



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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“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

I am currently having sewage drain pipe work being done at my house. After observing intermittent water seeping out of the ground for about a week, we determined it had something to do with our sewage drain pipes. I finally got a company to come out to figure out the problem. The pipe seems to be corroded and breaking at several locations, and the camera indicates that there is blockage further down our slopping backyard. The workers performing this job are saying out loud, “No bueno!” (not good). However, there is a spiritual lesson for us to consider here, and the condition of my drain pipe reminds me of the condition of man’s heart.

As the workers were trying to clear the pipe out by using high pressure water, very dark water started to back wash out of the pipe. It didn’t smell very good either. I asked the foreman why this water was so dark, and he said it was because it is old sewage water. This made me think about how sin corrupts and pollutes our hearts so badly that if we let it be and don’t clean it up, it can become really dark!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is that He has provided the means by which we can clear out the darkness inside our hearts, and infuse it with life giving water; the Holy Spirit that flows freely out of us! All made possible through the redeeming work of Jesus. The pure blood that flowed from His clean heart poured out for us at the cross of Calvary washes our sins away. Through faith in Jesus, we can receive forgiveness and cleansing. Es bueno!

Grace and peace 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 pray for daily strength and God’s continual care of: *Ed Akamatsu, Vic Bocaya, Kenneth Dunn, Rev. Shinichi & Shizu Fukiage, Matsuko Gray* (recovery from total hip replacement surgery), *Jim Higashi, Yo Honda, Guy Kiyoi, Grace Kodama, Daniel Mondragon, Hideko Piazza, Dorothy Sue, Kiyo Uda, Raymond Uyeda, and Rose Uyeji.*

- Please pray for Jenny Higashi, Sheryl Stearns, and the Higashi Family, as they mourn the loss of their mother Gay Higashi who passed away on June 22. The **Memorial Service for Gay Higashi** will be held on Saturday, July 23, from 1 pm at our church facility.

- Let us continue to pray for the following missionaries: *Pastor Roy & Nancy and Joseph Toma* (JEMS missionaries in Iwakuni, Japan), *Daniel “DJ” & Rumiko Pettit* (TCU in Chiba), *Kevin & Nozomi West* (Kansai area), *Reo Yoshida* (Orange County), *Brent & Irina* (Turkey), *Rev. John Katagi* (JEMS), *Mike Fox* (Athletes in Action), *Tomo Ito* (RUF at Emory University), and *Shira Walker* (in Chiba, Japan with SEND Int’l). Please also pray for our Japan ministry friends: *Rev. & Mrs. Hideyo Ando* (Kita-Kyushu, Fukuoka), *Rev. & Mrs. Hitotsugu Chiba* (Kesenuma), *The Jon Junker Family* (Nagano), *Pastor & Mrs. Adriano Kuroki* (Toyohashi), *Rev. Tatsuo Nakazawa* (Minami Sanriku), *Paul & Rie Mizuki* (JEMS), and *The Joseph Kim Family* (work with Genesis College).

- On Father’s Day, Sunday, June 19, we were blessed to have **Rev. John Katagi**, JEMS Director of Strategic Development, as our guest speaker in our worship service. Please continue to keep him in prayer as his ministry adjusts to his need for regular kidney dialysis.

- Please pray for **Burton and Kat Sue**, and **Mateo and Alyssa**, as they are attending a TEAM Missionary Orientation in Wheaton, IL, this week (7/9-7/15). They are preparing to return to Japan. Please also pray for Kat, as she is expecting another child.

- Please continue to pray for **Russell Woo** as he prepares to go on a missions trip to Japan with JUMP (July 23 to August 6), and begins his studies at the Joshua Wilderness Institute in September.

- Thank you to everyone who helped out and prepared food for the **Graduation Celebration Luncheon** that was held on Sunday, July 3. Let us keep the recent graduates in our prayers as they continue to pursue the calling that God has given to each of them.

- Please note that the **CYA Bible Study** has moved from Tuesday nights to Thursday nights. They will meet regularly on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 7 pm at the Goon’s house. Also, there will be a **CYA and Youth Beach Day and Bonfire** on Saturday, July 23, from 10 am to 10 pm at La Jolla Shores. Please bring your own towel to sit on and other beach stuff (e.g., frisbees, tent, umbrella, sunscreen). Hotdogs for dinner and S’mores for dessert will be provided, so please bring food and drinks to share for the rest of the day. For more info, please contact *Nathan Haseley* at nsh9351@gmail.com.

- We will have **Vacation Bible Study for the Sunday School children**, every Sunday morning (8:50-10:15 am) during the month of August. We are in need of staff to help with games, crafts, singing, refreshments, and Bible teaching times. If you are interested in helping out, please talk to *Pastor Ichibei*.

- The next **Community Luncheon** will be served on Wednesday, August 3, at 12 pm. Thank you for your continued support and prayer for this outreach ministry.

- The **Youth Group** regularly meets on the first Sunday and third Saturday of each month. In August, they will be meeting on Sunday, August 7, after the **Curry Rice Luncheon**, and on Saturday, August 20, from 6:30 pm. Dinner will be provided for the Saturday meeting. It is a great time of Bible study and fun games. If you have any questions, please contact *Pastor Yama* at (858) 220-1747.

- The next **Men’s Prayer Breakfast** is on Saturday, August 13, at 9 am. Please join us for a wonderful time of good food, prayer, and learning.

- If you have any questions regarding faith in Christ, or are interested in **baptism or church membership**, please talk to *Pastor Ichibei* (contact Info: ichibehonda@pacbell.net or (619) 990-5675).