

# Pursuing Discipleship - Episode 17

Executive Board Candidates - Darren Inouye & Jeff Lowe

**Garrett Inouye:** Hey everyone, welcome to episode 17. My name is Garrett Inouye and we're back for two special episodes. In today's episode, pastor Rocky and I interviewed two of the three executive board candidates, Darren Inouye and Jeff Lowe. The goal for this episode is that as you listen and get to know Darren and Jeff, the Lord will give you a conviction to join the executive board in praying over and for these men.

Now some quick business, according to Evergreen Baptist Church's bylaws, the next month will be spent giving the church a chance to get to know the candidates and send questions or feedback to the current executive board members. After that one month period is complete on June 19th. The executive board will convene and complete its final selection of the new executive board members.

The results will then be announced to the church at the end of June. Again, we hope that you will reach out to get to know the executive board candidates, and also that you would talk to the current board members with your encouragements or suggestions. questions and feedback. Okay, that's it for business.

Let's get into the episode. I hope you enjoy it.

This is Pursuing Discipleship, a podcast of Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley, where we are committed to forming intentional relationships that build Christ likeness. In this podcast, our hope and prayer is to encourage one another's discipleship to Jesus Christ, grow our love for his word.

And explore our response to his command to go and make disciples. We're so excited to have you join us. And so let's get into today's conversation.

All right. Uh, Hey, thank you, Jeff and Darren for joining us today for our. Kind of reboot, uh, special edition podcast. Um, we got a bunch of questions for you guys, but before we get into them, uh, kind of like what we did for the other executive board candidates in the past, we like to get some context. Um, cause I think what we realized, uh, is that.

A lot of people might know who you are, but there's also a lot of people who might not know you, or maybe they've seen you on one side of the sanctuary and like, who's that guy, but they never got to talk to you. Right. Cause there's

so many people talk to you. So just some context, like who, who are you, uh, your name, uh, what do you do for a living?

Do you have family? Uh, Jeff, can we start with you?

**Jeff Lowe:** Sure. I'm Jeff Lowe and my wife is Chiho and we've been married for about 23 years. Wow. And we've been coming to evergreen for the past three years and became members about a year and a half ago. And, um, we live in Monterey park. And, um, I have to just say from day one when we started coming to Evergreen that, uh, we knew we, we, we needed to be here.

And so that's, that's a little bit about me. Awesome. What do you do for a living? Oh, I, I work for the LAPD crime lab. Um, we're located at the Cal State LA campus and, um, I first started out analyzing blood for alcohol. Then I started analyzing, um, narcotics, drugs, uh, people were arrested with, um, but when I was first hired, uh, we started, I had to, uh, process crime scenes.

And I started doing that full time as in a unit, um, back in 2007, I believe, and through 2017. And then now I work in the quality assurance unit to make sure that the laboratory, uh, follows its procedures. Wow.

**Garrett Inouye:** Is it, is it as exciting as the TV shows make it seem? Um,

**Jeff Lowe:** more exciting. No, it's, it's definitely not as exciting, but, uh, it's good work.

So we have a real CSI

**Rocky Seto:** guy here, basically, right?

**Garrett Inouye:** Do you see the evidence of coffee on my shirt from this morning that I spilled on myself? No. Awesome. Thanks for sharing a little bit, uh, Jeff, Darren, share a little bit about yourself.

**Darren Inouye:** Sure. Um, my name is Darren Inouye. I am the husband of Tricia Inouye.

We've been married for nine years and we have two boys, they're twins, Shepard and Hart, and they recently turned six. And then, um, for work, Trisha and I, we work together, we are, uh, kind of in the fine arts industry. Um, we basically just create our own original work and then we sell it in various forms.

Either it's the original painting or, uh, prints or additions, sculptures, different things like that.

**Garrett Inouye:** Uh, just full disclosure, Darren, Darren's also my little brother. Yes. So I'll try not to troll him too much on this podcast.

**Rocky Seto:** Now, when did you become a member?

**Darren Inouye:** Uh, became a member. So I've, I've gone to evergreen pretty much my whole life.

Um, but

**Rocky Seto:** your birth, your birth,

**Darren Inouye:** yes. With Garrett, not actually here, but yes. Um, Trisha and I both became members at the same time. And I think it was 2015. So basically when we decided to get married. That's when we decided to, uh, also become members. Awesome.

**Garrett Inouye:** Thanks for giving that context. Um, we'll go on just straight into the first question.

Uh, Jeff, how did you come to follow Christ?

**Jeff Lowe:** Well, I grew up in the church. Um, I started going to LA Holiness Church when I was six years old. My, my mom brought, uh, my brother and myself and, um, it was there that I went to Sunday school and, um, learned about, uh, You know, different stories in the Bible, including Noah's Ark.

And then I just remember being in about fifth grade, right? When I heard Noah's Ark, and I just remember thinking, well, if I can believe Noah's Ark, then I could believe the whole Bible. So at a young age, I just made that decision. I don't know why, but, uh, to, to just believe everything in the Bible. Um, and I just remember going to a, uh, church camp, it was, it was a winter, winter camp and there was a communion and I remember the, the, the person leading the communion saying that, um, if you want to be with, be in heaven and be with Jesus forever, that, uh, you need to repent and, and, um, and follow him.

Um, and I just, I, and I knew that, uh, um. I wasn't a Christian at that point, but I, I felt like I needed to make a decision to, to follow, to follow Jesus. So I partook of that communion, um, through that whole process. Um, I can't

remember if this was before or after I partook of communion, but, um, I had a, I was watching TV, a TV evangelist on Sunday.

And, um, I, I heard the, the. Preachers say, you must be born again. And, um, I remember asking my mom, mom, am I born again? And she told me, no. And I was like, wait a minute. I go to Sunday school. I go to church. Why am I not born again? I didn't argue with her. These are just the thoughts that came into my head.

And, um, and it was at that point I realized, well, maybe I thought about it, but it was never explained to me what being born again was, but I thought, well, I want to be born again. Um, In that process, I, I wanted to believe that Jesus died for my sins. And when I was 14, um, uh, I, I got baptized at LA holiness church.

It was a reverend Sunni. She, that, that did the perform the baptism and my mom and I got baptized, uh, on the same day. And let's see if that was my, that was my teen years, but fast forward to my college years. This is where I went to UC San Diego. And I call these my, my darker years because, you know, I went away from college, went away to college away from the church and, um, decided to just live life, um, like the world.

And, um, it was, it was, uh, A struggle at school, but it was also a struggle spiritually. And I remember, uh, when I was 21, my, my dad passed away from cancer. And, uh, I went, I didn't go home often, but when I went home this one weekend, this is the weekend where he, he passed away, but. Just, just calling 9 1 1 and getting into the amp, uh, not the ambulance, following the ambulance in my car.

My mom and I prayed, and we just prayed that whatever God's rule just be done. Um, but I remember making a decision at that point. I was almost like at a fork in the road and I was thinking, well, I'm either going to Believe that, uh, that this is what God's will is, or, um, or I can go the other path. Um, but something in my heart told me, okay, well, let's just see what the Lord is going to show me.

And in this, during this time where, um, He just showed me a lot of different things. I mean, we learned about God's providence here at Evergreen Church and I could see the Lord's hand in everything that happened through that whole weekend, um, including my brother coming back home from some sort of trip.

My dad was, my dad stayed alive in the hospital just to say bye to him. And so that was, I mean, just a lot of different things that happened. And God's, I saw

God's pride. Looking back, I could see God's providence. And I, after that moment, I just, I remember thinking, um, I'm always going to believe in God no matter what happens because he, he, he showed himself to me, um, in that way.

Now it was, I was not, um, reading the Bible regularly during this time. Um, but God gave me some type of encouragement to remember that he is, um, he's always there for me. And so fast forward to, um, sorry, this is a long story, but fast forward to getting to getting married to Chi Ho, um, God put a godly woman in my life.

Um, um, at this point I was starting to do my, uh, devotions again and I was reading the Bible. Um, um. But not, not consistently, but, um, the Lord brought us together and this is all God's providence. I could see it so, so easily now. Um, and even in my faults in, in my, in, in how I am, she prayed for me, she still loved me and.

I'm just so thankful for her. And, um, at this point we're going to, uh, mission Valley free Methodist church. And, um, it was at mission Valley from Methodist church that God put a, a godly man into my life and that's pastor Michael set. So, uh, it was during this time where, uh, he was the leader of our life group.

He would preach occasionally, but. He would all, I remember he would always point me to Christ and he, he was always encouraged me saying, Jeff, you should, uh, go to BSF at this point, I wasn't reading the Bible consistently at all, but I think what he was encouraging me to do was to, to, to study the word.

And we studied Romans and it was the study of the book of Romans that really showed me I needed to repent of my sins because God is a holy God. And he showed me how, um, how, how sinful I am. He also used, God used my, my career to show me how sinful I am to, um, in processing crime scenes. Um, I got to see the, the worst.

In people and, and during this time, I was drinking a lot just to, just to kind of get away from, uh, the, the, the work itself. Um, but he showed me, uh, that Jeff. You know, you are just like the people who are doing these heinous things. You might not be doing them physically, but you've, at least in your mind, hated somebody you've, you've committed, you had lustful thoughts, so you've, you know, you've committed sexual sins.

And so, um, in part of, and also with that, I was getting, I was drinking a lot, um, getting buzzed and that's, that's pretty much getting drunk or close to it, but

I was doing that regularly, but God showed me in the. Study of the book of Romans and, um, through my career, he showed me that I needed a savior. I needed someone to save me from my sins.

I was in my work. I saw myself as he, God showed me that I was being self righteous when I was looking at other, how, how people were doing. Doing sins against their own family members against, yeah, just, just really bad things that, um, he showed me my self righteousness and at that point I knew I had to repent and to follow Christ.

Um, so. I believe that Pastor Jeremy helped me think this through because I was, I was always wondering, did I become a Christian when I was, um, baptized when I was 14 or, or, or decided to follow Christ then? Or did I really become a Christian when, um, I repented and now I, you know, love the word and I just want to serve the Lord and glorify him at one point.

And, um, He helped me think this through. And I believe that I became, I was, I became a Christian when I was early in my teen years. Um, ultimately I thank God that he, he allowed me to live to my fifties so that, um, you know, whichever it is. Uh, but I also believe that God, um, chooses people and I believe that, um, he, he predestined me to, to, um, follow him.

And ultimately I could see his providence in my life.

**Rocky Seto:** Wow, Jeff. So going backwards, you had pastor Mako, you had Chico and you had what happened with your father as a, as a 21 year old, and then as a youngster, you had your mother, anyone got placed at your UCSD days. I mean, was there a classmate? Was there a ministry was our local church or part of, I'm just curious as you're kind of going down this road where the Lord may have been saying, Hey.

Come on back. Come on back. Was there anything, anyone like that there?

**Jeff Lowe:** Um, I would say when I was at San Diego, I was attending the sister church of LA holiness, um, San Diego Christian. And um,

there was one person who I remember being helpful. His name is Roy Toma and I'm thankful for him. Um, but also because I, uh, didn't necessarily want to follow Jesus at that point, I would say that, um, yeah, I was more, I was living like the world at that point. Every time I would come back to, um, home to visit, um, back to LA holiness, I would, I would go to.

Church on Sunday. And I just remember, uh, pastor Wayne Ibarra being very intentional about asking how I was doing. But of course, because he was so far away that I didn't have a regular, um, relationship.

**Rocky Seto:** Yeah. Great. And you met Chiho at LA hole in this, is that correct? Yes. Okay. Just want to make sure I make that clear.

**Jeff Lowe:** She was part of the Japanese speaking congregation. I was part of the English speaking congregation.

**Rocky Seto:** And I hear she plays some music too. Is that back then? Is that right? She started playing

**Jeff Lowe:** bass, um, at mission Valley. Oh, mission Valley. Okay. She learned, um, well, she, she played guitar hero. I'm one of those video games.

She got really good at it. And I, and I mean, the expert level, whatever the highest level was and she And then, um, I. I thought, well, if she can do that, she probably can try a real, a regular day. So I bought her a fender, a squire or one of the beginner types and, and she enjoyed doing that. So there is a usefulness for video

**Garrett Inouye:** games to real life skills.

Awesome. Thank you so much, Jeff, for sharing. I didn't, I didn't know almost any of that. So it's so cool to finally hear that. And we know each other. I'm so glad we get to do this. Um, Darren, you want to share a little about your testimony? How did you come to know the Lord?

**Darren Inouye:** Yeah, sure. Um, so yeah, I was born and raised at Evergreen.

Um, a lot of people probably know my parents, Richard and Joyce, you know, uh, born into a wonderful family. Uh, a good church evergreen. Um, so I think, um, coming to faith kind of being, and also I had gone through private school, my pretty much my whole life from elementary school, all the way through high school, which one I went to Whittier Christian and then Heights Christian junior high, and then Whittier Christian again for high school.

Um, so Christianity. The, the worldview, at least, and, uh, the morals, the belief system, um, that was kind of normal for me. I don't think I ever questioned it. Uh, I can remember a moment at, uh, VBS when I was a kid. I, it's hard to remember what age I was at, but I had to be still in elementary school. Uh, I

remember Auntie Rain sharing the gospel, and I remember it was, you know, I was, it was like I was hearing it for the first time.

And at least in my memory, that was when I was making a decision, at least in my heart, that I wanted to believe this. I wanted to trust this. I want to follow, uh, Christ. Uh, I was conscious of my sinfulness and of his forgiveness. And I think like, so, so that was maybe the first time I made a conscience choice.

So I can remember, um, I was baptized at seven. Uh, and then to be honest with that, I don't really know if I fully understood it and I kind of went on my whole life, uh, throughout the rest of elementary school, junior high and high school, just kind of, uh, living, you know, As a kind of a good kid, at least good enough to not get annoying, but good.

Yes. Garrett will affirm, uh, the things that I'm saying and clarify. Um, yeah, so I, I mean, I, I, but I was also very aware of my sinfulness. I think I was always very aware, like. Of just my shortcomings that made me very self conscious and, um, kind of turn me in on myself and then, uh, I think during high school, that's when I really started to explore, well, to be honest, I started thinking about like, what am I going to do with my life?

Um, cause I was not the best student. I almost failed out of high school. So I started thinking about art a lot more. That was the one talent I had. And I really invested in that. So from there that actually brought, I think, maybe more confusion into my life. Um, I got into hip hop and graffiti and all these different things.

Garrett remembers this stuff and, uh, he could probably talk to what kind of person I was, but I just was fully invested. In in kind of this, uh, identity as an artist, uh, and then I got accepted to Art Center College of Design. So that was huge. That was like a dream of mine. Um, but this is where I kind of feel like there was this moment of clarity and I really was not thinking clearly at that time.

I was, uh, Pretty much an anarchist, like I loved going out and vandalizing things and like anti establishment, anti government, everything, you know, just kind of running amok, uh, as an artist, uh, wanting to be, I guess, rebellious just for the sake of being rebellious, um, which is funny because I'd still go to church on Sunday and, you know, uh, Yeah, which is interesting to me.

Um, but when I got into art center, there's this moment of clarity and I think it just hit me. It's like I could see where my life is going to end up and it's almost



what I wanted. I wanted to get arrested. I wanted to kind of legitimize myself as this rebel. And I think I, it was like I saw, I saw that and it just felt worthless to me.

And at that point in time, there was, uh, two other brothers, uh, at church, uh, Daniel Se Chang and Andy Young. And, uh, I think they were going through a similar season. Like we were all kind of like hitting these, this realization of how foolish we were living our lives. And, uh, I think it was Daniel one Sunday, I just remember he was crying during service and I was kind of like, why is he crying?

Like, what's going on? And he kind of was the one initiated, at least in our friend group, like, hey, I think we need to like, we need to start taking our faith seriously or we need to explore this. And, uh, that just set a trajectory. So I remember during orientation at Arts Center, they asked us, uh, all the new students to, uh, say one word that was going to describe, uh, who they were so that people could get to know them.

And, uh, at that moment, it was almost like I felt like I had an opportunity to set a new trajectory for my life. Uh, so when the mic came around to me, uh, I should say Christian. And, uh, And I just, again, cause in my mind I was at this crossroads, like, am I going to be the artist, like graffiti artist, cool guy, whatever, or am I going to, am I going to set this new trajectory to pursue Christ?

And, uh, I really felt like, uh, having that, that moment of clarity afforded me the opportunity to make a new course in my life and, uh, And things were different from then. I remember that it was like the word of God came alive when my heart became open to obeying it because I had heard. Scripture is my whole life.

And I, and in my mind, I was like, okay, yeah, I believe it as true. But, um, how that impacted my day to day decisions, how that impacted me trusting the Lord over my own thoughts and ideas and feelings and desires. Uh, there was none of that happening. So it was interesting that almost like when my heart was open and my mind was open to following the word of God became like, like water, it became essential for my growth and for the pursuit of Christ.

I'm sure, I'm sure Garrett remembers my, my crazy, my,

**Rocky Seto:** I was waiting for you to comment. I'm trying to keep it edifying.

**Garrett Inouye:** So I'm, I'm holding my tongue, uh, not because what Darren said was not true, but just because they could add some funny anecdotes about it. But, uh, I do remember you telling mom and dad, you needed a spring paints for any school project.

And those were definitely not going towards school projects.

**Rocky Seto:** The overpass here. Um, now, Tricia. Where did you meet her?

**Darren Inouye:** So I actually met her on the first, uh, on that orientation day, which was interesting. Um, I met her, uh, just kind of in passing, uh, we were getting our ID photos together and then we had, uh, I think one of my first classes was, was a design class and I recognized her.

So I just ended up sitting next to her just cause she's the only person I recognized. And then the teacher was like, Hey, you need to exchange information with whoever's sitting next to you. Um, cause, cause, uh, it's funny cause in my phone, I still have Tricia as Tricia design, cause I didn't know her last name.

And, uh, so she was Tricia design and then, uh, the classes that are at center are very long. They're like five hour classes, or at least the studio classes are. So, uh, we had a dinner break and then we went to dinner and, uh, in the cafeteria, just Tricia and I, and, uh, I prayed for my meal, just kind of like close my eyes real quick, pray for my meal.

And then I remember Tricia, she kind of like stopped me and she's like, what are you doing? And instantly what I thought was like, okay, here comes the persecution. Yeah. But she was like, uh, I was like, Oh, I prayed. And she's like, are you a Christian? And I was like, yes. And then she's like, Oh, like my dad's a pastor.

I'm a Christian too. So we became very fast friends at art center. And she was actually the only Christian I knew for a number of years at the school. Um,

**none:** wow.

**Garrett Inouye:** Can I ask both of you, uh, maybe we'll start with Darren and go back to Jeff, but, um, you know, what did discipleship look like for you in your life and how did that impact you?

Um, either earlier in your life as a child or later after you kind of, um, really made that conscious decision to, to follow the Lord.

**Darren Inouye:** Yeah. I think I've had the privilege of being discipled by, uh, many different men, uh, And, uh, and maybe experiencing many different styles and personalities of that. Um, again, I could remember being discipled prior to college and I could feel the love and intention of the discipler.

But again, I don't feel like I was willing to follow. And that was just, it just created an interesting dynamic, I would say. Um, During college, I was discipled by Kenny Wada. And I think that was when my heart was open. And that was hugely impactful, just to have an older man in my life, uh, who had Walked with the Lord faithfully, um, had had to deal with, uh, uh, his own sin and pursuit of Christ and kind of seeing what that looks like, uh, at a later stage of his life, I think gave me the confidence that, okay, these struggles that I'm in now that he has walked through these different thoughts and questions he has walked through, and God has been faithful to him.

And, uh, I think God has also been gracious with them in his mistakes. That was huge to be able to have that confidence. Um, so discipleship for me, uh, that, that was one, that was a huge vehicle that I think the Lord used as a, as encouragement. As fuel, as, uh, to model for me, uh, Christ's likeness and, um, I'm super thankful for that.

Very, very thankful for that.

**Garrett Inouye:** What is discipleship play a role in your life today? Like, I know you're still meeting with older people, but also you meet with younger men as well.

**Darren Inouye:** Yeah. I think that's, um, I'm still learning. I think, and I think, thank God is gracious. Uh, I've been discipling, uh, different younger men since around that college time.

And, uh, again, I see the grace of God through that. Um, I think, uh, just learning how to walk with, and again, I think of like Kenny water, how he walked with me, where I'm sure there's things that I've said. And shared with him where he's just kind of like, all right, like just being patient, you know, listening to me and kind of allowing me to have certain questions or even explore certain paths.

And, uh, that was huge again for me so that when I would meet younger brothers, who again, we're going through, uh, similar struggles that I had gone through. I wasn't just like, okay, well, here's the answers. A plus B equals C just do this, that, and the other, but really to allow them to develop. That discernment and, and, um, to make mistakes as well.

And to, uh, really emphasize again, not, not a replication of myself. And I think that's what I saw of Kenny, not a replication of himself, but to promote someone who would pursue Christ, to pursue God, to, um, emphasize the word of God. So that, um, a young man can have. can understand how to trust those things.

Um, that's been huge. And, uh, and I would say now as somebody who's, who is discipling, uh, younger men, um, they're a huge source of encouragement. Like when you say, and I think, uh, being a father as well, you see that when you see your kids. Get something that you've been praying for them to understand, uh, when they see the Lord, you know, in, in a more glorious way, even despite if that costs them, it's like, that is such a beautiful thing.

You get to, you get to share in the fruit, you know, which is just beautiful.

**Garrett Inouye:** Oh, that's so good. Thanks for sharing. Jeff, you kind of already shared a lot, a little bit about, um, discipleship, but can you color in, like, what were those meetings or those times like with Mako or, or Roy or other people? Like what, how did that play a role in your life?

**Jeff Lowe:** Um, Pastor Mako, uh, with Spend a lot of time with me after, um, after service at mission Valley. I mean, I'm talking about like two, sometimes maybe three hours. And sometimes in the summer, we just be on the parking lot, uh, using his, uh, his, his car hatch bar. For shade, and we would just talk and he would explain things to me.

He would, um, and like I shared before, he would just point me to Christ in every way. I just, I can't remember any specific. Details, but, um, I remember being explained to a lot because, um, I'm sure I had a lot of questions and he had me listen to, uh, uh, pastor John MacArthur sermons. That was very helpful for me to understand the word.

Um, but I just remember the, the feeling or what I just remember is Mako taking pastor taking the time to, to just guide me. To just guide me. And, um, sometimes I think he would ask me questions and use that to guide me. Um, I remember one of the questions in our life group that he, that he shared, uh,

when I was at Mission Valley was, um, if, and I've heard this in the sermons before here too, if, would you still want to go to heaven?

If Christ was not there, I'm sure I'm not saying it word for word, but that's the idea. And that was one of the questions that really made me think, it's like, why do I want to go to heaven? Do I want to go to heaven to just be, uh, just be saved from hell? And, um, uh, it was, it was these types of questions that really had me think about what Christ did and, and, um, what he's still doing for us as well.

We're here. And, um, just so thinking about. All the time that he invested and he still does. I mean, we, we meet together, he's gone through the, uh, the nine marks, uh, Deacon's book with me and, and just, uh, it's just been so helpful, um, as, as I prepare to, uh, teach the youth on Sundays. Um, he guides me in that way.

He's, he's just, uh, helping me. Like, like we say here at Evergreen Church, he's, he's so committed to, um, build Christ likeness in me. Um, of course the Holy Spirit does that, but God uses him to, to help me in this way. Um, that is like just the biggest example I could think of as someone who's been discipling me.

And, um, yeah. But also, uh, ever since I've been coming to evergreen church, um, pastor Rocky, pastor Jeremy, a lot of people have, uh, have been showing me I'm an, I'm an observer, I guess. And I, I watch and, um, Even through people's examples, uh, serving on the welcome team when I, before I became the welcome team leader, serving on the welcome team, watching how people show Christ's hospitality to, to others makes me, made me want to do the same.

I mean, at first when I started serving, I, I felt like I really didn't really know how to. But watching people like Hilda, um, Sharla, Karen, um, they were just so, uh, helpful in showing me what Christ's hospitality looks like. And um, yeah, so just, just, these are just some examples of how people in the church have at Evergreen have, have, um, Disciplined me in that way.

So just by watching, yes, just by watching, um, and I can get crime scene investigation, similar CSI,

**Rocky Seto:** all those skills are coming as you're just observing people this time, living in good examples here. Yes. It's great.

**Jeff Lowe:** And, um, and if I could just share about, uh, how. How Hilda has helped me. Um, sometimes when she knew that, uh, she can help me in this

way, she would say, she would literally grab me by the elbow and say, Jeff, there's some new people here, here, let's, let's, uh, let's, They, they may have passed us, you know, sat down in, in the church.

And so she said, let's give them, uh, the, the lays in bags. And, you know, so she, she was very, she was, uh, very helpful to me in that way.

**Rocky Seto:** So she dragged you to people that went through the cracks and into the sanctuary. That's great. That's awesome. I love Hilda. I love it.

**Garrett Inouye:** Thank you guys. I love that. I mean, we know this from scripture.

We know this from the Bible that discipleship, um, does this, but it's so cool to see like for both of you guys experience, um, people being very intentional with you. Um, building Christ likeness in you and then that kind of driving you guys to continue to see that in other people and also a desire to continue to receive discipleship, right?

It becomes part of the lifeblood of the, the church, the assembly of God. Um, and, and one of the ways that the church encourages one another. It's just so evident hearing that from you guys. So I'm so glad you guys shared that, um, kind of segueing into the next question, right? Deception happening within the church.

How has God grown your love? May Jeff, we can start with, uh, with that for you.

**Jeff Lowe:** Um, you know, it wasn't until I came to evergreen church that I really understood what discipleship was. And, um, I could see the direction of where God is leading evergreen church through discipleship through his word. And, um, I could see how.

He's grown my love for the church, um, from Lee, from welcoming the church into, into the service, um, being part of the, the youth's lives now. Um, and. Men's discipleship, just being involved with all these, all these things helps me to get to know people here because I'm not from, I'm not from Evergreen, I didn't grow up in Evergreen like, like Darren.

And so, um, uh, it took a little while to get to know people. And I got to know people more through serving, um, but the Lord just really, uh, put this love in

my heart for the church. Um, and, and opportunities that might come up, uh, that, that are presented to me, um, these are opportunities that I can serve.

serve the Lord and serve the church. And so, um, yeah, I just, I'm just thankful for these opportunities. I remember when you

**Rocky Seto:** first came, I don't know if you remember, you're already greeting people.

**Garrett Inouye:** This is great.

**Rocky Seto:** And, um, it's kind of interesting how that God wired you to kind of be like a good running back.

You're looking for open holes to run through to serve, you know, and, uh, That was obvious to many of us when we first met you as you started coming, you and Chito began to come. And so that was obvious.

**Jeff Lowe:** Um, so a little bit about that. Um, when I was at Mission Valley, I was part of the welcome desk and, um, I used to give people their name tags and getting them their name tags means that I had to know them by name.

And it's a smaller church, so it was easier to do, um, coming here to Evergreen Church. So it was, it's a, it's a larger church and I didn't know anybody, maybe just a few people and maybe a handful. And, um, I was encouraged by Pastor Marko Hay. Serve every week and you get to know people faster. I mean, those weren't his exact words, but that was, uh, what was super helpful for me because, um, now I get to recognize who are coming and who might be visitors.

And so I can, it would, it would allow me to help recognize who the visitors are. So I can, I can kind of just make a beeline if I, if I recognize that there are visitors, some people, I kind of just thought that they're visitors, but I just didn't know them, but it allowed me to introduce myself, um, to them in the process.

I got to know them

**Garrett Inouye:** or at least know their names. No, that's so good. This is slightly different than what our notes say, but, um, since we're kind of talking about what does hospitality for you, what does church hospitality do to bless the church?

**Jeff Lowe:** Church hospitality. Um, well, when, when we welcome the church and welcome attendees and welcome visitors for worship.

Um, for me, what I've learned is this, and this is from serving as an usher while I was. Serving in the welcome team, um, serving as an usher gave me the opportunity to understand what the ushers do. And what they do is they pray for the people as they, um, as they are sitting in the pews before sitting in the chairs before worship starts to prepare their hearts for worship.

Um, I took that to the welcome team and, um, just, I just, I was just thinking, um, we are the, First people that people are going to encounter as they walk in through the doors, how can we prepare their hearts to sit down for worship? And, you know, people come in, in different, uh, from different situations, conditions, or whatever happened during that day or during that week.

Um, but if we can, if we can show the Lord's hospitality to first the church, um, then they can prepare their hearts for worship. Um, but also with the visitors, they may not even know who Christ is, but if we can show them Christ before they hear the word, the Lord, I believe the Lord would could use that.

**Rocky Seto:** You know, one of the top comments I get from guests, including we had a three brand new guests last week who talked to me about what you did with them and he's coming back again with two other people for fellowship Sunday, this Lord's day, but I get welcoming and loving Isn't that encouraging, Church? I mean, so keep it up.

I mean, God used people like Jeff and others, of course, and, but. They feel that from the whole church. So as a pastor, that's exactly what I would love to hear from a guest or a visitor.

**Garrett Inouye:** That's wonderful. Well, and I just love that, you know, for you, Jeff, and I've been seeing this in the teams is that ushering is not just getting people to the seat or like making sure bags come out at the right time, right?

It's intentional, um, prayerfully, uh, praying for the people that you're, you're Sectioned over, um, in administrating too. And then for ushering as well, like it's not just saying, hi, it's valid. And here's the program and come back next week. It's you're actually intentionally praying for them, trying to model Christ.



I think that's so beautiful. That's that's actually loving people are really, really, um, grateful that you shared that, um, Darren, for you, how has your love for the church grown?

**Darren Inouye:** I think that's been a very long journey for me. I think, uh, especially growing up in the church. Um, and then, uh, I don't know, maybe it's just me having, being an artist again, and kind of like having that identity of being like what I had built in myself, kind of the sense of rebelliousness.

There's a lot that I had to unlearn, I think. Um, but it's been, it's been a journey and I think it's continuing to be a journey to learn how to love the church. And, uh, I can say now, like, like, uh, I do love the church. I love the church with. Ah, just, just a love that I, I, I couldn't imagine having. This level of love that I have, um, for evergreen and, um, and seeing the beauty of it.

I think part of the journey for me, uh, especially early, uh, in, in that decision and crossroads during college, um, I just started to get involved in a lot of ministry. Uh, a lot of, uh, parachurch organizations, uh, working of, uh, many other different churches outside of evergreen as well. And, um, and I saw, you know, of course, like it was awesome to see, uh, those ministries kind of like, um, addressing, I don't know, uh, either homelessness, like in the inner city or, uh, you know, College type ministries of, uh, building community and small group and, uh, promoting a sense of unity across, um, across all the different believers on campus, different things like that, um, were beautiful to see.

Uh, but again, I think as the Lord was refining my heart, I just started to fall more and more in love with the idea of a group of people who are not. Gathered because of a similar passion. Like earthly passion or even a good thing, like a, a societal good, a societal thing that we can try to change. Um, and again, I think the heart intention is, is good, well, and good for a lot of these organizations we've worked with.

Um, cause they weren't very missional. They wanted to bring people to Christ, but a lot of times they were centered around a certain, a certain. Uh, I don't know that there was a lot of other things involved there that you could be passionate for. Um, but through this process, I think God has just grown this desire in love for a group of people that come together to worship Christ to desire to see him Glorified and, and, and again, not just for societal good, but within our own lives to see him as the king of our hearts and to wrestle with that, which I realized for myself, at least was.

Almost harder to believe than believing that God can do something, you know, and in the life of other people, or even believing like, Oh, I think I can impact the city. It almost was that was almost more believable to me than like, I can address the sin issues in my heart. And, uh, and I think that's, that's just where I see the church.

The church is a group of people who, who want that and who are trying to help each other towards that. And, uh, And that's why I love so much. I think the vision of evergreen currently with, uh, um, pursuing Christ likeness, uh, intentional relationships, even the definition of, uh, uh, the discipleship, you know, um, uh, pursuing intentional relationships for the building up of.

The body of Christ are building Christ's likeness of in the body of Christ said evergreen SUV. I might be getting that completely wrong, but that idea is so beautiful to me. And, um, I don't know. And it's not that again, those para church type things that we were involved with were wrong. It's more so that I see that if the church.

If, if this foundation can be established within the local church, um, I just think it becomes a powerful thing when you actually have people who are, whose lives have been transformed by the gospel. And are living normal life, just going to normal work. It's just, that becomes an incredible witness in light.

Um, because again, I think the world is right now it's chock full of people with causes and it's chock full of people trying to do what they think is good for society. Um, it's chock full of people being able to see all the wrong in everybody else, you know, And the problems, um, but again, the uniqueness of this church is almost this realization of like, yeah, that darkness out there, kind of like what Jeff was saying, if this work, it's like, it's in me and that that's like, I got to start with that, you know?

So, yeah.

**Rocky Seto:** Well, I remember you and Trish, since I came down, have been super intentional about, um, pursuing things and pursuing discipleship. And my experience with you is that, um. Similar. I mean, in a different way, you know, um, I mean, wow. The, the horrors that you may see, Jeff, I mean, none of us want to see those things yet, the art world could be dark as well in a different way.

Right. And so I remember this, this couple just, Hey, can we meet up with you at the Starbucks or whatever? And how did you pursue Christ in professional

football, you know, or whatever, you know, and just trying to translate fleshing that out to what it may look like in the art world. And that's amazing. And then.

I just want you to know that sort of, uh, just like Jeff is looking for opportunities to serve opportunities to get poured into that sort of thing is mutually beneficial, meaning hopefully you learn something. I hope that's something good, decent to share with you guys. And you guys go home like, what was that all that about?

Hopefully it was helpful, but it also edifies the giver, like meaning like, wow, they want to ask me, they think that I have something helpful to share. And so I think that mutual. Or does the intentionality of pursuing, but also the intentionality wanting to give is a mutually beneficial thing that it's all part of discipleship.

Yeah. It's wonderful.

**Darren Inouye:** And if I can say something to that, like it's, um, and I think that's what's so beautiful, like Rocky, you being in the football world, you being in the art world, it's totally different, you know? Totally different cultures and people and all sorts of things. But our question is the same.

It's like, how do we pursue Christ in these things where God has placed this for the time in life and life stage that we're in? What does it look like to be faithful to Christ? And I think that that, um, again, that that's the beauty of the church. You know that we have that, that, uh, refined goal, you know, there's so many things to be distracted about because I could ask you also, like, how do I be excellent at my craft?

And I'm sure you'd have a ton to speak on that, but that's not why I'm here at church. That's wonderful. And.

**Rocky Seto:** I'm sure those are the things you're pouring into other young and old, you know, it's wonderful to hear.

**Garrett Inouye:** Well, thank you guys sharing a little bit about, uh, your past, how the Lord has grown you. Um, definitely giving us a good picture of who you guys are.

I kind of just realized looking at you guys, it's so cool to see a, uh, a person who pursued justice and a low level criminal. Sitting next to each other, we're playing God together and it's so cool to see both you guys challenged in, you

know, your past, but also, uh, yeah, just seeing how the Lord has grown you guys.

Maybe.

**Rocky Seto:** Um, did you investigate any of his, did you ever do any work in La Habra or Whittier?

**Garrett Inouye:** I'm sure if Darren ever was a real criminal, he would totally get caught cause I found his wallet on the driveway before he would totally give himself away. So I'm glad the Lord, uh, reformed you before you got, uh, imprisoned.

Yes. Um, he would have been easy catch, right? Yes. I would have been a catch, but you know, another thing that helps us really get to know you guys, uh, is to hear how the, what the Lord's doing currently. And so I kind of want to transition a little bit and talk about what the Lord's doing currently in your life.

Uh, Jeff, do you want to share just, um, you know, how's the Lord been, uh, growing you recently? How's the Lord challenging you? Even, uh, is there anything you'd like to share?

**Jeff Lowe:** So, um, recently, I will just include the time that I've started coming to Evergreen Church, um, which is the past, past three years, he's just growing me in his word.

Um, I've been so blessed, um, to hear, um, Really, um, um, solid preaching from the pulpit every week. I, I don't take that for granted and, um, and, um, I know that we've been focused on the Lord's day and having, um, the music and, uh, to glorify God. truths sung about God and praying the word of God and having the scripture read all of this.

And of course the preaching, um, that's, that's just been growing my heart and also just having the opportunity to, uh, Being the men's discipleship group, being taught in the A's class, this is all has just been so, so, um, helpful for me to a point where, um, I want to be able to do that for the church. And right now, the Lord is just growing me in, um, uh, helping the youth right now.

Yeah. And I shared a little bit about this, um, inter men's discipleship group, but, um, I'm close to retirement age, maybe another seven years. And I have, um, uh, looked at my life. And I've, I've wasted a lot of years, um, uh, my

thirties and my forties, uh, part of me thinking this way is, uh, through sermons about, you know, keeping our eyes heavenward.

And when I, when I do, when I try to keep my eyes heavenward, I'm thinking, well, um, what's eternal and what's not eternal, eternal are going to be the souls that are here that I'll be with. Um, what impact can I do here while I'm still here? And so opportunities of serving opportunities of, um, teaching. If I'm going to teach, um, I need to get better at it.

That's just a fact. Um, I've been encouraged, but I could see, uh, there's just, I just, I just need to learn more. And so I think the Lord's put that on my heart. But yeah, that's, that's the most recent things that are, that's, that's been going on in my life.

**Rocky Seto:** I get feedback from the youth and they say, when you teach, it's been very clear and encouraging.

So, and that's not always the easiest setting to teach in. So anyway, just to encourage you, that's the stuff that I hear back from the youth.

**Jeff Lowe:** Praise God that you can use me.

**Darren Inouye:** Amen. Awesome. Darren, how about for yourself? Um, I still feel, I still, or I feel, I don't know if I still feel, um, but I feel like I am a young man in the thick of it, you know, uh, the thick of having two young boys that I'm learning how to parent, you know, uh, learning how to be a faithful husband continually.

With work, Tricia and I, by the nature of our work, it's always been year to year and uncertain what it's going to look like the following year. Um, and I feel like the Lord is like, like the picture that I consistently get is, is like when Jesus called Peter out, uh, onto the water, or when, when Peter said that he wanted to be with Jesus out into the water and Jesus calls him out and he steps out and then Peter sinks.

Um, I feel like that's been a story that, that I really relate with. Um, Trish and I have gone through, um, Multiple things in life where I guess you can say that we've sunk, you know, uh, when I was doing Ministry in the inner city. Uh, it was a hard ministry and it ended with, uh, with, uh, one of the people that I really cared for the most passing away from my heroin overdose.

And I was very close to that situation. Like I helped his parents cause he was a young man, uh, clean out his apartment. And I was the last person that I'd really reached out to him to, uh, uh, To try to help him, uh, with his, uh, abuse, uh, substance abuse issues. And, and, and he was, uh, at that point, like a new Christian or he was coming close to the understanding.

So that felt like a failure, you know, felt like I sunk in the water. Um, there was a lot of self blame that I put on myself and various things like that. And then, uh, in more recent years with the loss of our, our business, the art school that we had run, Trisha and I, that was almost a 10 year journey. And then, uh, for it to end same questions would come up like, Oh man, did we make mistakes?

Like, what does it look like? You know, were we not faithful? All these different things. Um, and then now, you know, where we're kind of year to year, uh, You know, by the grace of God, um, things are doing okay. We just found out we're getting a check yesterday, which praise God. We thought it was going to come in in September, but it's actually coming in earlier.

So there's just little things like that, where we're just uh, continually trusting the Lord. And I think what's been beautiful is I've been falling in love with the grace of God. And that's becoming sharper to me than the fear of failure. Like the assurance that God's love and grace is always going to be there.

Uh, and he's faithful is becoming sharper and more real. I think to myself and to Tricia, that then, then just the fears that typically we would like to see anxieties, you know, so I see us growing in that, which is really exciting, um, with the financial things that we were going through this year. I think that's the first time Trish and I were really, we weren't, I didn't, I didn't go into like an anxiety panic attack type thing that I had gone through in past, which was praise God, just a sign.

I think that we were like, you know, God's going to be faithful. He's proved himself to us. And if it doesn't work out, we've seen him start new things to within our lives. So. Yeah. I don't know. Um, I guess evergreen church family, like I'm with, I'm there with you guys in the struggles, you know,

**Garrett Inouye:** thank you guys for

**Darren Inouye:** sharing that.

**Garrett Inouye:** Um, next question I wanted to ask, um, was more oriented towards evergreen church. Um, what do you guys see God doing at evergreen? Um, maybe we'll start with Darren, go to Jeff afterwards.

**Darren Inouye:** I see him doing a lot. I, I, I, I think especially being in the art world, it colors my opinion of what God is doing at Evergreen.

And there is a certain reality, I think being in the art world, we see how people think the celebration of the Um, human accomplishment and human thoughts and almost a glorification of, of, of our flesh, all these different things. And I think that, uh, for evergreen to kind of have refined its focus to, um, really put Christ at the center and his word.

I think that's, that's. That's huge. That's, um, I know for myself and for Tricia, it's exactly what we need when we're out there encountering the world. Um, the way the messages are preached, I think the emphasis on for worship to be able to hear each other and to, um, have songs that are going to enforce the truths of scripture within our, our everyday life.

Um, These things are invaluable. I think for Tricia and I, it really does feel at least in our, in our industry, in our career, in our work experience, it feels like life or death. We see the sin within our own life. We see the temptations that are there when it comes to the different accolades or how easy it is to achieve, uh, certain levels of notoriety or financial gain.

All these different things are so real. Um, but to have a place That is going to emphasize the treasure of Christ. As all surpassing in value, um, on a weekly basis is, is huge. And, um, I think that's, uh, initially, you know, again, being from older, uh, experiencing evergreen my whole life. And then this transition, um, it really does feel like, uh, um, it feels like a new wine skin.

But it feels like, uh, uh, another word that comes to mind is pruning. It feels like a pruning back down to the core of why we gather. And I think that that to me is super exciting. Um, the purpose of pruning is to produce more fruitfulness. And we read about that in scripture. And I think that that to me brings so much encouragement for what the future has for evergreen, um, to, to, to have just the vine.

And to focus on that, um, I think this is the start of, uh, yeah, just, just a whole new season, a whole different work, a whole different, uh, uh, move of the Lord within the life of our church. And uh, yeah, I don't know. I think it's going to be, I'm super excited for it.

**Garrett Inouye:** Just to kind of, um, Bring more, I guess, flesh out more with what you just brought up.

Um, having a place every week that focuses on the, just the surpassing treasure that Christ is, how does that impact, you know, the things that you're mentioning, the things that you encounter week to week with your work, with your family that kind of pull your heart, pull on your heart.

**Darren Inouye:** I think it's, it's, uh, I'm human.

I forget and I, and I'm, and I, and I feel. so sharply my emotions, my fleshly desires, and um, And that's, that's, uh, it's, it's interesting. Cause I think when we look at Christianity, we are called to die to ourselves. There's this element of taking up our cross and, um, it can feel like sacrifice after sacrifice after sacrifice.

Um, but I really feel like when we treasure Christ and when we're, the emphasis is on him as a treasure, there's a realization that it's like, I'm actually making the better investment, like this is actually, it's foolish, the things that I pursue, it's, it's like the, um, it's like the bowl of porridge versus the, the birthright.

It's, it's, and when that is emphasized, and again, believed, um, and lived out, and then you see these people who have treasured Christ, that have gone before you, and have been satisfied, Um, that, that gives at least me the confidence to be like, yeah, I believe this is true, help me believe in the areas that are, that I unbelieve, you know, and, um, it's like, It's like fire in my spirit, you know, um, it's so necessary.

And again, I think there might be other workplaces where it's harder to see that. But again, in, in Tricia, my industry, it's just so apparent like the, uh, when you have a certain level of talent, you get glorified for that. And when you, when people are giving you accolades, that is. It feels good. That's, that's confusing.

I know Rocky can, you know, knows a lot about this. So, yeah.

**Rocky Seto:** Well, it's really practical, isn't it? What he's saying, correct me if I'm, I missed it. He's basically saying, I need to be reminded that Jesus is worth more than anything else. Absolutely. Therefore, when I'm in that art situation or in a football situation or whatever situation, I could say no to that.



Because. I have something greater. And so Christianity is pretty simple. It's basically give up your life for something better. The ultimate, which, which is life with Jesus Christ. So that's, that's awesome.

**Garrett Inouye:** Jeff, you want to share, uh, what you've been seeing God do at evergreen church? Um,

**Jeff Lowe:** so Gio and I started going, coming to evergreen church because of the expositional preaching.

And, um, from day one, we knew we wanted to become members. And. It's been exciting since we got here. Um, discipleship, yes, we are about Christ and discipleship goes through every aspect of, of what's going on here from serving from, from the Lord's day service, hearing God's word preached, uh, ACE classes, um, everything that's being done here.

Um, we are about Christ, we are about Christ and, and discipleship is our central theme. It's easy to see the, for me, um, it's, I can see the fruit that's coming out of it. Um, people are being fed the word, um, my life personally, I, I, I love the word. More than ever. Um, I could see it in my, my mom's, my mom's life.

Mm. Uh, she started coming to Evergreen Church about a year, almost a little over a year now. Wow. And so, um, it's just incredible. Hi, Ann . I'm sure you're gonna be listening,

**Rocky Seto:** right? Jeff .

**Jeff Lowe:** Um, she's gonna be join, um, she's in the membership class. Membership Matters class today. And so I'm excited for her. Um, but.

Just, just seeing how we are so focused on Christ that it's just that in itself is exciting. To me, um, and just from my past experiences, um, I can't, I can't stress that enough.

**Garrett Inouye:** Wow. Well, I just thank you guys so much. It's been so encouraging just to hear about both your testimony. I already know a lot about Darren's, but even some of that was new for me and just hearing your heart for evergreen.

Uh, is, is just so encouraging. Um, you know, for this podcast, we only get like an hour or so to get to talk to you guys, and there's definitely so much more we

can go into talking about, like, you know, things that you've learned, uh, you know, with work and how to manage that. Uh, I'd love to talk more about that or Darren, uh, you know, You didn't share this, but Darren actually took a whole year off to do ministry in, uh, Skid Row.

And, um, that's what he's talking about with the homeless, uh, outreaches and stuff. There's so much you can learn so much wisdom that he gained from that experience as well. Um, so much more we could talk about. Uh, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to end the conversation. The podcast asking you a lighter question, and it's kind of, uh, for you who are listening, this is an encouragement for you to then go and seek out, uh, Darren and Jeff, um, and, uh, you know, just try and talk to them, uh, get to know them more, uh, podcast is great.

But, uh, that's just the start of, uh, getting to know someone. It's, it's always better to meet them in person. And that's our hope, I think, for all the executive board candidates that the church would really be able to get to know all of them so that we can pray for you guys and, um, and just, uh, you know, look, look to you guys for, uh, in hopefulness that the Lord would use you guys to bless our church.

And so final question, uh, Jeff. Uh, where can we usually find you on Sunday and what are some things you like to talk about? It doesn't have to be spiritually. It could be. It should be. It could also be like you like watching the bachelor. I don't

**Jeff Lowe:** know. Uh, well, uh, on Sundays you could find me at the welcome table, um, before service and uh, after service, uh, my wife and I and my mom are standing around trying to, uh, just maybe find who, who's visiting, um, And catching up a little bit with, with, um, uh, the church family, um, let's see, I, I love talking about the word because I need to learn a lot more, um, the gospel that always excites me.

Um, but also, you know, some worldly things. I, I, I like to talk about golf. I, this is part of all the years that I weigh, that I've, I've spent a lot of time Um, not for the Lord is golf that that was definitely an idol of mine. And, um, I, I, I enjoy talking about it only because I felt like I learned a lot about in my thirties and forties.

Um, what's your handicap? Uh, I don't play. So the best, I would say I was probably, uh, 18. That was probably what I was hovering at. If at my best, at my best. Um, and, uh, I like talking about Japan too, because, um, my wife is from

Japan. She was born and raised there. And every once in a while we get to go back and enjoy her family there.

**Rocky Seto:** Awesome. What about, um,

**Jeff Lowe:** Kinako.

**Rocky Seto:** Kinako. You didn't talk about Kinako.

**Garrett Inouye:** Sorry. That's a. Insight information, you know, Kinako is a sore subject for me. I was pranked once with Kinako and gave me a gag reflex. Yeah. But for those who don't know, Kinako is like a, it's like a soy powder, sesame powder that goes on a mochi sometimes.

Tastes like peanut butter a little bit. Yeah, it's very good. But do you like Kinako? Kinako is,

**Jeff Lowe:** uh, she's my dog.

**none:** Oh,

**Jeff Lowe:** I totally missed that. And, and, uh, uh, she's about two and a half years old and, uh, we adopted her from San Bernardino, but, uh, we saw her picture online and she has, she's a Shepski mix and she has like this light Brown husky, like wheels, peak, and kind of the color of Kinako.

So Chiho wanted to call her Kinako we call her Kina and then, you know, Japanese call at the end. So

**Garrett Inouye:** I can get behind that type of Darren, where can we usually find you? And what do you like talking about?

**Darren Inouye:** Sure. Um, I don't know. We kind of, we were typically towards the back cause our, we have our young boys.

Um, so, um, we kind of migrated a little bit towards the right side of the sanctuary. Um, it's where it seems like the younger people sit. So we feel a little bit younger. Um, What do we enjoy? Um, I think being in a creative industry, uh, we find it very interesting. So anything that is creative, uh, Tricia and I find a lot of interest in.

So we love music. We love film, um, art, of course. Uh, outside of that, uh, I really enjoy. Just kind of working outdoors. Um, so if you guys have suggestions for how to manage weeds, I would love to hear that. Please talk to us. Yes. There are

**Garrett Inouye:** so many weeds that are, me and Darren kind of live in a duplex. Yeah.

So many

**Darren Inouye:** weeds. Yes. So, um, yeah, I don't know. Um, Yeah, we, we just love talking. So come up to us

**Rocky Seto:** and monthly you'll, God willing, you see Darren and Tricia leading music. So that's, if you recognize the voice, that's the face. Yes.

**Garrett Inouye:** The one that's crying half the time, right? Yes. Yeah. . Awesome. Well, thank you guys so much.

We, I really enjoyed talking to you guys. Rocky, would you be willing to close our time in prayer?

**Rocky Seto:** Oh, I'd love to. Yeah. Let's pray brothers. Let's play church father in heaven. Thank you for uh, this time to visit and um, get to hear each other's stories and you've given all of us a story, a testimony, uh, how you providentially have moved in our lives to bring us to you and also to bring us towards one another.

So father, uh, for this fun podcast yet. I pray that this actually draws us to you. Closer together as we get to know each other better father. I thank you for Opportunity to even hear from Jeff and Darren to executive board candidates And thank you for providing godly men for us to even consider and so Lord I pray that Evergreen Church will be encouraged and to see how you are providing you said that you will provide gifts for the church necessary to care for itself and That's exactly what you've been doing.

Uh, so thank you, father. I pray Lord that as we listen to this, uh, podcast, we see that you open our spiritual eyes to see how you are caring for us, Lord. And I pray for Darren and Jeff as well, as they have agreed. Conditionally, um, to take the harder road. It's a position of leadership is always more difficult, although it's a joy for them.

And there's, I pray for their wives, their, their children. I pray Lord that they will be uniquely blessed through this experience. And I pray they will be used mightily for, uh, the sake of your care at evergreen church. And I pray that for their wives to experience a special joy. As they are part of this as well as they undergird them as men and in their ministries.

So we know they wouldn't be sitting here without the blessing of their wives. So thank you, father, in Jesus name. Amen.

**Garrett Inouye:** Amen. Thank you guys. Well, that's it for this episode. Thanks for joining us. Next week we will talk to the final executive board candidate, pastor Victor Chen. Again, you could find us on the website or church app along with Apple podcasts, Spotify, and tune in by searching suing discipleship.

Make sure to like follow and subscribe to get notified when new episodes post. For those of you who listened to the podcast last season, thanks for sticking with us. We know it's been a while since we posted an episode. The podcast is always on the back of my mind for how we can use it to encourage and bless our church family.

Please pray with me that in God's timing, we would be able to continue the podcast with more regular episodes. Anyways, that's it for today. Thank you again for joining us and see you next week. Bye.