

How Beautiful are the Feet of Those who Bring Good News!!

Rev. Rick Chuman, JEMS Executive Director

Currently I am in Japan. Whenever I get off the plane and go towards the baggage claim, I never tire of seeing the "Welcome to Japan" sign. Having grown up in Japan for 4 years, I guess there is a part of me that has a very fond affinity for the country and people of Japan. When I walk around town, be it in the hustle and bustle of Shinjuku or a slower place like Ishinomaki, I enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of this beautiful country. In fact the night I reached Tokyo, I bought a small bag of roasted chestnuts or "kuri." The smell was too captivating for me to resist. It was so "natsukashii" (nostalgic) to eat freshly roasted chestnuts.

I've been the Executive Director of JEMS for almost 9 years now. In this period of time, the 3.11 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami occurred. I've had the humble privilege to visit many of the places that were devastated by the tsunami but also witness slowly the rebuilding of towns that were hard hit. I've also met a lot of young, middle age and retired folks who have a burden and love for Japan. Many are not even of Japanese ancestry. Some have developed a love for Japan through "Anime." Not many know that Japan is the 2nd most unreached people group in the world. There are over 127 million people with less than one percent who are evangelical Christians. For this one reason, I am grateful that JEMS exists to send more missionaries to Japan.

Sometimes I get a bit frustrated when I am here. When I ride the trains, I often see business people, walking around in black suits or black skirt and blazer, with a look of fatigue and a sense of hopeless. I want to run up to each one and grab them, and look them in the eyes and say, "Jesus loves you!" Now granted, I might succeed in only frightening the person, but our JEMS missionaries who live here, have the unique pleasure to build relationships with the

Japanese. They become a part of the community they live in. They cultivate real friendships so that trust can be built. In time, they are able to share the Gospel in a way that is cultural sensitive and appropriate.

But do you know who makes this physically possible? You do! The hundreds of individuals who personally support our missionaries in Japan. This applies to all of our other support-raised staff too. As a "sender," you actively participate in the Matthew 28:18-20 passage. As a financial supporter of a JEMS, you are enabling a missionary to "go and make disciples." Something temporary like money can be used to invest in something eternal like a person falling in love with Jesus and committing his or her life to Him. In Romans 10:15, it says, "And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" I am grateful for the many "senders" that we have partnering with us.



Earlier I mentioned my frustration, but that is because I sometimes get an urge to "be in the field," like the missionaries. But I also know that my calling as of now is to be the Executive Director so we can have an organization like JEMS to send more missionaries. I find contentment in knowing that I am playing a very specific role in reaching Japan. As a sender, please know that you too play a very specific and important role in reaching Japan. Please go to the <https://jems.networkforgood.com> website to see if there is a way that you could become a valuable partner in spreading the Gospel to Japan, South America, our college campuses and beyond. It really can't happen without the good stewardship and partnership of the overall Body of Christ. "Arigatou gozaimasu" from Japan!

God's House

JAPAN
MISSIONS

Kristen and Kuni Onishi

My wife Kristen and I are commissioned to Nishinomiya City, Hyogo

since October, 2016 to plant a church in Japan. Nishinomiya is a city that is located in between Osaka and Kobe, and the city is very active with young families. I've also heard that Nishinomiya is the #1 city that people want to live in the Kansai area. We had no idea before we moved here, but we've seen so many great opportunities to share the love of God here in the city. There are several universities around us, and when we go out to public parks, we can see many young families with kids who are in the same life stage as our family. At first, we were a bit confused and wondered why God called us here in Nishinomiya since people look pretty wealthy and happy. But after living and mingling with people here for three months, we have started to understand why.



Seeing through glamorous facades of the buildings and faces of people, we feel a deep sense of belonging and of acceptance from people. I often take our first daughter to a public park to play with the jungle gym and swings, and I came across mothers who are very tired of parenting their kids alone, since fathers are at work most of the time. The children are seeking fatherly love and the students are seeking role models and guidance for "life".

At this point, we have no church building, no name for the church, and no members except one family whom we go to

a local church together. So what are we doing here? As it is now, WE DO FAMILY HERE. When we were praying 'where and what' to do, God gave us a vision with a name of the location, and that was Kobe. We were led to the story of Jacob in the book of Genesis. Jacob always knew God as God of Abraham and Isaac, but through the vision of the ladder he encountered the Lord and came to know him personally. We all know the story, but God revealed a deep meaning behind the passage through the location where Jacob met God. Jacob named the place, Bethel. It means "House of God." In the Bible, Bethel is described as a place

We are called to bring the Gospel to Kobe and to create a community where people can encounter the Lord personally and restore their families.

of encounter and of family reconciliation/restoration. We really felt that God was calling us to serve people in Japan for these two purposes through this passage. If you are familiar with Chinese characters, you'd know, Kobe means, "God's House (or gate)." Do you believe it? We are called to bring the Gospel to Kobe and to create a community where people can encounter the Lord personally and restore their families.

We are praying and trying to live as a loving family. We pray that people here would become curious and desire to be part of "God's House." We pray that the power of the Gospel that makes us shine with "God's love" will transform families!

Building AACF Communities

Jon Liu, AACF Director

I remember my first AACF retreat. It was my freshman year at UC San Diego. We headed east of UCSD to Pine Valley Bible Conference Center. There were close to 100 students at retreat, a weekend of learning and bonding. It was at retreat where I realized I had a spiritual home away from home; I found my fellowship, my community. There were lasting friendships created at retreat.



AACF UCLA Winter Retreat, Photo Credit: Bruce Chow

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Fall, winter, and spring retreat are part of the AACF experience. It is an opportunity for students to escape from the pressure and pace of college to be in God's creation with their peers. It is an opportunity for students to be face-to-face with one another; it is a setting for students to be vulnerable and to be

challenged to live as true disciples of Jesus.

In the 2016-2017 school year, our AACF chapters have hosted 19 retreats (men's, women's, and all student). Each retreat was planned by students. They designed the entire weekend. They dealt with advertising, contracts, registration, budgeting, vision casting, rides coordination, housing, small groups, organized recreational activities, and found speakers. Their goal was to draw near to God and to create community. Our student leaders gained experience as retreat planners. Something unique happens when students have a sense of ownership and it is contextualized to their needs.

There is a sense of freedom that allows them to be themselves: to be transparent and to have fun.

We praise God for every student that has attended our AACF retreats. We praise God for the lives that were forever changed by the Gospel. We praise God for the blessing of Christian community. We pray that the blessings of retreat will follow them back to their normal contexts: home, school, and work; that the seeds of the Gospel will bear fruit in their inner life and in their contexts. Join in me in prayer and praise for work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of AACF students.

PNW

Rev. Carolyn Shimabukuro,
PNW Director

MINISTRIES

So neither he
who plants nor
he who waters is
anything, but only
God, who makes
things grow.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:7



How wonderful it is to open an email and read "I have great news from the JEMS Warm Beach Camp (Aug. 2016), there was a Japanese guy with blond hair and lip piercings.

He received Christ on December 31. PTL! He has joined our men's Bible study and will come to our church." The seeds of the gospel were planted at Warm Beach and four months of watering through prayers, friendship and additional partnerships with conferences and churches, this young man received Christ. One by one people are coming into an authentic relationship of faith in Jesus Christ. God uses all of us as a wonderful Body of Christ – and we can all praise Him for being the One who makes all things grow. Looking ahead to this summer the JEMS Warm Beach Camp is committed to minister the gospel to all ages: Kid's Camp, Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults, Japanese

International students and Special Needs Camps. Two key areas of development are: reaching and supporting this generation of young adults (post college age) and our integrated approach to minister to families with children who have special needs. New this year will be a "Middler" group (those between Kid's Camp and Adult Camp). God invites us to join Him in planting and watering the seeds of the gospel. We will gather under the theme "Abide" John 15. Mark your calendars for August 17-20 and begin to pray and reach out and bring a friend who would most benefit from this gracious space for God.

JULY 2–8

JEMS Mount Hermon Conference

FAMILY CAMP AND YOUTH CAMPS



As of March 1, there are only a few vacancies in the Mount Hermon Main Camp (Family, Nichigo, and Career). Main Camp currently has a 'wait list' for "full-time registration."

"Part-time" registration may be available for the Main-Family Camp one week before the conference (last week of June).

"Walk-in" registration (no housing) with program and meals will be available for only the Main-Family Camp through the Mount Hermon Conference Center (registration office).

The Youth Camps, with the exception of the Inter-High Camp (8th and 9th grades), have "wait lists" and confirmations have been sent to the parent's email address in mid-March.

Rev. Steve Langley Retires from GVBC



In recognition and appreciation of Rev. Steve Langley's 23 years of pastoral ministry at Garden Valley Baptist Church, a two-day retirement celebration was held on January 21 and 22, 2017 in the Community Hall.

During the two day event, over 700 church members, friends, and staff acknowledged his gifted leadership in teaching God's Word, his administrative leadership which included the expansion of the campus and genuine pastoral relationships which brought healing and the steady growth to the church. Rev. Langley leaves a legacy of strong caring relationships among his staff and congregation.

One of the many highlights of the celebration was the rap music with words on the life of Rev. Langley that was written by Layne Wakuta, the Youth Pastor, and music provided by the worship team of talented friends.

2017

JEMS Event Calendar

March 5–April 9, Sunday Evenings

JEMS WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Carson Athletics Center, 1533 East Del Amo Blvd., Carson CA.

Schedule is available at jems.org/events

If you have a team that would be interested in the "2017 Summer" league, please contact **213.613.0022**.

March 11, Saturday, 4–6pm

JAPAN NITE 2017

Sponsors: Japan Nite Comm., JCCFSC, JEMS, Saddleback Church-Irvine

Saddleback Church Irvine, South Campus (Room 33) 18842 Teller Avenue, Irvine

Message - Rev. Masashi Sugita (Dublin Baptist Church); Ray Sydney, Gospel Singer; and Virginia Lavallee, missionary

March 17, Friday

JEMS MEN 4 MISSIONS: ANNUAL SPRING BREAK GOLF TOURNEY

Los Amigos Golf Course, Downey, CA
Breakfast 9:15AM, Tee from 11AM

Registration Info: **213.613.0022**

Registration: jems.org/events

April 1, Saturday

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY

Long Beach City College Gymnasium
4901 East Carson Street,
Long Beach, CA 90808

Deadline Changed: March 15, 2017

Info and Registration Form: jems.org/events



- Free towing
- Fast pickup
- We handle 100% of DMV donation paperwork
- Cars, trucks, vans, some boats, motor homes, RV's and big rigs accepted
- Disabled vehicles, junk cars, scrap cars and wrecks accepted
- No title – No problem
- Missing certificate of ownership? – No problem
- Failed smog check? – No problem
- Personal & caring service

April 29, Saturday, 7pm

JEMS PNW SPRING CONCERT

Chinese Baptist Church

May 6, Saturday

JEMS NORCAL MEN 4 MISSIONS 22ND ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

Coyote Creek Golf Club
The Valley Course, Morgan Hill

Registration: jems.org/events

Info: Rev. Sam Tonomura **213.613.0022**

May 12, Friday, 10am–12pm

"STAND" WOMEN'S MINI RETREAT

"Love Never Gives Up" (Worship and Prayer)

Sponsors - "Stand" Women's Ministry USA and JEMS

Orange County Christian Church, 4872
Bishop Street, Cypress

Additional Info: ako_myonja@hotmail.com

July 2–8

JEMS MOUNT HERMON CONFERENCE

(Family Camp and Youth Camps. See article on Pg 5).

August 17–20

JEMS PNW WARM BEACH CONFERENCE

"Abide" John 15. Stanwood, WA.

October 8–22

GERMANY & HOLY LAND TOUR

October 8–12

GERMANY TOUR

October 12–22: Those continuing from the Germany Tour and the Israel Group will meet for the Holy Land Tour.

Directors: Rev. Sam Tonomura (JEMS) and Rev. Steve Langley (Gardena Valley Baptist)
Contact: Rev. Sam Tonomura at **213.613.0022**
Additional Information: jems.org/events



Join Our Elite Group!

The mailing of 10,000 JEMS Journal is very expensive. Partner with us to save trees and postage costs! JEMS is also asking those on our international mailing lists to join our email family for JEMS newsletters, prayer letters and event notifications.

Thank you very much,
JEMS

Please return this slip to
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Other Household Members! _____ Their Emails: _____



YOUR WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION FORM with much gratitude from JEMS

No goods or services were provided to you by JEMS in connection with this contribution.

I, _____, agree to contribute monthly gifts to JEMS to the
Last Name First Name MI specifically-indicated designations listed below
through the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program.

I authorize my bank to pay JEMS the amount(s) listed below on the 1st or 15th working day of every month. This authorization will remain in effect until I notify JEMS in writing that I wish to change or discontinue the contribution.

Starting month: _____, I would like to transfer on: ___ 1st or ___ 15th of the month.

- 1. Amount of gift \$ _____ Designated to _____
- 2. Amount of gift \$ _____ Designated to _____
- 3. Amount of gift \$ _____ Designated to _____

(For more options, please indicate below the other ministry preferences you wish to support.)

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(last name) (first name)

Daytime Phone () _____ Home Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

I have enclosed my voided blank check from the bank account to be used for the EFT withdrawal.

Thank you for your gift and participation in this program!

Richard F. Chuman
JEMS Executive Director

"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints." Philemon 1:4-5

My gift is given to JEMS with a preference for...

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- \$ _____ 14600 General Fund
- Supporting all ministries & staff
- \$ _____ 14800 JEMS JOURNAL Publication
- \$ _____ 14460 Ministry Worker Emergency Support
- \$ _____ 15900 Office Equipment/Improvement
- \$ _____ 24100 JEMS Office Building Mortgage
- \$ _____ 14430 Evangelism
- \$ _____ 15700 JEMS Endowment
- \$ _____ 14900 Memorial Gifts in Memory
of _____
(Name)

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- \$ _____ 64350 David/Yuka Mills - Kanagawa
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- \$ _____ 65740 Dave/Tomo Robison - Tohoku
- \$ _____ 65730 Jon/Maki Robison - Tohoku
- \$ _____ 65000 Lily Suzuki - Amakusa
- \$ _____ 65862 Roy/Nancy Toma - Iwakuni
- \$ _____ 65720 John/Kazumi VanFarowe - Nagoya
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- \$ _____
(Short-term missionary to Japan)

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- \$ _____ 12410 South America Ministry
- \$ _____ 12490 Pr. John Katagi, Director of
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- \$ _____
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- \$ _____
(Name)
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(Campus)

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- \$ _____ 84920 MH Scholarship - Retired Pastors
- \$ _____ 84930 MH Scholarship - Special Camp
- \$ _____ 84760 MH Special Camp Misc. Fund
- \$ _____ 84940 MH Scholarship - Youth
- \$ _____ 84960 Sam & June Tonomura MH
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- \$ _____ 13492 Sports Missions

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- \$ _____ 11455 PNW Special Camp Misc. Fund

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Mortgage Burning in 2017!

Currently we have about \$70,000 left on the account (this includes what we have currently in our building fund). As I think about our humble beginnings of doing ministry out of Rev. Paul Nagano's garage to a three-story building right in the heart of the Arts district, I am truly amazed at God's goodness but also the generosity of His people. JEMS started due to a collaborative effort among various denominations. As a result, JEMS is here because of not one church, but many churches and individuals. Please consider donating to our Building Fund this year. Any amount would be appreciated. We would love to have a "mortgage burning" celebration sometime this year if possible. Please help us make this happen. You may donate by going directly to jems.networkforgood.com/projects/22842 or using the enclosed envelope.

