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和 Central Harmony

Quarterly Newsletter of Central Japanese-American Community Church

Keiro Home Visit



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New Year's Service



「惜しまず豊かに」

パウロは、コリントへの手紙で、「惜しんでわずかしか種を蒔かない者は、刈り入れもわずかで、惜しまず豊かに蒔く人は、刈り入れも豊かなのです（2コリ9：6）。」と、明言しました。

さらに付け加えます。「種を蒔く人に種を与え、パンを糧としてお与えになる方は、あなた方に種を与えて、それを増やし、あなたがたの慈しみが結ぶ実を成長させてください。・・・あなたがたはすべてのことに富む者とされて惜しまず施すようになり、その施しは、わたしたちを通じて神に対する感謝の念を引き出します（10、11節）。」と、約束を言い切っています。

この魅力がおわかりになりますか？真の感謝の祈りとは、「私の所有物がどれくらい多いか」でなく、「私がどれだけ分け与えられるか」、「わたしがどれだけ太っ腹か」によって決まります。つまり、神さまが、どれほど私の持ち物を増やしてくれたのかによっては、感謝の祈りとはならないのです。どれだけ誰かに与えるか、なのです。

例えば、あなたのお家を思い浮かべてください。ガレージや屋根裏、タンスの肥やしになっているもの、空いているお部屋など、天国に宝を積むことができるものが、どれだけありますか？今まで集めて来た様々なコレクションの山、あるいは、困っている人を助けることのできる預金があるか、計算してみたことがありますか？「この世で富んでいる者は、霊的には貧乏である」と、聖書は明確に宣言しています（マタイ5：3）。

わたしたちは、霊的なこと、神の国のことをもっとよく、注意深く認識する必要があります。わたしたちの暮らしの中で、ものにしがみつくこと、どん欲が、どれだけ神の国を遠くにしているか、自己吟味をしたいと思います。

エレン・ホワイトは、息子夫婦、エドソンとお嫁さんに、手紙を書きました。聖霊に全く自分を捧げきりなさい！という勧告です。

「聖霊のバプテスマを受ける前に、わたしたちの天のお父様は、私たちを試されます。私たちの心を見られます。捧げないことによって、神の御名を汚していないでしょうか。」

(Letter 22, 1902, pp 9,10. "To Elder and Mrs. J. E. White," Feb. 1, 1902.)

教会の中には、人を助けられるはずの物、資金がどれだけ眠っているでしょうか。私の

聖霊の目を開いて頂きましょう！！

残念ながら、多くの北アメリカの教会は、アドベンチストも含め、ただそこにあるだけです。存在意義は、もはや失うわれています。過去の栄光にとらわれているだけ、枯れてしまっています。死んだ骨、枯れた骨があちこちに転がっている描写がエゼキエル書、37章にでてきます。これは、まさに現在の教会の姿を現しています。教会の人々は、良い人です。みんな本当に善人です。でも、ただの善い人なのです。「しかし霊がない！」と、エゼキエルは訴えています。若者がまだまだ用いられていません。失われた人々が、わんさか教会のまわりにはいます。この教会の一步外を出てみたらどうでしょうか？リトル東京とか、日系スーパーとか、日本人のいる場所に足を運んでみてください。そのほとんど90%以上は、まだ失われた人です。滅びていくのです。永遠に天国にはいない方々です。それでいいんでしょうか？

もちろん、神様は働きます。でも、わたしたちのまわりにいる失われた人々が、福音を知るのは、私たち次第なのです。その人のために、祈ってきたでしょうか？何かアクションを起こしてきたでしょうか？わたしたちのセントラル教会は、確かにすばらしい！みんなあたたかい！神の家族です。しかし、日系コミュニティーにどれだけ

インパクトを与えているのでしょうか？お餅つき大会には200人以上の人々が与えられましたよ。でも、それだけでいいんでしょうか？バイクにのって教会まで来てくれた人たち、本当にうれしかったですよ。若い子育て中のお母さんたちも沢山繋がっています。しかし、再臨のとき、彼が天国にいなかったら、だれの責任ですか？もし、本気で、彼らの魂が救われることを願っているなら、劇的な変化を起こすことができます。

「ところが、聖霊の約束は、それが尊重されなければならないほどには、尊ばれていない。約束の成就も実現されなければならないほどに、実際に現れていない。福音の事業を力のないものに行っているのは、この聖霊の欠乏である。学識、才能、弁舌など、先天的、後天的な一切のものが備わっていても、神の霊の臨在がないならば、人の心に触れることも、罪人をキリストに導くこともできない。その反面、どんなに貧弱で無知な弟子であっても、キリストと結合し、聖霊の賜物を所有しているならば、必ず人の心に触れる能力を持つことができる。神は彼らを用いて、宇宙間の最高の感化を及ぼす器となさるのである。（エレン・ホワイト、『実物教訓』301-303頁）」

聖霊を求めましょう。

「もっと太っ腹な人」にして頂きましょう。「惜しまず豊かに与える人」にして頂きましょう。そして、「宇宙の最高の感化を及ぼす器」として頂きましょう。

おわりに、牧師職の前の時期も含めると、ちょうど14年間、お世話になりましたセントラル教会には、言い尽くせない程の感謝でいっぱいです。振り返ると、思い出が次から次へと、出てきます。闇の中に居た私を光に導いたのも、3人の子どもたちが、教会とイエスさまが大好きになったのも、こうして、この

セントラルの牧会で、こんなにも祝福を頂けたのは、皆様のお祈りと、愛情です。お別れがとても寂しく辛いです。しかし、私達の使命は天国にあります。1人でも多くの日本人を、神の国、イエスさまのご再臨に導きましょう。いや聖霊がなさるのですが、聖霊の通り良き管にして頂きましょう。そして、天国で、イエスさまと一緒に、セントラルの皆さんと共にお会いしましょう。千葉にお越しの際は、是非遊びにいらしてください。

小原望

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“Unselfish Love”

Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NKJV) And then he adds a little later, “Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.” (v. 10, 11)

Do you see the incredible appeal that this holds? This is why the genuine prayer giving thanks goes something like this, not “You have increased my possessions by such and such an amount,” but rather, “You’ve given me this much, in order that I may share it,” or, “Thank you for how much you’ve made me a welcoming, generous person to those around me.” In other words, merely acknowledging our Father for what He’s given to us is not fully complete in terms of giving a prayer of

thanksgiving/appreciation. It is in His increasing your ability to give back out that is!

Think of your house: things kept in your garage, the attic, sitting in drawers, never used but held on to, or maybe even many rooms but they sit empty. How much of these are treasures that you can store up for yourself when you go to heaven? Have you ever calculated the value of items that you like to collect versus money set aside to help out those in need? Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) We need to have more at the forefront of our thoughts and focus those things which are eternal, God’s kingdom. We need to be truly honest with ourselves in seeing that perhaps our desires for things and even the wanting of things is the very thing which pushes us that much farther away from the things of God.

Ellen White wrote this in a letter to her son and daughter-in-law. It was a strong admonition to submit completely to the Spirit.

“Before giving us the baptism of the Holy Spirit, our heavenly Father will try us, to see if we can live without dishonoring Him.” (Letter 22, 1902, pp 9, 10. “To Elder and Mrs. J.E. White, “Feb. 1 1902.)

In our church, what resources, those which equip us to help those around us or financial support for example, may be lying dormant? Lord, open the eyes of my spirit to see and take hold of them, to put them to use!

Sadly, many North American churches, including Adventists, are just, there. The purpose for their existence has been lost in many of them. Despite maybe a more passionate and driven days in their past, lately they are drying up so to speak, like the dead dry bones scattered everywhere spoken of in Ezekiel 37. It could very well speak of us, even our own church. We are a nice, even good gathering of loving

people, but are we just that? “We are lacking in Spirit!” Ezekiel gives us this charge. The younger generations still have more room to be used. There are many who are still lost, in droves, around our church. What if we take a step outside our church or walk through Little Tokyo or peruse the aisles of a Japanese supermarket. 90% of the people you’ll see are those who are not yet saved. They will be destroyed. They will be those who never enter heaven otherwise. Is that ok with us?

Of course, God works and moves in ways that speak to us. However, if we want those around us to hear the hope of the gospel message of salvation, that is up to us. Have we prayed for such people? Have we thought to take some sort of action? That Central Church is filled with great people is without question! We are such a warm congregation! We are in God’s family. However, how much are we impacting the Japanese community? At the last mochi pounding event, we had over 200 people come to our church, but are we content to leave it as just that? To remember it as just an event in that which that many people stepped onto our church grounds? There were those who rode their bikes to get here; there were a great large number of families raising little ones. But at the time of Jesus’ coming, if these people are not in heaven, could we be partly responsible? What if we truly desired that their souls be saved? We could change to take action in a drastically different way.

“The promise of the Spirit is not appreciated as it should be. Its fulfillment is not realized as it might be. It is the absence of the Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless. Learning, talents, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner be won to Christ. On the other hand, if they are connected with

ユース・カウンスル / Youth Council

Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts. God makes them the channel for the outworking of the highest influence in the universe.” (COL 328, Ellen White)

Let us earnestly seek the Spirit and to be moved/used by it, to be the most influential vessels.

In closing, including the years before I officially became a pastor in this church, it has been 14 years with you as part of this loving church family, to which I am so indebted to. Words cannot express the gratitude from the bottom of my heart for this time I have had with you. Thinking on all those years, memory after memory comes flooding back. That I've been able to pull through dark times through tremendous support, that our three children have grown to love church and to love Jesus, and all the blessings that we have received through this church are due to your prayers and love for us. Parting is incredibly sad and

difficult. However, our sights are continually set on and our mission is to always be in looking towards Heaven. Let's help those around us, even if it is just one more person to be added into the fold, to be saved. At the same time that we experience the Spirit moving, let us allow it to flow freely and smoothly in our church. And lastly, I look forward to the day when we are in heaven, with Jesus, and reuniting with our Central Church family there as well. Until then, if you ever have an opportunity to come out this way, please come visit us in Chiba.

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皆さんこんにちは！ CJACC のユースは、集まってグループを作る事を決定しました。名称は、青年部です。僕たちはこの青年部の活動をとうして、リーダーシップ能力を高める事を目標としています。そして、共に霊的に成長し、世間の若者たちへの伝道を希望しています。

11月30日に最初の活動として、ユース・ベスパーを行いました。まず夕食をともにし、その後ベスパーを行いました。その晩は、たくさんのお祈りと共に、ビデオ鑑賞、賛美、そして青年部メンバー達が証をしました。また、松田ジェームソンが、神様が彼の人生にどのように働いておられるかについての短いメッセージを話しました。その晩、精霊が降りて来て僕たちと一緒にいられた事は確かです。僕たちが今回の集まりを楽しんだように参加した皆さんも楽しんで下さった事と思います。次回のイベントを乞うご期待下さい！

- ジェームソン松田

Hello everyone! The Youth of CJACC have decided to get together and form a group! We call ourselves the Youth Council. From this, we hope to achieve leadership skills. We also hope to grow spiritually together and to outreach to the youth of this world.

As an introduction to the church, we decided to put on a Youth Vespers! This took place on November 30th. We started off with dinner and the Vespers followed. The night was filled with prayer, videos, praise, and testimonies by our Council Members. A short message was given by Jameson Matsuda about how God worked in his life. There was no doubt about it that the Holy Spirit came down and joined us that night. We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did and we look toward to future events!

- Jameson Matsuda



クリスマス礼拝 / Christmas Program

昨年の12月22日に新しい教会で迎える2度目のクリスマスプログラムが行われました。今回は婦人部の人たちが用意くださったデコレーションで、教会はいつにましてもきらきらしたクリスマスシーズンを迎えることができました。プログラムの内容はたくさんの練習の成果で見られるすばらしい音楽、パフォーマンスそして私たちの主イエスキリストの出生を祝う説教です。私たちの教会にはたくさんのタレントが与えられこのような機会にそれぞれの賜物を会衆一同と共有できるのはとても感謝すべきことです。教会のプレイズバンドを始め、フラダンスグループ、ウクレレバンド、子供たち、聖歌隊の皆さんがそれぞれパフォーマンスを披露してくれました。そして何とサンタクロースもゲストとして登場しました！

一族の集まりでロスアンジェルスを訪ねて、様々な家族や友人たちに会えたりとクリスマスは楽しい時期です。私達のクリスマスプログラムはいつもクリスマスシーズンにおける楽しみの一部です。そして、プログラム後にあったパトラック！例年にもれなく皆おなか一杯食べ、食事と交友の時間が私たちの幸せと健康の重要な要素であることを実感したのです。心に響く賛美、音楽、楽しいパフォーマンス、愛らしい子供たち、おいしい食事、そして私たちの心に完璧な愛のギフトであるイエス様を送ってくださった神様への感謝を改めて感じさせてくれるすばらしい一日となりました。

- メリッサ外間



On December 22, 2012, Central Japanese-American Community Church hosted its 2nd Annual Christmas Program in our new church building. This year, the Women's Ministry also sponsored beautiful Christmas decorations that made our church sparkle even more than usual. It's always a time of busyness and many practices that culminate in a display of performances and musical numbers, as well as a sermonette to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. We are blessed with a wonderful church body that is able to bring their talents to the stage to share with the congregation for our special events. Our staple performances include our church praise band, church hula team, ukulele band, children's church performances, and the church choir. This year, we even had a guest appearance from Santa Clause himself!

It's always a fun time to see various family and friends that are visiting the Los Angeles area for their own family gatherings. The Christmas Program is always a fun part of our Christmas season, but what everyone also looks forward to is the grand potluck that follows it! Not a stomach left our campus empty, I'm sure! As a church, we believe that food and fellowship are invaluable components to being a happy and healthy family. All in all, it was a great day filled with inspiring praise, good music, fun performances, cute kids, great food, and renewed love and appreciation for the perfect gift of love that our Father sent to us through his Son Jesus.

- Melissa Hokama

餅つき大会 / Mochi-Pounding Festival

中央教会慣例の餅つき大会が1月13日日曜日に教会裏の駐車場で持たれました。朝10時から午後2時までの予定だったが、開場前から開場後まで多くの人々が参加して下さり、楽しい賑わいとなりました。

石臼と杵でつくお餅は非常においしくて、用意された海苔、甘辛醤油、ずんだ、納豆、大根おろし、あんこ、等をつけて食べた皆さんは大満足！！

今年は中村先生が不在で、お餅をつく人が居るか心配しましたが、代わりの人達がしっかり後を継ぎ、立派に餅つきを指揮して下さいました。

お餅を杵でついてみたい人には、チャンスをおあげしたので、写真を撮る人や、其の格好を見て笑う人で臼の周りはいつも賑わっていました。

集まった方達は勿論日本人をはじめ、中国人、アメリカ人と多彩で賑やかでした。子供達のために Bounce House も設置されて子供達は大喜びで、お餅を食べて、Jumper で跳びはねて消化に役立ったかも？

Women's Ministry が売り出していた、お味噌も BBQ ソースも売り上げは上々。皆さん健康食品には人気があります。今回の餅つき大会で集まった献金と味噌と照り焼きソースの売り上げは、合わせて800ドル程でした。このお金は、教会建設費に当てられます、ありがとうございました。また、教会員の方たちは準備から後片付けまで本当にご苦労様でした。

- 松田直枝



On Sunday, January 13, Central Church held their annual mochi-pounding festival in their church parking lot. The plan was to have it from between 10:00 in the morning to 2:00 in the afternoon, but to have so many people participating and helping out from way before the start time to way after the end time was incredible.

Mochi actually made by going through the pounding process with the wooden mallets ("kine" kee-ne) and traditional stone mortar ("usu" oo-soo) is especially tasty, and with all the side dishes to go along with them, from the "nori" seaweed, sweet soy sauce, "zunda" beans, to natto, "daikon oroshi" grated daikon, anko etc., eating the different combinations was enjoyed by everyone! Our Women's Ministry also sold their homemade miso and teriyaki sauce, so many were able to take home delicious healthy foods. Thanks to everyone, we were able to raise

close to \$800 towards our Church Building Fund.

This year we missed Pastor Toru not being here for the event, and while we worried for a second if there might not be enough people to carry out the heavy, pounding-intensive part of it, we were blessed to have plenty of able-bodied people willing to take on the task. And it was great to have not only Japanese guests but family and friends from all over, spanning various nationalities to join us as well. The bounce house was great as it also served as an outlet for the kids to release their energy once they filled up on yummy mochi! And thank you to our church members for working hard - from prepping early in morning to cleaning up late in the afternoon. It was a great day!

- Naoe Matsuda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Service

Saturday, March 30 at 10:00am.

Come and be reminded of the price Jesus paid for our salvation and celebrate victory over sin and death! Service will begin at 10am (no Sabbath School) with praise through music, singing, and dance, followed by a message by Dennis Imai. A feast of a potluck will follow the service, so come hungry!

Easter Social: Egg Hunt, Games, Potluck and more!

Sunday, March 31 from 11:00am-2:30pm

If you would like to participate in the egg hunt, please bring a dozen eggs per child (boiled & colored or plastic filled with treats) and a basket/bag to collect the eggs in. We ask that you also bring a potluck dish that does not require heating.

インターネットで献金ができます! ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE!

Tithe and donate to your ministry of choice by using your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or Debit Card. Please visit our website at www.centraljapanese.org and click the "TITHE AND DONATE ONLINE" tab.

Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly Events

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| * Japanese Language Ukulele Group | Tues 10am-11am |
| * Japanese Language Bible Studies | Tues 11am-12pm |
| * Praise Night | Tues 7:45pm-10pm |
| * Japanese Language Prayer Meeting | Wed 10am |
| * Total Life Seminar (Japanese Language) | Thu 10am-2pm |
| * Family Fun Night | Monthly |
| * Women's Ministry | Quarterly |
| * JHOP United (Praise Night) | Quarterly |
| * Oil Change Ministry (Japanese Outreach) | Quarterly |

If you would like to be added to our email list for announcements and updates, please contact Melissa at news@centraljapanese.org.

この教会のイベント情報などをeメールでお送りしています。ご希望の方は以下のアドレスからメリッサ外間まで news@centraljapanese.org.

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