I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. 1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I came to Pasadena to study at Fuller Theological Seminary in 2004. Do you remember what GVBC celebrated in 2004? It was GVBC’s 90th anniversary celebration. GVBC invited Rev. Kunihiko Amano — a former GVBC Nichigo pastor — for the celebration, but he was busy with his ministries back in Japan. At the time Rev. Amano was the chairman for the Japan Baptist Union (JBU) and I was a missionary working in Thailand sent by JBU. When Rev. Amano received an invitation from GVBC, he contacted me and asked me to attend GVBC’s 90th anniversary celebration. I came with my family from Pasadena and I met with GVBC Senior Pastor Steve Langley and Nichigo (Japanese-speaking congregation) Pastor Bunso Otani.

Pastor Otani invited me to preach for the Nichigo congregation. I was very busy with my studies at Fuller Seminary, but I decided to come. At that time Nichigo was having their Sunday services at Denker Elementary School because GVBC was building a new facility. I came to preach three or four times when I was studying at Fuller without knowing how GVBC started this new building project; how much it would cost; or how wonderful the new facility would be.

After I returned to Thailand in 2005, I still had to come back to Fuller to take several intensive courses to complete my studies. Every time I came back, I came to GVBC to preach. I remember how amazed I was when I first saw GVBC’s new completed facility. I had never seen this kind of church with a huge, multi-purpose Community Hall which also doubled as a gymnasium; a big kitchen; so many extra rooms for many types of classes and ministries; and a beautiful Nichigo homeroom, Room 201 [pictured at left with the Nichigo congregation after Easter Sunday service on April 5]. All I could say was, “Wow!”

Since I joined GVBC and became the Nichigo pastor in September 2011, this new facility has been helping the Nichigo ministry to grow. Because we have the Community Hall, we can have J-Night (Nichigo College/Young Adult Ministry) and Christmas celebrations to bring Japanese-speaking, non-Christian young people to Nichigo. Our nice big kitchen helps us to have cooking classes after Sunday services so we can bring Japanese-speaking, non-Christian mothers into the church. And with so many rooms, we can have Nichigo small groups, English language classes, and Bible studies. With our Nichigo homeroom, we always feel at home when we come to church. The

(Continued on page 2)
Nichigo congregation has been growing and this beautiful homeroom soon became too small for us so we hold our Sunday services in the main Sanctuary with fellowship and refreshments served in our homeroom after the services.

I have enjoyed this new building, but I did not know the loans were not paid off until just recently. Now, I know our payments need to be completed so we have started our Nehemiah 5 campaign. I really think it will be my privilege and my joy to join this campaign because I have been blessed by this wonderful facility and I really want to be a part of this wonderful project.

Let us be united to finish this campaign by our prayers and giving. I really believe it is possible to pay off all our loans if we are united.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Eiji Osato

2015 Easter Lily Donations

Donations:
Rex & Linda Hayashi
Jean Kohama

In Honor of *From:

To God Be the Honor * Anonymous
Chiyo Aiso * Kathy Aiso
Makenzie Butt * Nana & Papa Kadowaki and Grandma & Grandpa Butt
Wally Chin * Josie Ogawa
Hazel Endo * Hazel’s Ladies
Hazel Endo * Mary Maeda
Hazel Endo * Stella Tamura
Marianne Fujita * Edith Kunishige
Marianne Fujita * Stella Tamura
Frank & Namiye Fukuzawa * Martha Tanji
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Garbutt * Louise Lindo
Grands: Jacob, James & Joel * Jim & Karen Kawashima
Kim Hee * Edith Kunishige
George & Shig Hirano * Lyman & Jean Nojima
The Hunt Family * Gary Rountree
S Cheryl & Daryl Iijima * Martha Tanji
Mildred Imamura * Richard & Keiko Imatomi
Charles Jarm * Josie Ogawa
Reiko & Harold Kobata * Kathleen Ishii
Ryo & Jean Komae * Kent & Jody Komae
Alyce Kuranaga * Dennis & Sharon Yamanaka Family
Nancy Langley * Steve Langle
Rev. Steve & Mrs. Langley * Ed & Izumi Kawasaki
Steve & Nancy Langley * Reiko & Harold Kobata
Lorin Matsuda * Takao & Maureen Takeuchi
Bob & Teressa Matsushimana * Hazel Endo
Kazu Michihara * Florence Hayashi
Molly Nishimoto * Michi I. Matsuda
Stan & Ellen Nishioaka * Chad & Jen Shimazaki
Haruko Nozaki * Louise Lindo
James & Yuri Ogawa * Matthew Nakayama
Eiji Osato * Yoshimi Britton
Eiji Osato * Kiyoko Nakajima

Rev. Eiji & Mrs. Osato * Ed & Izumi Kawasaki
The Rubio Family * Gary Rountree
Russell, Jen, Stacie, Anthony, Darrin, Amie, Hunter, Lenya, Camden & Eden * Kent & Jody Komae
Kats & Mary Sakatani * Reiko & Harold Kobata
Chiyo Shimane * Naomi, Aubrey & Lauren Kaneshiro
Tak & Sharon Shimazaki * Chad & Jen Shimazaki
Howard Shinmoto * Diane Shinmoto
Richard Suzuki * David Herrera
Maureen Takeuchi * Edith Kunishige
Kiyoko Tanizaki * David & Yoshiko Rock
Doug & Kimi Tanji * Martha Tanji
Heather, Gannon & Kristen Tanji * Martha Tanji
Mike & Yuriko Tanji * Martha Tanji
Stephanie Tanji * Martha Tanji
Raymond & Youko Toy * Karis, Ranen, Jason, Maile
Noah, Avery, Isaac, Emma, Brad & Grace
Evelyn Uyeda * Edith Kunishige

In Memory of *From:

Paul Aiso * Kathy Aiso
Jacqueline C. Allen * Carol Allen
Richard C. Allen * Carol Allen
Paula Amemiya * Dick Amemiya
Henry Aoto * Henry & Shirley Aoto
Mabo Aratani * Shimazaki Family
Bunko Asakura * Ayako Shiga
Ichiro Asakura * Ayako Shiga
Shintaro Asakura * Ayako Shiga
Charles Asato * Mae H. Asato
John Chang * Shimazaki Family
Gladys Choi * Barbara Moncada
Walter Choi * Teresa Choi
Koji Endo * Yoshiko Endo
Buddy Enos * Joyce Enos
Esther, Ken, Daniel & Helen Eto * Maria Tachihara
Kura & Mamoru Eto * Maria Tachihara
Ruth Eto * Maria Tachihara

(Continued on page 3)
**Family News**

*A new command I give you: Love one another...* — John 13:34

**Baby Announcement**

Congratulations to new grandparents Rodney & Socorro “Coco” Kagawa in the birth of their first grandchild, baby girl Hailey Simona Kagawa. Hailey was born on Wednesday, April 8 at 9:51 a.m. at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center San Pedro. She weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and she was 18 3/4 inches long. Hailey’s daddy is Samuel and mommy is Rachel, big brother Jacob. Proud uncles are Mark & Robert Kagawa.

**Wedding announcement**

Congratulations to Stanton & Rylie [Sata] Young who were married on Tuesday, April 7. Rylie’s parents are Dennis & Dana Sata, brother Chase & sister Reed.

**Letters to our church family**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, We would like to give thanks to the Holy One for blessing our family with such great blessings and friends here at GVBC. Thank you so much for the kind generosity of great friends like you. It has been a great help to our family during this very difficult time. Our family would love to offer our most sincere thanks for your prayers, flowers, cards, and food you sent in memory of our beloved father and grandpa, Robert T. Kagawa [funeral service was on March 7 at GVBC]. Thank you so very much for your support. May the peace of God be with you always.

In His Name, Rodney & Coco Kagawa and Family
Judy Lam

I have been a devoted Buddhist all my life. I followed every religious ritual — eating vegetables on different days of the month, fasting, burning incense, and prayer. I even had an altar filled with different idols.

I also relied on my friend who was a medium. I used to ask the medium for guidance in my daily life and she would channel a goddess. I felt I could not live without her help. However, things changed about a year ago.

One day, my medium friend said she could not channel the goddess anymore. She had found the one true God in Christ and He had changed her heart. She took all of her idols and gave them to the temple. She began to go to a Christian church and encouraged me to go, too. I couldn’t believe it. I was confused and didn’t understand. I kept resisting to go with her to her church.

Early this year in January 2015, as I was at home meditating, I saw an unusual light. The next morning this same friend called me and said we have to meet. She told me about the one Creator God who is more powerful than any other god and I needed to come and believe in Jesus. That night in my dream the same words kept speaking to me — I needed to follow Jesus. I woke up, called my friend the next morning and told her I would go to church with her.

It was a small church. When I saw a picture of Jesus on the wall, I began to cry. I did not understand why I was crying. But the pastor called me forward. As the pastor was praying, I saw a very bright light and I saw Jesus standing right beside the pastor in bright clothes. He had his hand reaching out to me. I saw the mark on His hand and I felt instantly ashamed and embarrassed. I could not stop crying. I should have accepted Jesus earlier. Why did I wait so long?

I asked Jesus if He would open the door to my heart so I could come in and join Him.

I now believe with all of my heart that Jesus is the Son of God and He is my Savior and Lord. In John 14:6, Jesus said,

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

That afternoon I cleaned out my house and gave all my idols to the temple. The following Sunday I came to GVBC with my brother, Tan Lam.

Today, I know I have found the one true God. I could not believe how simple it was to accept this precious gift. I’m ready to be baptized and it’s the perfect right thing to do in my life.
FYI EVENTS CALENDAR

SPECIAL LANDSCAPING DAY
Saturday, April 18, starting at 8:00 a.m. We will be putting in new landscape in two areas: the area along the wall on LaSalle & the area behind the dumpster. Please mark this on your calendar and come out to help keep our GVBC facilities looking great!

MEN’S BREAKFAST
Saturdays of April 25, May 23, June 20, and July 25, 8:00 — 10:00 a.m., Room 113 (by the kitchen). All men welcome to join us as for a video series called “God at War” from the same producers of “Not a Fan.” Meeting includes a delicious breakfast. Sign up in the Courtyard after the worship services or call the church office.

MOTHER’S DAY
Sunday, May 10

CONCERT BY ASIAH AT OUR BILINGUAL SERVICE
Saturday, May 9, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. A concert with a personal testimony will be performed by Asiah, an accomplished singer. The Bilingual Service meets every second Saturday of the month. Refreshments served in Room 201 after the service. Everyone welcome. For more info contact Pastor Eiji Osato, ext. 676, eiji@gvbc.net.

OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, May 25, Memorial Day

~ SAVE THESE DATES ~

FATHER’S DAY
Sunday, June 21

JCI CARNIVAL
Saturday, June 27 — Sunday, June 28

JEMS MT. HERMAN FAMILY CAMP
Sunday, June 28 to Saturday, July 4. Please go to www.jems.org/mt-herman/registration.php for more info and to register. DEADLINE: final payment due on or before May 29.

OFFICE CLOSED
Friday, July 3, Independence Day Federal Holiday

SONSPARK LABS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)
Monday, July 13 to Friday, July 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Finished preschool to finished 5th Grade. Early registration for GVBC children begins Sunday, April 19; general public registration begins May 17 - June 28.

2015 WOMEN’S WEEKEND
Friday night worship, November 6 and Saturday, November 7. Director is Chris Umetsu.

PRIMETIMERS’ 2015 TOUR DATES

The Majestic Northern California Coast — Redwoods, Rivers, and Railroads
Thursday, June 11 to Tuesday, June 16. Departs at 8:00a.m. from the New Gardena Hotel on Thursday and return around 6:30 p.m. the following Tuesday. Cost is $1,580 per person (double occupancy, add $465 for single). Full payment due: Sunday, April 26. Karen Anderson will be our full-time escort. We will explore California’s majestic Northern coast from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Avenue of the Giants. We will visit San Francisco, San Rafael, cross the Golden Gate Bridge and tour the wine country, Santa Rosa, Fort Bragg, Eureka, and Monterey.

Kyushu-Southern Japan Tour
Tuesday, October 13 to Thursday, October 22, $4,458 per person (includes airfare). A few spaces for this tour are still available until July 13. Full payment by check or credit card is paid directly to Japan Deluxe Tours.

Christmas with Sinatra & Friends, Almansor Court, Alhambra
Thursday, December 3, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., $117 per person. Final payment due: Sunday, November 1. Enjoy the cast from Colorful Songs of Broadway; nostalgic holiday music & stories about Sinatra and celebrate his 100th birthday; hit songs from 40s & 50s from Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Steve & Eydie Gorme, Doris Day, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Mel Torme, and more. Enjoy a gourmet three-course lunch.

NOTE: One-day tours depart from GVBC. Except for the Kyushu-Southern Japan tour, checks payable to GVBC [tour title in the subject line]. Prices include gratuity to motor coach driver. Pick up your tour agreements, applications, and credit card application forms at the Primetimers’ Table after the worship services in the Courtyard.
Room Use Reminder

Please remember after your meetings/events/Sunday School classes/Bible Studies/whenever you use a room(s), please remember to:

- Take your FOOD trash to the dumpster outside in the La Salle parking lot, or courtyard trash cans, as ants like your food crumbs!
- Throw liquids into the sink, not the trash cans, as liquids are leaking onto the carpets.
- Put back the chairs/tables, if you move them.
- Leave the room clean for the next group.
- Turn off lights/ac/heater
- Lock the door

Thank you for keeping our GVBC home in great shape!

Parking

When parking on residential streets for ministry/community group meetings or Sunday services, please do not block any part of our neighbors’ driveways. On Sundays, Union Bank’s parking lot is also available.

Gvbc Cookbooks Are Available Now

Pick up your GVBC cookbook for $15 each [checks payable to GVBC with “Cookbook” in subject line]. Proceeds go to the “Pipe Organ Repair” fund. The first printing of the cookbook was in 1966 and proceeds were used to purchase the organ! The cookbooks are available after the worship services from the Narthex.

Thanks To Your Generous Donations and through the sale of many cookbooks we have raised the funds to restore our pipe organ. The work began today, Wednesday, April 15. During this time, unfortunately, we will have no pipe organ music for worship services, weddings and funerals. Thank you for supporting our efforts to raise the funds to repair our beloved pipe organ.

Next Spirit Issue

Available online Wednesday, May 6 at www.gvbc.net “Our Newsletter.” Hard copies available in the Narthex and in the back of the Community Hall. All articles should be submitted by Sunday, May 3.
We didn’t see big enough or dream big enough, but God did.” — Pastor Steve Langley (sharing about our Nehemiah 5 Campaign on Sunday, April 12)

English Worship Services: 8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Children’s Sunday School concurrent
Japanese Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
Children’s Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Room 206

NEHEMIAH 5 (N5) FINISH LINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
Pastor Steve Langley
“Running Together”

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
Pastor Steve Langley
“Decision Making”

SUNDAY, MAY 3/COMMUNION
Pastor Steve Langley
Commitment Sunday