



GARDENA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Local Missions

BY PASTOR JAMES

Dear GVBC Family,

For several months now, our Evangelism Ministry and Neighborhood Ministry have been in talks to merge together and form a new GVBC Core Ministry called: Local Missions. This merger made a lot of sense as both Evangelism and Neighborhood have been working closely with the City of Gardena. As a result, starting next year, the strategic outreach arm of GVBC will be simplified into 2 zones: Local Missions and Global Missions. We believe this will help to create a common vision and uniform strategy across all mission efforts at GVBC.

Ephesians 4:11-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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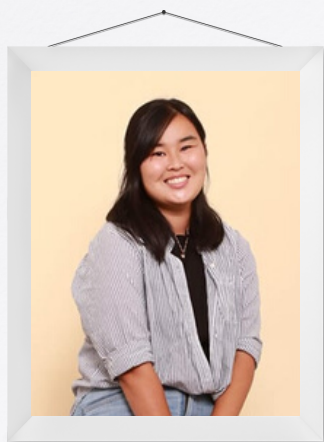
There will be two major initial emphases for GVBC Local Missions. First, we want to build transforming relationships with our local community. Over the last 10 years, GVBC Global Missions has been able to create long-term, strategic, and transforming relationships with missionary partners in Japan, Brazil, and Thailand.

We are praying that God would reveal this not just globally, but also locally. So, Local Missions will seek to build long-term, strategic, and transforming relationships with local focal points like: our local city, a local school, a local park, and even perhaps a local city block.

Second, we want to equip every GVBCer to be a local missionary. We believe that all of us are called to be local missionaries. The tendency for evangelism ministries in most churches is that the evangelism ministry does all the evangelism. But in actuality, what we learn from Ephesians 4:11-13 is that evangelism ministry is meant to equip all the rest of us to do the work of evangelism. To that end, we will be launching a Local Missions course for all GVBCers to take. This course will be customized to GVBC's unique calling in sharing the gospel in our local context of Gardena and the South Bay. We would like for every one of us to take this course.

All that to say, you are a local missionary. Did you know that? We want to equip you and send you out on the greatest mission on earth: to love your neighbors well and share with them the good news of Jesus Christ. Please pray with your loved ones and your community groups about getting involved with local missions and let's transform Gardena and the South Bay together.

Pastor James



Jenna Ikemoto

BY CYNTHIA COPELAND

This has been a season of multiple transitions for Jenna Ikemoto as she begins her credential program at CSUDH in mathematics, moves from the college ministry group to the young adult group and transitions in her role with Children's Ministry. Each of these transitions have occurred during the pandemic that began in March

2020 and the grounding of Jenna's faith in His constancy has enabled her to encounter each of these changes with calmness and acceptance.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12





Her **biggest uncertainty** is securing a **student observer assignment** as a number of school districts are curtailing in person options for student observers. Yet even with this, Jenna has remained faithful that God will continue to provide, guide and support her during her educational journey.

Her **career path** was made clearer when Jenna was in **8th grade** math. Her teacher integrated kinesthetic singing, dancing and rhythms into the mathematic curriculum which were used to explain the concepts but also made learning engaging and fun. Jenna pinpoints this eye-opening experience that learning math could be exciting and it marked the beginning of her interest in the possibility of teaching math.

Another aspect of Jenna's journey of faith is a sense of **gratitude**. The **Abe family** invited Jenna to GVBC in the 5th grade. She has been able to cultivate a number of close relationships as she moved through the children's ministry program, to the high school and college group led by **Brad Toy**. Recognizing her servant's heart, **Susan Wakuta** enlisted Jenna to work alongside **Julie Fong** and **Daniel Wang** in children's ministry and also in VBS.

Jenna recently made the transition from the college group into a weekly **Friday night young adult Bible study group** facilitated by **Wesley Shiozaki** and **Aaron Kuratani**. Currently they are studying the **book of John**. On the alternate week, the group plays assorted games via zoom. They get to know one another, communicate and bond using assorted software. The games require strategy and teamwork which adds another dimension to the fellowship among young adult members.

A deep sense of **gratitude and of awe figures** prominently in Jenna's life. CSUDH's program focuses on the diversity of the surrounding communities. In her role as a future educator, she is culturally sensitive to those students she has worked with. She regards each of her students as individuals with **unique needs** just as each of us are known by God. Jenna recalled a TED Talk lecturer speaking about his teaching experience in a school in an impoverished community in which children encountered very complex difficulties. **"I feel like so many things were provided to me and I also recognize how so many others are not as fortunate. I want to be there to support these kids because I have been so blessed myself."** As the final edits were made on her profile, God's plan for Jenna's path were made clear. She received news that she is **assigned as a student observer** in the classroom of her 8th grade teacher who inspired her nearly 10 years ago.

Annual Election Meeting

Our **2021 Annual Election Meeting** is coming up on **Sunday, November 14th**, in the Community Hall immediately following the Sunday service. For **church members**, the purpose of this meeting is to vote in new Board members as well as approve the 2022 church budget. It will be available both **in-person and online**. More details about a **pre-ordered lunch option** will be announced in the near future!

Respecting Elders Day

BY PASTOR EIJI



We had a special **Respect Elders Day Nihongo Service** on Sunday, September 19. We have **30 Nihongo members who are above 80 years old**, 14 of whom are above 90 years old. Out of these 30 members, 16 of them attended this special service which was a very traditional style service with many **old hymnals** singing. We gave thanks to God for these elderly members and asked Him to continue to bless them with good health. It was our joy to worship God together with these elderly members.

Youth Update

BY TOMMY MORSE, YOUTH DIRECTOR

September has been the closest thing to a **"normal"** month that we've had so far! We had one special event, Gym Night, that was interrupted by an earthquake. We were all a bit rattled but thanks to Guest Relation's help we had the okay to resume playing **sockey**! We also started "study hour", a time to **hang out and study together** after school on Thursdays with the students.

At the end of August, we started going through the book of **Micah on Friday nights**. It's been so good to simply go through the word, worship in song, and fellowship together with the students. We were able to start the school year off with a **consistent rhythm**. And I really thank God for that. I'm thankful for "normal", or as close as we can get to it because God has been using it to slowly form a new community within youth ministry. We've also had a **number of new students**. Please pray that God continues to use this next month to form genuine relationships and that His word would be **firmly planted** in the students' hearts.



Missions Report

BY BOB MATSUSHIMA



Jojo and Heather DeGuzman

CRU Headquarters, Florida

One of my main ministries, as International Care Staff, is to provide and coordinate care and resources for Cru's International Staff and advocate for them and their families. My responsibilities as I care for the staff under me, brings to me Joy, Challenges and Hope.

Aiden and Elijah have started public school. Please pray for their education and their attitude toward learning. Audrey has started on-line homeschool. Please pray for this new type of education and for her friendships with other on-line students.

Heather is now fully recovered from her surgery and is taking a Bible class on Missions.

Overseas Crusade - Brazil

We just celebrated our 45th anniversary of being in Brazil!!! We arrived in Brazil in 1976 with our 2 and 4-year-old children. At the beginning one meaningful time was when Diane bowed her head for at least 15 minutes as we traveled between Rio and São Paulo. She raised her head and said, "I asked the Lord to give me love for the Brazilian people, and He answered me!!" Wow, what a beginning.



Ken and Diane Kudo

Citylights, Long Beach

Things are still good with us, we are getting settled into the rhythms of the school year with sports and everything else. And at church we started up our in-person bible study which has been a real blessing. Thanks again!

Just wanted to acknowledge that I received that extra money the mission committee sent, and it came at the perfect time! Last month was the month that Val does not get paid as a teacher (only gets paid 11 out of 12 months) so that extra money hit right when we needed it, so thank you!

Tom & Val



Tom and Val Demarest



Rick Charman - Director

JEMS - Japanese Evangelical Missions Society

Due to the pandemic, we were able to host multiple generations of young and old at the Mount Hermon Conference Center. This year, our Youth Camps and Special Camp were virtual, however, young people were allowed to come to Main Camp and participate online with their respective youth camps or be a part of the Main Camp programming. It was a blessing to see families from infants to grandma and grandpa, all together in one place. Our older youths were able to hang out and enjoy the fountain, late night basketball, etc. with their peers. Indeed it was a unique week in response to a difficult pandemic season...

Pastoral Appreciation Month

BY MARCIA TOFUKUJI, PRC

October is Pastoral Appreciation Month and we would like to bless our pastoral staff, coordinators, and directors as they have loved and served our church family. We'll acknowledge them on stage during the service on **Sunday, October 24th**. We also encourage you to write notes or letters to let them know how they have touched your lives, and there will be a basket in the Narthex where you may drop them off. We thank God for each of them and look forward to celebrating them!

- **Doug Brown**, Senior Pastor
- **James Chang**, Associate Pastor
- **Daniel Matsuda**, Associate Pastor
- **Eiji Osato**, Associate Pastor – Nihongo
- **Michelle Schneider (Dresser)**, Media Director
- **Tommy Morse**, Youth Director
- **Brad Toy**, College Director
- **Susan Wakuta**, Children's Director
- **Tammy Hernandez**, Early Childhood Coordinator
- **Mae Kuratani**, Nursery Coordinator



Family News

Flowers

Donations and Flowers given in honor or loving memory:

From:

Amy Kato

Mary Maeda

To:

Bob Kato

Mike Maeda

Building Fund

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

Letters

The Gardena Emergency Food Pantry would like to THANK YOU for your generous donation. For over 40 years, the Food Pantry has been able to extend a helping hand to individuals & families in our community with food, bus tokens, case management and homeless services. Our resources have been impacted due to COVID-19 but your donation allows us to continue to serve our Gardena residents. We appreciate your support, together we will overcome and continue our mission to assist our community.

With gratitude,
Team Gardena

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones:

- Lilly, Megan and Paul Kawashiri on the passing of husband and father, **Shig Kawashiri**. He passed away on **September 10th, 2021**. His service was held at GVBC with Pastor Daniel officiating.
- Cindy Shirai on the passing of her mother **Margaret Shirai**. She passed away on **September 14th, 2021**. Her service will be at GVBC on October 29th at 1pm.

Services

Online English
Online Nihongo
In-person English

10:00 AM @ www.gvbc.net/bulletin
10:00 AM @ www.gvbc.net/jp
10:00 AM @ www.gvbc.net/inperson

The Latest

Right Hand of Fellowship
Pastoral Appreciation Sunday
Ministry Fair
Harvest Festival
Annual Election Meeting

10/17
10/24
10/24
10/31 @ 6 PM
11/14 @ 12 PM

Important Links

Youtube
After Service Fellowship
GVBC App

www.bit.ly/GVBCyoutube
www.bit.ly/GVBCfellowship
www.bit.ly/GVBCapp



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