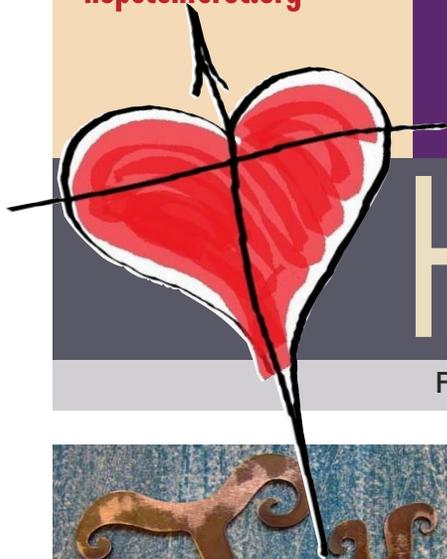


Keep up to date. Visit hopecenteroc.org

■ Meet Hope Center OC's Wendy and Joe Kahapea

■ Mark your calendar, Sunday, March 17. Celebrate our church's FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

■ Exciting plans to put Hope Center of Christ on weekly TV – next issue!



HOPE CENTER OC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2013

Love Strong, Believe Strong, Forgive Strong



A Message for you from Pastor Sheila

Count it All Joy!

The year of 2013 is the Year of Hope! That's what we're believing at Hope Center of Christ! We are hoping and praying that this year will be the best year you have ever experienced. Does that mean that you could expect it to be a year devoid of problems or challenges? Of course not!

When I was in high school Dr. Norman Vincent Peale preached at our church. He told the story of a man who came to him and said, "Dr. Peale, I am tired of problems. Can you recommend a place where I could live where I wouldn't have any problems?" To which, Dr. Peale replied, "Sure! It's located at the corner of 5th and Manchester. It has

Joy continued on next page

The God Ordained Music of Scott Smith

The greatest achievements in the musical arts can only be arrived at by those musicians and composers who pass through emotional and spiritual peaks & valleys that yield their own brilliant result. Our talented worship leader, Scott V. Smith is one such artist.

Scott recently shared with the Hope Center congregation, "I was raised in a home where my father really wanted me to be an engineer. This meant 'serious' study and a 'serious' disposition. When pastor Sheila asked me to write a theme song for a new message series based on 'JOY'... I wasn't entirely surprised that my up-bringing caused me to

This is the Scott Smith the choir sees as he directs them every Sunday morning—eyes closed, totally absorbed in his music.

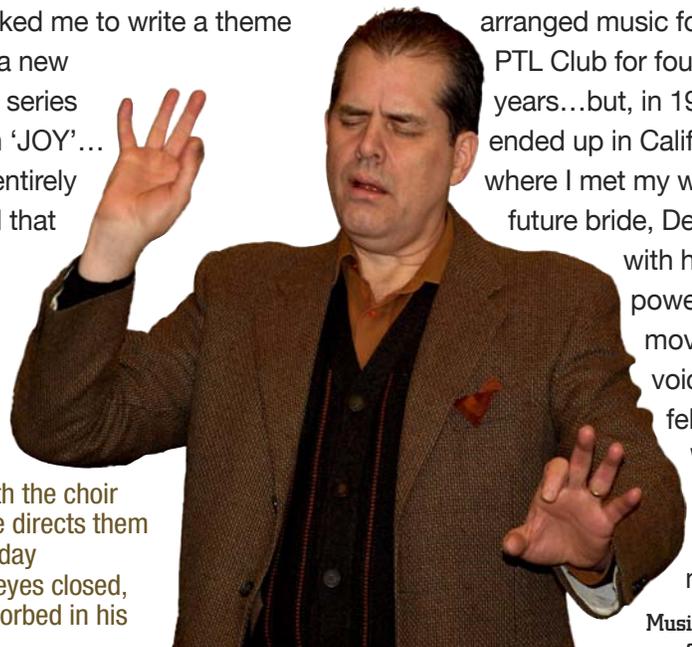
resist writing a musical expression of joy."

"I've always known music was my gift", he says. "I met and accepted Christ as my friend, Lord and Savior when I was only 20 years old. At that time I immediately knew that I didn't want to participate in secular nightclub bands anymore. So, I played the trumpet and did some arranging for Christian groups that traveled a lot, and paid \$12.50...a week!"

He continues, "I eventually arranged music for TV's PTL Club for four years...but, in 1982 ended up in California where I met my wonderful future bride, Debbie, with her powerful and moving voice. We fell in love.

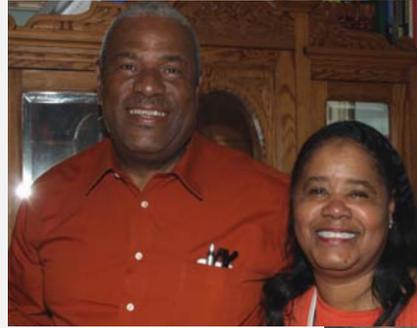
We were a perfect match,

Music continued on last page



Christmas Open House

On a beautiful, sunny, Saturday afternoon before Christmas, our Pastor Sheila opened up her home in the City of Orange to all members and friends of our church. Many brought cookies, cakes and goodies of all kinds...a wonderful time was enjoyed by all as we anticipated the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



All Christmas photos by Debbie Bonilla



Joy continued from page 1

a large wrought iron sign across the gate that reads, "Manchester Memorial Cemetery." Dr. Peale concluded, "If you have problems – good news! That means you're alive!"

You are alive! That means you can expect to encounter challenges and problems even in the best of years. But, the good news is that you can have hope and joy even in the midst of your trials.

This year will be the best year ever because you will learn to rely on this promise, "Be confident of this one thing that God who began a good work in you will complete it." (Philippians 1:6)

Are you facing obstacles that appear insurmountable – at work, in your career, in your dream? You can be confident! That God will finish what he started in you and through you. You can be confident of this – God is not a quitter!

Are you facing opposition, even hostility – at work – in your family – in your neighborhood? You have an opportunity

to be a peacemaker, to build a bridge to practice forgiveness. You can be confident! That God will turn your opposition into an opportunity to model grace, faith, and love!

Are you chained? Held back? By lack of resources, lack of knowledge, lack of education? This is an opportunity to learn a new skill, to meet new people, to broaden your network. You have an opportunity to grow in patience, to develop resilience, and to learn determination. You can be confident! That God will use these stumbling blocks as stepping stones.

This is the year of Hope! Be confident! Count it all joy!

Sheila Coleman



THE BLESSING CORNER Words of HOPE

from
Dr. Robert H. Schuller

"Almost ANYONE can take nearly everything from you..."

BUT!– NO ONE can ever take the blessing that GOD has placed upon you!"

Meet Wendy & Joe Kahapea...

God brought them together, and He kept them together

BY MARGAUX JORDAN

Wendy and Joe ran with the same crowd for many years yet they had never met. As children they even grew up not far from each other around Honolulu. People would ask each of them frequently if they knew each other, and they both said they did not.

Finally, decades later in Southern California, God gave the situation a push when Wendy's teenage son got into trouble, you see Joe was a Police Officer. So, one of Wendy's friends, who also happened to be Joe's niece, called Joe and put Wendy on the phone with him.

From that point on the talking never stopped. They spoke, on the phone only, for 3 to 4 months before they ever actually met. And, comically, their first meeting actually took place in the back of Joe's Police car!

Wendy and Joe had some definite similarities, for better or worse. Joe had grown up in an alcoholic home, which gave him the tendency to want to control everything, because his home had been so out of control. Wendy had endured a seriously abusive marriage and her way of coping with that was to control everything, too. Now how could God use that?

Well, we all know God can do everything. Neither of these two was committed to the Lord at the time of their first meeting. Joe had been raised Catholic, and went to church only "posing," as Joe puts it. Wendy, through a dear aunt had attended the Garden Grove Community Church in the 1970's when she and her family would listen to Dr. Schuller from their car in the drive-in church.

Their first year of marriage was pretty rocky. They tried everything—counseling, anger management courses, and nothing seemed to be helping. They were in the middle of their biggest fight ever, as Wendy says, "I was about to say something horrible, the words were right in my mouth." At that very moment Joe said, "Why don't we try



Photo: Debbie Bonilla

“
Miracles started to happen as they both accepted Christ as Lord and Savior.

”

church?” It was a pretty shocking moment really for both of them, but that is what they did—together.

In church, Wendy says, “I would see people who had lost everything and were still happy. I just didn't understand that.” Joe, who would sometimes disappear after a fight, did this one night, but this night he went to a men's ministry meeting, the Band of Brothers—where they just happened to be discussing honoring women. He came home, got on his knees in front of Wendy, expressed his

love and asked for her forgiveness. This was the start of what God wanted for their marriage. Joe was beginning to feel God's hand on his life and Wendy admits, “I still needed some convincing.”

Then they met a Christian couple, Bob and Michelle Cavinder, who began to mentor them and things started to positively change. As Wendy puts it, “miracles started to happen” as they both accepted Christ in their hearts as Lord and Savior.

When it came time to go to the HOPE CENTER of Christ, it was a very natural decision for them; they knew that it was right. Today Wendy hosts Women of Hope Bible Study in her home every Tuesday evening to “give back some of what God has given to me,” and Joe still attends Band of Brothers each week.

God joined these two very unlikely people together, and God has kept them together through his love.

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:
sheilac@hopecenteroc.org

Financial Questions:
debbiel@hopecenteroc.org

Salt Shakers/Missions:
harolds@hopecenteroc.org

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"

877 BOWLS TO DATE!

100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 ▼ 900 1000

 facebook.com/hopecenteroc

 twitter.com/hopecenter-oc

 youtube.com/hopecenterofoc

Your 2012 Giving Statement from Hope Center of Christ

To keep expenses low, the Servant Leadership Team, (SaLT), of Hope Center of Christ is NOT sending out year-end giving statements to individuals and families who provided generous gifts in 2012. Should you need a printed or email version of your 2012 giving for tax purposes, email your request to hopeceo@aol.com.

THANK YOU for all that you gave in 2012 to make our church and ministry a powerful source of hope.



Music continued from page 1

sharing our love and passion for Christ as well as for our music in His name. She's very strong where I'm weak and vice versa. We're great together. She's a true faith warrior—her unwavering faith has strengthened mine many, many times over during our last 32 years together."

"Not long ago I had become profoundly disillusioned with a few very prominent Christian leaders I had met. So much so that I could not write a Christian song for over six years! My spirit felt disoriented. I didn't know what to do, but God did! He introduced us to pastor Sheila Coleman. As soon as I met her I sensed her sincerity before God. I had immediate respect for her

as a person as well as her leadership. My creativity returned almost instantly and I started hearing new songs again, and wrote them down. God's word is always the foundational stone for my music and our lives."

In his career as a musical producer, Scott achieved three Grammy's, including Andrae Crouch's Best Christian Album of the year in 1994, and contributed significant work to an additional four Grammy's. Hope Center of Christ is blessed to be the current home of Scott's creative and soul stirring music. We love you, Scott, and honor you for allowing God to create and speak through you such life changing inspiration not only for our Sunday worship, but our lives as well!