



SAN DIEGO JAPANESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

UPWARD WAY

JESUS SAID, "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME." (JOHN 14:6) JESUS IS THE UPWARD WAY!

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"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"

Just this past Sunday, we commissioned *Burton and Kathryn Sue* to work with TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) in Japan. They will be leaving on January 18th. Their prayer is to bring the love and hope of Christ to those in the tsunami/earthquake affected Tohoku Region through their creative arts (art and gospel hula) ministry called "The Butterfly Project" (www.butterflyjapan.com). They are heeding God's call through Jesus Christ to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." They too, like Isaiah who responded to the question above by answering "Here am I. Send me!", in faith are making themselves available for God's service.

The encouraging thing is that the Sues are not alone in this journey. *Daniel (DJ) Pettit* will also be going to Japan to minister there for several months. He is scheduled to leave on January 25th.

DJ will be working with CRASH (Christian Relief Assistance Support Hope), and will probably cross paths with the Sues in Japan. Even as DJ prepares to go, there are others in our church family who are prayerfully considering the call to go and serve there for a few weeks to several months.

Furthermore, they are not alone in this journey. As those called to go, and those called to send, we are all a part of the faith journey of trusting in God and heeding His call to tell the story of Jesus! I think of the old hymn that says, "We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light." What a privilege it is to be asked to be a part of this work! May we all do our part to pray for and support those that we send out to the nations, and may we also pray for the nations that they may turn to Jesus!

Love in Christ, Pastor Ichibei

LET US PRAISE, PRAY, AND PARTICIPATE

"pray at all times in the Spirit, . . . , be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18)

LET US CONTINUALLY BE IN PRAYER FOR JAPAN

• Please continue to be in prayer for: **Roy and Nancy Toma** in their work in Ishinomaki, **Rev. Tatsuo Nakazawa** of the Nishi Sendai Church in his work in Minami-Sanriku, and **Lillian Shinoda** (currently on furlough) as she prepares to return to Japan this spring.

SHARING OUR CARES AND JOYS

• Let us pray for the following people as we trust in God's continual care of them: *Gay Higashi* (recovery from hip surgery), *Yo Honda* (upcoming eye surgery), *Stan Katsura* (healing from bacterial infection), *Wendy Mukai Martino* (recovering from mastectomy, and will begin receiving chemo and radiation treatments), *Valerie Shintani* (upcoming eye surgery), *Grace Siu's aunt*, *Lillian Taylor*, *Kiyo Uda*, *Kenneth Uyeda*, *Raymond Uyeda*, *Rose Uyeji*, *James Yamate*, and *Kiyoshi Yamate*. Let us also pray for God's comfort to be with *Cathy Kobayashi* and her family, as her aunt *Diane Sakamoto* went home to be with the Lord on January 6th.

• Please continue to pray for **Setsuko Sugimura** (Orange County Nichigo pastor Rev. Sugimura's wife) who is battling with bone cancer and dealing with pain.

• We thank God for the baptism and acceptance into church membership of **Burton and Kathryn Sue** during our Christmas Day worship service. Please continue to pray for them as they go to Japan.

• We were blessed to hear from **Pastor Brent King** in our worship service on January 8th. Please continue to pray for him and his girlfriend *Irina Laposhina*, as they leave the U.S. on January 24th to return to Turkey and Russia, respectively, to continue with their ministries in those two countries. Please also pray for them as they discern God's leading in their life together in Christ.

• We thank God for the youth who were able to attend recent conferences: *Kyutaro Matsuzawa* and *Mercedes Mondragon* (**Equipper Conference**); and *Jonathan* and *Stephen Honda*, *Jo Matsuzawa*, *Kou Okura*, *Shirah Vogt*, and *Nozomi* and *Russell Woo* (**Wintervision 2012**). Please pray for their continual growth in Christ.

• *Pastors Okura* and *Ichibei* will be attending the **Holiness Conference Pastors Retreat**, January 23-26, in Sierra Madre (near Pasadena). Please pray that the time the pastors spend together will be a time of refreshment, renewal, and recommitment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

• We thank God for the **Christmas Dinner and Program** we had on December 11th! About 300 people were in attendance for either the dinner or the program. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and tangible support and service in making the event a possibility and a blessing!

• Thank you to everyone who made the December 18th "**Soup's On**" **Fundraiser Luncheon** a true success! Over \$1,100 including some Japanese yen was donated in support of Burton and Kathryn Sue's Japan ministry. Thanks to those who cooked a delicious variety of 16 soups. Please also remember the **Apron Fundraiser** for the Sues. The apron has an original design by Burton, and sells for \$14 in colors black or brown. We are taking orders now, and they will be available soon. There is a signup list in the foyer. Thank you for your support!

• At our January 14th **Men's Prayer Breakfast**, we were blessed to hear from **Dan Teshiba** of his journey of faith in living each day with no regrets as he deals with ALS, aka "Lou Gehrig's disease." If you would like to know more about his ongoing journey, you can go to his blog at <http://mysajourney-dan.blogspot.com/>. Please remember Dan in your prayers. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, February 11th, from 9 a.m. Please join us!

• **Gospel hula opportunities:** Practices in preparation for Easter will start this coming Sunday, January 22nd, after the worship service in the upstairs room. All are welcome! / Also, the Naleonuoliakeakua Gospel Hula Ministry will begin to meet for rehearsals every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. at our church building, starting this Saturday, January 21st. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please come to the first rehearsal on the 21st.

• Starting on Sunday, January 22nd, we will begin a message series titled "**Complete in Christ.**" We will be studying the **Letter to the Colossians** over the next couple of months in our worship services. Please read ahead, and prayerfully come to learn from God's word.

• Our next **Senior Luncheon** will be served on Wednesday, February 1st, at 12 p.m. Thank you for your support and continual prayers for this ministry.

• The Trustees have decided to **close the Renovation Fund account** since the kitchen remodel and ramp project is fully completed. All continuing donations to this fund will go into the building account. Thank you to all of you who have generously given towards this project!