



## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memories

long beach  
FRIENDS CHURCH  
CHRIST'S FAMILY IN THE CITY

August 19, 2017





## Early Memories – Joe Ginder

Hello! My name is Joe Ginder. I'm pastor of Long Beach Friends Church. Back in 1992, at our 100th anniversary celebration, I was our presiding clerk. I was the one who ended up putting together our 100th anniversary history booklet. Now I wasn't there for most of that first 100 years, but I read through past histories and newspaper articles and lots of letters and such. So I'd like to tell you a few things about the early history of Long Beach Friends Church that I think are particularly important to who we have become after 125 years.

My wife Susie and I were called to move to Long Beach to be a part of the work God was doing here in 1986. Back in those days, I was still young. Susie and I became very involved with youth ministry here. I remember many times when Susie would make 3 or 4 trips to pick people up with our van while I entertained those who had already arrived or who were waiting to leave. But actually, I'm supposed to tell you about the early history. I can't really share much in the way of personal connection to that since I wasn't around or even alive yet for most of it.

What I found was that the church began meeting in 1888 when the town was a seaside village. The church was recognized officially as a monthly meeting in 1892, and was very heavily involved in mission work. Long Beach Friends, along with Bethel Friends that was planted by this church and then merged back into it after some decades, sent a number of people to the mission field, particularly in Central America. Ruth Esther Smith, who was field superintendent in Guatemala for decades, was pastor at Long Beach Friends and took with her to Guatemala from the church a co-worker, Cora Wildman. In later years Matilda Haworth went to Guatemala as a young woman, leaving on a steamer out of San Pedro. Charles Vore, a central figure in founding Berea Seminary, grew up at Bethel Friends in Long Beach. There were youth rallies for California Yearly Meeting at the Long Beach Tabernacle at which young people declared God had called them to mission work in Alaska. One Sunday morning around 1990, a couple from Alaska came early and asked if they could share a word of thanks. They remembered that missionaries from Long Beach had come to Alaska and wanted to say thank you to Long Beach Friends. They looked out at a sea of Khmer faces that morning and said, "we thought we would see white faces here but you look like us!" They thanked the church for sending missionaries to Alaska and sang a song. It was an amazing morning!

So a strong history of commitment to mission work is an important part of our heritage. You will hear more about that. You would think that this would prepare us for the major changes that came to Long Beach in the 1960's and 70's. In some ways it did... but unfortunately, as with all churches filled with humans, we had our "skeletons in the closet". After David LeShana left as pastor here to become president of George Fox College, the church called Fred Newkirk as pastor. The year was 1967 - back when Fred was still young! Fred worked in our neighborhood, which by that time was strongly African American. Fred began an effective ministry among neighborhood young people in those days. The church, however, was not 100% behind him. We even had a leader (who later came forward to ask forgiveness) who led the charge to dismiss the young pastor who was reaching the community around the church's building for Jesus because he was afraid his alcoholism would be discovered. So Fred was fired in 1969. Fred tells me that as he was making plans to move across the country to another church, he walked out to his car one evening to go home. A Long Beach policeman from the neighborhood drove into our parking lot to speak to him. He asked Fred if the rumors he heard were true that Fred was leaving. Fred said that yes, he was leaving. The policeman told Fred "Please don't leave. We need you here." Fred heard those words as from the Lord. He and Mardella remained in Long Beach for decades without the support of this church. Inner City Ministries was born then, and Fred has been doing vital ministry in Long Beach ever since. You will hear more about that, too.

There are many worthwhile stories of very dear people that we must leave out of our story today. I don't have time to talk about Barbara Reynolds and her work establishing a peace center in Hiroshima, or how the Japanese television crews that came to cover her memorial service blew out our meager electrical power, or Lester Stanton, or more about Matilda Haworth. I'll just say that the church was blessed by a strong history of mission support and active participation, and that this emphasis played a huge role in bringing us through tough times to become a diverse church today. Thank you for your attention! I think I've taken us up to around 1970 or so! Joe Shabel will pick up the story now.





## Transitions – Joe Shabel

Good afternoon, What a joy to join with my fellow brothers and sisters, fathers, mothers, aunts and uncles, children, nieces and nephews as we celebrate 125 years of God's Kingdom Building here at Long Beach Friends Church, a part of Christ's Family in the City.

My name is Joe Shabel and I've had the privilege of being a part of LBFC since the mid 70's (that's 1970's not 1870's) when a couple of Navy shipmates working along side of Fred Newkirk were instrumental in my recommitment to Christ in an active living relationship. This involved a shift from battling "flesh and blood" to combating "principalities and powers". After receiving a Conscientious Objector discharge from the Navy, I settled in Long Beach "The International City". For several years I lived in various residences used by Inner City Ministries as emergency, transitional and staff housing. Here I began to learn to love and serve across many cultural boundaries, continually being humbled by my ignorance and naivety, yet being convinced that God's Kingdom Family transcends and includes people from all tribes and nations and cultures and "stations in life" in real daily relationships.

Little did I know at the time that God was laying the groundwork for His faithful children at LBFC to walk in the good works He had prepared in advance for us. While war and genocide ravaged the Southeast Asian country of Cambodia from 1975 through 1979, local attempts at reconciliation between a few of the faithful remnant still at LBFC and Fred were being pursued. That resulted in my future wife Kathy and I, as well as others, to use the church for SS classes and other activities with the neighborhood children. As we got to know the remnant of the faithful few (Matilda Haworth, Stan & Rachel Willie, Mae Bloomer, Cecil Ivy, Lois Ellis, Wilfred & Marie Slick, Lorraine Spittler, Mary Ellen Miller, Esther Davis, Barbara Reynolds, Glen & Mildred Rheinard & others) we recognized their honest desires to sincerely serve God somewhere, either at 9th and Atlantic or beyond. With some though, this desire came with a set of rigid cultural restrictions on who your neighbor is supposed to be and how to love them. The changing demographics of this neighborhood stretched the responses of churches up and down Atlantic, including this one. The reality was this group of earnest believers were all white, elderly, majority ladies, many of who commuted from Garden Grove, were going to have difficulty serving this changing neighborhood. Seeking an answer to "What's next Lord" they gathered together one Wednesday evening in that room over to the right and laid out their concerns to the Lord.

In this case, our heavenly father gave a quick, but unexpected response to what was next. The following Sunday four Cambodian gentlemen looking for a Christian Church for their families saw the cross in the front. May Bloomer, full of 80+ years of enthusiasm, joyfully invited them in. That invitation and the ensuing hospitality of the faithful few ushered in the beginning of a new season for Long Beach Friends Church family. The number of families, youth, and children began to increase dramatically and God strategically provided 'Younger Blood' to assist those whose Spirits were more than willing but often lacked the physical stamina to keep up with the explosion.

As the City of Long Beach became home to the largest gathering of Cambodians outside of Cambodia, here at LBFC we attempted to nourish Kingdom Culture across three very different cultures (Anglo, 1st & 2nd generation Khmer and Lao, and the new neighborhood culture to which Inner City Ministries was more attuned). The neighborhood culture included a broad range of additional ethnic cultures with varying socio-economic cultures. Through the years, discerning and then living the "Kingdom Culture", has proved to be quite difficult at times Thousands of conversations and prayers at the "Communion Table of Life" were and are necessary to break through the cultural differences that can so often divide rather than unite. Growing pains, sometimes leaving scars, seem to be an inevitable part of becoming a community that strives to reflect His Kingdom work on earth as it is in Heaven. Therefore today, we rejoice in God's faithfulness and reconciliatory power in growing what he planted at LBFC 125 years ago. Though

faces and cultures have changed or blended or separated through the years, the reality of “Christ’s Family in the City” is evidenced by each one of us here today.

Oh, the number of times I have reflected and rejoiced that my Father took me on a journey from a small segregated town (with segregated churches) in North Georgia to one of the most, diverse zip codes in this State. And, while serving in SE Asia near Cambodia, trying to win wars in the “flesh & blood” way, that someday Kathy and I would have the privilege to serve (with a host of others) in the real battle for the hearts and minds of those seeking refuge. One of those family groups seeking refuge included our future son-in-law Phirom. As a 7 year old he was thrust into a conflict of cultures, as so many children were. Sorting through this is very difficult process for the whole family. Here, at LBFC during my short season, we have been a part of sorting for three generations now, which includes Karin’s name being changed to Sean (or in Anglo Shawn) and being blessed with our grandchildren, Caleb & Drew. Oh, who would have thought? Certainly not me! And the even more amazing thing, this is not a unique situation to my family. Look around and you will see patterns of “we all don’t look alike” as God continues to add even more diverse cultures calling LBFC their home church.

Living and working in unity across cultures requires humble submission to the “Alive in Us” Spirit of Christ, whom our Creator God and Father has anointed to be “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”. As his “Kingdom people”, let us together continually prepare ourselves for “This is what I have next for you”. Thank You!



## Khmer Refugees in America – Kim Ing

Hello, my name is Kim Ing, and I am 61 years old. I want to share my life with you.

When I was young, I was very poor. We did not have enough money to sustain our family. Then, in 1973, I was married, and in 1975 I became pregnant with a girl. I did not have enough food to eat because of the war and Pol Pot, nor did I have medicine or medical care. As result, I lost my child. Then in 1978, I became pregnant with a boy, and this is when Vietnam invaded Cambodia. At that time, our family left Cambodia and escaped to Thailand. During our time in the camps our family accepted Christ. During the time in the camps I became pregnant, and then we would leave for the United States. In

leaving the camps for America, we also turned away from God!

Times were difficult living in a new country and I had three more children. God did not forget about us or throw us away. In 1985, and we accepted Christ again with Mr. Saman, and he asked us to come to Church and I told him we had no car to drive to church. He told me that the Church had a bus to take us to Church, and Joe Shabel drove the bus to take us to Church.

In the beginning, I thought the bus was to make the kids happy, and to give the kids a ride. Then, I realized after learning more of God's word, that the bus was a way to lead the children to the road to heaven. I also knew that the Lord of Lords loves the Khmer people, and I am so thankful that the Lord of Salvation chose the Khmer people just like he chose all nations, all people to know him. God has given us gifts to use for his Kingdom, and in our Friends of Jesus Christ.

Then, in 2002, I had another very difficult time because my husband passed, and went to be with the Lord. My children were very small and life was difficult once again with kids being in school and me trying to manage it all. Through it all the Lord faithfully provided for me and my family. God's word is an encouragement to me, and the brothers and sisters help me too. Above all is prayer that gives me strength and makes me steadfast in the Lord. The Lord is who I depend on, and I have grown spiritually by His Spirit, daily. Now, God has blessed my children with good jobs, and I am so thankful to the Lord Jesus Christ and thank you, to all my brothers and sisters here in the Church, and may God bless you.





## OG Youth – Mike Tem

Hi my name is Michael Tem or some of you may know me as Peb back in the early 80s. I don't want to age myself so I was this tall then and now my oldest child is in college. Let me take you back when I first came to First Friends Church in 1981 or 1982. Some of you may have been children at the time, some of you may remember and some of you may not have been born yet when people came from Thailand and or Cambodia as refugees in the early 80s. Some of you may be here today who remember those days and are from that time. Some of you visiting today may be attending other churches or have moved on to different paths. Whatever your path, we are glad you are here today and it's great to see you and re-connect here at this time. For some of us, our journey has been to grow together here and worship as Christ's Family here at Long Beach First Friends.

I have the honor of representing the group of friends who continue to be part of this church from the 80s. Let me take you back when we first came to First Friends. Some of us were in elementary school and some a little older in middle school. There were a range of about **40-50 kids?** with broken English and who had very little in terms of money. Some of you may remember Jim and some of us from that time remember him picking us up in a van and taking us to church. There were many others from the church who devoted their time, resources and life in the name of God's purposes. Later Jeff, Pat and Joe Shabel who were single then {pause} picked us up in a van and or a bus. Some of us attended Joe's wedding when he married a lovely woman who we later got to know better through the years...named Kathy.

With very limited English, we really enjoyed the time together with others at church who spoke our language and came from the same country. For some of us, we spent lots of time with Pat and the Shabels. Pat took us to many different places; such as, the park to play basketball, toss footballs, frisbees just to name a few things and hang out at his place. The Shabels took us to miniature golf, Magic Mountain, bowling, roller skating, ice skating – we had bruises and our butt hurt from falling so many times when ice skating. For those who choose to go to winter camp, Quaker Meadow and to different events at Rose Drive where we spent the night in the basketball gym we consider ourselves fortunate.

Many Saturdays at church, Pat played the guitar and led us in songs; one of my favorite was...Pass It On – It Only Takes a Spark. After singing lots of songs, The Shabels would teach us about the Bible and talk about Jesus Christ. The Shabels also taught us the next day in Sunday school. I remember one year Luon (Kang's younger brother, Sawong an old neighbor who used to attend, and I were in Kathy's class because we were the younger group and Tim, Kang and Thy were in the older group...we learned a lot from her. Outside of Sunday school, we played lots of volleyball; whether, it was at the park or in our parking lot where the bus was parked which was located on the side where the dumpster is currently. Thanks to Joe Shabel for building the net post out of a wheel in cement. Many of us had a great time playing volleyball and some developed a passion for the sport and played with our middle and high school teams. Later we played in the church volleyball league and we usually ended up playing Good Shepherd in the finals. Despite our size {refer to my -lack in height} we played and did well in the league.

Many others played a large part in our lives; the Karnofels, Nelsons, Coggins, and the Ginders.

You may not recognize all the names but you recognize the Ginders, who came to Long Beach in the mid 80s and they continued in showing the same caring and love from those before them. Joe Ginder and Mike Karnofel introduced us to softball and we didn't win too many games; however, we got better through the years. We also played in a basketball league at Rose Drive. At first, we didn't win many games but got better despite the lack in size; Joe Ginder and Eric Coggins were our tallest players but compared to other teams...they were as tall as their shortest players/point guards of the other teams. Many Saturdays during softball or basketball season, Joe Ginder and Eric Coggins would run practice. It was fun! Outside of sports, the Shabels, Coggins, and Ginders opened their homes for Bible study. They not only opened their homes for Bible study but for us to hang out and to get to know them better. If I had more time, there are many other things that I could speak of as well.

Thanks to God this Church has been here for 125 years. Praise the Lord! For those of you who remember me when I was just a kid running around the church, and now I have been given the privilege to represent the group from the 80s. I am truly blessed, to be a member of this body of Christ along with my wife Linda and 2 children Matthew and Ashley. There are others who grew up in this church and they now have their families who are also members of this body...to name a few, Sopha also known as Timothy, Kang, Moum, Lair, Thy who also goes by Timothy. Thank you to Pastor Joe who performed not only my wedding here but many after me, such as the children of the Ginders, Shabels, Hamms, Sngiems, Seans, etc. all integral long time members of this congregation.

I have spoken about the wonderful ways that so many expressed their faithfulness to our Lord Father by doing so much for us, a testament to God's goodness, but despite the wonderful events and learning there were challenges my brother, others and I experienced while growing up attending church. All of us did not have parents who were Christian, some did but many of our parents were Buddhist and this created tension depending on who you are. But today, some of our parents are either believers or they see the goodness of the Church and especially of the people who were an integral part of our lives. They see Joe Shabel and Joe Ginder and others and know that they are good men and represent their faith well.

Times have changed and people have come and gone but what's clear is that they touched our lives both those still here and those who are not. They are God's people and were fulfilling God's will. They are our spiritual parents. What they have done and their love for us is a reflection of their love for our Lord Father...we are truly blessed to have them in our lives. We would not have been exposed to so many things without them and most importantly we are born again are part of the body God planted here in Long Beach! Praise the Lord for them and our home Long Beach First Friends.

It's been 125 years, since a congregation began meeting here in Long Beach and God continues to pour out His love in awesome ways both here in Long Beach and around the globe and we look forward to being a part of and seeing how God continues to reach and touch others here and around the world. Thank you!



## Youth Ministry – Aaron Lafortune

Hello, my name is Aaron Lafortune. When I first came to know of this church was through Inner City ministries with Fred Newkirk. I was in my early twenties and working with Diamond Bar Friends at the time as a Youth Pastor. Fred was in need of someone to help with driving a group of inner city youth to Quaker Meadow Camp for a weekend. To my dismay, as I pulled into the parking lot, I noticed that I was the only adult person that showed up to help Fred. I also was the only person to drive a very large vehicle that carried 15 passengers. Well, with 30+ people, Fred got resourceful and we got everyone to camp safely that day.

God had been planting a seed in my heart for youth living in the Inner Cities of America. After my time with Fred and the youth that weekend, I felt an overwhelming sense that Inner City type of ministry was in need, and is in need, even now with devoted help. It seemed like the need here was for able people who loved Heshua, to simply share and exhibit that love on the streets, and homes of inner city Long Beach.

I vividly remember, that last day of camp. We all had to walk down the main road of Quaker Meadow to get to our vehicles to leave. I walked in the rear of the walk to make sure we didn't forget any body. There was this cute little girl (she was about 10 years old) who was scared walking down the road. I reach down to her and gently grabbed her hand and told her, " Don't be afraid. I'll stay and walk with you." With the embrace of her hand, we walked together, and her crying stopped. I noticed how the older youth were amazed that I a "white" man would show such love to a little girl that happened to have "black" skin. I think I found out later on that most these youth had no father in the home and were extremely poor and living on welfare.

It wasn't much time after that trip with Fred and many more in the future, that the church here was in need of help with the youth group. The youth group met on Friday nights. I was invited to hang out on one of those Friday nights. Believe it or not, this was the first time I had ever knew anything about Cambodians. Long Beach Friends church was primarily Cambodian at the time. I was like, "What? Cambodian? I never heard of that. Where in the world is Cambodia anyway?!"

Needless to say, that first day with the youth, and many other visits, I fell in love with the people here. The reality was, Inner City life didn't discriminate. Poverty, uneducated, drugs, hopelessness, didn't care if you had black, dark brown, light brown, yellow, red, white or whatever type of skin color.

I had an enormous burden and passion to serve here. Soon, an opportunity came to work full-time and live in Long Beach. Teamed up with Paul Nellis, we worked with the youth here and lived in an all Cambodian complex off of Alamitos and 10th street near the church. I have had the upmost privilege to have been serving with Long Beach Friends church for many years now. This is the place where I have met my beautiful/ brat Cambodian wife, and have 4 energized and adventurous boys from 5 to 11 yrs. old.

Obviously, the Lord's ministry with Long Beach folks will continue with or without me. Currently, the Lord has called me to work on and be a great husband to my wife and to be a great father to my children. It has been a blessing to be a part of such a young multicultural church. It's exciting to see my oldest son be a part of the current youth group now. I'm eternally grateful for the opportunity, and experience of the Lord bringing me to this city and being a part of His work in His church, at Long Beach Friends church.





## Mission in Cambodia – Gary Colfax

Hello! My name is Gary Colfax. My wife Christine and I lived as missionaries in Cambodia for 15 years with our three sons, returning to this area a few years ago. Now I work with the Khmer ministry here at Long Beach Friends and at Cambodian Association of America, a local non-profit. I will be telling you about some of the involvement of Long Beach Friends with mission work to make disciples of Jesus in Cambodia,

Around 1994, it became safe enough to travel to Cambodia that some members of Long Beach Friends began to travel to Cambodia to reunite with family. Soth Neang, and his family traveled to the Battambang area and helped relatives who had become followers of Jesus in a Thai refugee camp to start house churches. Despite, a few dangerous moments when the Khmer Rouge shelled the city and caused panic, this was a beginning for Long Beach Friends to have connections to brothers and sisters in Cambodia. The house churches in Cambodia asked for permission, through Soth Neang, to call themselves “Friends” churches.

These connections grew, and Khmer members of Long Beach Friends heard that our Mission Board of Friends Church Southwest was looking for new fields. So, they visited the board several times to suggest that Friends missionaries would be very welcome in Cambodia! A prayer journey was organized in late 1995. 15 people from various Friends churches went to Cambodia to visit the house churches and pray for clarity on the Lord's direction. After they returned, Evangelical Friends Church Southwest representatives met and adopted Cambodia as a mission field and began to recruit missionaries. In the meantime, Joe Ginder made four trips in 1995 and 1996 to teach and encourage the leaders in the Battambang area, and in Phnom Penh on later trips. Ray and Virginia Canfield were the first to go to Cambodia as resident missionaries to open the field, drawing upon their extensive experience from Central America. Their years in Cambodia helped to start our Friends mission efforts well; their contribution was invaluable! Later, Christine and I joined them, with our sons, after a time of preparation that included spending a lot of time here in Long Beach.

As I reflect about our family going to Cambodia I was never concerned or questioned how our family would adjust. Brian, our oldest son, as soon as we arrived was two houses down eating with a family and chewing on a chicken claw. About the same time Christopher got a small BB stuck in his ear, in which Aunt Virginia Canfield needed to come to the rescue. Then DJ came into the picture in 1999, and we moved to Battambang, north of Phnom Penh. Those early years we focused on language, and learning about the Cambodian people are meaningful to our family. Getting to know Ray and Virginia was a lot of fun as well, living in the same house with them helped us get acquainted very quickly.

Later others joined us: the Coggins family, the Kuffel family, Michelle Murray, and Steve and Carolyn Harvey. After a brief time, Friends in Central America also sent missionaries to Cambodia. The Agustin's currently work in the Kampong Chhnang area and the Rodriguez family works in the Kampot area.

Many families from Long Beach Friends made trips to connect family in Cambodia with our missionaries and various other churches. Some have gone far beyond just making a trip or two! Kim Ing has a list of people that she disciples weekly (or more often) by telephone from Long Beach, in addition to traveling regularly to Cambodia. Several of these people have become followers of Jesus and part of churches in Cambodia. Sophy Nuon and Hong Sean have made numerous trips to Snay Krieng, a small village near the Vietnam border where Sophy has family and friends. They have planted a Friends church in the village! Sophy talks to the leaders of the church weekly to provide instruction and encouragement. Both Kim and Sophy are working with missionaries in Cambodia to connect people to the wider church in Cambodia.

Many of the members here at Long Beach Friends have traveled to Cambodia through the years. Three diverse groups of young people and various family groups have made short-term trips to connect to the church in Cambodia, witness to family, and connect with Khmer culture as a part of their own growth in Christ. This has led to many connections between the family of Christ in Cambodia and the family of Christ here in Long Beach. Our modern global communication technology makes it easy for conversations and connections to continue through social media.

The early mission's heritage of this church has born much fruit in ways that only God could have planned! We thank him for the privilege of being a part of what he has done!





## Developing Our Youth – Sophorn Cabahug

My name is Sophorn Cabahug, and I started coming to LBFC when I was in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. We started to come to church because my parents trusted Van. She offered to pick us up and drop us off every Sunday. I love being a part of LBFC and being involved with the activities.

Back in the Summer of 2002 (2003) I was 19 (20) years old, I participated in SYLI (Summer Youth Leadership Institute). At SYLI, we learned about apologetics, church history, going through the book “7 Habits of Highly Effective People”, etc... It was great to connect and re-connect with our youths, leaders in the church, and the community. It was a 4-6 weeks program. I volunteered or was chosen (can't remember) to lead the summer event called SUNDAY FUNDAY. We came up with this name as a group and planned every detail as a team. SUNDAY FUNDAY was a free event to play games, have a jumper, and it had sitting and eating area where we can share the Gospel. It was the opportunity to reach out to our neighbors in the church community. It stretched me in ways where I needed to initiate and take leadership. It took me out of my comfort zone. I am thankful for this experience.

I told my friend, Julie Cruz about SYLI, and she wanted to join specifically to learn more about “7 Habits”. I know from SYLI, she not only received more knowledge, but also a lifetime of friendships and putting her faith in Christ.



## Developing Our Youth – Julie Chung

My name is Julie Chung. As Sophorn mentioned, I gave to my life to Christ after SYLI, “grew up in faith” at this church for about 10 years. During my years at Long Beach, God revealed His mission for us to share the Good News that Christ longs to redeem and restore the brokenness of this world and that we can have this redemption when we trust Him. One of the ways Long Beach Friends Church did this was wanting to share the Good News to their relatives back in Cambodia. I was able to be a part of 2009 Cambodia Mission Trip where we were able to share a meal with my some of teammates relatives. We established a relationship with our driver, Bruh, who gave his life to Christ by the end of our trip. This is what I love most about how Long Beach Friends shares the Gospel. It is through deep, very real, authentic relationships where we share our joys and burdens as we grow in our love and knowledge of Christ.





## ICM Reconciliation – Derek Brooks

Hello Friends and Family in Christ!

I am Brooks and work alongside Pastor Fred with Inner City Ministries. I have been a part of ICM for the last 7 years. I wanted to share some impact points within ICM. First, just the acknowledgement of Fred working within ministry for 50 years is incredible. It has been a tremendous walk with others, as lives are transformed in Christ.

As noted prior, Fred was not a part of the church after 1969 and was working within the community doing gang prevention and assisting folk that felt rejected and hopeless pointing to Jesus within Long Beach and LA county. This phase of ICM lasted nearly 30 years. In the late 1990's, Fred began to work with the folks at church again. He slowly began to rebuild the relationship at LBFC. During this time Fred and Gary Smith would host bible study in the basement. As the numbers grew, Fred began to have Thursday and Sunday services where other ministry leaders would come alongside Fred and provide food, clothing, blankets, and a compassionate ear for those broken from life's challenges. Fred continues to work with those struggling with homelessness, mental instability, and even various addictions.

Personally, I realize that over these seven years Fred has connected me with quite a few folks. Specifically, Sam Bechtle who started a men's bible study that meets every Monday called, "Course Change Inc." This group focuses on changing lives through Christ. I now host that bible study in helping others. In my previous struggles with homelessness, I now see that I can be of service to others that have similar struggles and instabilities. In addition, I am in my last semester of the Urban Ministry Institute that meets at Granada Heights Friends Church in La Mirada. I have been attending this collegiate level seminary based training for the past 4 years. It has been a great way for me to learn more about Jesus and how I can apply his principles to my life and share those principles with others.

Over the years, I have seen the most broken of situations transformed and reconciled through Jesus. The great aspect of impact is that Fred continues to work on pointing others to Jesus and following up with each person that he comes in contact with. That has been a great lesson for me personally, and building on real relationships with Jesus at the core. Currently, Fred is still deeply involved in ministry in Long Beach, and still looks to make a difference. Quite a few situations that appear to be so far gone, Fred sees the special God gift in each person and works directly with them to help in loosening the shackles of affliction. He always is graciously hopeful and has a burning vision for the inner city. We still continue our Bible Studies with breakfast on Thursday mornings and dinner Sunday evenings. These are great times to connect with folks that feel lost or stuck. We look to walk with everyone that comes in. All situations are not as simple and take constant prayer and fellowship. We also have a brotherhood of guys that are following Jesus that are discipling through the process as well. We think that the vision for the ICM is alive, extremely strong and well gauged to handle moving forward. It has been a great experience to share this time together, as we celebrate ICM's presence within Long Beach Friends Church. To The Father be the Glory. Amen.





## Young Leaders – Karin Sean

Hello, my name is Karin Sean and I currently serve as the clerk of our Ministry and Counsel. I've been asked to speak about the development of the next generation of leaders at our church. Over the years I've had the privilege and blessing to see how God has used some of our key values to allow growth and I would like to share them with you.

When I was in high school, I remember Tha Soth Neang was one of our guest speakers for a Sunday school class. He shared about the war, leading a village, and being a parent. He shared about how as adults/parents, the goal is always to take care of and provide for the kids. This impacted me to understand that I was being led by a group of adults who were both wise and wanted to support us.

Joe Ginder as our pastor and the elders at our church started taking steps to allow us to move into ministry. In middle and high school, we had opportunities like SYLI, office jobs, internships, sports, hard core Bible study, youth group, worship team, and committees. This is where we learned our values. We could try things like Night of God's Stars. We could creatively come up with events to reach out. We could discuss the connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament. We could question and be told honest answers instead of easy answers, including "I don't know." We could build on relationships and make mistakes. Our voices could be heard on different committees.

A lot of people ask how to get young people involved in the ministry of the church. They remark on the fact that our church has a lot of young adults who have taken ownership of LBFC ministries and decisions. I think there are a few reasons why our members were able to transition into these roles. First, we were given a voice at the table. Our older generation valued the voices instead of control. Our elders blessed us with the space to have real input into church decisions. And not just compartmentalized ministries like youth or children's ministry. We were able to see the whole church and asked to serve at meetings about church decisions. When good ideas were shared they were used. I really appreciated being able to be a part of Mobilizers and help think through how we were going to be a multi-cultural church. Instead of trusting one special called person to be in charge of a ministry, we formed committees where people could openly share and problem solve. There were definitely challenges, not everyone agreed all the time, feelings and/or pride can get hurt, and communication is hard. But if the goal is trust, these things are necessary. Being a church is not about the programs that you can impress people with but the values that you share through deep connected relationships, first with Jesus Christ and second with each other. Being obedient to Jesus is simple, but hard to keep consistent. Just like every other thing of value, like our families, purpose/work, and friendships.

At LBFC, our young leaders grew through being able to help make church decisions. Like when we decided to change our services, like when we decided to have budget classes and discuss church spending, like when we decided to form a children's committee that would hire a coordinator, like when we decided what our mission statement was, like when we made decisions about worship on Sunday morning, like when we decided that we were committed to the community around us with Route 43. All of these decisions are usually reserved in most churches for the pastor and those lucky few who have power. But Jesus is the true power. And we listened together. A brave and less practiced discipline from our Quaker heritage.

I have so many stories with specific people that I could share about how messy this was. Listening to the Lord instead of our pride, or worldly measures of success, is hard. And we got it wrong sometimes. But this just reminded of God's grace. I was reminded of God's grace when worship would go terribly but the Lord would knit songs together that members in our congregation would need to hear. I was reminded of God's grace with we would debrief after

events and leaders would vulnerably speak of hurts and receive empathy. I was reminded of God's grace when young leaders who didn't have the skills for the task ahead of them would be blessed by God miraculously providing. I would be reminded of God's grace when communication would go out of whack but forgiveness was given. It was our weaknesses that God used. Like Moses, we learned more of God through weakness than anything else. What kind of leaders does the Lord desire? Pastors? Teachers? Evangelists? Missionaries? The Lord desires only one thing. That the people in your church are willing to serve and love the Lord. And God blessed the investment of our older generation with young leaders who aren't perfect but are committed. Committed to the Lord first and our neighbors (our church community) second. Thank you for being a part of celebrating this with us today!





## Latino Ministry – Yolanda Hamm

Beloved brethren, I am going to talk with you about the Latin Ministry here in Long Beach Friends Church. This ministry, as an actual part of our church began approximately back in August, 2011.

Since then we have experienced great happiness in sharing with Latin families about the message of repentance and the forgiveness of sins, just as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to do.

The Latin ministry has had wonderful support from our Long Beach Friends Church. Before the beginning with this ministry, I had a good number of meetings with our senior pastor, Joe Ginder. During these meetings I shared with him what appeared to be a calling of God to work with the Latin community, sharing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our pastor gave me lots of support, listening to me and giving me light and direction.

I have had great pleasure seeing that during these six years the members of Long Beach Friends Church have given us a lot of support in many of the needs that have come up in working with our Latin community. It has been wonderful to see how English-speaking brethren are helping people of a different language and culture.

We have also had help from other Latin congregations among other Friends churches, all of which has been a great blessing.

At the present time we can see about 20 to 30 people in our Latin worship services.

In the Latin group we have about 8 adults, 8 young people and 6 children as regular attenders, besides the people who help us with the teaching, preaching and worship music and the visitors who frequently are with us.

Something which personally has given me a lot of happiness is seeing how, whenever we have a special need to meet in the activities of this ministry, the Lord has provided the necessary help. Many times the help has come forth almost without us even looking for it. This fact that we have had the necessary help particularly helps me to feel the support of God in the Latin ministry here in Long Beach Friends Church.





### Youth Ministry Today – Chris Sean

Hello. My name is Chrisaput Sean. I am 26 years old and have been attending this church for most of my life. I am currently the youth coordinator and I will be sharing a little bit of how this ministry began, and where God is leading it.

Growing up in the church here at LBFC, I was a part of a small group from the time I was 13-16 years old. When I graduated high school, there were a few boys who began middle school. I wanted to provide something that was like what had been provided for me. I began a small group with these three young guys. I would pick them up from school and we would eat pizza, study the Bible, and hangout. As a few years went by, other boys entered middle school and our group got larger. This led to the opportunity for young ladies to join as well. Small events and youth retreats followed as the small group became an established youth group. That was when I asked Kim to help serve God by working with the girls. She was obedient and faithful to the role.



### Youth Ministry Today – Kimberly Ishihara

Good Afternoon, my name is Kimberly Ishihara. I moved to Long Beach for college with the intent of moving back home soon after. Little did I know that God had other plans for me in this city by allowing me to a part of this ministry here at LBFC. Like Chris mentioned, I was asked to serve as a girls youth ministry leader almost four years ago. I was hesitant. I had a huge heart for women, but middle schoolers terrified me. The first night I came, there was only one eleven year old girl. Our first conversation took place under this stage, as we hid for at least 20 minutes while playing Sardines. The only thing that I remember from that night was she telling me that

she was glad I was there. From that Friday night on, I never left. It is undeniable that the Lord has taken ahold of this ministry. We have seen spiritual growth only produced by His power, resources only produced by His will, and blessing from relationships with the youth only produced by His grace. These kids have brought me more joy that only the Lord could have known. Being a servant for Him has blessed both of us greatly. It is truly a privilege to see another new youth added to our growing group, to witness one receiving Jesus during camp, and more importantly to walk alongside these kids daily and point them to Christ.

**Conclusion:** f you would like to know more about what we do here in this ministry, and hear from some of our own youth, we invite you to our Combined Youth-led service. It will be on Sunday August 27th, at 9:30 AM.





## Multicultural Worship – Andy Sanchez

Hello, I'm Andy Sanchez, a worship leader here at Long Beach Friends Church. As you've already been able to see we're a diverse church here at Long Beach Friends. I'm going to share about our worship as a church together and a personal experience I had with worship here.

I have not actually attended Long Beach Friends ever since I was a baby, but was born and raised until I was about 10 years old in a different church.

This church was also multi-ethnic, it had many services for different languages yet it did not embrace worship as a multi-ethnic church but separately in mono-ethnic settings. But when I started attending church here at LBFC I quickly saw how different things were here. I still remember my first experiences with the combined services. The fact that there were people here that looked different from me and spoke different languages from my own did not really surprise me, growing up in inner city Long Beach helps a lot with getting used to that. But what was really new to me and even shocked me a bit was that in a church service all these things were coming together to worship the Lord, there was unity in diversity. I was amazed by the Khmer dancing being used to worship God, singing in Spanish, hearing prayer in languages I didn't understand, and all this was going on in the same service.

As fun and as beautiful as multicultural worship can be there are challenges that arise when trying to come together in worship such as translations and coordination. But it is so good to worship the Lord in truth and spirit even across language and cultural barriers because the truth of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior transcends all things that in other settings would hinder unity among different peoples. In Revelation chapter 7 verse 9 and 10 it says,

*"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

And we also read later in the book that we will be God's peoples, and that the glory and honor of the nations will be brought into the New Jerusalem. And so when we pray "*Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" I would say multicultural worship is a part of that, a prayer answered to see God's kingdom here on earth and His will in action. A will of love, peace, and unity among His children, that brings out true worship from all peoples in different ways. This all gives glory to the One True God who created all things, including all languages and cultures, for the purpose that He be glorified in the worship of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.





## Thoughts for the Future – Susana Sngiem, Presiding Clerk

The church of the future is clearly described in Revelation 7:9-12:

*<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:*

*“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.”*

*<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:*

*“Amen!  
Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen!”*

Through this passage, the church of the future is all nations, peoples, languages praising and worshiping God in unity. This vision is the calling of our church today. We are to become a multicultural, inclusive, diverse community and family that praises, worships, and loves God together.





## Credits

Our service today was organized and produced by Monica Ginder and Susan Ramos. Be sure and thank them!



Our reception, food, and decorations were put together through the diligent efforts of our **Planning Committee**: Linda Tem, Suhua Peng, and Ashlyn Sao. We are very thankful for their hard work!



The planning committee says that we owe special thanks to Lair Ky and Joe and Kathy Shabel:



There are many others who have worked to prepare food, decorate, clean, make repairs... well, let's just say a LOT of people deserve our thanks! So, **THANK YOU!**



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