

»» WHAT WILL *you* BE KNOWN FOR?

Rev. Rick Chuman, Executive Director

Hello JEMS partners. Right now as I sit at home reflecting back on this past month, I'm struck with a sense of gratitude but also a challenge. I say this because January was a month full of memorial services and funerals. As I attended these services, many wonderful things were said about the person who had passed away. When I heard the eulogies, I was impressed at how people's lives were touched by the deceased. There was Mrs. Yorizane, who was affectionately known as Baachan (Grandma) by everyone in the church. There was Caron Christison who had a MD but left academia to home school her autistic son. There was Mrs. Mieko Hibino who provided the family support so her husband could be a successful pastor. There was Rev. Harry Baba who had a strong business sense and after leaving the ministry did well for himself and helped out JEMS quite a bit.

»» *It was the relationship they had with God that made a difference in the relationships they had with others.*

After hearing these stories, I was very grateful to God for these wonderful people of faith. These men and women lived lives that brought honor to God. These folks lived lives of courage and perseverance. As I reflected on their lives, it made me think about how I was living my life today.

I came to realize that the most important thing these folks did was impact people. It was the relationship they had with

God that made a difference in the relationships they had with others. It was a great reminder to me, to continue to love God deeply so that I can be very intentional of how I interact with my wife, my kids, my relatives, and those that God puts in my path.

Ultimately, people are the ones who have a soul that lives forever, and it is our interactions with them that will either help them draw closer to Jesus or not. Jesus said in Matthew 16:26: "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" Indeed, anything that we have earned, paid for, and own, cannot be taken with us once we die. In heaven, we won't be driving cars, or wearing fancy clothes or be concerned about a huge house.

So by listening to the eulogies, it helped me to re-commit myself to God, but also to be a positive influence on my family and to be proactive in being "salt" and "light" among my non-Christian friends. From a ministry perspective it renewed my sense of urgency to continue to promote missions, especially since telling others about Jesus is one of the most important things we can do based upon our love for God.

It's another year for JEMS to provide opportunities for spiritual growth through Mount Hermon, short-term missions, AACF, and other specialized ministries. Please join me again this year by being a supporter, first and foremost through prayer. Please pray for the various ministries of JEMS. Please also pray for our finances since the economy is still very tough. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know, and we as a staff would love to pray for you. God bless you and please join us as we look forward to see what God has in plan for us in 2011! <<

Meeting a Need

By Lily Suzuki, JEMS Missionary serving in *Amakusa, Kyushu*

I found Mrs. Itoda while visiting a friend's mom in a Mental Hospital. I found her looking my way and looking so lonely. I wanted to make friends with her. My friend's mom got dismissed, and I heard that this lady only gets visitors once a year. Her daughter is over 70 and lives far away. I still don't know why she is there. I wanted to continue to visit Mrs. Itoda.

Being a mental hospital, one needs permission to visit by being a relative or someone special. I was neither, but I prayed and walked passed the nurse station and went in her room safely. She smiled and welcomed me, because she has seen me before. I took her plastic soft yellow flowers and asked if I could be her friend. I talked to her a bit and asked her if she was lonely, and she said that she has forgotten how to be lonely. I asked her if I can pray for her and she said "Yes." Since she is deaf in one ear, I prayed close to her ear.

After praying, she found my cross dangling near her eye, so she asked if I was "Kirisuto," Christian, so I told her that I am not Kirisuto, but I believe in Kirisuto.



LILY SUZUKI AND MRS. ITODA

➤➤ *She smiled a big smile and said that she has Kirisuto, "Iesu-sama," Jesus, hidden way deep in her heart.*

She smiled a big smile and said that she has Kirisuto, "Iesu-sama," Jesus, hidden way deep in her heart. She found Jesus when she was in her twenties in the city of Kumamoto while she was working and attended church. I asked her if she got baptized, and she said no. She got married and since lost her husband. She said that she hasn't been to church since. She has had to serve other gods, but never

prayed to another god. Since she is 94, it must have been seventy years ago. She said that she has forgotten how to pray and sing. She prayed and received Jesus as her Savior, and I reassured her that she is a child of God and has eternal life.

I see her every Thursday when I go to Ushibuka area. We sing hymns, read the Bible together, and pray together. I gave her a small Bible. She reads it with a big magnifying glass and read five chapters of the Book of Matthew in two weeks. She has a bad knee, but she can stand up and walk a little. ◀◀

Making a New Friend

Please pray that I will somehow be able to get permission from the hospital so that I can take her to church in a wheelchair. She is such a joy. One nurse said that she is smiling a lot more now and waits for me on Thursday. It is OK for me to visit the hospital now, because she told the nurse that I am her best friend. Praise God! ◀◀

South America THIS SUMMER?

SOUTH AMERICA



JUSTINE MOREY

Rev. John Katagi
JEMS Director of Strategic Development

In partnership with South American Nikkei churches, JEMS is excited to offer several mission project opportunities in July 2011. The mission projects will take place from July 10th to 24th (two week minimum). Candidates are asked to allow for a few days in-country before and after the project dates for pre-mission adaptation and post-mission debriefing.

Four local church projects are designed with a Vacation Bible School emphasis, using songs, crafts, cooking, games and sports, and English as the basis of outreach to children and youth in the church's surrounding neighborhoods. The

team will work in collaboration with local church staffing and leadership.

JEMS has also received one request for a construction team, specifically asking for people who have some experience with painting, construction or electrical at a denominational campground.

One of the local church VBS teams mentioned above is a ministry in partnership with the **Free Methodist Church** in Asuncion, Paraguay. The leaders, **Pastor Koki and Mari Nowada**, are asking for a small group of volunteers to work with children and youth. Although it is not required, Japanese or Spanish language proficiency would be helpful.

South America this Summer?

Applications are currently being received at the JEMS office. Deadline for application is **March 31, 2011**. Teams will be assembled based upon skills and gifting. Those joining JEMS missions projects will be required to raise financial support to cover their travel, ministry and living expenses. Financial support is most often raised through the gifts of family, home churches and other supporters.



MATT ASAMI

Retreat

noun

1: an act or process of withdrawing

2: a place of privacy or safety

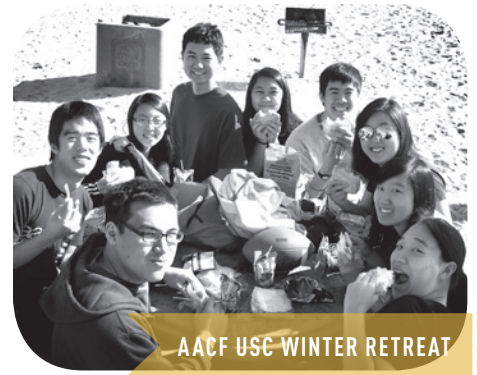
3: a period of group withdrawal for prayer, meditation, or instruction

(Adapted from Dictionary.com)

Why is it that AACFers retreat every year? From the dictionary, there are three common definitions of the word, retreat. In AACF, campus ministers come along student planned and executed gatherings that usually employ all three uses above. Bruce Chow, USC Campus Minister confirms this as he notes that retreats are “extended times to time to get away, that allow for deepening of personal relationships that happens over cooking, football on the beach, learning about God from our speaker and spending time to process what was heard together. This year’s speaker messages provided

a different approach to our prayers this year, especially how to deal with complacency and the need to wrestle with God.” In summary, AACF retreats to advance God’s kingdom both on campus and in the lives of our students as well as our campus ministers.

If this evokes memories of your past AACF experiences and you are interested in coming alongside our student leaders, AACF always welcomes people to serve our team. If you are interested in planning a retreat and need the perfect referral of a retreat site or speaker, our



AACF USC WINTER RETREAT

➔ CAMPUS

U Washington
UC Davis
San Jose St/SF State
UC Berkeley
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
UC Santa Barbara
UCLA
USC
UC Riverside
UC Irvine
UC San Diego
Campus Ministry Staff

➔ LOCATION

Camp Lakewood
Alliance Redwoods
Condos in Tahoe
House in Orinda
Lopez Canyon
Rancho La Sherpa
Camp Maranatha
Oceanside Cottage
Camp Mile High Pines
Idyllwild Pines
Camp Maranatha
The Oaks

➔ SPEAKER

Marvin Gray
Alton To
Victor Quon
Ken and Rosalie Yu
Mike Markovich
Jason Ashimoto
Arthur Hsieh
John Polite III
Brian Chang
Jim Fullmer
Katsuya Omine
Rick Chuman and the AACF
Campus ministry staff

➔ THEME

Perfect Love
Hearing His Voice, Knowing His Will
Growing Together
Perseverance
Encountering God
Reality of Heaven and Hell
Consumed with Desire
How to Experience God’s Love
Thirsty for God
Taking the Plunge

campus ministry staff can be contacted to give referrals, especially for those above or other places from their caches of experiences.

Please visit our website www.aacf.org or “friend” any of our campus ministries or ministers on Facebook if there are ways you desire to serve or be served. You may also call the AACF JEMS office at (213) 613-0022. <<

BY REV. CAROLYN SHIMABUKURO

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

I love to walk the along the beach. The seemingly endless shoreline with the sand beneath your toes and the rolling tides licking at your heels. I find myself lost in thoughts and prayers as the ocean is like the majestic Presence of God. But it is seldom that I get a chance to travel to the Washington coast.

What I have discovered is something closer to home, the contemplative walk of the labyrinth. A circular path that engages the heart, body and soul. In many ways it is like a walk along the beach, with each step, one becomes increasingly aware of the Presence of God. Every second Sunday of the month at Seattle

First Baptist Church I help lead a team of volunteers in the hosting of the labyrinth. Over one hundred candles are carefully placed and meditative music is selected. We never know who or how many people will come on a given night. However, time and time again we have seen people who come and walk with an open heart – are met by God.

In recent months we have encouraged individuals and groups who have been on mission trips or are involved in ministry service to enter this sacred space. There is a release of tension, a pleasure in solitude and a quiet communion as followers of Christ walk the

labyrinth. Jesus himself came up and walked along with them... Luke 24:15

If you find that your soul yearns for a deep and abiding connecting with God, receive His invitation – to come and walk with Him. <<



USE YOUR *God-Given*

Lowell E Sue,
Director of Music

Creative Arts TALENT!

MUSIC

Have you ever thought of using your Creative Arts talent in a local and global missional context? You are probably thinking, "Creative Arts?" Yes, Creative Arts! I have had the privilege and honor to work alongside with some of the most amazing talent that are singers, rappers, dancers, comedians, visual artists, magicians, poets and the list goes on! Now you are thinking, "for missions?" Yes, both locally and globally. I believe that the Creative Arts community has a lot to share in terms of the Gospel. Also, talent of today, are needed to help inspire and inform the talent of tomorrow about using their God-given talents to change lives!

Our goal is to train, equip and send Creative Arts teams everywhere! <<



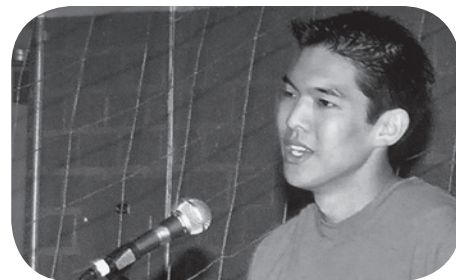
2010 CREATIVE ARTS TEAM

SPIKING, DIGGING, *and* FELLOWSHIP

SPORTS

By Marc Takamine, Director of Sports

The JEMS February 6th Volleyball Tournament at El Camino College was a good time of volleyball and fellowship once again. Everyone had a good time "spiking, digging and fellowshiping" with one another. Orange Coast Free Methodist's Matt Asami preached the gospel during ministry time, and prayer teams prayed for people. One improvement from last year's Volleyball Tournament was an increased amount of teams. There were six divisions with five teams, a total of 30 teams with approximately 240 players.



The "F" division is for the beginners. I actually played in this division and it was very interesting playing volleyball for the first time in a very long time, I think dating myself back to the good old Sowers Middle School days. One thing I noticed about volleyball is that I need

to increase my vertical jump which takes a lot of practice and to learn how to hit the ball correctly. I had to serve the ball underhand to get it into play consistently! Another thing that is cool about volleyball is that it's a pretty good sport for co-ed.

The winning teams were: **A-Pancake Heaven** (Michelle Loh); **B-Flying Mighty** (Henry Tseng); **C-For Fun** (Robert Nishikawa); **D-Up by One** (Calvin Wong); **E-Crossroads** (Guy Fukushima); **F-**(Kevin Yamabe).

I'm always looking for ways to help people feel more comfortable at the JEMS Sporting events, so if anyone has any suggestions feel free to email them to me at: marct@JEMS.org.

The helpers made the the VB Tournament run a lot smoother and effective. A Big THANK YOU: to Jon Tanamachi, John Ishihara, Cynthia & Garron Tsushima, and Julie Seshiki serving as the prayer teams and Greg Oda, and Mary & Kenny Tabuchi for photography and administration. We need assistance at the next softball tournament on August 20th! <<



VB TEAM-PANCAKE HEAVEN

REMEMBERANCES



REMEMBERING *Hideo Watanabe*

Rev. Sam Tonomura at Hide's memorial service in 2009 said, "Hide was a man of God and so willing to serve Him and His Church...Praise God for Hide." Hide and his wife Iku were the JEMS' first retired couple to lead the way of missions to Japan. They also recruited others to go to Japan with them.

»» *"Hide was a man of God and so willing to serve Him and His Church...Praise God for Hide."*

Hide served many years on the JEMS Board of Directors and the Japan Sending Committee, back when Rev. Roy and Nana Yamamoto were involved with missions at JEMS. Hide and Iku truly enjoyed interviewing perspective missionaries and briefing them before their service and upon their return. Hide and his wife were instrumental in the creation of the training manual for the JEMS short-term missionaries. This manual is still being used today. Hide also enjoyed singing. He was also well known for leading hymns at the annual family camp of Mount Hermon Summer Conference. Hideo Watanabe was a true servant of God. <<

REV. *Harry Baba*

By Rev. Sam Tonomura

During this long and cherished period of time of some 40 years, Harry and his wife, Kyo, were not only close friends but active partners in the multi-faceted ministry of JEMS. It is with much gratitude that we remember Harry who served on the JEMS Board of Directors and participated and supported numerous ministries of JEMS. His wife Kyo served JEMS through the women's ministry, and by assisting us with the JEMS Journal mailing and the Mount Hermon summer conference materials.

Harry helped us locate the present site of the JEMS headquarters. In the

80s, a decision was made to relocate because the word was going around that a development by the City of Los Angeles in the Li'Tokyo area could force us out from 120 N. San Pedro Street site. Harry's foresight, faith, wisdom and contribution enabled the JEMS Board to make an offer and negotiate a purchase of a 2-story brick building at 948 E. 2nd Street, LA. Approximately ten years later on Jan. 14, 1994, the Northridge earthquake severely damaged the building. However, by God's grace and goodness and the contribution by many, a new 3-story office building now stands as a testimony that God provides far more than expected. Today, we are very fortunate to have our own headquarters in L.A. with no worry about rent increases!

We celebrate the life of Harry and will remember the life he lived as one

very special and significant person. He was a faithful, generous and hospitable Christian; a successful businessman, a connoisseur of food and knowledgeable of good restaurants, an antique expert/collector, a faithful father and so much more. <<



» 2011 « Calendar

(Call 213.613.0022 or go to: JEMS.org/General Events for registration and info)

» March 4, Fri-JEMS sponsoring Pastors' Enrichment Day, 9am-2pm, at the JEMS Office, 948 East 2nd Street, Los Angeles, featuring Dr. Edwin Yamauchi, an apologist, former History professor at Miami University in Ohio. There is no registration fee and a complimentary "bento" lunch. **Register online at JEMS.org/General Events**

» March 11, Fri-SoCal Pre-Spring Break Golf Tournament. Lakewood Country Club, 3101 Carson Street, Lakewood, Tee Time: 10AM. **For registration and info: JEMS.org/General Events**

» April 2, Sat-PNW Concert at Westminster Chapel, 7pm, 13646 NE 24th Street, Bellevue, WA, Artists tba

» May 21-NorCal Men for Mission Tourney for Missions at Franklin Canyon G.C. Hercules, Calif.; 8:30 AM Breakfast; 10 AM Tee Off. - For registration and info: **JEMS.org/General Events**

» June 3-Annual Mount Hermon Scholarship Tournament at Los Verdes G.C.; RPV, CA., 8:30 AM Breakfast; 10 AM Tee Off

» June 12-17- AACF Leadership Training Conference - Oaks Conference Center, Lake Hughes - For registration and info, **contact the AACF Campus Ministers or call JEMS at (213)613-0022.**

» June 26-July 2-Mount Hermon Conference (main/family, nichigo, jr high, inter-high, college, special) **JEMS.org/Mount Hermon/Reservations** for registration, bus, health forms, and camp maps.

» August 20-JEMS Softball Co-ed Tourney - Wilson Park, Torrance, 2 Divisions, 16 teams, 8am-6pm

» Aug 18-21 PNW Warm Beach conference. Additional info will follow.

» Sept. 2-Annual SoCal Men For Mission Tournament for Missions at California Country Club, Whittier, CA; 7:30 AM Tee Off.

» October 8, Sat - JEMS SoCal Ladies Luncheon, Wintersburg Presbyterian Church. Guest Speaker: **Jill Akemi Rogers**

» Nov 3-13 (revised dates) - 4TH Holy Land Tour "walking where Jesus walked" - If you are interested or tentatively interested, please call Rev. Sam Tonomura at **213.613.0022** or email to **samt@JEMS.org**. **See the article on this page.**

DONATE Your Vehicle to JEMS & EXTEND the life OF YOUR CAR!

Vehicles, trucks, RVs and boats, running or not, ARE accepted in the Southern and Northern California. Free towing and processing of DMV paperwork is provided. Please call **JEMS 213.613.0022** for additional information or to donate your vehicle today!



At the time you donate your vehicle to JEMS, you may select to support the Building or General Fund of JEMS, one of the ministries or support the work of staff workers, Your gift will extend the life of your car through our ministries and further enable us to creatively develop and provide ministry opportunities in partnership with the churches.

ISRAEL

Nov. 3-13, 2011, departing from Los Angeles
Airline: El-Al. A direct flight to Israel and back
Arrival City: Tel Aviv

» Co-leaders/Pastors: This tour will be conducted together with Rev. Sam Tonomura and Rev. Cory Ishida. We will also have an official tour guide in Israel. We believe we have an outstanding opportunity to travel across modern day Israel, visiting many Biblical sites, following in some of the steps of Jesus recounting events in the Bible. We anticipate experiences that will make God's Word come alive, help us grow in faith, and deepen our joy as God's Spirit works amongst us. We seek to worship God and express deep gratitude to Him as we journey together.

» Special Feature: Besides traveling throughout Israel, a unique highlight of this tour will be a time of study at Kehilat HaCarmel with Peter Tsukahira entitled "Israel Today: The Prophetic Significance of Israel in the Word of God." We will also participate with Jewish Christians in a Shabbat worship service.

» Significant Tour Points: Caesarea Maritima, Haifa, Mt. Carmel, Dan Panorama, Beit Shean, Gideon Springs, Nazareth, Cana of Galilee, Capernaum, Mt. Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Mt. Hermon, Dan Nature Reserve, Jordan River, Qumran, Dead Sea, Masada, Mt. Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Mt. Zion, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Israel Museum, and more.

Your Invitation to an Inspirational and Educational Journey. Walk... where Jesus walked! Call **213.613.0022**.



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Rev. Timothy Himei-Soden,JEMS Japan Coord.
Rev. Paul Ariga-All Japan Revival Mission
Rev. Yoshihiro Kishi-Mission 2001
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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Prayer Requests FROM THE *Executive Director*

As we begin a new year, I want to thank you for all your prayers and financial support. Truthfully, we need your prayer support first and foremost. As a result, I'd like to share a few prayer requests that we have here at JEMS for 2011.

1. Please pray for each JEMS Staff member: For our marriages, our families, and our respective ministry positions (Exec. Director, Office Administrator, Missions Administrator, Nichigo, Mount Hermon Youth Camps, Accounting Assistant, Controller, Music Ministry, Sports Ministry, Fund raiser/Senior Tours; AACF and PNW region/director).
2. Please pray for the upcoming Mount Hermon: Speakers at Main Camp: Pastor Kim Kira and Rev. Curt Ogawa, for all the conferees that they fall deeper in love with God, for all the logistics, from Jr. High to Special Camp to Main Camp.
3. Please pray for AACF, for their paid and volunteer staff members, each campus ministry, for solid discipleship and evangelism among the students, for God to provide the right AACF Director.
4. Please pray for our Board of Directors and the AACF Board, and all the other various ministries of JEMS like the Israel tour, Ladies' luncheon, Golf fund-raising tournaments, etc.

Thank you in advance for supporting us through prayers. We really appreciate it. Blessings to you, Rick Chuman.