

Naomi was born blind, deaf, with a hole in her heart, lung damage, scoliosis, and microcephaly. She couldn't sit, walk, or talk, and had to be tube-fed all her life. Naomi survived 54 pneumonias, many requiring hospitalizations. Then along came Hannah, 23 months later, healthy and strong. The Rosses had a couple of other children who didn't see the light of day but whom they'll meet on that Day.

Though Naomi couldn't talk, she exemplified God's unconditional love and pointed the way to Jesus. Many came to faith because of her life, which was full of God's grace and joy. With each emergency and recovery, Richard & Debbi stood at the edge of eternity and caught a glimpse of Heaven. Because of that, their perspective on life, time, and eternity changed.

After one last pneumonia that just couldn't be beat, at 5 years and 9 months, God healed Naomi and brought her home where she could breathe the fresh air of Heaven. God has allowed grief to transform Richard and Debbi's lives for His purposes and glory.

In the 30 years since they said farewell to Naomi, the Rosses had the privilege to serve God in Hawai'i, on the East Coast, West Coast, in Kenya, Israel, Palestine, China, North Korea, and Japan. They've served across denominations, missions, and in the secular realm. Now, they live in Costa Mesa, CA, near their daughter Hannah and husband Mark, and first grandchild, Kira Naomi Kozuki.

Debbi describes herself as a battleship consort to Richard, the battleship. Together, they complement each other's gifting as they serve the Body of Christ and love people to Jesus missionally. Both have cross-cultural roots in the Asian, Hawaiian, and majority US culture.

Shepherds often sustain sheep bites. The wounds and scars aren't visible but they're there. Having experienced this, the Rosses offer to come alongside fellow sojourners who desire another perspective and/or who have experienced pain in ministry or grief in life.

For someone who didn't want to be married, a mom, or a pastor's wife, God transformed Debbi from a stubborn, pride-filled, self-centered, silly flibbertigibbet into a broken vessel fit for His use. As Debbi says, "I am an ordinary woman, loved by an extraordinary God."

Our gifts, talents, and significant experiences:



- Trusting in Jesus through marked moments of grief and pain,
- Professional counseling training,
- Staff development and management,
- Building reproducing discipleship movements,
- Parenting two amazing daughters, the eldest now in heaven,
- Cross-cultural and multi-denominational understanding,
- High levels of systems and leadership development skills,
- Creative, strategic ministry planning,
- Celebrate Recovery leadership,
- Missional living, prayer, and apologetics in hostile environments, and
- Sharing God's aloha, especially in Asian-American ministry settings.

After 40 years of awe at God's provision and glory, we were led by Him to serve with Standing Stone. For that, we are so grateful. This season promises to be as starkly beautiful as the previous decades, even as we face my progressing Parkinson's Disease disabilities.

"My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever." - Psalm 73:26 (NLT)



DONATE

Debbi was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She never wanted to be married, nor be a mom, and being a pastor's wife was not in her plan. Meeting Richard changed her mind and her name. Then God changed her heart to receive children as gifts. Richard and Debbi learned during pregnancy that their firstborn, Naomi Keiko, had Trisomy 18, a genetic birth defect with a grim prognosis. Surviving pregnancy was a miracle.



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Aloha! My wife Debbi and I are from Hawai'i and now call SoCal home. God has led us through many adventures, including working as a secular, non-profit executive, as well as within churches and missions in HI, CA, OR, WA, DC, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. In all, we've served in 16 churches as a senior/executive pastor or consultant and with six missions, including International Students Inc., the Navigators, YWAM, The Salvation Army, International Schools of China, and Apartment Life.