

THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



HELLO CHURCH FAMILY!

As we launch into the Fall Season, I praise God that we are PACKED with local and global missions. Globally, in September, we are praising God for His good work from our Japan and Brazil short term mission teams and we are starting to train our next Thailand short term missions team. Locally, in September, GVBC is partnering with the city of Gardena in Keep Gardena Beautiful—a city-wide cleanup event to pick up trash, garden, and show practical care for our local streets and parks. Then, in October, we will also be blessing local families with young children in our community with a Local School Rainy Day Pack giveaway connected to Harvest Festival. Finally, in December, we will be hosting a Christmas craft booth at the City's Winter Wonderland event to help share the Biblical Christmas narrative through arts.

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Please prayerfully consider joining in GVBC local missions using the following [online registration form](#).

Now, that all can feel like a lot of busy activity, so I want to take a moment to share a GVBC outreach strategy that helps us ensure we are not just running programs, but reaching people.

The Apostle Peter gives us here 3 critical movements on missions here and these help us to live out our GVBC vision of an inside-out faith and spirituality in our outreach:



Sign up to help with Local Missions!

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

1. PRAY

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord...

Our first step in missions is a holy and sanctifying relationship with Jesus Christ. Without it, we will tend to focus on our own busy work of planning and scheduling instead of realizing God's deeper work of revealing truth, forgiving sin, and healing wounds. So, I would like to encourage every church outreach event, ministry, and conversation to be carried with unceasing prayer (1 Thess 5:17). This means we not only pray before and after an event, but althroughout

the event to a God who is sovereignly at work by His Spirit in people's hearts and lives.

What this looks like is: right in the middle of a conversation, you ask God, "Holy Spirit, show me your heart for this person. Help me to see what you see in them. Give me courage to say the words you want to say to them."



2. CONNECT

...but do this with gentleness and respect



Gentleness is closely akin to humility and the way of Christ come to us as a baby in a manger. Respect is closely akin to healthy fear and awe of others when we see that they are created and loved by God. How often has missions felt like one superior fixing the problems of one inferior? Or carrying a Savior mentality towards poor and lowly people? Missions with gentleness and respect is, instead,

being profoundly struck by the image of God in others, like “This person is beautiful, created in the image of God, and deeply loved by Jesus.”

What this can look like in an outreach relationship is walking closely with others wherever they are at and helping them take one step closer to Jesus.

3. SHARE

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.



The original emphasis here with hope is a possessed hope—a “you-have” hope, so the answers we prepare should be testimonies where it is clear: Jesus is real and alive in us. This is just like the blind man in John 9: “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

What this can look like in our outreach is: a 10-second testimony that looks the same: “I was ____, but now I ____.” Sharing real faith in short bursts can make all the difference in the world toward effectively turning people’s hearts more and more to seeing God.

Pray, Connect, and Share. This Fall and coming year, I invite you to join in our local and global outreaches as well the training workshops connected. God really is on the move locally in our community and globally around the world and I’m excited to take a part in it together with you!

Until All Have Heard,

James Chang

Outreach Pastor

PROPERTY MINISTRY UPDATE

There are so many projects going on, that there's never a dull moment supporting Property Ministry!

ROOFS!

All of our flat roofs have been replaced: over the Community Hall, Room 201, the offices and newer classrooms, and over the older classrooms behind the sanctuary. The work just finished up in time for the recent rain. We continue to work with the roofing company and the roofing supplier to ensure the roof will have a 30-year warranty, so that it lasts as long as our new solar panels.



SOLAR PANELS!

Did you notice the newly installed conduit from the roof to our electrical room in the southwest corner of the building (near the trash dumpster)? This is the first step of our Solar Panel project.

The Solar Panel plans have been approved by the City of Gardena. The electrical work is underway. The mechanical work (installing roof brackets, racks and the panels themselves) will take place over 3-4 weeks in November. Approval from Edison is expected in early 2027.

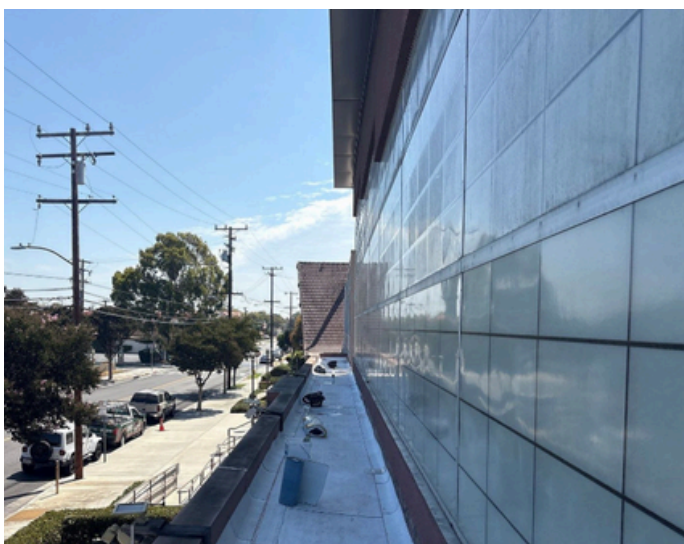
PARKING LOTS! FLOORS! HALLWAYS! STAIRS! & MORE!

Next up:

- Resurfacing our 2 parking lots
- Replacing flooring in the hallways and stairwells
- Starting to replace cabinetry in the kitchen & Rm 113.

Plus there are always the routine repairs and maintenance of our doors, sprinklers, fans, timers, elevators and a host of other things that just wear out over time.

If anyone would like to get involved with the property ministry, please reach out to us via the church office – new hands and skills are always appreciated!



In the meantime, please be aware that everything at church lasts longer and works better with a little bit of TLC. *Thank you*, everyone, for ensuring doors are locked and lights are out when you finish with your ministries and gatherings at the end of an evening!

Hermann Schurr

Property Ministry

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS

CYRIL NISHIMOTO - IWA

IWA has been confronted by a number of setbacks recently. First, IWA's president Stan Inouye's home was destroyed in the Eaton fire. Insurance issues, rebuilding efforts and participation as a plaintiff in a class action suit against Southern California Edison has consumed much of his time. In April, Stan's 104 year old mother passed away. Fortunately, he was able to spend a week and a half with her prior to her passing. Her Celebration of Life service was held in Northern California with family members in May. In addition, Stan tripped and fell on his face in June and had to be hospitalized for a few days. Please pray for Stan and his family. It has been a rough few months.

Our tea project, **Iesu Chado - the Jesus Way of Tea**, has been delayed because of the above factors and also because our tea room had to be cleared out and prepared for Summer activities at our location, the First Presbyterian Church, Altadena.

Iesu Chado will provide an opportunity for participants to immerse themselves in an encounter with Jesus himself that nothing else could give them. They will also experience for themselves the transformational impact that in the sixteenth century led so many sworn enemies to reconcile and for many Japanese to become unshakeable Christians.

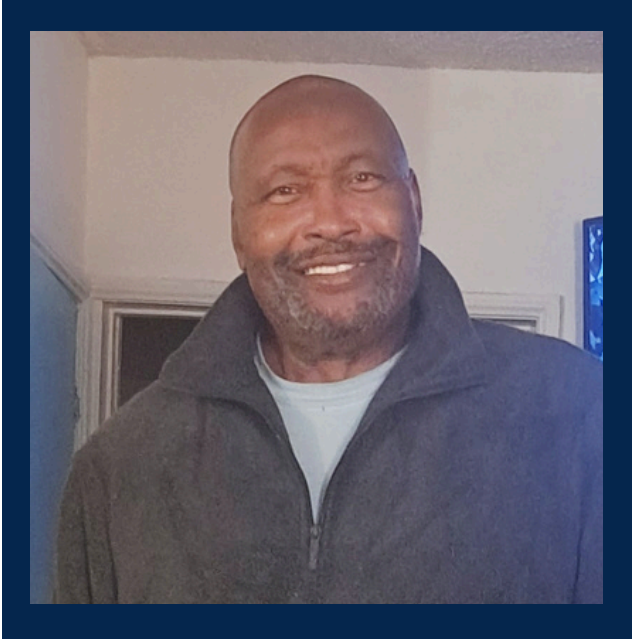
Interest has been shown in Southern and Northern California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii for Iwa to bring Iesu Chado to these areas. Iwa's video about the tea ceremony entitled **Heat, Tea, Water: Japanese Tea Ceremony Through Christian Eyes** was shown at the 2025 JEMS Mt Hermon Family Camp.

Keep praying for us. We believe that it's all in God's hands and in His timing. Thank you for your support!

For His glory,
Cyril Nishimoto



FAMILY NEWS



Chester Gordon

Please pray for the family of Chester Gordon, a faithful regular attendee, on his recent passing. There will not be a memorial service. His wife Jeri and family thank you for your prayers.

Congratulations!

Tommy & Sarah Shiota

The couple was married on August 22nd, 2026 at GVBC, with Daniel officiating.



CALENDAR

Sept 26: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk
Oct 2: Parent Workshop: Discipline with Love
Oct 3: Work Day
Fall Game Night
Oct 4: Budget Q&A
Oct 10: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk
E-TIME - The Bridge Concert
Oct 11: Baptism Sunday
Oct 15: Widower's Group
Oct 17: Women's Breakfast Fellowship
Oct 24: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk
Oct 31: Harvest Festival
Nov 1: Connect (Membership) Class
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
Youtube: www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube

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