



## GARDENA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

# A New Thing

BY TOMMY MORSE

Have you realized that 2021 is now over 50% finished? In catching up with people this year, I've been using the term "2020+". The nature of online service and fellowship made the beginning of this year feel the same as last. Our typical cultural markers, gatherings, or whatever you do to celebrate the beginning of the new year were lost for many of us. I had felt a sense of trudging along, and a weightiness to getting through last year and early this year.

But a few months ago, as things began to reopen, I started to notice that, as silly as it sounds, 2021 is not 2020. Today does not need to be just a continuation of how things have been. As the new youth director, I started asking the Lord to show me what his vision for ministry might be this year. He directed me to rally around having our hope set firmly in Him and Him alone. And specifically, to **Isaiah 43:19**, which became the core of our Summer Camp theme, "**Renew**".

## Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.

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Despite the year and online ministry meetings feeling all too similar and monotonous, God never stopped working. In fact regardless of whether I was aware of it or not, just as Jesus says, God is **always** at work (John 5:17). He is always doing something **new**. Reaching new people with His word and His kingdom. Bringing new life, and yes praise the Lord he has done that even before reopening happened. Reopening served as a way for God to get my attention off of the work that goes into keeping ministry going day to day and back onto what He is doing. Church family, I pray that we don't fall into the rut where ministry simply feels "same-same but different." Our hope is not an idle one. It rests in a God who lives, moves, and is presently active.

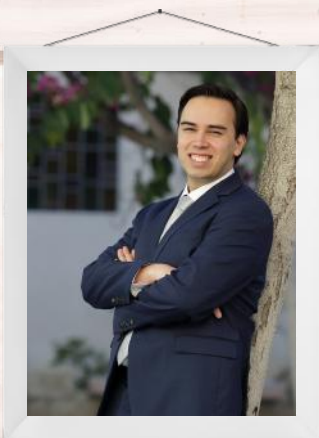
Would you join me in prayer for our upcoming Summer Camp, being held from August 1-6?

Pray for:

- **Renewed hope.** Though circumstances might be getting better in some ways, I pray that our students can learn to have their hope firmly in faith in Christ (Rom. 15:13)!
- **Renewed love.** Pray that Christ might be loved and valued as he ought to be, with joy that comes with finding a treasure of immeasurable worth (Mat. 13:44)!
- **Renewed vision.** Pray that all of us can catch a glimpse of God's heart and what He's up to. Because He is working and we want to join with Him!

Back in Isaiah's time, God said to His people, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" I pray that in each of our lives, we might perceive the opportunities to share Christ's love and the truth of the Gospel with the people God is sovereignly arranging for us to engage with.

**Tommy Morse**  
**Youth Director**







# Hollord Choi

BY CYNTHIA COPELAND

At first glance, Hollord Choi appears to be like most generation Z college transfer students. Getting settled into an apartment near CSULB, Hollord is preparing for studies in the health science field. He credits his parents for instilling a love of the Lord and recalls rarely missing a Sunday service. During family camping trips his parents organized worship in the woods. At the invitation of a friend, Hollord began attending GVBC in March 2019.

Between academic demands, church and extracurricular activities, Hollord discovered the hobby of thrifting, which transitioned into other creative endeavors. **"I took an AP course in environmental studies which explored the many ways the clothing industry takes a toll on the environment."** He wished to repurpose well-made clothes into unique creations. Designing and customizing these garments gave them each a new life which Hollord examines in the context of his spiritual beliefs of our uniqueness in the eyes of God. **"The clothes I create have a hidden symbolism that is revealed to me during the creative process. We are unique in His eyes and each creation is a representation of this thought. I think about the way I put outfits together as an opportunity to glorify the Lord with specificity and intent."**

While putting together various design elements, Hollord is also mindful of the spiritual practice of discernment. **"I try different colors, patterns and switch things around. There are times when it seems something is missing or not right so I try different elements."** He describes being in the flow during these moments when his focus on his project is so sharpened that he loses track of time. Creating these garments is also a gift of love. He designed a reversible jacket for a friend's birthday. **"I wished to give something of myself to my friend rather than purchase a gift I had no hand in making. I had the idea for making the jacket at midnight and worked all night until I saw the sun. I messed it up several times but I kept thinking about the way I envisioned the jacket. The final result was far more than I imagined."**

During conversations with college advisor, Brad Toy, Hollord clarified his spiritual needs to both feed others and be fed and he feels that GVBC provides this balance. He enjoys the college ministry but also looks forward to the main service. **"It is refreshing to see all ages come together in the Zoom breakout rooms; I get to share time with people of all ages."** He contemplates how to use his unique gifts to serve the Lord. **"Wouldn't it be great to create a line of T-shirts that had a crown of thorns or a Bible citation embedded in the design? The design may prompt others to question its meaning and it would create opportunities to answer questions about why as believers we are asked to love others who don't love us or who are unlovable. No one would ever feel excluded."**



# Nihongo Service Reopening

BY PASTOR EIJI OSATO

What a joy it is to worship together **in-person**! Nihongo ministry started in-person Sunday service on June 20th after 15 months of being online. Before the Covid-19 pandemic started, we had around **100 people** in Nihongo Sunday service every week. In our first in-person service after 15 months, we had **50 people** in attendance. Out of 50 attendees, **6** of them were first time comers. They were watching Nihongo online service and decided to come to worship at church. **We thank God** for using Nihongo online service not only to nurture Nihongo members, but also to help non-churched Japanese people come to Christ.



Actually during the 15 months of online only services, **over 200 people** were watching Nihongo online service every week. This means Nihongo Sunday service attendance was **doubled**. And at least **5 people** came to Christ through watching our online service. Praise the Lord! It is our great joy to come back to church to worship together in-person, but there is a great need to continue to provide good quality online services to help both our church members who cannot come to church with various reasons and non-Christian Japanese who are watching our online service. We had 50 people again in our second in-person service on June 27 and had 177 views online service on that day. Yes, it is our great joy to worship together in-person, but we thank God that more people are worshipping together with us in **different places**.





# Missions Report

BY BOB MATSUSHIMA



JEMS

## Japanese Evangelical Missions Society 2021 Mt Hermon Conference

The theme of this conference was: Rejoice in Hope, Be Patient in Tribulation, Be Constant in Prayer. Last year, because of Covid, the JEMS Mt Hermon camp did not take place for the first time in approximately 70 years. Over 400 attended the English section this year.

Pastor Greg Mah of South Bay Community Church was the evening inspiration speaker and the morning teaching speaker was Pastor Jon Hori, who is the regional director for seeJesus.

## JEMS

Minako helped coordinate the Nihongo section, with 20 participants. The morning speaker was Pastor Motoichi Kimura of the Ninomiya Bible Church Son Chapel in Kanagawa prefecture. Pastor Takafumi Nagasawa of the Canaan Praise Church was the evening speaker. Our Nihongo pastor, Eiji Osato and his wife, Emi, attended.



Minako Fujimoto



Cyril Nishimoto

## IWA

Cyril reports: The small group from GVBC felt so abundantly blessed by the Lord, not just through the excellent morning and evening speakers, the thought-provoking seminars, the inspiring worship, the fun recreational activities, and the beautiful natural surroundings, but perhaps most of all, through the community of believers in Jesus, sharing life in Him together like one big family for an entire week, getting a generous taste of the love and unity that can't be experienced anywhere else this side of heaven. So through this small group, these rich blessings can't help but bless GVBC and others, as the uncontainable resurrection life of Jesus in them and the irrepressible work of His Spirit among them, flow out from them, into the world.





*Grace Hayashi*

### **InterVarsity**

We've (InterVarsity staff) been doing a lot of foundational work as a Strategy & Innovation department to set up systems to help coordinate to better meet student needs. Our department is currently working on preparing for the fall, with resources for new student outreach and for small groups. My particular focus is helping to prepare small group resources to be available online, which we hope will help students encounter God, explore what God is doing, empower people, and establish rhythms of community.

Blessings, Grace

**NATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
PROJECT**

2021-2022



## **Sophie Abe**

This upcoming school year, I will continue to mentor North High and Lennox Academy students. In addition, I will begin the NSP with students at Casimir Middle School.

I am fully funded! Thank you for joining me on God's mission to reach middle school and gig school students for the love of Christ!

*Thank you for your support!*

Sincerely, Sophie Abe

[sophie.abe@nationalschoolproject.com](mailto:sophie.abe@nationalschoolproject.com)

# Family News

## Letters

## Flowers

Donations and Flowers given in honor or loving memory:

From:

**Jean Nojima**

**Amy Kato**

To:

**Lyman Nojima**  
Building Fund

**Bob Kato**  
Missions

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

Dear GVBC,

Thank you for being there for my family and I and for the beautiful flower wreath. We deeply appreciate the support Pastor Daniel gave to us, and we are grateful for the time he spent with us. Thank you for your prayers and thoughts.

Sincerely,

**Pat Oda & Family (for Judy Dohi)**

GVBC,

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy, love and generosity you have shown our family during this difficult time. Your prayers, heartfelt words and the warm memories you have shared have been a great source of comfort and encouragement and is deeply appreciated. Thank you so much for the beautiful floral spray.

**The Sunahara Family**

**Jeff, Wendy, Shae & Charlize Sunahara**  
**Ryan, Janice, Drew and Keira Sunahata**  
**Stephanie Sunahara**

## Condolences



Danny Nakano

Our deepest sympathies to Wendy Nakano and family on the passing of husband, father, and grandfather **Danny Nakano**. He passed away on July 3rd. There will be a private service.



# Services

Online English  
Online Nihongo  
In-person English

10:00 AM @ [www.gvbc.net/bulletin](http://www.gvbc.net/bulletin)  
10:45 AM @ [www.gvbc.net/jp](http://www.gvbc.net/jp)  
[www.gvbc.net/inperson](http://www.gvbc.net/inperson)

# The Latest

Sports Ministry Reopened	7/19
2021 Youth Ministry Summer Camp	8/1 - 8/6
Youth Sunday	8/29
Angels Game	8/31

# Important Links

Youtube	<a href="http://www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube">www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube</a>
After Service Fellowship	<a href="http://www.bit.ly/GVBCfellowship">www.bit.ly/GVBCfellowship</a>
GVBC App	<a href="http://www.bit.ly/GVBCapp">www.bit.ly/GVBCapp</a>



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