



THIRD QUARTER 2024

# WORLD HARVEST FREMONT -BRIDGES

A FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP OF BRIDGES COMMUNITY CHURCH  
505 DRISCOLL RD., RM 207, BLDG C, FREMONT, CA 94539

Official Newsletter



## Pastor's Message: Great is God's Faithfulness!

It is faith-enriching to see the faithfulness of God cover World Harvest Fellowship-Bridges since the day John Rey and I arrived in 2012. We started with eight active people meeting at the high school room every Saturday, but God has grown the church now to about 90 people.

I am humbly overwhelmed in my spirit with gratitude to God to see His faithfulness overflow in the ministry and life of the church.

- The opportunity to meet at Bridges Community Church (BCC) campus for worship, ministries and celebration are God-honoring blessings! Thanks to BCC. God is working in this church!
  - The beautiful surprise of seeing God bring new faces to the church Sunday after Sunday and month after month is gratifying.
  - Seeing God raise people to get involved in the ministries of the church. Right now, we are relaunching 11 Life Groups that will meet in different households.
  - God blesses the church to become a mission-partner in many parts of the world! We are partners with EFCA-WD, Global Church and EFC-Philippines.
  - In God's infinite faithfulness, He blessed our church with four more pastors and their families (Pastor Ken and Sis. Peggy Jung, Pastora Marilyn and Bro. Ramon Alina, Pastor Em and Sis. Marian Tajada, and Pastor Roy and Sis. Ann Pin).
  - The church continues to experience the daily provision of God's faithfulness because of his mercies that are new every morning!
  - I am excited as I enter my 13th year as the Pastor of this church, which is ready to give birth to its first church plant in the Central Valley area.
- To God be all the glory and praise for the great things that He has done and continues to do.

In the Service of the King.

Pastor Joe Magpatoc

World Harvest Fellowship-Bridges

Evangelical Free Church of America-WD

## This issue:

Pastor's Message: Great is God's Faithfulness!

WHF 15th Anniversary

Special Article: Is it a Sin to Celebrate Halloween?

Featured Article: What is your name? Does it affect the power of your prayer?

Women's Retreat

Life Groups

Family Camp





# WHF 15th Anniversary

On November 3, 2024, World Harvest Fellowship-Bridges (WHF) will celebrate its 15th anniversary with the theme “Great Is Your Faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:23). Indeed, God has been very faithful to His people. Church members have seen how God has worked and moved in their lives. He has healed church members of their illnesses and sicknesses. Cancers are cured. Broken relationships are mended. Needs are met with His timely and sufficient provisions. That’s why it is no wonder that the motto, “God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good” resonates in the halls of WHF. God has proven time and time again that He is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals, and Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides. At this juncture, WHF is also celebrating God’s increase in the church’s attendance. Worshippers have grown to 90, a glorifying increase from the initial eight members when the church started in 2009.



## Is it a Sin to Celebrate Halloween?

For followers of Christ, our actions and behaviors are judged according to our obedience to Christ. Within the context of celebrating Halloween, this truth remains. We are defined by our actions and how closely our heart is aligned with God’s desires.

Whether it is a sin for Christians to celebrate Halloween depends on how exactly you plan to celebrate. For some families, this might require more intentionality in discussing how you plan to celebrate Halloween. For other families, these discussions might lead to a change in your plans. And that is a perfectly acceptable response.

It’s true, the Bible contains no direct references to Halloween by name. However, Scripture carefully instructs Christians against participation in pagan practices directly involving witchcraft, the occult, and the worship of other deities.

In 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul writes, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Our obedience to God requires a careful understanding of how much God cares about our choices. In deciding whether to participate in Halloween, you and your family can consider how your actions might align with God. Dressing up in a costume and handing out candy on October 31 is not a sin. However, how you represent Christ matters, especially on polarizing days such as Halloween. Remember how you portray Jesus in your behaviors, how you interact with people and even your costume choices.

(Source: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/should-christians-celebrate-halloween/#h-is-it-a-sin-to-celebrate-halloween>)

# What Is Your Name? Does It Affect the Power of Your Prayer?

Have you ever wondered how your parents came up with your name? Some names are taken from relatives, mostly grandparents or someone honorable in the family. Some are taken from memorable places or events. There is one such character in the bible who was named for a painful event. His mother named him Jabez because his mother had difficulty giving birth to him. Jabez in Hebrew means, “he who causes pain.” However, despite his name, he is among those counted in God’s Hall of Faith. His story is one of triumph and transformation despite his difficult birth and the challenges he faced.

Have you heard about the Jabez prayer? 1 Chronicles 4:10 reads, ‘Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.’

We can learn valuable lessons from Jabez’s story about the power of prayer and the blessings from a strong relationship with God. His prayer is a stark contrast to his name and its origin. Jabez did not allow his name to define his relationship with God. Jabez approached God with boldness.

Jabez’s prayer had communal implications. Although he prayed for personal blessings, the expansion he desired eventually benefited his community. This reminds us that our prayers, while personal, should always consider the wider impact of God’s blessings in our lives.

Jabez’s prayer encourages us to bring our deepest desires before God with confidence, to trust in His goodness, and to seek His active involvement in our lives.

(Contributed by Sis. Joyce Alina)



“When prayer becomes your habit, miracles become your lifestyle.”

HAPPYANDHEALTHY

## 2024 Women’s Retreat

The women of WHF held its 2nd retreat on October 25-27 at Pacifica, CA. It was participated by 10 women from the church and one guest participant. The retreat was made more joyous and meaningful to the 10 women when the guest participant decided to accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior during the retreat.

This year’s theme was “The Five Women in in the Genealogy of Jesus,” namely Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, Ruth, and Mary the mother of Jesus. These women are included in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus, which traces the lineage from Abraham to Jesus. The inclusion of these women is notable. For one thing, they were non-Jewish, except for Mary. They are ordinary women who were poor. Tamar, Bathsheba and Ruth were widows, and Tamar and Rahab had tarnished sexual histories. In a culture that almost exclusively traced lineage through men, these women stood out.

The stories of these women are a testament to God’s redemptive power and his ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.



Life Group	# of Members	Leader/Co-Leader
Basketball	25	Bro Dante de Guzman
Daly City	8	Pastor Joe Magpatoc Bro Bong Bautista
High School and College Students	17	Sis Joyce Alina
Lathrop	11	Pastor Joe Magpatoc Sis Nannette Marcelo
Milpitas A	5	Pastor Em Tajada
Milpitas B	9	Pastor Roy Pin
Fremont	16	Pastor Joe Magpatoc Bro Jesse Mondala Bro Dilo Benjamin
Stockton	9	Pastor Joe Bro Makii Masancay
South San Jose	10	Bro Wil Mondala
Tracy	10	Pastora Marilyn Alina
Young Professionals	9	Pastor Joe



## Life Group

Covid-19 ushered in a novel way of doing life groups - virtual bible studies and meetings. Although we are grateful for the conveniences of virtual studies and meetings, nothing is more significant than personal, face-to-face interaction. Now that the threat of covid is behind us, it is time to once again gather face-to-face. Thus, for the remainder of 2024, the church will re-launch face-to-face life group sessions. With the increased number of church members, there will now be 11 life groups from the previous six groups.



## FAMILY CAMP

On September 27-29, WHF held a family camp at Caswell Memorial State Park in Ripon, CA. Family camp is one of the activities the church undertakes to foster camaraderie and unity among its members. It is also a way whereby church members get to know each other better in an informal, less structured environment. The family camp was participated in and represented by 22 families occupying a total of 11 sites. The culmination was a Sunday service with the message on Jesus' question of "What can I do for you?" (Matthew 20:32) which is the first in the series on Jesus Asks: Exploring Life's Important Questions.