



■ Inside, meet Hope Center members Lawrence and Sina Neru

■ On Sundays, April 7 & 14, Hope Center OC will meet at the nearby Embassy Suites

■ 2012 Financial Report. See page 4

# HOPE CENTER OC NEWS

APRIL 2013

Love Strong, Believe Strong, Forgive Strong

A Message from Pastor Sheila

## Igniting New Life!

I'll never forget the time Jim and I brought our four sons to the natural history museum where they were showing a movie on forest fires. It was just one of those small movies in a hallway, but it had a bench and it gave me an excuse to sit!

I was mesmerized as I heard for the first time how forest fires are beneficial... seeds fall from the trees and lie dormant in the undergrowth until the intense heat of a forest fire causes them to germinate – to spring to life!

This illustration has helped me understand that the fires of life, the intense heat of life's trials can actually ignite new life! Even when it looks like all is lost; even when it appears that nothing is left but ashes; even when staring death in the face – God can and does ignite new life! He breathes new life into dead dreams, He resurrects crushed families, He redeems broken lives that are left for dead.

I hear from people all over the world who testify that God redeems, resurrects, restores. Just as Jesus rose from the dead so we can have victory over spiritual death, His resurrection also encourages us when it looks like

**New Life** continued on next page



**We pray that you, too, will see new life spring forth in your life.**

**Sunday March 17, 2013**

## Hope Center of Christ Celebrates First Anniversary!



PHOTO: DEBBIE BONILLA

Pastors Sheila Coleman, Jim Penner and Harold Shaw stand behind the beautiful new pulpit—dedicated Sunday, March 17th.

Congregation members bring birthday cakes, cupcakes, other baked goods, balloons and party favors to joyously celebrate the First Anniversary of *Hope Center OC* after the Sunday morning worship service. Pastor Sheila said, "We have reason to celebrate, our church is making a powerful positive and

**Anniversary** continued on next page

## Celebrate a Glorious Easter Morning

Hope Center of Christ  
Sunday, March 31, 10<sup>AM</sup>

...an inspiring message by Pastor Sheila Coleman entitled "Left for Dead" and the incomparable worship music of Scott & Debbie Smith and our Worship Team.

## Anniversary continued from page 1

redeeming difference in the lives of countless people...not only right here in Orange County but across America and in over 75 nations around the world..." In the last 12 months:

- **Hope Center Sunday morning worship** has been viewed on the web over 31,000 times in over 75 countries.
- **Our app has been downloaded** in every continent of the world.
- **We've launched mission teams** in Germany.
- **We've served nearly 1,000 meals** (bowls of chili, bread, fruit and beverage) to the hungry and homeless in Orange County.
- **We've given** almost 1,000 pairs of socks to children.
- **Over 260 combined hours** of men and women studying God's Word in our weekly "Band of Brothers" and "Women of Hope."
- **We've volunteered** hundreds of hours providing child care at the Orange County Rescue Mission.
- **Our prayer teams are in place**...prayers are being



Hope Center Members and friends all partake of baked goodies brought to celebrate their church's first birthday.

answered with praise reports, healings and new jobs!

- **Nearly 400 persons** in the United States and around the world requested our Worship Music CD set.
- **We collected and gave away** over 500 pairs of shoes to children at the Anaheim Children's Center.

Pastor Sheila announced exciting new plans for the Hope Center to take their message to television...and, the Congregation dedicated a new pulpit, made of sparkling, crystal clear acrylic and etched prominently with the Cross of Christ.

## New Life continued from page 1

we have come to a dead end in our health, in our family relationships, in our finances.

My own testimony mirrors those I have seen and heard from many of you! I have seen God restore a new ministry. He has breathed His breath of life and a new ministry has been born! We are seeing restoration, redemption, and resurrection of a ministry that is new and vibrant! The seeds that would have lain dormant have burst into life. The sprouts are growing stronger every day.

It amazes me how many we are reaching via the web. I do, however, continue to hear from people who lament the fact that they can't see us on television. The biggest reason is that

they can't afford an internet connection in addition to their television cable, so they can't access our services via the web, or their internet provider isn't fast enough to stream the service to them without stopping and starting. We believe that God wants to fully restore and rebuild. That includes television for those who need our ministry and can't get it.

This Easter, as seeds are springing to life all around us, as we celebrate the new life and victory of Jesus, risen from the grave, we pray that you, too, will see new life spring forth in your life, your families, your loved ones.

And we pray that God will ignite more seeds in the ministry of Hope Center of Christ to help us spread His hope to human hearts everywhere.

*Sheila Coleman*



## Change of Venue Mark your Calendar NOW!

Sundays, April 7 & 14, due to prior commitments, our Sunday morning services *will NOT be held in the Marriot Suites. Instead, we'll be meeting at the Embassy Suites, Anaheim located at 11767 Harbor Blvd.*— that's directly across Chapman Avenue from our current location, less than a block away, on the same side of the street— just a little bit closer to Disneyland.



# Meet Lawrence & Sina Neru

BY MARGAUX JORDAN

This wonderful couple was living in Samoa and life was good! Lawrence had grown up in a wonderful Christian home with godly missionary grandparents, and a mother & father who were pastors. Lawrence says, “I ‘met’ Dr. Schuller, through the televised Hour of Power when I was only a teenager”. Who knew that Dr. Schuller and his family would play such an important role later in his life...

...while living in Samoa, his lovely wife, Sina, was not feeling well, the illness seemed serious and they prayed for an answer. She could have been treated in nearby New Zealand at no cost, but, they instead decided to follow some other family members and come to the United States.

Soon, God’s greater plan began to unfold. After their arrival, Sina went to the hospital. She found out if she had come even a day later, her kidneys may have shut down and she could have lost her life. Sina was diagnosed with the debilitating disease of lupus, and was immediately placed on strong medications. “I had always been an active, naturally healthy woman, and these new medications did not agree with my inner spirit,” Sina says.

One evening in 2009 the couple was driving to see a movie at The Block in the city of Orange, when they got lost. God had a very specific plan in mind though—as He had led them right to the gates of the Crystal Cathedral. “I was absolutely filled with disbelief that we were at the place where the man I admired as a teenager actually preached,” Lawrence says. The next day they attended church there.

They went to Pastor Sheila, and told her of Sina’s illness. Sheila prayed for healing and advised them to fast and pray three times a day. They took her words literally, praying diligently and fasting one day a week. During that time Sina chose to go off of her medications. When Sina went to see her doctor two months later, the lupus was gone! God had used Pastor Sheila and their faith to guide this couple to ask prayerfully for a miracle and He surely gave them one. Today, four years later, Sina is clear and completely healed. They give God all the glory.

“We are grateful to Pastor Sheila that through her we were able to receive the anointing and the healing,” Lawrence said.



PHOTO: DEBBIE BONILLA

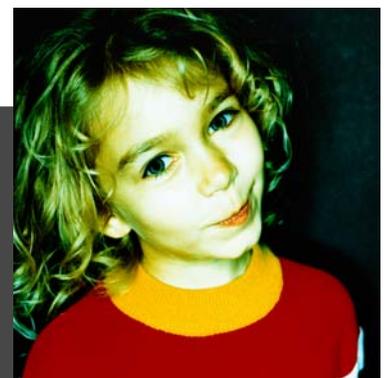
Lawrence & Sina are shown here with their daughter, Shanaya, and son, Lorenzo.

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**“We prayed to God deeply for a miracle, and he granted it...”**

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**Hope Center of Christ** holds exciting weekly Sunday morning worship services, EVERY SUNDAY at 10am, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Marriott Suites Hotel...located on the corner of Chapman Avenue & Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove (southwest corner, directly across from Target). **Sunday School is provided for children. SEE YOU THERE!**



- Please let us know how we can pray for YOU .....
- Consider tithing to this hope centered church and ministry for Jesus Christ .....
- Send us your email address so we can keep you up-to-date

Come for Fellowship!  
Tuesday evenings @ 7PM  
All are invited.

**Band of Brothers**  
Vineyard Church  
5340 E. La Palma Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92807  
In the "War Room"

**Women of Hope**  
2744 E. Sherman Ave.  
Orange, CA 92869

## Contact Us:

Senior Pastor:  
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Financial Questions:  
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Salt Shakers/Missions:  
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Music:  
gretchenp@hopecenteroc.org

**Hope Center of Christ**  
P.O.Box 5567  
Orange, CA 92863



## CHILI BOWL UPDATE

Number of bowls of chili served by Hope Center of Christ Volunteers to the hungry and homeless in Central Orange County, working in cooperation with Orange County Rescue Mission and their "Chili Van"

### 955 BOWLS TO DATE!

100   200   300   400   500   600   700   800   900   1000

 [facebook.com/hopecenteroc](https://facebook.com/hopecenteroc)

 [twitter.com/hopecenter-oc](https://twitter.com/hopecenter-oc)

 [youtube.com/hopecenterofoc](https://youtube.com/hopecenterofoc)



# Sock Drive

Our goal was to donate 500 pairs of socks for children of families living at the Orange County Rescue Mission...

Hope Center of Christ members donated

**800 pairs!**

You're terrific !

Congratulations and thank you !

# Hope Center of Christ Financial Report

In the calendar year, 2012, *Hope Center of Christ* generated revenues of \$186,508. These dollars were made possible by the generous gifts of persons who support our positive message. Of this total amount, \$124,103 was received from persons who live locally and drive to attend our Sunday morning services—placing their giving in the offering plate.

Persons living outside the driving distance, many even out-of-state, who participate with our ministry via internet and our

revenue generating newsletter mailings provided \$12,405. Also, included in the above revenue total



is a one time "seed gift" of \$50,000 from a generous friend who helped us launch this ministry.

Our total expenses for 2012 were \$163,499—

*Hope Center OC* is operating efficiently and "in the black." We remain very grateful for our precious and prudent CFO, Debbie Lips. The current effort to go on weekly TV is intended to substantially increase monetary support for our good work as well as to reach a larger audience.