

The Goodness



October 2025

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Uptown Baptist Church

Surrender

Pastor Nick Kim

Hiroo Onoda was a second lieutenant in the Japanese Imperial Army assigned to Lubang Island in the Philippines in 1944. He was equipped with a sword, rifle, ammunition, hand grenades, and a dagger his mother gave him to kill himself if he were to get captured. In 1945, leaflets fell from the sky saying the Japanese had surrendered. Lt. Onoda and his men thought it was a trick so they fought on. Over the years, his men were either captured or surrendered.

In 1974, Japanese adventurer Norio Suzuki went to Lubang and found Lt. Onoda. Suzuki told him the war had been over for thirty years and that he needed to surrender. Lt. Onoda refused. He said he would only surrender if he had orders relieving him of duty. Suzuki returned to Japan and brought back his former commanding officer. Onoda went to Lubang's radar base and officially surrendered. President Marcos issued him a full pardon for crimes committed following the war. Onoda returned to Japan and wrote an autobiography titled "No Surrender". He died in Tokyo in 2014. A lot of us are like Lt. Onoda. We keep fighting a battle that is already won. We refuse to surrender.

Christ defeated sin with His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. A lot of us want to dabble in sin. Praise God that we have a foot in the church, but don't ask us to take the other foot out of the world. We refuse to surrender. The enemy takes that and exploits it for all it's worth. He wants to weaken us and make us useless for the Kingdom.

In the thirty years since the war ended, Japan was no longer an empire. They had become allies with many of their former enemies. They became a prosperous economy dominating auto and technology sectors. They passed a new constitution declaring they would not fight on foreign soil. All of this happened while Lt. Onoda was hiding in the jungle, fighting on foreign soil. He could have been like other former soldiers who now had new lives living in abundance if he would have just surrendered.

We lived lives that were broken and at the root of the brokenness was sin. We have new life in Christ, but many of aren't living it. Don't waste another day. You might have already wasted thirty years. Surrender today. You've done it your way. Now try it His way. Surrender!



Surrender

10/5 No Longer

10/12 The Call to Obedience

10/19 Christ's Love Compels Us

10/26 Be Alert



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In His Service



Karl Morris

Karl is a deacon, usher, consistent in our men's ministry, hands-on in various ministries when needed, and serves coffee and donuts on Sunday mornings

How did you find UBC?

I was going to Truman college. I would ride the Sheridan bus. I kept noticing the sign that says "Christ Died for Our Sins." I have been coming and involved ever since.

You serve in different ministries. Which one do you feel is the most significant?

Being an usher. I get to meet everyone that comes into the church. I get to greet them and see how they're doing.

You took it upon yourself to re-establish the coffee ministry on Sunday mornings. Why?

Adam and Kristen had been doing it, then Darnice did it when they left. We felt like we needed to do it so I started helping Darnice. It gives people a place to come to when they get here for Sunday morning classes. I help get the morning set up and get to see people before things get too busy. I get to talk to them while serving. I enjoy it.

You participate in a lot of ministry behind the scenes; how has the ministry at UBC made a difference in your life and the lives of others?

God is at work. I feel good serving Him. This church is a beacon of hope and light in this community. People at Cornerstone, Sarah's Circle, and Grasmere know about us. We also can be a beacon of hope and light to the working class in the high rises. We have people from all walks of life. God loves us all and it's good to see us all represented at UBC.

Interview by Pastor Joshua Yoak

44 Years of UBC

Uptown was Hollywood before Hollywood was Hollywood. The silent films were produced on Argyle and shown at the theaters on Broadway. The Gilded Age was quite a time, but it wouldn't last. Fast forward 50 years to the mid-1970's and the neighborhood could be compared to red-light districts in other cities. Christian leaders knew the neighborhood needed Jesus, but who would deliver the message? A small group of people would rally around Pastor Jim Queen and start the work that would get realized on September 27, 1981 with Uptown Baptist Church. From the beginning, UBC was centered around a unique philosophy of

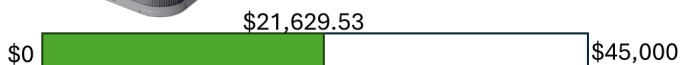


Pastor Jim Queen

Christian outreach. 44 years later, we continue to stay focused on Christ while we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Most weeks we have ministry seven days per week. On Sundays we have classes and worship. Monday through Friday, we have Taste4Grace. Tuesday through Friday, we have our prayer calls. On Wednesday mornings we have our morning service and Discovery classes. Every 2nd and 4th Saturday, we have our men's ministry and starting in October we will have our women's ministry.



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Help get the message out!



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