



# 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!

Volume No. 60, Issue No. 9

<http://sdjcc.net>

[eng.office.sdjcc@gmail.com](mailto:eng.office.sdjcc@gmail.com)

Date: September 20, 2019

### Sharing Some G.U.M. With Others

By Yuki Woo

I am blessed to be in a trio of women who meet weekly for discipleship. One woman, a new believer, brings such a freshness to learning about God's desired way for us to live. She challenges me to articulate my understanding of God's Word as she questions things, she and sometimes we don't understand. Her desire to really please God convicts my heart and shows me how complacent I have become and how my unpliant heart and "auto responses" feed my self-righteousness. During a recent meeting, a question in our book asked, "Am I forgiving towards others or am I basically angry and resentful?" I added a note to self in the margin, "NN (my abbreviation for "need to") think this through." In doing so, I read an article that said, "Our natural instinct is to recoil in self-protection when we've been injured. We don't naturally overflow with mercy, grace and understanding when we've been wronged."

I wrote these words in my study book and as I did, I saw the acronym G.U.M. – Grace, Understanding, Mercy. When I feel wronged or hurt by someone or when I've failed and disappointed myself, I tend to become defensive or overly critical, neither of which has a positive impact on my character or my relationships. Our thoughts and actions often grieve our Lord, but His love and goodness toward us never change. He continues to show us grace, understanding and mercy to nurture growth in us. I need to follow His example and give some G.U.M. to others and myself. By sharing some G.U.M. with others, I can work towards more godly character and building up my relationships rather than tearing them down and by giving myself some G.U.M. I am reminded of gum's stickiness and that keeping my mouth stuck shut may at times be the most gracious, understanding and merciful thing I can do. Grateful for God's G.U.M., Yuki

\*<https://www.learnreligions.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-forgiveness-701968> [Disclaimer: Although informative, we do not endorse nor approve everything on this website.]

### 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, Richard Christian, Keiko Chuman, Bob Cottle, Yasuko Davis, Ed Dunn, Sharon Dunn, Shizu Fukiage, Reiko Furuyama, Matsuko Gray, Yo Honda, Junichi Inoue, Wendy Kaul, Oscar Kodama, Hiroo & Priscilla Kurano, Wendy Martino, Nadine Moorin, Meiko Nakano, Rei Seki, Larry & Irene Shimamoto, Michiko Shiromoto, Dorothy Sue, Kiyu Uda, Raymond Uyeda, Kimiyo Uyeji, Rev. Rod Yee, and Irene Yonemura.* Please also pray for God's comfort upon **Sharon Mondragon** and her family as they mourn the sudden loss of her son Daniel.

- We thank God for the healthy birth of **Abigail Joy Goon** to parents *Kevin & Jamie Goon* on September 12. Please remember them in your prayers.

- 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.*

- Thank you for your prayers and support of this year's **Vacation Bible School**. We thank God for the 17 staff volunteers who worked with the 20 children that took part in this year's wonderful SonRock Camp VBS.

- Thank you for your prayers for the **Holiness General Assembly (9/6-9/7)** that took place at the Japanese Christian Church of Walnut Creek. We thank God that all who attended; delegates, pastors, and leaders, were able to have a blessed and productive time.

- We thank God for those in our church family who are 80 years old and older, and we are grateful that we were able to celebrate **Keiro Celebration Sunday** on September 15 with them. Thank you to everyone who contributed food for the delicious luncheon.

- Sunday, September 29, is our **SHARING SUNDAY**. During the worship service, we will get to hear of how God is at work in the lives of our church family members. We will also have the opportunity to hear of the latest update by the **Sue Family** of their preparations for their move to Japan to begin their missions work there with TEAM. Let us share and celebrate God's goodness together!

- Our next **Community Luncheon** will be on Wednesday, October 2, at 12 pm. Thank you for your continued prayers for this outreach ministry.

- On Sunday, October 6, we will have our eighth annual **Gospel Hula Event** from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. This annual outreach, hosted by our church's Ke Aloha O Iesū Hula Ministry, will include hula and other musical presentations, and a Gospel message. This year, the Gospel choir group NCM2 will be with us for this outreach event. There will also be refreshments served afterwards. Please invite your family and friends to this special event.

- Our next **Men's Prayer Breakfast** and **Women's Prayer Fellowship** will be on Saturday, October 12, at 9:00 am. Please join us for a great time of food, prayer, fellowship, and exhortation.

- If you are interested in **baptism or church membership**, would like to learn more about the Gospel and what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, or would like to be in a **discipleship** relationship, please talk to *Pastor Ichibei*.

- If you ever miss a Sunday worship service and would like to keep up with the worship messages, you can go to our church website at **[www.sdjcc.net](http://www.sdjcc.net)**.