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Micah Lugg will be our new teaching pastor. More on page 8.

## Ministry Focus:



Sparks clubbers reciting their verses to their small group leaders during the themed "Island Night" Photo by: Cindy Behnke

# AWANA

by Cindy Behnke

**180 AWANA clubbers from ages 3-14.**  
**80 volunteers.**  
**Over 200 verses memorized are shared each meeting.**  
**25 meetings a year.**

### Why does FBC host this?

Deuteronomy 11:18 tells us to fix God's words in our hearts and minds. Hebrews 4:12 proclaims His Word is alive and active. For 65 years, the program "AWANA"

has had a history of world-wide success with their mission: "Reach Kids, Equip Leaders and Change the World." And Foothill Bible Church gets to be a part of this...

FBC's AWANA Missionaries, Steve and Karen Hydanus, shared, "We feel that AWANA is an amazing tool to help young people learn to dig into God's word, to come to learn about God, their need for Christ, and then to become equipped to share this message with others. The personal testimony of both Karen and me is that God used

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# Ministry Focus

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scriptures we had memorized in childhood to bring us to walk with God in adulthood”.

## Well, what IS AWANA?

AWANA. Approve Workman Are Not Ashamed. 2 Timothy 2:15 reads, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” The real heart of AWANA is evangelism and discipleship. The hope and prayer of AWANA is “All children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ”, so teaching them to know Him, love Him, and be more like Him is central. The ultimate outcome of this is bringing children to truth in professing faith in the One True God and out of their outpouring of this love for their Redeemer brings out love for others, service, and evangelism.



## What does this look like?

Steve and Karen Hydanus, Kyle and Beth Astadurian Photo by Raul Moreno

Typically, a night of AWANA is in three parts, an activity (game) time, a teaching time, and small group. (With themed nights like “Crazy Hair Night” and “Western Night” sprinkled in throughout the year to add extra fun!) Steve shared, “Game time gets them in the door. If they are not there, they do not hear. The teaching time is where they hear the message of Jesus death, burial and resurrection, that precious Gospel. The small group is what many think of as simply handbook time, but it is the magic of AWANA. A caring leader pours into the lives of five kids and models the love of Christ.”

“I believe that AWANA is the most powerful outreach ministry FBC has. We preach the gospel every Sunday night and kids bring friends every Sunday night. So we are potentially sharing the gospel every Sunday with kids who have never heard the gospel before,” shared Kyle Astadurian, FBC’s AWANA Commander for the last six years. His wife, Beth, serves as the AWANA secretary. They have been serving in AWANA since they were 15 and 16 years old in various capacities. Kyle shared, “We believe that serving God is

the supernatural by-product of loving God. We love the opportunity to commit to a ministry on a weekly basis that is powerful and that furthers the kingdom of God.” Every year their goal is to reach more kids through AWANA.

Steve and Karen Hydanus, as FBC’s very own AWANA missionaries, oversee the AWANA programs for churches in the Los Angeles County and North Orange County area and a handful of churches in San Bernardino county, including Foothill. They serve around 150 churches. This could look

different on any given day and season of the year. One of the bigger jobs is getting new churches off to great starts. Steve and Karen help them understand not only the mechanics of AWANA but also the heart and soul. It is not about memorizing words or follow this formula. It is about integrating AWANA into the DNA of the church, and about integrating the DNA of a particular church into their AWANA club. Each club memorizes the same verses of God’s word, and utilizes similar formats of teaching and game

times. Steve and Karen advise new clubs on melding these basics into the culture of their particular demographics, whether those are socio-economic or cultural. In those 150 churches the Hydanus’ serve, over half are what would be considered ethnic. We serve Korean, Chinese, Hispanic, Romanian, and a host of others. Los Angeles is not only the most populous county in the nation, it is one of the most diverse. While the gospel does not change, the methods each cultural group may use to reach kids effectively could and often do differ.

Steve goes on to say, “It is imperative we equip our young people with His words written on their hearts. AWANA is a fun way to encourage children to memorize God’s words in a supportive setting and to grow in our Lord. It reaches kids. We see it in our churches and hear the testimonies of adults who share how God has used their memory work from their youth in their adult lives. It works. We are blessed to be a part of this ministry.”

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***So, this all does sound awesome, but is AWANA for my family?***

My family has chosen to send our children to AWANA to hide God's words in their heart, with the hope and prayer one day that the Holy Spirit turns the light on to the truth they have learned from a young age. One interesting thing is, while AWANA is created for children, it is not just for children or even the leaders. The parents get the joy of reading the Bible stories, preparing for the next lesson, and helping their children memorize the verses. I find myself learning God's words more diligently because of AWANA. Our family has seen the benefit of having the verses slide off not just our children's tongues but ours as well. We know it's a time commitment (not just on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:30 p.m.), but the weekly preparation that goes into pouring into the lessons and memorization. But as we plan our weeks, where is our focus? We see AWANA as a tool to cultivate our time on prioritizing God's word, evangelism and loving our neighbors. What a blessing it is to be in a body where AWANA is not only hosted but truly valued!

About the writer: *Cindy Behnke is mama to four and FBC member for 8 years*



AWANA Cubbies hear a message during "Flashlight Night"  
Photo by Raul Moreno

**“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”**

**2 Timothy 2:15**



AWANA games are where several church clubs come together for competition and to hear Steve deliver the Gospel message.  
Photo by: Steve Hydanus

# New Members

## Tony and Jessica Mascorro

by Rachel Mills

If you like to sit on the far-left front side of the sanctuary you may have met Tony and Jessica Mascorro. Tony and Jessica came to visit Foothill for the first time on Easter 2017 and found the church family they had always desired. They had been living in Fontana and commuting to a church in Chino Hills for over 10 years. The driving distance and the close relationships they lacked within the large church body motivated them to explore the option of moving to a new church. They were encouraged to consider FBC by friends from their homeschool group, Faith Christian Academy, and by Jessica's sister, Jamie Namahoe, who attended FBC before moving to Idaho in 2015. Their friends were right; it was a great fit. The Mascorro's have loved their time at FBC and decided to come into membership in spring of this year.

Tony and Jessica were high school sweethearts at Upland High School, graduating class of 2003. After high school they joined a group studying the Christian faith which led Tony to be baptized. They joined the members of this group at a church in Rancho Cucamonga where they also met Niko and Zara Plakakis, who are now members of FBC. Although they were



Tony and Jessica Mascorro, Elijah, Isaac, and Micah  
Photo by JC Penney Portraits

drawn to the family feeling at that church, they began to question the doctrine that was being taught, then they began to attend the Chino Hills church. They were more aligned with the doctrine but

the sense of family within the body was missing for them.

After graduation they enrolled at Chaffey College and Mt. SAC where Tony completed his Fire Academy degree and Jessica

her licensing as a Veterinary Technician. Tony began working with the Forest Service, a private ambulance company, volunteered with La Habra Heights Fire and then worked part-time at San Bernardino County Fire Department. Meanwhile Jessica worked as a Vet Tech. After they began having children their desire was for Jessica to be able to stay home. They remember the sweet time of waiting and hoping in the Lord at the time their oldest was able to join them in prayer for mom to stay home. Once they had taken steps to make the commitment to keep Jessica home the full-time job offers started pouring in from LA City, San Francisco, as well as in his current department. They are still blessed by looking at how God answered their prayers in providing this opportunity.

Tony and Jessica have three boys, Elijah 9 years, Isaac 3 years and Micah 1 year who all love to come to church on Sunday. God continues to provide the new and meaningful friendships they desired when they were feeling called to a new church. They continue to be amazed by the welcoming church family God has provided here at Foothill. God has been working in their lives while first attending the small group with the Plakakis family and then joining the Shaw's group. You also might recognize Jessica from serving in Cubbies and in the nursery on Sunday. Please welcome the Mascorros; we are so glad to have them as part of the FBC family!

## They continue to be amazed by the welcoming church family God has provided



Carlos and Edurne Lascaibar Photo by Raul Moreno

## Carlos and Edurne Lascaibar

by Linda Mawby

I recently had the pleasure of meeting new members, Carlos and Edurne Lascaibar, who have been attending FBC since November 2017. You may have already seen their smiling faces as they often serve as Greeters on Sunday mornings.

Both Carlos and Edurne have fascinating stories of how they came to the U.S. When they were children, their families left Cuba as political refugees in the mid 1960's. Although having this in common, they first met as teenagers in Southern California in the early 1970s. Montclair had a small Cuban enclave where many refugee families had settled, Edurne's

family being one of them. Carlos' family had settled nearby, in Ontario, after first coming through New York. They were attending a social event as part of this enclave one evening and the rest as they say, is history!

After marrying in 1972, they settled in Ontario, then later moved to Rancho Cucamonga to a larger home in 1992. The move enabled them to provide room for Edurne's mother after her father's passing. They have two grown and married children, David and Maite, and each of them have two children, also. David has two boys ages 10 and 8 and lives in Victorville. Maite has a girl and boy ages 6 and 3 and lives in Upland. They are blessed to be able to see them often.

Carlos, now retired, worked in the security alarm industry for 42 years for a number of different companies including American Pro-

tection Industry and Johnson Controls. He started as a technician through L.A. Trade Tech and after gaining experience primarily served as a supervisor/manager. Edurne took care of home and family but also worked part-time as a medical office assistant.

Both Carlos and Edurne came to a saving faith in the Lord in the early 1980s through Christian radio programs such as Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee and Grace to You with John MacArthur. Carlos' favorite Bible passage is 3 John 4, "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth." Edurne loves the book of Isaiah and how God describes who He is and His great love and care for His children.

I hope you have opportunity to meet and greet this delightful couple to hear more stories of their lives first hand!

## Tracy Usaha

by Stephanie Wilson

Tracy Usaha grew up in North Hollywood. She has known her husband Jonathan for basically her whole life - their moms were pregnant with them at the same time! They married in June 2014 and moved to Upland in December 2015. They have a three year old son named Ethan.

She began looking for a church with good doctrine and a strong children's ministry as soon as they moved to Upland. After having read FBC's doctrinal statement online, she decided to visit. That first week the service featured a video of Judi Astadurian talking about everything FBC's children's ministry does. Tracy knew immediately that she had found the right church. Ethan now goes to Awana Cubbies and Tracy is one of the Children's Ministry volunteers.

Tracy grew up Christian, and sums it up saying she "did it all and knew it all" - attending prayer meetings, memorizing lots of Scripture, and going to a private Christian school, for example. But she was doing it all to be "good" and to fit in, without having a real relationship with God. That changed in college when she was attending youth group. A key sermon she recalls in transforming her life and relationship with God was one by CJ Mahaney on Isaiah 53.

Tracy loves cooking and baking, eating sushi, and

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# New Members

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crafting. She enjoys watching the food channel, and listens to Christmas music year-round! She is also a big Lakers fan (her favorite player is Kyle Kusma). Her family also loves Disneyland! Her husband even works there in the First Aid department, in addition to his job as a nurse in the Emergency Room at Kaiser Baldwin Park. Tracy works occasionally at Kaiser too, as an RN in the step-down department. She likes the opportunities that provides for her to meet people, show them love, and share the gospel with them.

Tracy's parents are

Filipino and she has traveled to the Philippines multiple times. Someday she would like to go visit Puerto Princesa in the Palawan province of the Philippines, which has an enormous underground river in a beautiful, quiet, and tropical location.

Tracy is part of the Burrow's small group. Her favorite parts of being in the group are all the time they get to spend together and how everyone is always praying for each other and texting and being good friends, and they truly live out the gospel in their care for one another. She also likes that Ethan gets to play with all the other children! Their small group is memorizing passages from Ephesians together. She is also part of the ladies study with Kathy Proctor, and says all the ladies in it have been a major source of encouragement and support in her spiritual growth the past couple of years.

One of Tracy's favorite Bible verses is Romans 11:36 - *"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things."* She first heard it when she was at a little church in the Philippines on a medical missions trip. She also loves Psalm 121, which reminds her of how God is always taking care of her. *"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."*



Tracy, Jonathan and Ethan Usaha



Allen and Tiffany Pham

Photo by Gary Coelho Photography

## Allen and Tiffany Pham

by Jonathan Schaap

Allen and Tiffany Pham first attended FBC mid-January of this year and became members in June. They left their former church in Santa Ana and were in search of a local church that they could be plugged in to. Allen came across FBC through The Master's Seminary Church Finder. They decided to watch a few of Pastor David's sermons through the FBC website, and the first sermon that they listened to immediately spoke to their hearts. It was December 17, 2017's sermon from the *Christian Unity: An Elusive Jewel* series. The sermon asked the question: "How do you go about choosing a church?" For several months, Ephesians 4: 11-16 had been on their hearts, so they decided to attend a Sunday service. The Sunday message, worship, and friendly people they met kept them coming back week after week. It didn't take them

long to realize that their prayers had been answered and that their search for a new home church was over. Allen and Tiffany feel a true sense of community when they fellowship and worship amongst FBC members. It's so encouraging for them to hear faithful teaching and see the building up of the body in Christ.

Allen was born and raised in South San Jose. He moved to SoCal to attend UCR for undergrad. After graduation, he was thankful to find a job which kept him in SoCal. Though work is in El Monte, Allen was able to buy a house in Pomona.

Tiffany has always been a SoCal girl, born and raised in Cerritos \*play Cerritos Auto Square jingle\* J. After they got married in 2016, Tiffany moved to Pomona.

Allen became a believer through a collective group of faithful Christians. The starting point was with his previous boss at his current workplace. His boss was very friendly and made an effort to get to know him more than the typical manager and staff relationship. At that time, Allen considered himself to be agnostic. His manager would ask him questions, and it got him to reflect or ponder throughout the day and week. Fast forward to February 2011. After helping

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his previous manager with some things one evening, he shared with Allen about sin and the importance of Christ during dinner. That was when Allen's world started to change slowly but surely. He was going through a period of his life where it was all about work, what to buy next, and loneliness. During March of 2011, Allen switched optometry offices where the two opticians there invited him to their church in Santa Ana for a 6AM Easter sunrise service. He accepted the invitation. A couple weeks after Easter, he began to attend their large group and small group meetings. Hearing about Allen's church attendance, his previous manager started a fellowship to shepherd him at lunch every Wednesday. Allen's previous manager attends Grace Community Church so they started by going through the Fundamentals of Faith workbook. He then walked Allen through the selected Bible readings from the Essential 100 reading plan that his small group was going through at the time. Through his previous boss, Allen was introduced to John MacArthur's ministries and resources. He began to go through MacArthur's past sermons book by book, listening to several audio files from Grace To You every day. One day while talking to an old friend from high school, knowing that Allen was attending church, Allen's friend asked him why could they not have both Buddhism and Christianity? Allen's

thinking used to be that every religion pointed back to God during his religious studies course in college. Now, he found himself reasoning and defending to his friend why there can only be one way. Something surely changed within Allen. Through hearing about where he was positionally with God, why he needed Jesus Christ, and what the Word of God said about Jesus, Allen believed. On March 31, 2013, he professed his faith in Christ and was baptized before his church in Santa Ana.

Tiffany grew up knowing the goodness of the Lord and was baptized in June 2003. Looking back now, she can see that at the time of her baptism that she did not truly know the Lord and the gravity of her sins. In 2011 after meeting Allen, knowing that he was a non-believer, she too, began reflecting about her faith. Tiffany had deeper conversations with her dad (who at the time was taking courses for his MA in Christian Ministry and Leadership). Tiffany began growing in the Word, trusting in the Lord, and walking with the Lord. Her dad unexpectedly passed away May 2012, and she was in complete shock. It was her faith that helped her get through this difficult time. She held onto God's promises and was reminded of His goodness and faithfulness when listening to sermons by John MacArthur. Tiffany misses having conversations with her dad about the faith, but his passing was a pivotal point in her spiritual growth; and for that reason, she praises the Lord!

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*Seth and Ally Roybal Photo by Briteny Moore*

## Seth and Ally Roybal

*by Sydnee Harris*

Seth and Ally were married on November 11th, 2018. Iván Martos officiated the ceremony accompanied by Pastor David Forsyth. The ceremony and reception were held at Smoky Hollow Studios in El Segundo.

Ally is the daughter of Tim and Cindy Bohler who began coming to Foothill about 4 years ago. They came because they heard it was a solid teaching church where God's word was being taught. Seth and his family came to Foothill around 8 years ago because of mutual friends in the church.

Seth and Ally's families have been friends for over 16 years, but they didn't start dating until July 10, 2016. The couple likes spending time together outdoors, they share a love for music, and both have a heart of service for the Lord. Ally works as a Spin and Pilates instructor at Pedal Spin Studios, and Seth works for Vanguard University as the Coordinator of Music Operations. The newlyweds reside in Fullerton.

Ally's favorite part about the wedding was the sweet song Seth wrote and sang to her before the ceremony. Seth loves her loyalty, work ethic, desire for the Lord, and how she challenges him to grow stronger in his faith. Congratulations Ally and Seth!

# New Teaching Pastor

## New Teaching Pastor Micah James Lugg



Photo by Carson Hampton

We are currently transitioning to a new Teaching Pastor and we are grateful and thrilled by how God has graciously provided for our body.

In August of 2018, Pastor David Forsyth announced to the church he would be retiring on June 30, 2019, and moving to northern Idaho for greater ministry to many of his children and grandchildren. He has served 24 years on staff at FBC, with 17 of those years as the Teaching Pastor. Through those years, he has remained committed to the authority and expositional preaching of the Scriptures and the making of disciples of Jesus Christ.

Upon this announcement, the elders formed a Pulpit Committee, in accordance with our church constitution, and instructed them to interview Micah Lugg as the first candidate. Pastor Micah has been ministering on staff at FBC since 2008 and is well-known and respected within the congregation. He shares the same biblical convictions that have characterized FBC since its inception, such as expositional preaching and the making of disciples.

The Pulpit Committee concluded their interviewing of Pastor Micah and recommended that he be voted on by the congregation. On December 9, 2018, the membership of Foothill Bible Church voted overwhelmingly to approve Micah Lugg as our next Teaching Pastor. Micah will assume this role on July 1, 2019.



Micah and Audrey Lugg with their three daughters Photo by Jonni Lundy

Through the end of June, Pastor David will continue to fill the pulpit while Pastor Micah prepares to take on this new role.

We are excited for what God has in store in the days ahead for our church family!

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One of Allen's favorite verses in the Bible is Philippians 4:11-13. *"Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."* The verses remind him about contentment. It makes him reflect on what is essential and what is the norm in his current state. It is a reminder that God is his foundation and the One who strengthens him; and since this is true, he knows how he should be living his life in any and every circumstance.

Tiffany appreciates Romans 11:36, *"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen"*. She feels an overwhelming sense of joy, gratitude, and thankfulness when she thinks of this verse. Other favorites include Romans 8:25 and Hebrews 11:1.

The Phams love training hour and their small group. They have been a part of the Bohler small group since February. They also currently serve on the

Welcome Ministries (Go Greeter Team Carson!) and are nursery workers.

After graduating from UCR with an engineering degree, Allen has been working at the California Air Resources Board in El Monte for almost 11 years. In September 2017, Allen transferred to the Engine and Parts Enforcement Division.

Tiffany graduated from CSUF with a bachelor's in health science. Through several jobs, she was able to develop and grow skills better suited for the technology industry. For the past 3 years, Tiffany had been working at the LA County Office of Education in Downey. Just recently, Tiffany started a new job at Liferay which is MUCH closer to home.

Tiffany enjoys doing craft projects with her Cricut machine. She also loves spending time with her family and friends and enjoys being surrounded by babies and toddlers! Allen enjoys spending his free time working with his hands, sharing a meal with anyone, reading the Bible or books about the Bible, and reading about technology. The Phams love to go hiking and cook together when time allows. They just celebrated their 2-year anniversary in November!

### FBC Connection

The purpose of the FBC Connection newsletter is to inform and inspire the FBC body of what God is doing in the life of its members. Please note that the testimonies and articles are written by volunteers and do not necessarily reflect the sentiments or endorsements of the elder board. The apostle Paul explains in I Corinthians 12 that the local church is one body made up of many members and gifts. FBC Connection recognizes this diversity in the FBC body and seeks to promote community through this form of communication. On behalf of the elder board of FBC, we invite you to proclaim the excellencies of Christ who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Art Nakamura, editor-in-chief • Julia Buehl, editor • Ann Inlow, layout