



# 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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### "HERE AM I, SEND ME!"

These are the words that were spoken by the Prophet Isaiah about 700 years before the time of Christ. This was his reply to God's inquiry, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" (Isaiah 6:8) It is a question that is asked of every follower of Christ as well.

We do not have to travel to a distant nation or the outer most parts of the earth to respond to God's calling. In fact, Isaiah's calling was to his own people. The message that God was going to speak through Isaiah was to the people that he lived with and surrounded him daily.

At the same time, some of us will be and are called to be sent away to other places for the purpose of sharing God's Good News concerning Jesus Christ. We are blessed to receive such a calling and to be a part of the ministry of such people.

We continue to remember in prayer Roy and Nancy Toma as they faithfully and lovingly labor in Okinawa, Japan. We continue to pray for Lillian Shinoda in her work with the Japan Holiness Church and OMS. We also pray for Rev. and Mrs. Hideyo Ando and Kevin and Nozomi West in their work in Japan. We are also blessed to partner with Brent in his work abroad in a difficult place.

We also rejoice in the opportunity to send Lydia Heberling to Thailand for six months starting in September. We thank God that she has responded to God's call to minister there.

Where is God calling you to minister? During this month, we are learning about the SHAPE that God has given to us. Our SHAPE is made up of what God has given to each of us: Spiritual gifts, Hear (passion), Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. God has made us in a unique and special way in order to serve Him by ministering to people. As we understand and affirm the SHAPE God has given to us, then we can minister effectively as we respond to His calling.

"Here Am I, Send Me!" is the title of the message series that we will begin in September. As we study Isaiah's calling from God, we will learn about what it means to truly worship the LORD. We will see how a genuine encounter with the living God is what transforms us from being just plain worshippers to passionate worshippers of God.

Through such a genuine encounter with God, we will begin to truly see God for who He truly is. We will also begin to see ourselves in light of God, and see our surroundings in light of Him as well. As our spiritual eyes are opened up, we cannot help but humbly repent and seek God's forgiveness and cleansing.

As God does His powerful work in our lives, then we will be able to hear His clear call to us, and then respond as Isaiah did, "Here am I, send me!" Will you please pray along with me in seeking God's mighty work in our lives as a church family? I look forward to our spiritual journey together.

Love in Christ, Pastor Ichibei

### LET US PRAISE, PRAY, AND PARTICIPATE

*"May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ."*  
(2 Thessalonians 3:5)

- We thank God for His continual care for our church family. Praise God that **Akemi Lujan** is doing well. Please pray for the following health concerns: **Bob Batchelder** (cancer of the esophagus); **Priscilla Clark** (heart palpitations); **Masako Shima** (general health); **Valerie Shintani** (general health); **Grace Siu's aunt** (cancer); **Lillian Taylor** (general health); **Kiyo Uda** (back pain); **Florence Uyeda** (for strength); and **Rose Uyeji** (general health). Please also remember in prayer the following people who have moved recently: **Patricia Duell** (back to Washington state after four years in the Marine Corp.); **David Kunugi** (Harvard University for graduate studies); and **Reo Yoshida** (job in Orange County).
- We thank God that **Noboru Yamaguchi** (a.k.a. Yama) has begun his ministry at our church as a Youth Advisor. He is currently on staff with International Student, Inc., working with international students in Northern San Diego County. He will be working with our youth and young people through discipleship and small group interactions sharing God's love with them and encouraging them in their spiritual growth in Christ. Please pray for Yama, and please pray for our youth during their crucial time of life in which they are developing their own faith in Christ and are formulating how they are to live out their faith.
- We thank God for the church building He has provided for us in order to carry out the ministry He has given to us. On Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> a **Special Business Meeting** was held to vote on the obtaining of a loan to fund the "SDJCC Voluntary Site Accessibility Upgrades and Kitchen Tenant Improvements" Project. The obtaining of a loan was approved by a majority vote which included both English and Japanese departments. Please continue to be in prayer for this project, and please also be in prayer for the Trustees as they make important project decisions.

- Please be in prayer for **Lydia Heberling** as she prepares for her missions trip to Thailand in the fall. On Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a "**Lydia Heberling Fund Raiser for SDJCC Missionaries**" **Bake Sale** sponsored by our Missions Committee. The proceeds from the Bake Sale will go towards supporting Lydia and other missionaries that we support as a church.
- The **San Diego CityFest with Luis Palau** will be taking place on September 11, 2010 at Mission Bay Park (south of the Hilton). There will be action sports demonstrations by pro FMX, BMX, skateboarders, and surfers. There will be a Family Fun Zone with crafts, face painting, games, and inflatables. There will be great music by artists such as the Newsboys and Kirk Franklin, and of course a message by Luis Palau. Please prayerfully consider your role in this special city-wide evangelistic outreach event. For more info, go to <http://www.sandiegocityfest.com/>.
- We would like to give a special invitation to our church family members who are 80 years old and older to be honored guests at our **Keiro-kai Celebration** on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We will begin our celebration together with a **Joint Worship Service** with the Nichigo-bu at 10 a.m., followed by a luncheon. Please join us for this special day of celebration.
- **Southern California RJC Conference** will be held on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Gardena Valley Baptist Church. The RJC Conference provides an opportunity for those who have a heart to minister to Japanese people to come together for learning and networking. For more information, please go to <http://www.rjcnetwork.org/>.
- For those interested, Sharon Kunugi is making **DVD copies of Frank's memorial service** held in June. The cost will be in the \$3 range. If you would like one, please see Sharon or email her at [shaku42@gmail.com](mailto:shaku42@gmail.com).