



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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Let me just start off saying that I thank God for this privilege to share what I've been learning and how God has been working in my life. As you may or may not have noticed, since Pastor Ichibei wrote the Thanksgiving letter, he asked me, Reo, to write in this month's upward way.

"For by GRACE you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" Ephesians 2:8-9

I recently watched a video by Pastor Justin Cox from the Passion 4 Christ Movement and he was explaining that in church, we hear this so often that it becomes ingrained into our heads. We are saved by grace through faith, we are saved by grace through faith. But we aren't saved by *saying* that we are saved by grace through faith or by just *knowing* that we are saved by grace through faith. We have to need it! Can we prove that we were ever under God's wrath? Do we really believe and understand that this is the only way that we can be redeemed by God?

God would be well pleased if I were to go to hell because I am such a wretched sinner, deserving of His infinite wrath and punishment! But Praise God for His GRACE through His Son Jesus Christ!

This I remind myself daily especially during this tough time where I recently graduated college and without a full time job. It is definitely discouraging, applying to so many jobs and not hearing back from

them. But, God amazingly continues to provide by allowing me to work here at the church. Matthew 6:25-27 really comes to mind when Jesus says,

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?"

It is so easy to fall into the trap of worrying about the future and what to do with my life, but Jesus is saying that it is because of GRACE that I am alive and able to live each day. God can take my life any moment, even while writing this letter! With this in mind, I ask myself, how am I spending my time each day that God has given me? Am I constantly worrying, trying to map out my future plans, or am I taking the time to enjoy Him, reading His Word, building up relationships, and using each day for His Glory? I am definitely challenged and struggling and would greatly appreciate your prayers. I thank and praise God for His amazing grace, which is truly sufficient for me, and for you!

By His Amazing Grace, Reo Yoshida

LET US PRAISE, PRAY, AND PARTICIPATE

"For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." (John 1:16)

• We thank God for His continual care for all of us. We thank God for the recent provision of jobs for some of our church members! Please continue to pray for: *Frank Ogura* (general health); *Kiyo Uda* (hip pain); *Florence Uyeda* (lungs; for strength); and for *Carlos Carter* as he moves to Japan to rejoin his family and to study there. Please also pray for serviceman *Derek Hannahs* as he will be going to Iraq.

• Please continue to pray for **Pastor Brent** as he is now overseas working in Central Asia. He greatly appreciates your prayers and financial support. You can support Pastor Brent financially, directly through *People International* (account: *Brent #104*), or give through our church by designating it as "Pastor Brent".

• On Wednesday, November 25th, from 7 p.m., we will have a **Thanksgiving Eve Service**, in which we will have a joint English and Japanese praise time followed by a separate time of sharing and prayer. Afterwards, we will enjoy eating pie together. Please join us!

• On December 5th, **SDJCC's Youth Group** (6th to 12th graders) will enjoy their **annual Christmas Party** starting at 5 p.m. with a potluck dinner at the Vogt's house. Come to have fun and get to know others better! For more information, please contact the Vogts at 858-536-9998.

• The **Outdoor Family Fellowship** will be going to the Point Loma Nazarene First Church Messiah concert for FREE on Dec. 6th at Pt Loma Nazarene University, instead of the original Copley Symphony Hall event. The concert starts at 3 pm so bring your lunch and outdoor sports stuff for a time of food and fellowship beforehand. For more details, check our website or contact Rita.

• We thank God for the Sunday school children who are currently practicing songs and memorizing lines for this

year's **Christmas Program** titled "The Christ In Christmas". This year's program will be performed on Sunday, December 13th, at 7 p.m., preceded by a delicious dinner at 5 p.m. prepared by *Chef Ed Dunn & Company*. Please pray for this special night, and invite family and friends to come for a joyous time. (For the kids: Don't forget the **Dress Rehearsal** scheduled for Dec. 12th, time TBD.)

• **WinterVision Conference** for the youth (6th to 12th graders) will be held at the Koinonia Conference Grounds in Watsonville, January 15-18, 2010. To register go online to <http://www.sfvhc.org/wv>.

• We thank God for the opportunity to serve our Conference by hosting the **2010 General Conference** next July 9-10. We will have our first planning meeting in December. Please pray about your role in the planning and hosting of this once a decade event.

• We thank God for **The Truth Project** held on Saturday nights at the church from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Please join us for this exciting, challenging, and life-transforming Christian worldview tour! To find out more, go to www.thetruthproject.org.

Upcoming Sunday worship schedule:

Nov. 15 th	"Christ-centered Teaching" (Galatians 2:11-21)
Nov. 22 nd	Guest Speakers: Roy & Nancy Toma
Nov. 29 th	Guest Speaker: Rev. Hideyo Ando
Dec. 6 th	"True Spirituality" (Galatians 3:1-5)
Dec. 13 th	"Living By Faith" (Galatians 3:6-14)
Dec. 20 th	"Jesus Christ: The Promised Seed" (Galatians 3:15-22)