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和 Central Harmony

Quarterly Newsletter of Central Japanese-American Community Church

Castaic Lake Camping Trip – Suika wari



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Bolsa Chica Beach Vespers



「主は祈りにこたえられる」

ある宣教師が北米にある自分の母教会に帰ってきて証しをした時のことである。彼はこのように語った。

「わたしはアフリカの小さなクリニックで働いていますが、薬品やその他の日用品を買うために、二週間ごとに最寄りの街まで自転車でジャングルの中を二日かけて行くのです。途中でジャングルの中でキャンプしなければならないのです。

あるとき街へ行って銀行でお金をおろし、薬品その他の必要品を揃えて、再び二日間かけて病院へ帰ろうとしていました。

街へ着いたときケンカをしてひどいケガをしている男の人がいたので、治療してあげたあとで主イエスのことを伝えました。そのあとで、ジャングルでのキャンプも含めて二日間かけて無事に病院へと帰り着きました。

二週間後再び街へ向かって買い物のための旅に出ました。街に着くと前回傷の手当をしてあげた男が近づいてきました。彼はこう言ったのです。

「二週間前あんたがこの街に来たとき、おれはあんたが金と薬を持って行って知ってたから、クリニックへ帰ろうとするあんたの後を何人かにつけて、その夜のキャンプ場所のジャングルへ行ったんだよ。あんたを殺して金と薬を奪うためさ。

だけどちょうどあんたがキャンプしているところへ着くと、武器を持ったものすごく強そうなヤツが26人もあんたをガードしてるじゃないか！」

ここまで聞いたときわたしは笑いだしてしまいました。だってそのジャングルに泊まったとき、わたしは間違いなくひとりぼっちだったからです。ところがその男は譲らないのです。

「いや、あのおっかねえガードを見たのはおいらだけじゃねえんだ。仲間もみんな見たんだ。で、おれたちみんなでガードの人数も数えたんだから。それでおれたちは怖くなって逃げ出しちゃったってわけさ」

宣教師がここまで証しをしたとき、会衆席にいた一人の人が驚いて飛び上がり、宣教師の証しをさえぎって、そのことが起こった正確な日時を教えてほし

い、と仰いできました。宣教師がそのことが起こった日時を話すと、証しをさえぎったその人はこのような話しをしたのです。

「あなたが今話された出来事がアフリカで起こったとき、こちらは朝で、わたしはゴルフに出かける準備をしていたんです。そして、ゴルフ場に着いてコースを回り、パットを入れようとしているまさにそのとき、あなたのために祈らなければ、という強い思いがわき起こってきたのです。主からのその思いは非常に強かったので、わたしはその場でゴルフをやめてこの教会の仲間たちに電話し、今すぐ礼拝堂に集まってわたしと一緒にこの宣教師のために祈ってくれ、と伝えたのです。あの日、ここでわたしと一緒に祈ってくれた人は立ってくれませんか？」

彼から電話を受けて集まって祈った人々が立ちあがったとき、それが何人であるか宣教師は急いで数えたのだが、

それは26人だったのだ！

この話しは主の御霊がどんなふうに不思議な方法で働かれるかを教えてくれる驚くべき証しであると思う。あなたも神さまからの強い促しを受けたならば即座に従うことを強くお勧めする。この話しは「わたしを強くしてくださる方によって何事でもすることができ」（ピリピ人への手紙4：13）という聖句のこれ以上ないほど明確なあらわれではないか。

祈って損をすることは決してない。祈りでダメージを受けるのは地獄の門だけである。信仰を持って祈るならば主は必ず答えられる。

主が奇跡を行われるのは、ずっと昔のことだ、もはやこの現代に主の奇跡が行われる余地などない、という人がいるが、わたしはそういう考え方に強く反対するものである。主は今日も不思議な驚くべき方法で働かれる。

われわれは皆、ときにはつらく苦しい道を行くことがある。自分の力ではどうにもならない状況にうちひしがれそうになることもある。そんなときにこそ、主はあなたのそばにおられる。だれかの心に強く働きかけて祈るように促される。あなたがひとりぼっちだと思うときに、主に促されただれかがどこかであなたのために祈っていることを思いだそ

う。

また、われわれの教会が、信仰をもって祈りのうちに世界に宣教師を送り出せるような教会でありたいと思う。そうすればもっともっと主の驚くべき奇跡を経験するようになるだろう。

主はかならず祈りにこたえられるのだ。

とおる牧師

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“The Lord Answers to Our Prayers”

A certain missionary, upon returning to his home church in North America, shared this story about his experience. He had this to testify:

“I work at a small clinic in Africa, and every two weeks when I need to buy medicine or sundries, I ride my bicycle through the jungle to the nearest neighboring town, which takes me two days to get there. Naturally, I'm forced to camp in the jungle during my trips there.”

He continued, “On one occasion I rode into town, stopped at the bank to withdraw some money, bought all my necessities, and proceeded to make the 2-day trek back to the hospital. However, I noticed a man who had been brutally injured in a fight, so I tended to his wounds and then shared the good news of our Lord Jesus with him. Immediately afterwards, I started on my 2-day journey through the jungle and arrived safely at the hospital where I worked.”

“Two weeks later, like I always did, I headed out to make the same trek to into town. When I arrived, I met the fellow whose wounds I had tended. The man revealed to me, ‘When you were here in this town two weeks ago, I knew you had medicine and money on you when you left this town, so I and some other men tailed you out of this town into the jungle, with plans to kill you and steal your

money and medicine during the night while you camped in the jungle. However, when we reached your campsite, there were some really strong-looking, armed men standing guard around you – we counted twenty-six of them!”

I started to laugh at his story. “Whenever I camp in the jungle, I’m always alone,” I confessed to the would-be thief. “But the man wouldn’t let up on his story. ‘No way!’ he exclaimed. ‘I wasn’t the only one who witnessed your entourage of guards. All of us saw them. And all of us counted how many men were with you. We were so scared that we all ran away!’”

At this point in the missionary’s testimony, one member of the audience jumped up out of his seat and interrupted him. The man wanted to know the exact day and hour when this took place. When the missionary revealed the day and time of the event, the man in the audience had this to say: “When all this happened to you in Africa at night, it was the morning here, when I was preparing to go golfing. I was making my way around the course, and while I was

putting, I immediately felt a strange need to have to pray for you. The Lord urged me so strongly to pray for you that morning, that I stopped my game, phoned some church friends and asked them to immediately meet me at church so we could all pray for you. Would all the people who met me at church on that day to pray for this missionary, stand?” When the people who prayed for the missionary were asked to stand, the missionary immediately counted the number of people who stood – 26!!!

This story is a testament to how the Spirit of the Lord works in many strange and surprising ways. If God strongly impresses something upon you, I encourage you to obey Him, right there on the spot. This story is perhaps one of the best examples of how the passage in Philippians 4:13 is exemplified: “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.” By no means will one lose anything from praying. The only things that can receive damage through prayer are the gates of hell. If one prays in faith, the Lord will always answer. There are those that believe that the Lord’s miracles were for a time that once

was, and that there is no room for those miracles today – I firmly disagree with this thinking. The Lord is able to work in strange and astonishing ways, today!

We all sometimes have to travel a very painful and difficult road. We can’t do it alone with our own strength and often feel like our circumstances will crush us alive. It is in those times, especially, that the Lord is present, right by your side. Someone is being strongly prompted to pray for you. When you feel like you’re all alone, I earnestly believe the Lord urges someone, somewhere to pray specifically for you. Furthermore, I hope our church will be one that can send missionaries in prayers of faith out into the world. In doing so, there will be many more opportunities for people to experience the amazing miracles of our Lord.

The Lord is faithful to answer our prayers.

Pastor Toru
Associate Pastor

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JHOP

The ambiance is set by a string of white Christmas lights that lines the floor, bringing the only light in the room. The mood is quiet and casual, but the message is strong. JHOP stands for Japanese House of Praise. It’s a night when we gather to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit through praise, prayer, testimonies, reflection, and a short message. It’s so often that we go through life, repeat different routines, and forget to hear and appreciate the voice of God, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of JHOP is to change the atmosphere, slow down the pace of daily life, and seek the presence of the Lord. God promises that when we seek Him, we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13), but it seems we are usually looking for other things in life, and rarely have opportunities to sit and truly seek God’s presence. Sometimes even the Sabbath can be full of responsibilities, preparation for the service, or potluck, fellowship etc., not that these are bad things, but even this sacred day can come and go without the realization that God had something to say. The experience of JHOP has taught me how to be still before the Lord and concentrate on that love relationship that is meant to be nurtured and enjoyed.

Melissa Hokama

JHOP

白のクリスマスライトだけで照らされた部屋のムードは静かでカジュアルでしたが、その中でメッセージが力強く語られました。JHOPとはJapanese House of Praiseが省略されたもので、神様の御臨在を賛美、祈り、証、メッセージをとうして経験する集いです。私たちは日常の忙しさに終われ、神様の声を聞くこと、聖霊さまの存在を感じることを忘れがちです。JHOPの目的は、日々の習慣から離れ、ゆったりとした時間のなかで神の御臨在を求めることです。神様は、我々が求めるとき、神を見つけると約束しています（エレミヤ29:13）。しかし、我々は多くの場合人生における他のものを探し求めることはあっても、座って本当に神の存在を求める機会がめったにないようです。時として安息日でさえ、パトラックや礼拝の準備、親睦など様々な行事、仕事や責任に負われ、神様との交わりを十分に味わうことなく過ぎてしまいます。JHOPの経験は、静かに集中して神様との関係を楽しむこと私に教えてくれたのです。

外間メリッサ



「心の変化」

2012年4月28日は、私と息子宇洋（たかひろ）にとって人生の中でもっとも大切な日でした。バプテスマを受ける時の心境、喜びを言葉で表れません！キリスト教について私は今まで考えた事もなく、聖書を学ぶなんて夢にも思っていませんでした。

私が土曜日に CJACC 教会に通い始めたのは、宇洋がサンゲーブリエル・アカデミーに入学した事がきっかけでした。当初は、友達作る事、学費が安くなる事が教会に通う目的でした。日本で 13 年も生活している私にとって教会での土曜日は、アメリカの生活の中でもとても楽しくで充実した一日になりました。

通う度に教会にも慣れ、慣れるにしたがって教会が好きになり、イエス様の存在に興味を持つようになりました。親切な小原牧師と中村牧師の指導のお陰で、だんだんと聖書にも関心を持つようになりました。

その後私にいろいろな事起きるようになり、ある日目をつぶって「イエス様、貴方が本当に存在するのなら助け下さい」と一生懸命祈りましたら、そのお祈りが叶えられたのです。このような不思議な事は、自分で体験しないと絶対に信じられないと思います。そして 2012 年 2 月 19 日に起きた事がきっかけで、私は心と体両方で聖書を受け入れるようになったのです。

その日私はひどい風邪をひいてしまい、自宅で身動きがとれなくなってしまいました。異国の地の旧正月に子供二人を世話してくれる人もなく、体が弱っている私はとても心細く困っていました。私は神様にお祈りしなくてはと思い一生懸命ベットでお祈りをしました。すると翌朝すっかり体調が良くなっていました。この日から私は心と体両方で聖書を受け入れようと思い始めました。「聖書は頭で読むのではなく、心で読む書物なのです」という言葉を深く理解するようになり、それから毎日ほんの何分かですが、聖書を読み続けています。私がこうやって洗礼を受ける決心をする事ができ

たのも、CAJCC 教会の二人の牧師先生と教会員の皆さんの親切な励ましと暖かい支えのおかげです。本当に心から感謝しています。これからもどうぞよろしくお願い致します。

哈申(はしん)

“A Change of Heart”

My son Takahiro and I regard April 28th, 2012 as a very important day in our lives. Words cannot express the joy one feels when getting baptized! Christianity had never before entered my mind and studying the Bible wouldn't have even appeared in my wildest dreams.

What originally brought me to CJACC was the fact that my son Takahiro was enrolled at San Gabriel Academy. At the time, the two things that attracted me to church were: I could make friends and that my son's tuition would be discounted if I became a member. Although I had been living in Japan for 13 years, the Saturdays I'm able to spend at church are the most fun and fulfilling days I'm able to spend here in the States. As I began attending church and started getting used to it, I began to enjoy it, and in me arose a curiosity for the existence of Jesus Christ. Through the gentle guidance of Pastors Obara and Nakamura, I also began to gradually develop an interest in the Bible.

Through a series of events, one day I closed my eyes in a desperate prayer pleading, "Jesus, if you really exist, please help me!" And through my fervent prayer, Jesus came to my rescue. These kinds of miraculous events can only be fully understood if one experiences them for oneself. So because of what happened on February 19th, 2012, both my heart and body accepted the Bible as truth.

That day I was suffering from a severe cold, so bad that I couldn't even move about in the house. On top of my body being so weak and living in a foreign country, not knowing anyone who could take care of my two children made me feel so helpless. I felt the only option I had left was to pray to God, so I did with all my might from my bed, and lo and behold, God completely healed me by the next morning. From that day, I can say that both my heart and my body began to accept the Bible. Once I finally understood that the Bible is a book that is not only read with your head, but also with your heart, I started to take any amount of time I had, even a few minutes a day, to read the Bible. Through these experiences, along with attending CJACC, meeting its two pastors and receiving their kind and loving support, I became baptized. I'm so grateful from the bottom of my heart to have met everyone and look forward to spending more time with my new church family.

Hashen

Spiritual Gifts Seminar ・ 霊の賜物セミナー

霊の賜物セミナー

7月は CJACC 教会員にはとても忙しく、有意義な月でした。というのも安息日の午後4週間にわたって「101霊の賜物」と題してスピリチュアルセミナーが行われたからです。このクラスの為に教会牧師と長老達は「ネットワーク」(ブルース・バクビー、ビル・ハイベルズ著)という本をベースにカリキュラムを開発するために努力しました。

主任牧師小原先生は日本語、ヴァンス・マキは英語クラスを受け持ちました。初日のクラスでは、霊の賜物全体の背景とその重要性について学びました。参加者達は「霊の賜物アセスメントテスト」を受け、各個人が神様に与えられた恵を発見しました。クラス2日と3日目は、19の霊の賜物を一つ一つ詳しく学び、これらの賜物をどの程度与えられたいと望んでいるか評価しました。最終日にはクラス全員の霊の賜物の発見結果を記録し、個々の賜物に対する意見を報告しました。

このセミナーの一般的評価は全体としてとてもよく、何人もの方が次回の「霊の賜物セミナー102」にまた参加したいと希望しています。今回のセミナーは聖霊の祝福に満ちあふれ、多くの参加者が自身の新しい発見をし、また与えられたギフトでどのように神様のみ名を高め、また教会のために使うべきか知ることができました。皆さん、この参加者全員の情熱の炎が輝き続け、神様のご意志に従えるようお祈り下さい。次回の「霊の賜物セミナー102」をどうぞご期待ください！



Spiritual Gifts Seminar

July was a very busy, but uplifting month for our CJACC members because every Sabbath for four weeks straight we held classes for our Spiritual Gifts seminar, entitled: Spiritual Gifts 101 – Discovery. Our pastors and elders worked very hard to develop the curriculum, based primarily upon The Network Process, authored by Bruce Bugbee and Bill Hybels.

Senior Pastor Obara taught the Japanese-speaking members while Maki Vance led the classes for the English-speakers. With the material divided up between four classes, the first class explained the background behind the Spiritual Gifts and why they were so important. Participants also received Spiritual Gift Inventory “tests” that would later serve as a guide to discovering their grace gifts. Classes two and three explained into detail what each of the 19 gifts are, and the participants then rated their level of desire for each of these gifts. The final class was devoted to tallying each person’s scores and together with their personal desire for each gift, everyone took time to share their results with one another.

The general impression of the classes was positive overall, and many expressed the desire to attend a Spiritual Gifts 102 class in the future. The Holy Spirit truly blessed the seminar and led many participants to a new discovery about their lives and how they can use their gifts to bring God glory and edify the church. Please pray for those who have attended so that this new spark in their lives can be fanned into a burning flame of passion to grow and do God’s will. Stay tuned for a 102 class coming soon!



Keiro Nursing Home Visit ・ 敬老ホームへ訪問伝道



“Jesus’ love is bubbling over, hallelujah!” were the melodic words that brought energy and excitement into Keiro Nursing Home on June 9. The kids had practiced songs for several weeks and decorated beautiful fans in children’s church to give to Keiro Nursing Home residents. It was great to see so many in the audience singing and clapping along with smiles on their faces. After they finished singing, they gave each grandma and grandpa the uchiwa (paper fans) that they had made. Other church members then joined the kids in going around the room to visit with each person. The Iijimas and Mrs. Miyagi were so thrilled to see familiar faces. Their faces lit up as each church member visited with them. For me, one of the most memorable moments of that day was between a woman and Mika Lamn. This lady asked if she could say hi to the jumpy little girl in the pink dress and Mika had a long conversation with her. After she finished talking to her about everything, she gave the woman a hug and ran to the other kids. The lady grabbed my hand and said “Thank you so much. She reminds me of my daughters. They come to visit me often and say ‘mom, I love you.’” As she was told me this, she had tears in her eyes. These kids showed God’s love in simple ways yet touched so many lives. The joy these young children brought to each of the men and women in Keiro Nursing Home was not only a blessing to them, it was also a blessing to me.

Elissa Imai

6月9日、敬老ナーシングホームは、「Jesus’ love is bubbling over, hallelujah!」の元気な歌声に包まれました。セントラルの子供達は数週間かけて、皆さんにプレゼントする素敵なうちわを装飾したり歌の練習をし、準備を重ねました。子供達の歌に手拍子をとる敬老の皆さんの笑顔は、素晴らしいものでした。賛美の後子供達が手作りのうちわをホームの皆さんに手渡す間、大人の教会員達は各シニアに握手をし、声をかけて回りました。セントラル教会員である飯島夫妻や宮城さんも懐かしい顔に出会え、ワクワクした様子でした。各教会員が話しかける度に、飯島夫妻や宮城さんの顔がパッと明るくなっていくのが感じられました。一番印象的だったのは、ラム美佳ちゃんとある老婦人のやりとりでした。この女性がピンクのドレスで跳ねる美佳ちゃんと話したいと言いました。美佳ちゃんは自分の話したいことを全部話し終えると、おばあちゃんにハグをし子供達の所に戻りました。すると老婦人は私の手を取り、「本当にありがとうね。あの女の子は私の娘達を思い起こさせます。娘達はよく訪ねてきて、『お母さん、愛してるよ』と言ってくれるの。」と目に涙を浮かべました。セントラルの子供達は、ごく簡単な方法で神様の愛を人々に示すことができます。彼らは敬老ホームのシニアの皆さんに祝福を与えるだけでなく、私にも素晴らしい祝福を与えてくれたのです。

今井エリッサ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keiro no Hi Luncheon

Sunday, September 16 at 12:00pm

This event is held in honor of our elderly members, and is put together by the Women's Ministry group. This event is free for 70 years and older, and donations will be accepted for all other guests. Lunch and entertainment will be provided.

JHOP

Saturday, September 29 at 6:00pm

Japanese House of Praise is a spiritually uplifting evening where young and old come together to give praise and worship to God. Conducted in English with both English and Japanese worship songs.

Oil Change Ministry

Sunday, October 7 at 11:00am

This ministry is geared toward the Japanese community (advertised in Japanese) to provide a practical service and food as well as introduce Christian fellowship. We will need people to help make the food in the morning and help with some of the car maintenance, but mostly we need people to fellowship with our guests - English and/or Japanese speakers wanted! If you are available to help with this ministry, please contact Maki T. Vance at events@centraljapanese.org.

Keiro Nursing Home Visit

Sunday, October 13 at 3:00pm

As is Japanese tradition, we love to pay our respects to the elderly by singing, playing, and just plain ol' sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Annual Big Bear Retreat

Friday, November 2 - Sunday, November 4

This is a great chance to take a quick escape and enjoy spiritual fellowship in the mountains.

Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly Events

* Japanese Language Ukulele Group	Tues 10am-11am
* Japanese Language Bible Studies	Tues 11am-12pm
* Praise Night	Tues 7:45pm-10pm
* Japanese Language Prayer Meeting	Wed 10am
* Total Life Seminar (Japanese Language)	Thu 10am-2pm
* Family Fun Night	Monthly
* Women's Ministry	Quarterly
* JHOP United (Praise Night)	Quarterly
* Oil Change Ministry (Japanese Outreach)	Quarterly

If you would like to be added to our email list for announcements and updates, please contact Melissa at news@centraljapanese.org.

この教会のイベント情報などを e-メールでお送りしています。ご希望の方は以下のアドレスからメリッサ外間まで news@centraljapanese.org.

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日本人コミュニティー中央教会

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