

THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



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WORTH YOUR SALT

When many of us hear the word "influencer," our minds probably go straight to social media filters, brand deals, and people working tirelessly to build a personal brand. But being an influencer isn't a modern internet trend, it's something that has always been around. Believe it or not, you don't need millions of followers to be an influencer to the people around you, because it reflects in your everyday choices.

Jesus understood this reality. He knew that the way we live our lives influence and lead others toward Him or away from him. In Matthew 5:13 - 16 during the Sermon on the Mount, He gave the disciples a baseline definition of what it meant to be an influencer for God's kingdom.

He used the two simple elements of Salt and Light to help us understand how our lives can be a witness to those around us.

13 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

SALT

In the ancient world, salt was so valuable it served as currency as it was the only defense against meat decaying, and it was added to food to make it good. So like salt Jesus calls us to be a preserving presence in our homes, our relationships and our work places because as salt of the earth we should defend against decay and make things good.

LIGHT

While salt works quietly, light does the opposite. Light is bold, visible, and is meant to be seen. Following Jesus means stepping out of your comfort zone and being a light where it's most needed. As a Light of the World we are to be different and distinct from the darkness in this world because a light doesn't hide in the shadows but it makes itself seen wherever it goes.

FOR HIS GLORY

As Salt of the Earth and Light of the World the goal of our influence is to live with radical love and honesty so that our lives acts as a billboard pointing others to Christ. My hope for us this summer is that we would be made aware of the responsibility that we have as Salt of the Earth and Light of the World to be influencers that point people to Christ.

Jason Park

Youth Director

FRIDAY FOOD MINISTRY



On the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Fridays of each month, GVBC's Friday Food Ministry partners with St. John's Lutheran to serve the homeless and needy in our neighborhood. Alongside groups like the VHTPA Christian Club and Scout Troop 966, a hot dinner is served, and goody bags with snacks, toiletries or other donations, and a bible tract are distributed. We're often blessed by our Friday Food Praise Team, bringing their wonderful praise and oldies music enjoyed by all. Praise God for His wonderful provisions and the opportunity to serve in this ministry!



Gerald Mayewaki
Friday Food Ministry



Dear Church Family,

On June 29th the 2026 Brazil Team will be leaving for our short-term missions trip to serve alongside Corenne and Philip Smith and Hope Unlimited staff. The past several months we have been praying and preparing by building team unity and developing activities that we can do while at City of Youth (campus in Campinas, São Paulo) and Hope Mountain (campus in Vitória, Espírito Santo). Satan has tried to attack our team in many ways to distract and divide us, but to no avail as God is greater than all.

Please continue to pray for team unity and against spiritual warfare. We will have a prayer send-off on **Friday, June 26th at 7:30 AM in Room 113** (by the kitchen) if you would like to come out and pray for us. If you would like to get email updates while we are in Brazil, please contact Kate Bun at katebun@gmail.com. Muito obrigada!

Love, 2026 Brazil Team

Kate Bun, Jocelyn Chang, Joy Yoneda, Jennifer Hunt, Stephanie Nakayama, Grace Kang & Perry Ishibashi.



JUNE BOARD UPDATE

At the June Board of Deacons meeting, the Board reviewed the financial reports from April. Revenues were \$141,894 and expenses were \$113,103. The net after transfers was \$29,541. This puts the church's finances \$2,592 in the positive for the year. As our staffing and ministry activities increase in the second half of the year, we expect to see our spending increase as well. The Board is grateful for the members of the Finance Committee who serve behind the scenes to ensure that we are good stewards of the financial resources GVBC is entrusted with.

The Board also discussed the upcoming Golf Tournament, which has traditionally raised funds to support seminarians, and approved the Scholarship Committee's recommendation to support Shoki Hioki as he finishes seminary later this year.

We also heard about some updates to staff roles and responsibilities as Pastor John Shin settles in. Welcome Pastor John!

Other topics at the Board meeting included:

- Ways to grow as a disciple-making church.
- Thanking Johanna Uratsu for time spent serving on the Board as she steps down.

Thank you for your continuing prayers for the staff, Board of Deacons and other lay leaders as the busy summer months approach!

Amy Kushigemachi

Church Clerk

ILLUMINATION STATION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 20th - Friday, July 24th | 9AM - 12PM

Q What is it?

A There will be music, stories, crafts, recreation, snacks & more! We'll have lots of fun shining a light on who Jesus really is!

Q Who can come?

A Children 3 years old (potty trained) to entering 6th grade are invited to join us at Vacation Bible School (VBS)!

Q How much is it?

A Cost is \$30 per person

Q How can I join the fun?

A Sign up on our website by June 28th!

Questions? Contact Susan Wakuta, KIDS Director at susan@gvbc.net



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

Jaime Lim

Master of Counseling Psychology
CSULB

Tyler Iwashimizu

Bachelor of Arts
Cinematic Arts - CSULB

Noel Sakaya

Bachelor of Music
Music Performance (Oboe) - CSULB

Isabella Caldwell

Associate of Arts & Sciences
Psychology - L.A. Harbor College

Hugo Chi

Medical Assistant Diploma
ABC Adult School

High School

Genesis Avilla - Torrance
Isabella Caldwell - HARTS Academy
Kellen Comfort - Millikan
Celeste Crudup - Torrance
Luke Kidakarn - Bishop Montgomery
Vincent Tanaka - Redondo Union
Rion Yamamoto - South
Kyler Yee - Fountain Valley

Middle School

Kai Ashikawa - Casimir
Leah Comfort - Tincher Preparatory
Daniela Glinn - Casimir
Yuzuha Imanishi - Parras
Elise Lo - Stanford
Davy Low - Casimir
Luke Ratana - Calle Mayor
Zoe Remmenga - Casimir
Ryusei K. Yasuo - Casimir

WELCOME!



Brooklyn Akemi Campbell

Born April 23rd, 4:02am, 6lbs 8oz, 20"
Parents: Amie & Kyle Campbell
Grandparents: Lance & Carolyn Campbell
Kent & Jody Komae

Runa Takahashi

Born May 15th, 3:12am, 5lbs 10oz
Parents: Anna & Sho Takahashi
Grandparents: Eiji & Emi Osato



Shion Eliseo Martinez

Born May 24th, 2:27pm, 7lbs 7oz, 20"
Parents: Andres & Ayuna Martinez
Brother: Kaishi Martinez



CALENDAR

- June 26: Brazil Short Term Mission Team Send-Off
June 27: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk
Festival of Lights Family Day
July 3: Office Closed
July 4: Independence Day
July 6: Dr. Patrick Zukeran Seminar
July 8: Dr. Patrick Zukeran Seminar
July 11: Work Day
The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk
Fun w/Friends & Family Talent Show
July 18: Hearts for Widows Fellowship Gathering
July 19: Vacation Bible School Set-Up
July 20-24: Vacation Bible School
July 25: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk

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
Youtube: www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube

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