders in rural communities,” for participants from 15+ nations, Asian Rural Institute, Tochigi, Japan – Joseph Ozawa, Ph.D.
- 08/14/2015 “Intentional and Intelligent Parenting,” Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Placentia – Katina Laib, MFT Intern

Additional Outreach Events

- 07/18/2015 AACCS Information Table at Keiro’s Genki Conference: Caregiver’s Edition – Resource Fair, East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, West Covina – Dan Jeung, MFT Intern

2015 AACCS Symposium: Connecting with Grief for Healing

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About fifty attendees (clinicians, students, pastors, ministry lay leaders) joined the symposium at Gardena Valley Baptist Church. With her qualitative research data with Korean American families, Dr. Park-Hearn shared narratives of loss through war trauma and discussed the impact this has on identity and interpersonal relationships. She engaged us with psalms of lament, and we had the opportunity to write our own laments. Pastoral and clinical implications were considered, as well as a helpful dialogue around how the church can more openly integrate grief into community life. Dr. Park-Hearn encouraged “faith communities to first, acknowledge narratives of loss and grief that parishioners carry and second, to create validating and safer ritual, liturgical, and communal spaces where people can explore loss.”

There were many expressions of appreciation for this event from the attendees. One of the evaluations included these words: “Very grateful to Dr. Park-Hearn for a very relevant and relatable presentation of a complex but so universal experience of grief.” We thank Dr. Park-Hearn, Gardena Valley Baptist Church, the attendees, and all of our AACCS supporters who continue to value the important work of integrating emotional, mental, and relational wellness with how we live out our faith.

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AACCS Newsletter

Run, Ron, Run!
Pastor Ron Miyake runs again for AACCS

Aug./Sept. 2015



For the 9th time, Pastor Ron Miyake of Evergreen Baptist Church San Gabriel Valley ran to raise funds for AACCS' Mission Outreach Fund which provides scholarships for missionaries and their families to receive counseling care. On May 31st, he completed the San Diego Rock "n" Roll Marathon in 4 hours and 50 minutes. We appreciate Pastor Ron's passion to run so wholeheartedly for the benefit of missionaries. Thank you to all who generously supported his efforts. More than \$5,500 was raised!

Save the Date! February 20-21, 2016

2nd Annual AACCS Walk for Mental Health Wellness
In partnership with the 38th Annual LA Chinatown
Firecracker 5k/10k Run, Walk, Bike Ride

