



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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"Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

Those are the words that Peter said, *for amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken* after Jesus had told them to *"Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch"* (see Luke 5:1-11).

It is amazing to come to the realization that Jesus is truly the Son of God; that He is the Creator of the universe, and as such He really does know all things, including where fish are out in the Sea of Galilee. It is amazing to come to the realization that Jesus knows everything, and therefore He knows everything about us, including the hidden and often times sinful parts of our lives.

It is no wonder that Peter responded to Jesus with such fear, for He realized that before a holy God, he was a sinful man. Actually, that should be the response of all of us, and we too may want to crawl under a rock to hide ourselves, or ask that the Lord go away from us, for it is unbearable to stand in front of a holy God who sees and knows all!

However, sin is not the only thing that God sees in us. As a holy and loving God, He sees our worst and yet seeks for our best. He takes us as sinful people, and makes us righteous in His sight. He takes what we do, and transforms us to do greater works; from fishermen to fishers of men!

However, the first step is to recognize what you are before a holy God. Peter understood that he was a sinful man. He realized that he did not match up to the holy standards of God (see Romans 3:23). He knew that he needed saving, and Jesus saved him.

Listen to Jesus' words of encouragement to all who come to realize that they are sinful people: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* (Matthew 5:3-4). The poor in spirit are they that recognize their sinfulness. Those who mourn are they that are distressed about their sinful condition. Both receive comfort from God! They become children of God, and the kingdom of heaven is theirs through faith in Jesus Christ!

Humbled by God's holy love, Pastor Ichibei

LET US PRAISE, PRAY, AND PARTICIPATE

"pray at all times in the Spirit, . . . , be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18)

- Let us pray for daily strength and God's continual care of: *Chris Barksdale, Annette Choi, Richard Christian, Keiko Chuman, Bob Cottle, Yasuko Davis, Ed Dunn, Sharon Dunn, Shizu Fukiage, Reiko Furuyama, Matsuko Gray, Jenny Higashi, Debbie Hom, Yo Honda, Junichi Inoue, Toshi Kiyoi, Oscar Kodama, Hiroo & Priscilla Kurano, Wendy Martino, Nadine Moorin, Hatsune Mukai, Meiko Nakano, Tom Segawa, Rei Seki, Larry & Irene Shimamoto, Michiko Shiromoto, Dorothy Sue, Kiyo Uda, Raymond Uyeda, Kimiyo Uyeji, Rev. Rod Yee, and Irene Yonemura.*

- **Tom Honda** went home to be with Jesus on June 30. There will be a memorial reception for Tom, after the worship service on Sunday, August 11. Please pray for God's comfort and peace to be upon Yo, daughters Kim and Tami, and their families.

- Let us continue to pray for the churches and missionaries that our church financially supports: Japanese Christian Church of Tucson, South Bay Holiness Church, *Mike Fox (AIA), Nao & Barbara Hanada (JEMS), Pastor John Katagi (JEMS), Brent and Irina (People International), Richard & Keri Nakamura (SEND), Roy & Nancy Toma (JEMS), Kevin & Nozomi West (Mustard Seed Network), Reo Yoshida (Mustard Seed Network), and Burton & Kat Sue (TEAM Japan, Fall 2019).* Let us also remember in prayer the following missionaries in Japan: *David Newell (WYAM Tokyo), Rev. & Mrs. Hideyo Ando, The Jon Junker Family, and Alan & Yurika Sue (EveryNation).* Please also pray for *Tomo Ito and Paul & Rie Mizuki.*

- Please remember **Joy Ito** in your prayers, as she will be a part of a short-term missions team in Japan this summer (July 20 to August 5).

- We thank God for **Kerris Stambaugh's baptism** during our worship service on Sunday, July 14. Please pray for Kerris that his faith in Christ will continue to be strengthened, and also for him as he prepares to leave for army training on July 22.

- **Pastor Yama** will be on vacation from July 15 to the middle of August. During that time, there will be no Youth Group meetings. Please pray that Pastor Yama can truly enjoy a time of rest and renewal.

- We have been blessed to have our summer Bible ministry intern, **Hannah Buck**, teach through the Book of Colossians in our Adult Sunday School Class, and also at our College & Young Families Bible Studies. Please continue to remember Hannah in your prayers as she completes her six-week long internship on Sunday, July 28, and returns to Moody Bible Institute to finish up her last year of studies there.

- This year's **Vacation Bible School** will take place on Sundays: July 28, August 4, 11, 18, and 25. This year's theme is "SONROCK Kids Camp". Please prayerfully invite children you know to this wonderful and fun time of learning to build their lives on the rock that is Jesus!

- Our next **Community Luncheon** will be on Wednesday, August 7, at 12 pm. Thank you for your continued prayers for this outreach ministry.

- Our next **Men's Prayer Breakfast** and **Women's Prayer Fellowship** will be on Saturday, August 10, at 9:00 am. Please join us for a great time of food, prayer, fellowship, and exhortation.

- The next **Youth Group** will be on Saturday, August 24, from 6:30 pm. They will begin with dinner, followed by Bible study, and a time of fun games. All youth (6th–12th grade students) are welcome!

- This year's **SDJCC Labor Day Weekend Camp** will take place at Potrero Country Park (24800 Potrero Park Drive, Potrero CA 92963), September 1-2, beginning in the afternoon of September 1 after the worship service. The cost will be \$34 per site (2 tents with up to 8 people). Registration must be done individually online at <http://reservations.sdparks.org/>, and then choosing Potrero under "Parks." For more information, please contact *Pastor Ichibei.*