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A Publication of the San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church  
"Growing together and reaching out in the love of Christ"

# Firmly Rooted

"Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him." Col. 2:6a

Vol. 20, no. 8

August 2010

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## Summer

What does summer conjure up in your mind? Some obvious ones are sunshine, vacations, no school, less commute traffic, and barbecues. Living in California, there is an abundance of natural beauty to see. The coastline has its rugged rocky edges and sandy beaches. The mountains are some of the tallest in the United States. Mount Whitney is nearly three miles high and Death Valley has the distinction of having the lowest point in U.S. at 282 feet below sea level or almost three football fields end to end. California is also home to the oldest (Bristlecone, 4,772 years), tallest (California Redwood, 379.10 ft.) and biggest (Sequoia, trunk diameter of 36.5 ft.) trees in the world. Yes, summer is a time to see and enjoy these wonders.

But summer is just one of four seasons in a year. Each has its own unique qualities. Fall brings cooler temperatures. Winter brings rain, snow and shorter days. Spring brings forth warmer, dryer weather and new life in nature.

Similarly, our lives have seasons. You may be starting a family, caring for an elderly parent, dealing with an illness, changing careers, attending college. God has a hand in nature's seasons, controlling all that occurs from a bee collecting flower nectar to a lion bringing down a zebra, from the serene to the brutal. God

also has a hand in your life from good times to times of sorrow and fear. We all face the changing of the seasons, but Christians do not face them alone. God takes us by the hand and walks with us to comfort and assure. The question is will you be walking alone or in the grasp of God's hand?

If you're alone, reach out and let Jesus into your heart by saying this prayer:

*"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."*

### Ecclesiastes 3:1-3

*There is an appointed time for everything.  
And there is a time for every event under  
heaven-  
A time to give birth and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is  
planted.  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
A time to tear down, and a time to build up.*

-- Eric Lee

## Blessings from Special Camp ...

Dear Church Family,

We are truly grateful to you as our church family. Thank you so much for your prayers and for your financial support of our San Lorenzo team to JEMS Special Camp this year. On behalf of this year's Special Camp ministry team—Eiko Kanzaki, Ben Wu, Fran Wu, Emily Devey, John Yano, and Kimi Utsumi Yee—we would like to express our appreciation to you for your support of our team this year. Thank you for your thoughts, concerns, love, and prayers for us and for all of your generosity expressed in so many ways. We feel very fortunate and blessed to be a part of the San Lorenzo church family!

Bruce and Val Satow



*Bruce and Val speak at Special Camp*

## Highlights from First-Time Aides

This summer I had the privilege of serving at Special Camp. Going into it I didn't really know what to expect, but I steadily adjusted to the swing of things. You could say there was no lack of opportunities to serve. Throughout the week I was challenged and inspired. There were also a few spiritual truths I was reminded of along the way.



One is that God can use us in our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:9). Special Camp is not so much physically demanding as emotionally, in that the aides are with the campers during their every waking moment. But despite our tiredness, God gave all the aides the strength to serve and to show His love to the campers.

Second, we should look out for the interests of others and deem others as more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4). This is always a challenging one for me, and I was inspired by the selfless attitude many of the aides showed toward the campers. For example, at mealtimes most of the aides could not eat their food right away, but needed to help the campers get theirs first. I tried to put the needs of the campers before my own although I know I wasn't always perfect.

I was also tested in the area of patience. I'm sure there were times I came across as mean when dealing with my camper during the week. But I looked at the other aides as they dealt with the same situations I did with the campers, and their attitude was so patient, loving, and caring. I was inspired by them and prayed and asked God that I could be like that, too, that I could be humble and treat people how Jesus would instead of being impatient. I don't think I've "arrived," but it was a good opportunity to work on patience.

Overall, the week was a good OTS as we call it at Special Camp (Opportunity to Serve), not just others, but our Lord. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to serve and for the overwhelming support I received from our church prayerfully, emotionally, and financially.

-- Frances Wu

The Special Campers are the most genuine people I have ever met. They are not the slightest bit judgmental, I was myself and they still accepted me. They taught me patience and to remember the simple things in life that are often forgotten or overlooked. The simple things were what brought them the most joy. They showed me that life is actually very simple; we just make things more complicated for ourselves.



Many of the campers have struggled and had rough experiences but they continue to remain positive. They are not bitter, angry, or mean. They are continually sweet, joyful, kind, and loving. The campers showed me what unconditional love and joy looks and feels like. Special Camp brought a renewing feeling to my heart; they served me when I was there to serve them. They truly know and show God's love. The campers are the most wonderful people I have ever met; I can't wait to serve again next year.

-- Emily Devey

## Ben's Blessing ...

As some of the first few male campers arrived at Special Camp, I approached them with some apprehension, held out my hand for a cordial handshake and started to politely introduce myself.



What I received in return was a fist bump from one of the campers, a "What's up dude?", and a request to take a picture with me, as if we had known each other for years. I was instantly accepted as a friend, and knew from that point that God would teach me much through my experience at Special Camp.

Throughout the week at camp, the campers continually showed me how to love others unconditionally. This was demonstrated through their giving us hugs, holding our hands, and trusting the aides unreservedly by allowing us to assist them. It was tremendously refreshing to see this type of love expressed to us. The campers' actions challenged me personally to show Christ's love to others without holding back.

The Lord taught me much through the other aides as well. Each and every one of them served so sacrificially and did not complain one bit despite being tired, having to wake up in the middle of the night to tend to the campers, or having a lack of sleep. Their actions reminded me of Jesus' desire for His disciples to be servant-leaders (Luke 22:25-27). I witnessed this servanthood in all of the aides and was inspired to do the same in my service at Special Camp.

Thank you, SLZJCC, for praying for us and for supporting us financially in our Special Camp experience! I would encourage anyone to consider serving next year to see what the Lord may teach you. -- Ben Wu

## NKOTB (New Kid on the Block) General Conference 2010

By: Allen Chin

As a first time delegate for San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church at the General Conference (GC), I did not know what to expect. Perhaps protracted discussions regarding the three propositions along with mundane ministry reports? Boy, was I wrong.

What a great time of worship, prayer, and fellowship! Ken Yoshioka, Judy Yamashita and Koko Yee (my fellow delegates) made sure I was personally introduced to all the pastors, delegates and special guests of the GC.

San Diego Japanese Christian Church was an amazing host. Ken and I were picked up from the airport without delay on Thursday night and given a homemade Bento box for dinner that would make any Japanese restaurant turn green with envy. Not to mention the variety of snacks during our break times (including the killer Chex mix infused with furikake and sesame seeds) that were washed down with Peet's coffee and green tea. The performance of the Holiness Youth Choir on the last day of the conference was off the charts on the inspirational meter.

I was extremely impressed with the level of involvement of our SLZJCC leadership team throughout the 2010 GC. Pastor George sang a wonderful solo to help kick off the first day's worship and handled the installation of the new Holiness Shepherd Council on day two. Pastor Brian gave the opening homily on "Trust in God," Pastor Eric led Prayer Time, and Pastor Sunao Shimada reported on the Education & Publication Committee.

Of special note, Pastor Rod and Francis Sarena led the historic passage of the revised Constitution and By-laws. The last change of that magnitude within the Conference occurred 51 years ago. And Gary Yamashita, as Moderator, managed to end a comprehensive, two-day agenda 30 minutes early!

It was truly a God-centered event that brought a diverse group of English/Nichigo departments, young/old, Pastors/lay people, and CA/HI/AZ/Japan/Brazil representatives into true unity through the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your delegate in 2010 and praise God for the upcoming 90th Conference next year at L.A. Holiness Church!

### In Concert ...

Randy and Gay Hongo  
Professional Music Ministers from  
Hawaii with Christian Vision



San Lorenzo Japanese  
Christian Church

Sunday, August 15, 6 p.m.  
Potluck dinner to follow

Welcome the Hongos with the aloha spirit,  
by bringing a favorite dish to share!