

# JEMS JOURNAL

JAPANESE EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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## JxJ & JEMS!

Rev. Rick Chuman, Executive Director

As Executive Director, I've had the opportunity to meet with various leaders of different organizations. I'm always excited when I come across a ministry that has a heart to reach out to the Japanese. One such ministry is called, JxJ. The J's stand for Jesus and Japanese. The "X" is really the multiplication sign, which indicates the group's desire to "multiply" the number of Japanese new believers in Christ. How cool is that! What makes this ministry unique is that it was started by a group of Japanese young adults who had a heart to evangelize to their peers. One of the founders, Nozomi Maeda was only 25 years-old when she first got involved. I asked her to share with us the ministry of JxJ. So here's Nozomi...



"We have been greatly blessed to be a part of JEMS' Warm Beach camp as the Nichigo (Japanese-Speaking) group every summer. JxJ ministry, which is about reaching Japanese who are in the Seattle area and bringing them to Jesus, has joined the Pacific Northwest Warm Beach Nichigo camp since 2008. It has been such a blessing that students come to know Jesus through this camp every year. Four students, Yoshimi, Marina, Yoshito, and Isao, made decisions to follow Jesus this year at Warm Beach. Praise the Lord!

'JxJ started back in 2006, when God led six young Christians to start an evangelistic ministry for Japanese international students standing on the Scripture of Ephesians 2:10: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

'JxJ is a student ministry, which offers young people a monthly opportunity to meet, eat Japanese food, sing worship songs, play games, and learn about Jesus and Christianity with other Japanese students. We are just excited in sharing the joy and salvation we have received! This ministry is thankfully and uniquely supported by several local Japanese churches and Christian organizations such as JEMS, ISI, and JCFN. We target Japanese international students since soon or later, they will go back to Japan. Many of them leave here right after they are saved. Please pray that the students who accept Jesus here can grow in their faith before they go back home and can be a light in Japan.

'Since 2008, the JEMS Warm Beach camp has become one of the highlights of our ministry. Believers and non-believers spend three days reading the Bible, worshiping God, and praying together. I think Japanese students are able to 'experience' God's love there. Thank you for your prayers for the JxJ ministry! Blessings! - JxJ staff (Nozomi Julia Maeda)."

With Japan being more open right now to the Gospel, ministries like this are so important. There is a new generation of Christians rising who are returning to Japan to make a difference for Jesus. Please keep the "JxJ" ministry in your prayers. - Rev. Rick

# MICHAEL MASON

## in TOHOKU

(Excerpts from Michael's prayer letter – Next issue will feature his wife, Chris', separate trip)

On August 2nd, I received a phone call about a group of young people from Osaka who wanted to go to Tohoku with a group called Be-One. However, they needed 4 people to serve as drivers of the 2 vans... since it was a Monday to Friday trip, this meant that I would not have to miss church on Sunday. Every day I drove numerous vans full of people and trucks full of relief supplies. All in all, it was a great experience for me. I really enjoyed being able to actually work WITH other people to serve those people whose lives continue to be effected by the tsunami last March. A group of 16 people in two vans left Higashi Osaka early Monday morning. Eight of the people (myself included) were somehow connected to Kansai Christian School. The drive to Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture took over 13 hours.

I was assigned to drive one of two trucks that took supplies to the hard-hit area of Minami-Sanrikucho. The trucks were loaded down with relief supplies donated by Ace Hardware in Hawaii. These two men, Paul and Milton, work for Ace Hardware. They had sent over 10 pallets worth of various goods, and then came to Japan to personally help with the distribution.

Our first stop was a community center that was being used as a shelter for those who lost their homes. Some people have been living in these shelters since March 11. After giving the center the items they needed, one of the women (Photo 3, right of Michael) from the shelter came out and began to tell us her story. Her whole

family was at home when the tsunami struck. Fortunately for her, when the water rushed into her house, it forced her out the window. Once outside the house, the wave carried her up towards the mountainside where she was able to grab on to branches until the wave retreated. Tragically, she was the only one of her family to survive.

Now that I have done it once, I REALLY want to do it again, only this time stay longer than just 3 days. The hard part for me is missing church on Sunday. Recently, we have been experiencing a shortage of people who are able/willing to help out on Sundays, especially in the areas of worship and preaching (two things that I do almost every week.) However, if we can work it out for someone to take over these responsibilities some Sunday, I would like to make another trip up north in the Fall. The camaraderie of working together with other Christians, as well as the obvious impact of shining the light of Jesus through our good deeds is not only fun, but very fulfilling!

In the evening, Be-One hosted a BBQ for everyone in the neighborhood. In the first few months after the tsunami, BBQs like this were their only “hot meals with meat” We ended the evening with a rousing game of bingo. The winner received a brand new bicycle (seen in the lower right corner). On the menu was BBQ chicken, grilled veggies, corn on the cob, Costco hotdogs and potato chips. About 40 neighbors joined us for dinner.



Volunteers from Ace Hardware



The lady lost her entire family



# MINISTRY TRANSITION

# SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. John Katagi, Director

With the celebration of a birthday milestone in January of next year, I have been considering how I would like to spend my upcoming years of life and ministry. This past year has been a time to reflect and pray about my future plans. In my quiet times, it has become clear that God's calling for my life has taken a new direction.

The mission trip to Brazil this past July, confirmed God's calling and gifting for me. I had asked the Lord to strengthen my Portuguese language proficiency by giving me the opportunity to preach a message entirely in Portuguese. That opportunity came in the Brazilian city of Londrina. With just a few moments prior notice, I was invited to speak at the Portuguese language evening worship service. I quickly scribbled some notes on the back of an envelope and then went forward to preach. It was intended to be a test of sorts. To test, in a way, God's faithfulness in restoring the Portuguese language that had grown rusty with disuse over the last twelve years. Is there any doubt? God is faithful. Though not grammatically perfect, it was sufficient for people to understand what the Lord had placed on my heart. Praise the Lord! I would say that this past summer's mission was perhaps the best of my many mission ministries in the past.

In speaking with Rev. Rick Chuman, the executive director of JEMS, the invitation has been extended for me to return to serve as the director of JEMS' South America Mission program on a full time basis. I will be based in the Los Angeles office and will either send or accompany mission teams to South America. My immediate goals are to explore the possibilities of establishing a JEMS office in Brazil, and to expand our contacts with churches in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. It should be noted that it is not my intention to move to Brazil at this time. With this new direction for my ministry in 2012, I will be resigning from the pastorate of the Japanese American Christian Chapel in Camarillo, effective at the end of this year.

I invite you to pray for the church as preparations are made for succession. Please also pray for my housing situation (I will return to live in Los Angeles), for moving and for the re-establishing of financial support for full time ministry with JEMS. Just as JEMS must rely on the collaboration and partnership of churches, pastors and believers in South America, so too, we must depend upon the support and prayers of our North American Christian friends and churches. Your prayer and financial support is what enables JEMS South America to do its ministry successfully. Without you, our work would be severely limited. Please remember the vital part that your prayers and financial support have for the effectiveness of our outreach. Please consider partnering with me as I return to full-time ministry with JEMS.

Thank you,  
Pr. John Katagi

Diadema Free Methodist Church  
EBF (Vacation Bible School)



Helena and Darryl Wong with Diadema  
church members, Priscilla and Raquel



Pr John, serving with Mark and Lauren  
Okada at the Santo Andre Holiness Church  
in São Paulo, Brazil.



**LEFT:** a house that landed on another house.  
**RIGHT:** a house that ended up in the bay.

# RESPONDING TO GOD for JAPAN

Victor Quon, AACF Campus Minister

*Victor has returned to serve God on the AACF campuses. He serves as part of the Leadership Team overseeing Campus Ministry staff and student leadership development and training as well as serving the campus of San Jose State University. Victor shares his reflections as a team leader with AACFers, Linda Kim and Wanda Tung, alumni, and God's people serving in Japan (See picture on right).*

Japan is a land that has so much and it has so little. Despite the destruction caused by the earthquake and tsunami of March 10th, much of the nation still thrives. In Tokyo, trains are running, people go to work and young people enjoy their nightlife. What about attitude? In the affected areas of northern Japan, you can still see people being courteous, hard-working and hopeful. The rest of the world even marveled at the honesty of the Japanese people when news came out recently that \$65 million dollars in money had been found during the cleanup from the tsunami. Japanese police have returned about 95% of that to their rightful owners.

If the nation has all this going for it, what is missing? It was obvious for us as we engaged in various work projects during our two weeks in the town of Kesenumma. We were asked a number of times to explain the acronym that covered the back of our work vests - C.R.A.S.H. The letters stood for Christian Relief Assistance Support and Hope. It was the last word that caught everyone's attention. That is what Japan has in short supply. The piles of rubble, gutted buildings, overturned and dented cars and the lifeless homes are daily reminders to the Japanese people of the lack of hope that they experience.



As the one year mark of the tsunami gets closer, the biggest concern is the possible increase in suicidal activity. This is the time for churches to rise up. It is a good thing to go and clean up the mess that remains on the streets. But it is something of eternal proportions to go and help save a life. If you sense that God is leading you to go to northern Japan, by all means, go and respond to that call. Your life can help to give what Japan is in short supply of during their days of recovery.

## JEMS STAFF SUMMER BBQ: FRIENDS, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Summer is a busy ministry time for most of our staff- AACF has their Leadership Training Conference, the Mount Hermon Summer Conference takes place in Northern California, and we send missions teams to South America. On August 29th to celebrate the summer ministries & to simply spend time with each other and have some fun, our JEMS staff and their families gathered at the office for an "End of Summer BBQ". The evening was filled with good food and lots of smiles & laughter. We give thanks to God for a sweet time of fellowship!



BBQ with Chef Lowell

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Lowell E Sue, Director

### 2011 Mount Hermon Family Camp

This year's Family Camp was definitely a blessing for many and especially for me! Both morning and evening sessions ran smoothly and all of the components pieced together really well! I am so thankful to have worked with such talented yet humble folks. Everyone made a difference! The morning hymns were led by Nakahama Sensei and the Nichigo Worship Team and Dave Talbott. The evening praise and worship was led by Jeff Ho, Curt Kawata, Peter Lum (Leader), Stacy Ohara, Randy Rogers, John Toda (Leader), Rich Wada (Leader), and Koko Yee. Behind the scenes were Les Lee (Audio), Glen Tagami (Photography), Wendy Toda (Art) and David Yamauchi (Slideshow). After evening sessions on Tuesday and Thursday, we had two acoustic nights in the café - "Oldies But Goodies" (Peter Lum) and Worship Extended (John Toda). The

Family Camp could not have been such a success without the great Mount Hermon staff headed by Bill Fernald. It required a lot of people to make it come together. We praise God for the amazing staff and memorable conference! Praise God!

### The NEW Music, Technology and Media Component

Music, technology and media are becoming more and more intertwined as it relates to the worship experience. I have had the opportunity to incorporate them in the services and outreaches that I am involved with as well as have some creative and awesome experiences as a worshipper. I have a passion to help elevate the worship level experience in small to medium-sized churches by working with their worship ministries — music, audio, projection, video and lighting. I want the laborers of the ministry to be encouraged, inspired and excited about their important role in the church. I want them to find the solutions, gain understanding and hear about new ideas that will help the overall worship experience.

### 2012 Creative Arts & Crafts Fair

The first Creative Arts & Crafts Fair has been rescheduled for the Spring of 2012. This event will have amazing handcrafted treasures, fun live entertainment and delicious "That's my kinda price!" food. This fair will help support the outreach efforts and activities of JEMS. We are extending an invitation to everyone to this worthwhile event. Vendors, entertainers and volunteers are welcomed.

### 2012 Creative Arts Missions

We are now recruiting for this mission trip and accepting short-term applications for the 2012 Japan Creative Arts Missions Team in the late summer (July/August). Team members will be sharing the Gospel through the creative arts - art work, hula and music, etc.

*Should you have additional questions or be interested in the above missions, fair or tech component, please call Lowell at 213.613.0022*

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

JEMS Sports Ministry  
Matthew Asami, Director of Sports

As the dust settles around home plate, only two teams were left holding the Championship plaque for the 22nd Annual JEMS Co-Ed Softball Tournament. Congratulations to South Bay Legacy who took 1st place in the Recreational Division, and Victory Fellowship who took 1st place in the Competitive Division. Thanks to all those who participated in this year's tournament. . We also want to extend our appreciation to Andrew Sunada from Gardena Valley Baptist Church, for delivering a wonderful devotional message. Through God's Word and good weather; through competition and community, we hope that you were able to experience Gods presence. Remember to ice those throwing arms, and we look forward to seeing you next season.

#### Notable Team Mentions:

San Fernando Holiness who placed 2nd in the Recreational Division  
South Bay Community Church who placed 2nd in the Competitive Division  
Westlight Community Church (in West LA) as first time participants

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17.

I'm always looking for ways to improve the annual JEMS Sporting events, so if anyone has any suggestions feel free to email them to me at: [matthewa@jems.org](mailto:matthewa@jems.org).

## SPORTS





# NEWS

from the

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST

By Rev. Carolyn Shimabukuro

“Jesus was deeply moved by compassion”  
Matthew 9:36

How do you grow and develop leaders to have a heart of compassion? AACF has been committed to engaging in community service as part of our mission. The Lord has opened doors for us to serve in a variety of ways: collecting dry goods for food banks, working in a food distribution center, visiting those in prison, sending letters and packages to military service people. One of our long standing relationships is with the grassroots ministry “The Lord’s Table” coordinated by **Mrs. Kay**

**Abc.** Kay is a Nisei woman who has been faithfully serving the Lord by feeding 150-200 meals a night under the I-5 freeway in downtown Seattle. She is a friend to the less fortunate and a role model and inspiration to the AACFers at UW.

Recently a friend felt burdened as she saw the large amounts of food that goes to waste after company events and meetings. She is prayerfully and actively finding solutions to steward this food. Now there is a bridge between the excess food and getting that food to the Lord’s Table. Timing is everything — as clean up crews are working, I get a call from Meelin and within 15 minutes a food pick-up time is set and then a coordinated effort to get the food to Kay for that night’s 8:00 pm serving. It is very exciting and we are smiling from ear to ear, giving praise to God as we serve. This is the Lord’s work and the Holy Spirit orchestrates it all. We do have a need for additional people who can help with food pick up and delivery. In answer to my questions above. It is God who touches our heart and increases our awareness of needs. He invites us to respond and join Him in ministering His love along the way. He does the interior work of molding and deepening our hearts of compassion.



# CALENDAR

2011-12

(Call 213.613.0022 or go to: [JEMS.org/General Events](http://JEMS.org/General%20Events) for registration and info)

## 2011

◆ October 8, Sat - JEMS SoCal Ladies Luncheon, Wintersburg Presbyterian Church. Guest Speaker: Jill Akemi Rogers. Registration forms are available at [www.JEMS.org](http://www.JEMS.org) under the "General Calendar." For directions go to <http://www.wintersburg.org/index.cfm?section=directions>

◆ October 15, Sun, 2pm - JEMS & SoCal Church Federation - Nichigo Gospel Festival, Faith United Methodist Church, 2115 West 182nd Street, Torrance.

Featuring: Gospel Heart of Praise, South Bay Free Methodist Worship Team, Vine International Choir, Gardena Valley Baptist Church Choir, Creation Choir, Northridge Free Methodist Choir, Faith United Methodist Choir.

◆ November 12, Sat., JEMS NorCal Nichigo Worship Concert, Japanese Christian Church of Walnut Creek, 1955 Geary Road, Walnut Creek. Info: Rev. Jiro Fujioka, 925.944.3408.

◆ Dec - JEMS Christmas Celebration presentation will not be held this year. The Japanese America Theatre is closed for renovations.

◆ Dec 12, Monday, Noon, JEMS Journal Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, JEMS Headquarters, 948 East 2nd Street, Los Angeles

◆ Dec 13, Tuesday, 9:45AM, JEMS Caroling at Keiro - Boyle Heights (If you would like to join us, please call the JEMS office.)

## 2012

◆ Jan 28, Sat., 10:30 AM, JEMS Inspirational and Educational Holy Land Tour Reunion  
JEMS Headquarters. Bring your photos, scrapbook, & memories to share. Refreshment provided.

◆ February 25, Sat - JEMS Co-ed Volleyball Tourney, El Camino College, Men's North Gym, 18007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance. Entry deadline: 1/21/12. There are 30 teams in six pools. The first 30 entries with their registration fees will secure a spot. Entry forms are now available at [www.JEMS.org](http://www.JEMS.org) under the "General Calendar."

◆ March 31, Sat. 10:00 AM - SoCal JEMS Men for Mission Spring Break Golf Tournament  
Lakewood Country Club Golf Course, Additional info to follow.

◆ June 1, 2012, Fri, 10:00 AM, JEMS Mount Hermon Scholarship Tournament.  
Los Verdes Country Club Golf Course, \$99 per player - includes green fees, cart and buffet breakfast.

## E-MAIL JOURNAL

(Save a Tree Group)

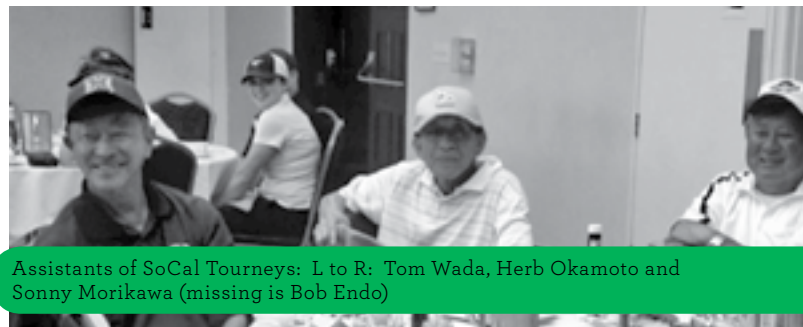
If you would prefer an e-mail copy of the JEMS Journal, please send your name, address and email address to: [Info@JEMS.org](mailto:Info@JEMS.org)

## DONATE

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

The life of your car will be extended through the ministries of JEMS. You may select your preference where you would like the funds to be used. Your gift will enable us to support and expand our current ministries and provide many mission opportunities.

All vehicles, running or not, are accepted. Please call JEMS at **213.613.0022** for additional information or to donate your vehicle today!



Assistants of SoCal Tourneys: L to R: Tom Wada, Herb Okamoto and Sonny Morikawa (missing is Bob Endo)

## FIFTY-FIVE PLUS AND MEN FOR MISSIONS

Rev. Sam Tonomura, Director

Holy Land 2011 Tour, Nov 3-13

44 individuals registered to participate in the JEMS Inspiration and Education tour. An "orientation session" will be held at JEMS headquarters on Oct. 8, 2011, 2:30 PM. The purpose of this session is to explain what to expect, answer any questions, get to know one another and distribute important travel materials. Rev. Cory Ishida of Evergreen Baptist Church SGV and Rev. Sam Tonomura will serve as the traveling pastors and set the spiritual tone for the tour.

The tour includes.....Caesarea Maritima, Kehilat HaCarmel, Haifa, Cana, Galilee (Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee), Banias, Mt. Hermon, Jordan River, Beit Shean, Jericho, Jerusalem (Mt. of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa to the Church of The Holy Sepulcher, Wailing Wall) Dead Sea, Masada, Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Dead Sea Scrolls and Elah Valley.

Men for Missions Ministry - Golf Tournaments

On September 2, 2011, the SoCal Tourney fund raised for JEMS missions. The tourney was held at the California Country Club. The guest speaker was Rev. Shin Asami, Dr. Mike Matsumoto and Dennis Masaoka of the NorCal group are searching for a new golf course for their next event.

Matt Asami, our new Director of Sport attended the SoCal tourney to experience running a golf tournament.

## JEMS MISSIONARIES AND AFFILIATES, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, AND BOARD MEMBERS

### JAPAN AFFILIATES

Dr. Akira Hatori-TV Radio Evangelist  
Rev. Nobumichi Murakami-PBA Radio/TV  
Rev. Timothy Himeji-Soden, JEMS Japan Coord.  
Rev. Paul Ariga-All Japan Revival Mission  
Rev. Yoshihiro Kishi-Mission 2001  
Rev. Tadao Ogawa-Social Worker  
Nao & Barbara Hanada-Director of AIGJ  
Josh Sasaki-Music, Japan

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Ray Sidney, Amy Lachica, John Comfort-  
Here to Praise Ministries  
Rev. Roy & Nana Yamamoto-USA Evangelism  
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Emily Okada-Layout & Graphic Designer

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# LETTER *from the* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear JEMS supporters.

As we enter into the season of Thanksgiving, I want to thank you for your on-going support of the JEMS ministry. I love the Thanksgiving story of how 102 pilgrims crossed the Atlantic Ocean to eventually land in Plymouth. They lost over half of their sojourners to scurvy, pneumonia and tuberculosis but they left England by faith in order to have freedom to deepen in their Faith.

JEMS operates much like the pilgrims. Our journey as an organization is completely by faith. We rely solely on God's grace to provide us the finances to continue our ministry. I am fully sold on the important part that JEMS plays in the overall kingdom of God. As a result, I know that God will continue to meet our needs. The exciting part of all of this is how God enlists folks like you and me to do Kingdom business. When you pray for us or when you donate to JEMS, God takes those prayers and

finances and transforms them into something that will make an eternal difference in someone else's life.

JEMS can only be around because of people like you. Your generosity, prompted by the Holy Spirit is what we use to do the work of ministry. **During this season of Thanksgiving, I ask that if JEMS has in any way impacted your walk with God in a positive way, to please give a "thank" offering by donating to us.** From the bottom of our hearts, we at JEMS want to "thank you" for your partnership in ministry.

**Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!**  
**Rick Chuman**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."  
Psalm 136:1

