

This week we pray for Eritrea, Ethiopia

**INTERCESSION:**

**Give thanks for:**

- The faithful witness of Ethiopian and Eritrean Christians.
- Ancient traditions, and new possibilities for proclaiming the faith of the risen Christ.
- Those who serve the poor and the hungry.
- Injera (Ethiopian bread) and wat (a sauce for meat and vegetables).



**Pray for:**

- Governments marked by peace and justice.
- The settling of border disputes by diplomatic means instead of violence.
- New sources of food and potable water that can be developed affordably.
- Medical personnel to be trained and clinics to be made available for the people.
- Refugees and those who have been displaced from their homes and villages.
- Those suffering from AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases, who have no access to medical care.

**PRAYER**

O God Eternal, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in whom is calmness and peace: reconcile the differences which divide us from one another and bring us back into the unity of love which may bear some likeness to your divine nature. Grant that we may be spiritually one, both within ourselves and with one another, through the grace, mercy and tenderness of your son, Jesus Christ.

**Worship with Us Next Week~ May 2nd**

**Speaker: Rev Dr Jeffrey Kuan**

Greeters: Donna and Steve    Scriptures: Peggy

Prayer: Burt                    Hospitality: Aeri

Soundtech: Jenny & Janene    Acolyte: Wendy

*\* worship assignments can be found on the worship calendar at [www.chinesecommunityumc.org](http://www.chinesecommunityumc.org)*



# THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

*April 25, 2010  
4th Sunday of Easter*

**Gathering & Centering**

- Welcome & announcements
- Call to worship
- Opening hymns
- Opening prayer

**Hearing & Reflecting on the Word**

- Scripture reading
- Hymn of preparation – One Body in Christ
- Sermon

**Responding to the Word**

- Passing of the Peace
- Prayers of the people
- Offering + Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Sending Out**

- Closing Hymn
- Benediction

***“Building Discipleship through Life-saving Acts”***

***Dr. Burt Yin, Certified Lay Speaker***

***Acts 9: 36 - 43***



*Great Thanks to worship participants this morning:  
Donna, Jane, Jenny, Kelvin*

*Greeters: Brenda & Jane  
Hospitality: Youth Group*

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father/Mother/God who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*

*Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

## From Our Lay Speakers ~

We are very blessed at CCUMC to have seven Lay Speakers: Burt, Leo, Vince, Richard, Becky, Hoang-anh, and Derek. The term "Lay Speakers" is somewhat a misnomer. Although you have seen them in the pulpit, their calling is much broader to serve in the church in various ministries such as worship, Sunday School, small groups, congregational care, etc. This past year, Pastor Emily has been gathering them on a regular basis to share and develop their understanding of ministry as Laity. At their last session, they discussed the role of telling their stories as witnessing and sharing the Word of God. Our story is God's story and God's story is our story. I would like to thank Richard for sharing his story in reflection of Acts 5:27-32. **Derek**



### **Richard Fong based the following on: Acts 5: 27- 32**

“We must obey God rather than men.” As individuals, we each have our own commitment with God. We need to think for ourselves and act individually, as Jesus would have his disciples do. There is a certain divine revelation when we discover God’s grace. Often as a child I looked up to my parents and tried to look to them for guidance and imitate their actions. As I grew older, I also looked towards other adults for whom I looked up to. Then came situations where my Mother and Father were no longer there for instant guidance nor were the adults I had trusted around either. I faced trails where I had to use my foundations to provide the answers. Unfortunately, I could not simply act as I had seen others do. I found out very quickly in my life’s journey, we come to a point where we must define what God means to us. This was a very crucial point in my spiritual life. Just for the sake of conversation? What if the disciples listened to the “strict orders not to teach in this name”. They disobeyed because, they knew the Holy Spirit and answered, “ We must obey God rather than men.” Like Peter, we believe in God and “God as the Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of the sins of Israel.” “We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those that obey him.” My parents provided me with an upbringing that was indeed very wholesome and healthy. There were things that I never imagined that I would ever have to endure. There were choices and desires that were so strong in my heart. Yet there was destruction and sorrow. We overcome life’s events and struggles because of incredibly strong family values and a deep belief in God. Like wise, God empowers us to act like disciples. We have faith always and we see the Grace of GOD.

This is my reflection of the scripture.

## **We Do Have a Biggy, Biggy God-O!**

Indeed, God has blessed us beyond our expectations. We now have 250 guests coming to our Kumi Fundraiser Dinner this Thursday at Legendary Palace Restaurant! Plan to arrive a little before 6:30 PM to get parking, (there is a small lot at 413 8th St. for restaurant patrons after 5 PM) and to help us launch the festivities to the beat of the African drum. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to plan, sell tickets, pray, invite, design, write, copy CDs, sell ads, announce, and do all the details to get this event off the ground. The excitement is definitely building, just ask Plumb-Bob and Rebar. And there is a possibility you can still get a ticket if you don't have one yet...see Jane or Becky NOW!



Today, after church service, there will be a series of meetings in the annex for the Youth Volunteers (12:15), Table Captains (12:30), and the Kumi Team (12:45). As you can see, it definitely takes a village to accomplish such an undertaking as this! Above all, please pray that hearts will be touched as people hear the stories and re-live the journey of the Kumi Mission Team. We know that our loving, caring, mighty God can work miracles in our midst. Let's build a school together! See you this Thursday.



### **Upcoming News and Notes**

- Thursday, April 29th, **Bricks, Mortar and Steel**, benefit dinner at Legendary Palace. Reserve your tickets NOW! Connect with Becky, Jane, or Pastor Emily
- Ongoing: Young Adult Professionals **Bible Study**, Thursdays, 7:30pm
- Ongoing: Alameda County Community **Food Bank Drive!**
- Saturday, June 5th. **Intergeneration Night 2010**. Details to come!