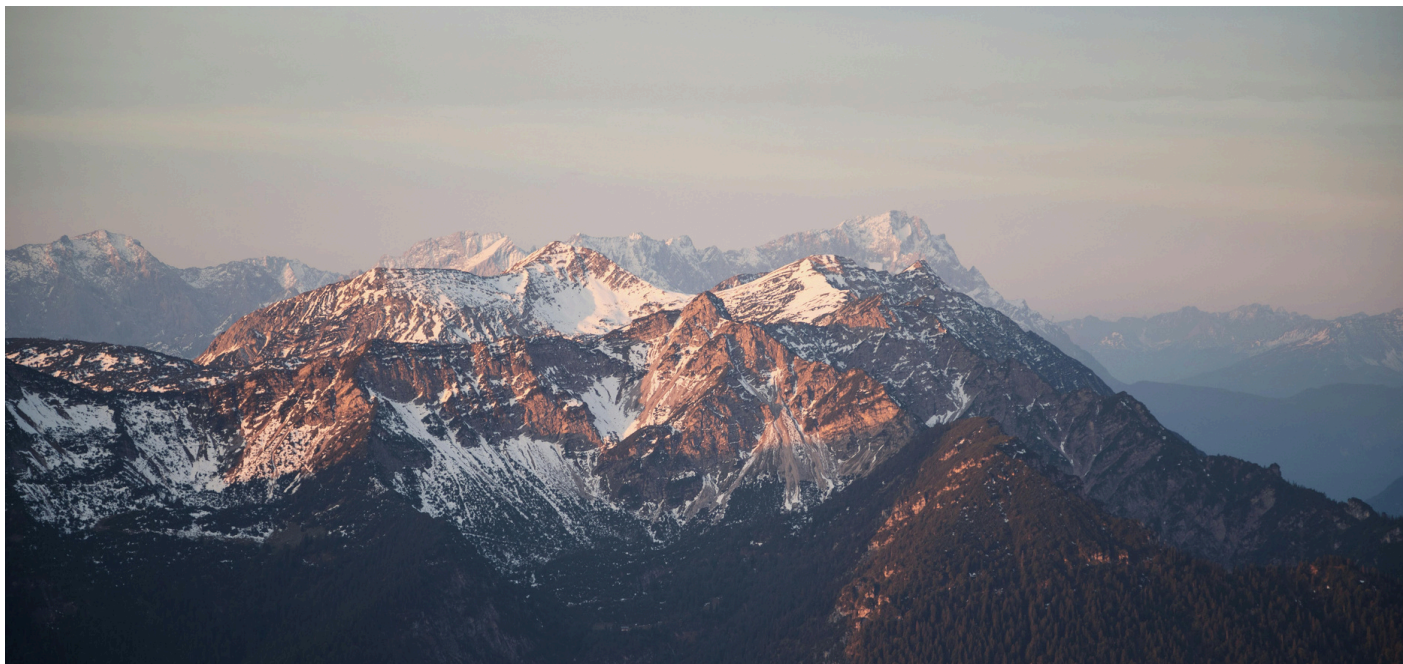


# THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



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# THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

As we've been reading through Genesis in our Bible reading plan, we come to Genesis 22. God makes a shocking request of Abraham in verse 2:

*Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.*

Wait what?

Isaac is the miracle son that God provided to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. Isaac is the fulfillment of God's promise that Abraham would have countless descendants. Abraham is now being asked to release this miracle and this promise and give it all back to God?

Yes, that's exactly what's happening here. And the very next morning, Abraham loads up his donkey and sets out on a journey to obey God's command.

Abraham builds an altar, then binds Isaac and lays him on top of the wood. He takes the knife and is just about to slay his son but is stopped by the angel of the Lord. Just like we saw recently in Genesis 16, the angel of the Lord is another appearance of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. The angel of the Lord says these powerful words to Abraham in verse 12:

*Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.*

Abraham then saw that God provided a ram instead for the burnt offering in place of his son Isaac, so he called that place Jehovah-Jireh, meaning the Lord will provide.

God has always been, and will always be, Jehovah-Jireh. We need to be reminded again and again that the Lord will provide. The ultimate example of this is when God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son to die on the cross for our sin. Unlike Isaac, Jesus was not spared from death. But the important parallel is that just as the ram was offered as a substitute for Isaac, in the same way Jesus was offered as a substitute for you and me. Genesis 22 is a beautiful foreshadowing of the gospel.



Jehovah-Jireh will continue to provide for us today. No matter what you are facing right now in your personal life and relationships, are you willing to have the incredible faith of Abraham? Are you willing to make hard sacrifices when it comes to obeying the voice of God? As you live by faith, you will experience his continual provision.

My prayer is that here at GVBC, we will fix our eyes on Jehovah-Jireh in the months ahead. May we hold fast to the power of the gospel, having full confidence that as we passionately pursue Jesus, the Lord will provide!

His Servant,

*Daniel Matsuda*

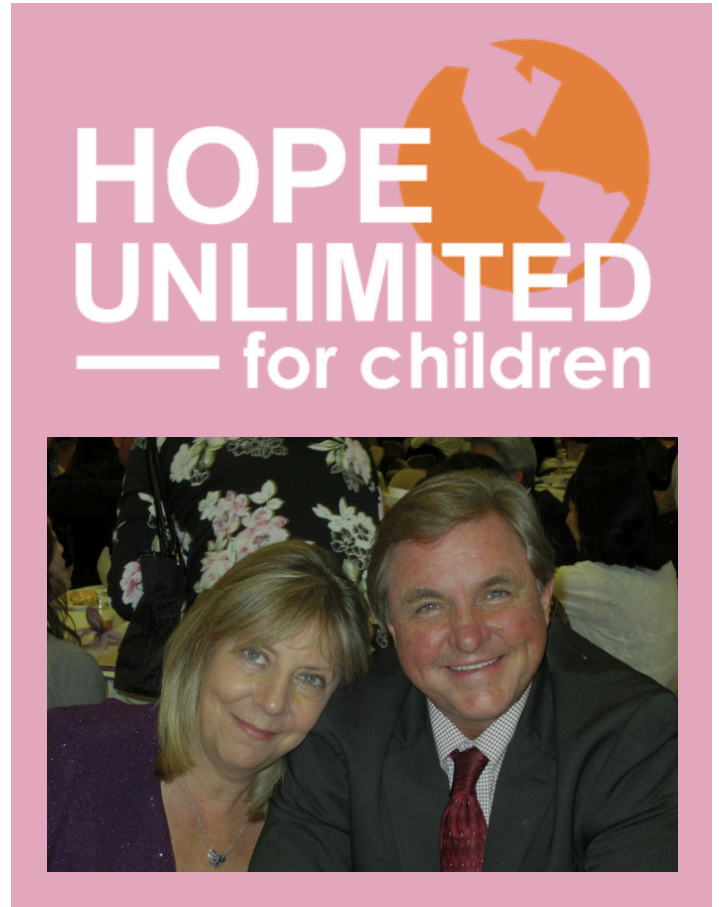
*Senior Pastor*

# VALENTINE CARDS

## *For Youth in Brazil*

In Brazil, Valentine's Day is celebrated in June. For many of the youth who end up at Hope Unlimited, abuse and exploitation are all too common and they are often confused about concepts of love. The staff at Hope Unlimited use these cards to discuss love and healthy relationships. Some of these kids have never received a letter or card from anyone so it matters a lot to them!

What started out at the small dining table of Nancy Langley and a few people grew into a church-wide event. This year marks our third year of having a church-wide card-making event to make Valentine's cards for the children at Hope Unlimited, which includes both the City of Youth and Hope Mountain campuses, through their Heart for Kids program.



This year, several volunteers helped create card kits, which allowed even more people to help create cards, as we doubled the number of cards we made from previous years. The goal has always been to make enough that each child would get at least one card. This year we were able to create almost 300 cards in total. Praise God! And thank you to all who came out to the event days, made cards and card kits, and provided food/snacks. It truly was a blessing to see God's love poured out through this event.

Please continue to pray for the kids who will receive these cards, as well as the Smiths and Hope Unlimited staff.



# HEARTS FOR WIDOWS

God's love was evident during the inaugural Hearts for Widows ministry event, where 24 widows enjoyed a meal together, and had a time of connection, encouragement and joy. Helping Hands, a ministry responding to God's word ("Give proper recognition to those widows who really need help" - 1 Timothy 5:3) was introduced to support widows with tasks their husbands previously handled. The event was a wonderful display of God's love and hope through fellowship and faith-filled encouragement.



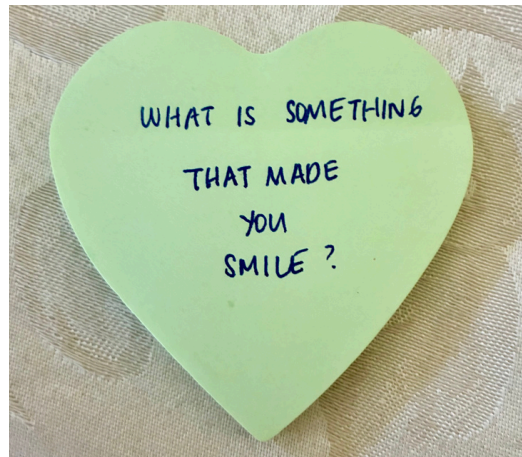
*Sharon Koshiyama Woo*  
Hearts for Widows Ministry



*Join us for our next event on Saturday July 18th!*



*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.  
Psalm 68:5*



# LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS

## **TOMMY DYO - EPIC/CRU**



My primary role is recruiting and sending students & staff to our partners in Asia. Now and through the summer I will be briefing & debriefing several mission teams, and mentoring new staff in Cru's Core Doctrine curriculum. I have been traveling quite a bit lately-- in mid April I flew to Dallas for the Cru Orientation weekend (COW), to train the incoming interns serving internationally with Cru & Epic. Then in late April I was in Houston for Cru's Multi Ethnic Staff Conference. In mid May I will be in Kyoto, Japan to debrief interns who have served in Asia for the past two years. And in June I will be in Southeast Asia, to debrief the Cru short term mission team & to connect with local missionaries.

Prayer requests:

1. That I focus on the Word of God as I also ponder world events.
2. Open doors and connections in the community.
3. That I encounter inquisitive hearts who are open about hearing more the Message of Jesus Christ.

## **JAMES CHOUNG - INTERVARSITY**

Please keep Jinhee's medical situation in your prayers. We covet the covering prayers of the GVBC family for my family. This is a rough road to walk and we cannot walk this alone. Thank you.



## **FRED AND JANE TANAKA - CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP (CEF), RETIRED**

Jane, a good and faithful servant of our Lord, passed away on April 25, 2026 at 91 years old. Fred started serving with CEF in 1963. They were married in 1966, upon which Jane joined Fred to serve in Japan. GVBC has partnered with Fred and Jane for over 60 years. They have always considered GVBC their home church. Fred, 93, now resides in a senior board and care facility in Ibaraki prefecture Japan. Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ has always been Fred and Jane's top priority. Even in retirement, they constantly shared the love of Christ with their caregivers, roommates, facility staff and friends.



Jane's memorial service was held on April 29th and we were fortunate to be represented by Emi Osato. GVBC provided a flower arrangement and appropriate koden in her memory. Fred is thankful to GVBC for all of our years of support and partnership, and said that Jane was ready to go home to Jesus. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!! The Missions Ministry members all feel honored and humbled to have served alongside Jane these many years.

# MAY BOARD UPDATE

Most of the May Board of Deacons meeting was spent discussing staffing changes and reflecting on ministry priorities, as well as how administrative tasks and decisions can impact the work of the church. While we always look forward to new opportunities, we acknowledged that experiencing a series of changes in a relatively short period of time affects the staff and can lead to a feeling of instability for the congregation. Some people might want to see more change more quickly, while some changes may drive others away. These are things that require prayerful and thoughtful consideration.

We can give thanks for the fruit yielded by a ministry and see that they give way to seeds that can grow into something new. J-Night, which introduced many Japanese students and young people to Christ and GVBC's Nihongo Ministry over the last 15 years, sunseted last month. While J-Night has come to a close, there are new ideas to minister to Japanese-speakers in various stages of life and spiritual growth.

There are more changes to come, like with the Young Adult & College Ministry. We invite the whole congregation to engage in open conversations with staff members, the Board and one another about all the ministries we're invested in, and we hope everyone will trust in each other and GVBC's leadership.

As always, the Board reviewed the churches financial statements. The finalized financial statements from March 2026 showed that the total general fund revenue was \$115,329, while expenses were \$137,303. The Board acknowledged that we ended the first quarter with a deficit, which is not unusual, but the staff, Board and Finance Committee will keep an eye on things.

Other items addressed at the Board meeting included:

- Rescinding an obsolete item in the church Property Policy from the 1980s about the church van.
- Celebrating GVBC's connections with the community beyond our walls, like the Gardena Walks group, which a few of our members have joined.

GVBC will continue to change and grow with the needs of the congregation and the community. We are grateful for your continued prayers and service to one another in the Lord's work!

*Amy Kushigemachi*

*Church Clerk*

## **Welcome Pastor John Shin**

We welcomed Pastor John, his wife Hannah, and their children Matthew (12), Haven (9) & Hollyanna (6) to our church family on Sunday May 10th. Praise God for His sovereignty in bringing them to GVBC!



# FAMILY NEWS

## WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO

Saturday June 20th, 2PM-7PM

All are welcome! Win "white elephant" prizes and spend a fun time together. Bring friends, family, and a potluck dish. White elephant (new or gently used items you already own) item donations will be accepted starting 5/24. Bring them to the courtyard on Sunday!



## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Saturday June 27th, 1PM-3:30PM

There will be food and activities from Japan, Brazil, Thailand & Mexico for the families to enjoy at our night market style outreach event.



We are also in need of volunteers to help in all areas including food, activities, set up, clean up and welcoming visitors. To sign up to attend or to help, visit our [upcoming events page](#).

# MEMORIALS

Donations and Flowers are given in honor or loving memory:

TO  
Marion Shiota

FROM  
James & Wendy Hirano

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



Jane Tanaka

Jane Tanaka went home to be with our Lord on Saturday April 25. She was 91 years old. She leaves behind her husband Fred, 93. The Tanakas started serving in Japan in 1963 with Child Evangelism Fellowship. GVBC was their home church, and started supporting them as missionaries in 1962. Please keep Fred in your prayers.

# CALENDAR

- May 23: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk  
May 25: Memorial Day - Office Closed  
Pickleball - Fun w/Friends & Family  
May 30: Work Day  
June 6: The Forge Men's Ministry - Fellowship Gathering  
June 13: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk  
June 20: Women's Fellowship Gathering  
White Elephant Bingo  
June 21: Father's Day  
June 27: The Forge Men's Ministry - Table Talk  
Festival of Lights Family Day  
July 20-24: Vacation Bible School

# 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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