



**Irvington Presbyterian Church**

**Fremont, CA**

**July/August, 2017**

Dear Friends,

## Sundays

**Bible study 8:45 a.m.**

**Worship 10:00 a.m.**

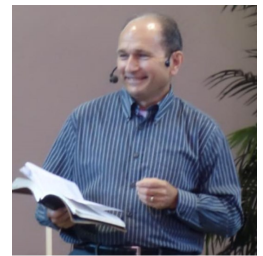
**(Nursery and Children  
Sunday School During  
Service)**

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My summer began with a great week at Yale Divinity School in New Haven. This was my first time in Connecticut and it reminded me a lot of Virginia where I went to college and seminary. My entire week was spent with two excellent scholars studying the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Additionally, I visited Mary Lee Starkel's daughter in Darien; Mark Twain's home in Hartford; Vanderbilt's 50,000 square foot vacation home in Newport, Rhode Island; rode a bike through Central Park and along the Hudson River in New York City and saw the longest running Broadway play in history, Phantom of the Opera. Ashish Raymond, who used to attend IPC and now lives in Boston, met me at Rockefeller's Riverside Cathedral for worship and we spent a Sunday together. This was an excellent study leave and a great trip.

After studying the resurrection, it is more evident to me that everything about our faith really does revolve around that event. One night after our Elder meeting, I had this illustrated. Some teenagers were playing loud music in their car in our church parking lot. I drove up and asked if they were coming to church on Sunday. They stuttered and stumbled for a moment and then admitted they were not coming. When I asked why, "We're Muslims" they said. I asked why that would keep them from coming. One of them said: "We do not believe Jesus is God, he's our prophet but we just can't worship him as God."



Politely muting their music to articulate their belief impressed me. They were quite convinced that ultimately they could please Allah if they tried hard enough. While I think their religion is helping make them better people, I wish they knew of God's deep love for them. How much does God love them? By resurrecting Jesus, his only Son, God forgave them forever of all their sins. This means they could have a personal relationship with a loving God rather than just hoping they will.

This summer I am leading a life group for middle school students. My purpose is to help all attendees understand that God loves them and wants a personal relationship with them. This personal relationship will help them want to please Him; not because they have to, but because they would want to out of gratitude. It all pivots on whether we believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the dividing line for us. I believe it; I pray that you do also. Have a safe and happy summer!

**Pastor Larry**

# DEACONS CORNER

## The Ministry of Compassion and Service - Mary Lou Craig

Deacons were kept quite busy caring for those parishioners who are ill or recuperating and the several church activities that the ministry sponsored. Due to several members being on vacation, Deacons will not have a scheduled meeting in August.

### Graduation Sunday



De'Vaughn Jackson, grandson of long time member Brenda Smith, graduated High School. He has shared his plans to attend community college in the fall. De'Vaughn literally grew up within IPC. As a youth, he regularly attended the Sunday Children's Program. During his high school years, he frequently accompanied his grandmother to worship with us in the sanctuary. Deacons provided him with several gifts that De'Vaughn will find useful in the fall.

### Father's Day Celebration

As is customary at IPC on Fathers Day, the men were dressed in their colorful Hawaiian shirts. The Deacons honored all fathers and celebrated the event by serving delicious strawberry shortcake to everyone.



### Celebrating 5 Years of Blissful Marriage

As is customary in some areas of the world, it is not uncommon for the individuals who are being celebrated to treat their guests. To celebrate their 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, Nibin and Tessy provided a cake during the social hour on Sunday July 16. It was great to see their new baby, Christopher; and it was a blessing to have the whole family worship with us.



### Medical Equipment and Supplies

IPC maintains a limited supply of medical equipment and some supplies including walkers, wheel chairs, shower seats, hand exercisers, stool height extenders, portable toilet commodes, crutches, canes and adult briefs. These are available for members and their families.

Currently there is a need for newer wheel chairs. If anyone knows of wheel chairs that are available for loan to those in need; or if you need to use any of the items listed above, please contact:

**Deacon Joe Di Maggio @ 651 - 1323 or**

**Deacon Moderator Mary Lou Craig @ 656 - 4388**



# SESSION NEWS & NOTES - Mustapha Baksh

On June 20, Session held its regular meeting. We began with prayer for God's guidance as we continue to work together for His glory. Session prayed: "In the Name of Jesus", for all our members who are ill. Pastor Larry then took us through a reading and discussion of Acts 3: 11-26.

The minutes of the May 16, Session Meeting were approved. June was extremely active at our church. The Memorial Day outdoor worship and picnic was well received and attended. Elder Pat Jeffries delineated a brief history of the Memorial Day celebrations and IPC celebrated the contributions of our own Harry Berkheimer an army private who was at the D-Day landing in Normandy.

Pastor Larry reported that we had five attendees at the New Member Orientation Class and all five have decided to become members of our church. His study leave at Yale Divinity heightened his belief in the resurrection and we look forward to his teachings about the resurrection later this year. After several years, we again have middle school kids on campus and Pastor will be leading a Life Group for Middle School students beginning June 28.

Session received the preliminary proposal for a Chinese Ministry under the auspices of IPC that will be led by Elaine Liang and Jonathan Jiang. During the next few months there will be updates on the progress of this ministry.

Mission Ministry added its first new member this past month. Irene Quek who is from Singapore, became an IPC member earlier this year and is now a Mission Team Ministry member. Irene is active in supporting ministries in mainland China.

Session has received a proposal to establish a Childcare Center on campus. Pastor Larry is leading the effort to determine the feasibility of establishing a Child Care Center on campus.

Building and Grounds has received funding to reseal and restripe the parking lot.

Are you enjoying the outdoor tents before and after worship? Thanks to Elder Pat Jeffries' recommendation we have purchased three portable tents that will be set up and available each Sunday.

Our Church Annual Picnic is scheduled for August 13. As is customary, IPC will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers. Attendees are requested to bring a dish to share. This year we plan an international theme.

The July Session meeting focused on safety for the guests and volunteers at the breakfast program. Two recent incidents required intervention by the Fremont Police Department. Several recommendations including cameras, signs and having a security guard available were suggested. The TCFB steering committee will address the safety issues. IPC Session is available to help if needed.

Session held two special meetings to accept five new members. Elder Bruce Schlobohm resigned from Session for personal reasons. A motion was approved to have Pastor baptize his grandson James Guastella on September 3<sup>rd</sup> when Pastor Mary Naegeli will be preaching.

At the regular scheduled meeting on September 19, Deacons and Sessions will meet for the first 15 minutes. At this meeting the group will decide if we make this a regular occurrence.



# FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

*"O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength . . ."Psalm 8: 1, 2*

"Camp Out" Vacation Bible School was an amazing experience for our IPC students and friends. On June 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>, we introduced kids to Jesus, who lights the way through the adventure of life.



We enjoyed fun and laughter, and made a bit of noise as everyone discovered they had a caring friend and guide in Jesus. The children learned the key verse: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12). The students were excited to watch skits, sing songs, explore the Bible, play games, and learn that when the world is dark, scary, or confusing, His light is there to guide and comfort us. McKowen Room



was transformed into a dark, night-time campsite with a glowing fire, and the children's classrooms became sunny meadows with critters on the walls to add to our two day "camping" experience.

The kids made fun Make-a-Change Camper Banks to collect money that will help provide clean, life-giving water to rural villages in Peru. The congregation happily added to the coin banks on Sunday to help pay for the digging of wells in parts of Peru.



Many thanks to our wonderful station leaders: Lynnette Ariathurai, Carol Lynn, Sonal Patelia, Kelvin Chow, and Cora Rapine; our outstanding camping crew staff: Dave Wegener, Margarita Austin, Daxesh Patelia, Marissa Hughes; our cabin crew leaders: M.J. Bade and Stavan Patelia.



We appreciate the generosity of so many church members who donated supplies for our event. God is good!



Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup> was a busy day at Irvington Presbyterian Church! We kicked-off Middle School Club, with outdoor games, video Bible lesson and discussion, and snacks. Our students brought friends to enjoy the day; the more, the merrier! As we moved into the evening, we were joined by parents, siblings, and grandparents to eat a pizza dinner and watch the movie "Woodlawn" about football legend Tony Nathan and how the Jesus revolution transformed Birmingham, Alabama in the 1970's. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship.

# **FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE** - Stephanie Yamada

*"O Lord, our Lord,*

*"God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good."*

*Genesis 1:25*

On Sunday afternoon, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Irvington Presbyterian Church families enjoyed a fun excursion to the Oakland Zoo. The children, parents, and grandparents gathered for a picnic lunch and afternoon appreciating God's amazing creatures in their varied habitats. The new gondola ride to the top of the Oakland hills overlooking the Bay Area was an exciting experience and opportunity to take lots of photos. For many families this was their first visit to the Oakland Zoo. For others, this was a wonderful opportunity to return after decades. A good time was enjoyed by all. We hope to share more "field trips" together in the months to come.

Middle School Club has taken off this summer with friends gathering for games, Bible study, and food on Wednesday afternoons. The Club's time has now changed to 6:00-7:30 pm (with dinner) so more students can join in the fun. All youth fifth to eighth grade are welcome – invite your friends!

It's Church Picnic time again! On August 13<sup>th</sup>, meet on the lawn for a delicious lunch. Stay and play entertaining and challenging games with our families. Youth is not a requirement – come join us!

Fall is approaching fast! September 10<sup>th</sup> will be our Christian Education "Kick-off Sunday" to celebrate a new school year and new programs for IPC. Christian Education Ministries will be teaching Preschool, Elementary, and Youth programs on Sundays at 10:00am. To celebrate, on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> we will have a bounce house for the kids, and a hot dog lunch and ice cream social. Look in the bulletin for more announcements; we'll be asking for donations of ice cream toppings to add to the celebration.

God continues to move and bind us together in His love. Pray for our children as their love and knowledge of Him continues to grow!



Top of the mountain at Oakland Zoo gondola ride.

# MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

## Richard and Wendy Yancey in Bulgaria

Greetings from Sofia, where we are transitioning from a heavy winter to a beautiful spring. We have



an update regarding our work that we wanted to share with you. This involves a possible change in our work as well as location. We are considering a move to the Black Forest Academy in Germany, as we continue with Pioneers. This has to do with the ongoing challenges Nathan, our son, faces in his school/social environment.

We love Sofia and are making progress with learning Bulgarian.

There have been a number of ministry opportunities opening up for us. I have started travelling to Pomak village areas with a colleague here. Wendy is helping lead a seeker Bible study with a very experienced friend who is strong in Bulgarian. Another friend wants her to join her prayer walking in the M section of the city. There are several Syrian refugees that have started coming to our church – in her Sunday school class Wendy has two children with whom she would love to be able to communicate! The doors are wide open for ministry. And the girls have been doing well at Sofia Christian Academy (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, 19 students).

We have been thinking about other schools in Sofia for Nathan. We visited the Anglo American School. This is extremely expensive and offers scholarships to Bulgarians only. In fact all the other schools in the city are expensive, save the Bulgarian ones. We know that he is not ready to tackle Bulgarian at this point. We also began to consider boarding school at Black Forest Academy. But Nathan has never wanted to board and he still feels strongly about this. We do not really want him to board either, although we know families who have had a good experience with this option.

As we have been wrestling with all of this, we began to wonder if God might have something for all of us at Black Forest Academy. One of the reasons BFA is on our screen is because Wendy's great uncle and aunt helped found the school. BFA will also allow our family who has been in the field for 14 years, (Nathan was 2 months old when we set out), to help other families better integrate into the Mission field. I have taken the preliminary step of completing the BFA application form, having found several interesting job openings on their website. At the same time, we have been in discussions with Pioneers regarding this change for us. They have been wonderful, asking thoughtful questions and praying for us. Our area leader and his wife visited us a couple of weeks ago and we were able to talk through a lot of the questions we have been facing.

In dealing with our anxiety about making a move with our family at this stage, we have been led to reflect on passages like Numbers 9:18-22 where the Israelites are not living in permanent dwellings and are following a Cloud that could move them on at any time. Also, we identify with Paul, who though he had an open door in Troas, continued on to Macedonia because he had no rest in his soul. But in some ways we see our move to BFA as a possible detour. We picture ourselves back in Bulgaria in the future. We ask your prayers and continued support as we explore this possibility.



# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## CHURCH PICNIC - Sunday August 13

Our Annual Summer Picnic and outdoor service for church members, friends and families will be held on Sunday August 13. Hamburgers veggie burgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. In keeping with the International Theme, you are requested to bring a dish that reflects your heritage. Share both your dish and your heritage. Volunteer to help with grilling, purchasing, set up/tear down.

**Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex and during Social Hour.**



## New Member Orientation Class - Sunday September 17

*"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." 1Corinthians 12:27*

We invite you to our New Member Orientation Class led by Pastor Larry. This class will teach you some of our core values, mission, vision and ministries.

Discover ways to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ along your faith journey; and the joys of being part of a church family.

This dynamic two-hour class features special teaching time with our Pastor and a chance to have your questions about IPC's mission and ministries answered. Lunch will be provided. Contact Pastor Larry or call the church office to confirm your attendance.



## Run/Walk for

**Date:** September 23

**Time :** 8:00 am

**Where:** Lake Elizabeth  
Fremont, CA



This is an IPC Missions Fund Raiser activity. Come out, get some exercise and enjoy the fellowship.

Support your Mission Ministry by sponsoring someone or having your children, relatives, friends or neighbors sponsor you.

## Hymn in Another Language

Because of our growing diverse congregation, we have enhanced our Sunday Worship by including a hymn that is sung in another language on Mission Sunday. For this month, Mission Sunday will be on August 20 when we will be singing: **"As the Deer Panteth for the Water"**, alternating verses in **Tamil** and **English**. Our own Peggy Handono and Judith Jane will lead. All are encouraged to join in as we praise the Lord with this beautiful and familiar hymn. Lyrics will be provided.

## WEEKDAYS AT IPC

The Church office is open Tuesday through Thursday each week from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. If you would like to meet with Pastor Larry, you may schedule an appointment by calling the office.

### Highlights for July/August:

July 11, Deacons Meeting 7 pm

Wednesdays ROMEO breakfast 8 am

July 8, August 10, SIS Meeting 4 pm

July 9, Missions Meeting 11:30 am

July 18, Session Meeting 7 pm

July 23, Visit to Oakland Zoo

July 30, CE Meeting 11:15 am

Wednesdays Middle School Life Group 6 pm

August 13, Church Picnic

August 15, Session Meeting 7 pm

August 17, Worship Ministry Meeting 4 pm

August 20, Mission Sunday

August 20, Communications Meeting 11 am

August 20 Missions Meeting 11:30 am

August 27, CE Meeting 11:15 am

## Church Directory

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson

**Family Ministries Director :** Stephanie Yamada

**Worship Leader:** Derek Post

**Bookkeeper:** Jeanette Ollison

**Office Manager:** Marissa Hughes

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Martha Thorson

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Fremont, CA 94538

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## Bible Studies

**Sunday Bible Study** - at 8:45 AM in the McKowen Room preceding worship.

**Women's Bible Study** - meets Mondays at 9:00 AM and will resume on September 18.

**Home Bible Study** - Regularly scheduled bi-weekly Bible Classes at Mary Ellen's house resumes September 11.



## CONGREGATION NEWS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Clara Aston

Marion Bade

Art Bouldin

Bonnie Burger

Nicole Chaikin

Joe DiMaggio

Helen Jorgensen

Tessy Mathew

Sonal Patelia

Jenni Pellot

Shelley Reavis

Colleen Ridley

Richard Craig

Janti Lie Chow

Joe DiMaggio

Joanna Furstner

Dave King

Carol Lynn

Laraine Madsen

Wayne Neesham

Flora Putler

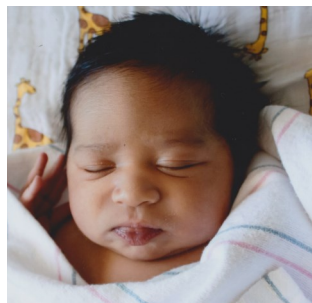
Kathy Torrence



Tessy Mathew and Nibin Geevarghese

Denise and Russ Pennelly

Alexis and Joe DiMaggio



### Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Tessy Mathew, Nibin Geevarghese and family on the birth of Christopher Nibin, born June 12, 2017, and weighing 9 lbs. Mom, baby, Christina and Dad are doing well.



Praise The Lord. Joan passed quietly at home in her sleep without pain into Heaven's glory on Saturday night July 29, 2017. Please pray for Joan's family as they grieve their loss. Our hearts and prayers are with Ron and the family. A memorial service celebrating Joan's life is being planned on a date to be announced.

# KNOW YOUR CONGREGATION

## The Bade Family - Marion, Peter, Mariel Liana and Manuel Joseph.

Peter was born in Stockton, CA. Early Christian influences included his family and a Great Uncle who was a Methodist Pastor of a small church in Stockton. During his childhood, Peter followed the customs and rituals of a Christian home. It was not until he was in high school, however, that he accepted Christ as his savior and



committed to the promise of everlasting life for those who believe. Peter has shown his commitment to Christ by volunteering to do God's work. He is currently an Elder at IPC and serves in the Buildings and Grounds Ministry. Peter reflects: "My faith in the Lord and my belief in the power of prayer are my gifts from God."

Marion was born in Laoag City, located in the coastal region of Ilocos Norte in The Philippine Islands. She was raised as a Seventh Day Adventist. Her childhood experiences included an introduction to Biblical stories and teachings. At college, she was surrounded by Christian friends of many denominations. Keeping the common thread of "belief in Christ" as her main purpose, she accepted invitations to attend church services with her friends, regardless of their church denomination. Her open-mindedness and love of Christ led to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Bible. She embraced

the only path to being saved and is now looking forward to an everlasting life with her Heavenly Father.

"Christ to me is the Lamb, the Redeemer who sacrifice everything because he loves us. He has gifted me with faith, mercy and discernment." At IPC, Marion has served on the Board of Deacons. "Children's Ministry and Missions Ministry are very important to me because Christian foundation is more effective if started at an early age. I believe we have an obligation to spread the word of God and make disciples of all nations."

Peter's career helped him fulfill his childhood wish to live in the Bay Area. He specialized in Computer Electronics, worked in the semiconductor industry and is presently working as an Engineering Technician for View, Inc. Marion graduated from the Physical Therapy in Perpetual Help College of Medicine in Binan, Laguna Philippines. She currently works as a Home Health Physical Therapist/Case Manager at Saint Joseph Home Health. This wonderful Christian couple are parents to a beautiful daughter, Mariel Liana and a handsome son, Manuel Joseph (MJ). Both children are very active participants and supporters of our Family Ministries programs under the directorship of Stephanie Yamada. MJ is an Honor Roll student entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Walters Junior High. He plays AAU basketball with East Bay Swag and travelball baseball. He likes sports and video games and wants to be an Engineer. Mariel is an Honor Roll student and a member of the Student Council at Durham Elementary. For four years, she has performed in competitive gymnastics at Demaray's Gymnastics Academy and is currently a Level 7 gymnast. Mariel shares the love of sports with her brother. She dreams of attending UC Berkeley and aspires to compete in the Olympics.

When the Bade Family first moved to Fremont, they continued to attend Trinity Presbyterian Church in Stockton until it became difficult to travel the long distance. In their search for a closer church home, IPC was the first church they visited in 2007. Marion states: "We never wanted to search for other churches after the initial visit. We knew this was our church home because of the warm welcome we received. I was on my second pregnancy and we were still new to the church. I was overwhelmed by the love and generosity shown to us by the congregation, especially the Deacons, as they celebrated our unborn baby and our family at a baby shower they sponsored." *We at IPC feel blessed by this wonderful family and their many contributions and talents.*

# MY TESTIMONY

One of the most effective tools we have for sharing our faith is the story of how Jesus Christ gave us eternal life and how He has enriched our lives. In this, the last of a series, an IPC member shares this journey from his journal. The content is minimally edited.

“Two-thousand years later I came along. I could see nothing but the blackness. I needed something. I had a dynamo within me fighting to get out. I had to have help. I asked Him; He came to me. He gave me Enlightenment. He gave me everlasting life. Now, I am that mustard seed. He goes on. That's the miracle of the mustard seed parable. Such a beautiful gift on the fifth day!

Friday the sixth day. Things are pleasant. But the Spirit is not with me. Where are you Jesus? I fall to my knees beside the bed and ask His forgiveness. What have I done? At work, I talk with my Christian friends. I ask them about the Spirit. I've lost Him. My friend Orville explains that everything that happens is for a reason; there is a reason for this. Andy calls me. I had called him the day before to explain all the beautiful things that was happening to me, But he was too busy to talk. But there still was a problem. He goes on to say that the reason he and Rita went to Tahoe with us the previous year was sort of tit-for-tat. If we went to the Couples Conference, they would go to Tahoe. But he hadn't really wanted to go to Tahoe. He explained he had always been caught up in games and he was a little afraid of gambling. I thought about this and realized I just couldn't see Jesus pulling the Slot Machine handles; and with more thinking realized that I have never enjoyed gambling and I never won. Also, the night before, our friends Maynard and Treasure had been over. I had been trying to explain how I had found Jesus and also trying to talk them into the bus trip to Tahoe. I couldn't see the difference between Jesus and gambling. I opened the Bible and saw 'gambling'. Looking again I saw it was 'grumbling'. In place of 'grumbling' I got: 'and there was much 'gambling' among the multitudes; concerning Him some were saying, 'He is a good man', others were saying, 'No, on the contrary, He leads the multitudes astray.' I put myself in place of 'He' and realized the vast difference between Jesus and gambling. How stupid not to see.

I still had a problem. How was I going to Tahoe and perform His works? Finally I realized how. Maynard and Treasure were having trouble communicating with each other. He was so caught up with providing that he wasn't seeing the beauty of his family. He and Treasure had lived a perfect life and had inspired this goodness into their children. Somehow, with Jesus help, I would spread His Word to them; to help them see beauty in each other; to help them regain the communication that they once had; and maybe "I" won't do anything, maybe just being with them to share their joy in regaining this communication. Jesus is with all of us; He works through us; He will help them.

Where am I today, seventeen days knowing Jesus? I see the beauty in this world. I continue to serve Him. I pray to Him daily. I try to instill His thoughts into my children. I love Him. Now through Jesus I have forgotten my 'self.' I put Him first and foremost in my life.

The last two Sundays I've spoken to two different church gatherings. Prior to speaking at church I asked my Christian friends to pray so that Jesus would speak through me; and He did. I started speaking and the thoughts flowed out of my mouth. It was wonderful! I could look down at the individuals in the crowd. I could see individual expressions and still carry on a meaningful dialogue. I liked talking to people. I loved talking! I have to be careful to speak His Word, not mine. I must make sure I glorify His name, not mine. Jesus said, 'You are either for me or against me. Only by accepting Him one receives Enlightenment. This is my Enlightenment! (Matthew 12:30)

I had gone through forty-two years not knowing what I was afraid of. I 'knew' there were spiritual 'things'. I was afraid to investigate. Now that I have the 'good' Spirit, Jesus, I'm no longer afraid. I have the perfect shield. **Seventeen days with Jesus, I am reborn. I have all to learn."**

# IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



***August 20 is the deadline for our September issue.***

All articles are to be delivered by email to: [kandmbaksh@gmail.com](mailto:kandmbaksh@gmail.com). Cornerstone is the medium to keep your current and past congregation members informed of all activities at IPC.

**Your timely submissions are important to everyone.**

## **Acknowledgements**

***We appreciate the time and dedication of all who submitted articles and provided information for the July/August issue.***

***Cornerstone pictures provided courtesy of: Stephanie Yamada, Richard Yancey , Ron Fong and Marion Bade.***

***You play a significant role as we work together in the name of Christ.***

***Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh***  
***Editors***