

# THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



## THE MIRACLE OF MULTIPLICATION

Praise God that we finished an awesome week of Illumination Station Vacation Bible School (VBS). For 5 days, the children learned how Jesus is the Light of the World. On Wednesday, the theme was "Jesus is the Powerful Son of God." The Bible story was from Matthew 15:29-39, Jesus Feeds the 4000.

Jesus and His disciples went to an area where the Gentiles lived, there he showed compassion through healing. "Great crowds" came to Jesus, bringing people who were lame, blind, crippled, mute, and had many other illnesses. Jesus healed them all. He did not heal only a few or the select, he healed everyone. Whether they were Jews or Gentiles, Jesus showed compassion on them all.

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*“How many loaves do you have?”  
Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied,  
“and a few small fish.”*

*Matthew 15:34*

Again, Jesus noticed the crowd and said to His disciples, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.” When Jesus asked the disciples, “How many loaves do you have?” They responded with just 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish, obviously not enough to feed more than 4,000 hungry people. However, another unbelievable miracle was about to happen. Jesus took what little food there was, gave thanks to God, and multiplied it. The disciples passed the food out, and what was so amazing is that it never ran out. The people ate and were satisfied. They even collected 7 baskets filled with leftover food.



In this passage, Jesus demonstrated that He is the powerful Son of God by performing a miracle of multiplication. There were wonderful correlations at our VBS and how God multiplied loaves and fish. In May, there was a concern that only 66 children and 21 volunteers were registered. By the time VBS started in July, praise God there were 115 amazing children and 134 wonderful volunteers!

We also celebrated 21 children who made a decision to follow Jesus. Another example was our Mission's Project. Our goal was to collect 300 school supplies for the City of Gardena's Back to School event on August 5th. Miraculously, the children donated 757 items!

But the real question is why did Jesus perform these miracles? The answer is that He had “compassion for these people.” There was no doubt that God demonstrated His great compassion for our church and me. During VBS, His Spirit was totally felt. We were all united in His love. His joy was experienced by children who worshiped God and learned that Jesus is the Light of the World. I was hospitalized prior to VBS for some stroke-like symptoms. The timing was a little suspicious, but I experienced God's healing and was totally fine during the week.

*“Jesus called his disciples to him  
and said, “I have compassion for  
these people....”*

*Matthew 15:32*

After Jesus performed His miraculous healing of the multitude, the people “praised the God of Israel.” I definitely praise God for His faithfulness and our VBS illuminating Jesus' light and love to others. When things seem impossible, it is my prayer that we can all call on Jesus to do the miraculous. Why? Because He loves us!

*Susan Wakuta*

*KIDS Director*





SHINING A LIGHT ON  
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

# ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12







# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





# LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS

## TOMMY PARK - OMF

Hello GVBC Family!

I'm back for the year in preparation to return to Japan as a full-time missionary with OMF International. I will be meeting with people as well as studying at Talbot to satisfy a requirement to return to Japan. I hope to be involved in some capacity at GVBC, though I will need to be careful to make sure I can focus on my studies. Hope to give more details at a later date, but please do say hi and let's meet up to chat!



Prayer request:

- Financial provision for a fourth renter for the house
- For lots of travel and visitations before starting classes at Talbot Seminary at the end of August.

I'm humbled how important the work of prayer is, **so thank you so much for partnering with me in this way.**

## TOM DEMOREST - CITYLIGHTS

I'm grateful to be able to say God continues to be faithful! Like He has over the past 20 years, God continues to provide for our needs at Citylights. So many of the people we are reaching live in chronic poverty, typically living day by day on government assistance. Neighborhoods like ours need a church in them. And it takes the Church (capital C) to make that happen. That is why we are SO THANKFUL for GVBC's missions support. We were able to walk together with the GVBC Youth Ministry this past summer for their one week missions program for the children and youth of our neighborhood. God's blessing was upon us all!!



Citylights Church, a gospel centered ministry, is reaching the poor and hurting in an often marginalized and underserved community. People are coming to the Lord and being discipled to walk hand in hand with Him.



# AUGUST BOARD UPDATE

At the August Board of Deacons meeting, Pastor Daniel and Pastor John presented ideas to reorganize and update the structure of GVBC's ministries. The church is blessed with people sharing their time and gifts to faithfully serve the community here at GVBC and beyond. We look forward to getting input from everyone as we strengthen and grow our ministries.

The Board reviewed the church financial statements, and formally approved the reports from April, May and June. While the Board reviews financials monthly, GVBC has several bank accounts and properties and occasionally, information doesn't arrive in time for the Board meeting. Rather than voting on the preliminary numbers, the Board waits to review the finalized reports before approving them.

The April numbers remained unchanged from what was shared in May. For the month of May, revenues were \$126,117 and expenses were \$113,006, and the net after transfers was \$13,861. In June, the revenues were \$132,538 and the expenses were \$133,924, and the net after transfers was -\$626. This puts the church's finances at \$15,817 in the positive for the first half of the year.

The Board also voted to approve the Scholarship Committee's recommendation for seminarian, Shoki Hioki, who will be starting his final semester this fall. He has been serving as an intern with the Nihongo Ministry and we look forward to his next stage of ministry after he graduates!

Other topics at the Board meeting included:

- New Members: The Board reviewed applications and voted to approve new members. We congratulate and welcome **Wendy G Ito**, **Lydia Liu**, and **Amelia Nagamine**, as well as **Tamiko Wakabayashi** of the Nihongo Ministry to the GVBC church family!
- Nominating Committee: Derrick Glinn, Eltheia Shiozaki and Edna Uratsu were approved as at-large members of the committee to consider candidates. If they happen to give you a call, please prayerfully consider serving on the Board!

We appreciate your continuing prayers and faithfulness to God's work here at GVBC!

Thank you from the Board of Deacons – Kate Bun, Violet Dresser, Jeff Fujimoto, Paul Hirano, Perry Ishibashi, Amy Kushigemachi, John Nakamura, Cyril Nishimoto, Kenichi Okada, Dave Uratsu, and Gary Yoshiba



# FAMILY NEWS

*Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.  
Romans 12:15*

Please pray for the families of those who have recently passed.

- Premla "Pam" Phillip, passed on July 11th. Her service was on August 8th at Lawndale Wesleyan Church.
- Pauline Hayakawa, passed on June 21st. Her service was on August 15th at Green Hills.
- Nancy Watanabe, passed on July 16th. Her service was on August 15th at Gardena Valley Baptist Church.

## MEMORIALS

Donations and Flowers are given in honor or loving memory:

*In Memory of Masako Harada*  
**From** Stanley Yano

Monetary donations given in honor or memory of loved ones support the College Scholarship Fund unless specified.

# CALENDAR

Aug 22: The Forge - Table Talk (Cancelled)  
Aug 26: Fitness for Moms  
Aug 29: The Forge - Men's Gathering  
Aug 30: Ministry Fair  
Sept 4: KidZone (Cancelled)  
Sept 5: Work Day  
Sept 12: Grandparent's Breakfast  
The Forge - Table Talk  
Sept 17: Widower's Group  
Sept 19: Keep Gardena Beautiful  
Sept 26: The Forge - Table Talk  
Oct 3: Work Day  
Nov 7: Hearts for Widows Gathering

# SERVICES

In-Person English: Sundays, 9 AM & 11 AM  
Online English: Sundays, 11 AM  
In-Person & Online Nihongo: Sundays, 11 AM  
In-Person Michi Nihongo: Sundays, 5PM

# LINKS

Website: [www.gvbc.net](http://www.gvbc.net)  
Youtube: [www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube](http://www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube)

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