



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

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Never Alone

You live in a world full of people all around you. There are people at school, work, movies, shopping malls, grocery stores, theme parks, and many other events you participate in. Even with all of these activities, loneliness can set in. Rather than feeling connected to people you may sometimes feel isolated and lonely. When you feel this way it can be detrimental not only to your mental state but also your physical well being.



James S. House, Director of Sociology at the University of Michigan says, "It is known that social isolation is deleterious to health." In other words, social isolation is harmful to your health. House even compared the ill-effects of social isolation and feeling alone to that cigarette smoking. What can you do to prevent these feelings of loneliness?

There is one simple way, which is to know **THE** Way, Jesus Christ. When you invite Him into your life you are immediately a member of God's family and His church, where no one stands alone. God the Father will never leave or abandon His children.

This month SANLO will have its church retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains. Our theme will be "Know God and Be Known," from Hebrews 10:19-25. We will learn about being confident in: Our Way, Our Walk, and Our Worth through knowing God.

As Christ-followers we are to encourage, build confidence, and strengthen one another in our life journey with Him. We are to encourage and love one another. We are to remind each other our worth is in Him and in nothing or no one else.

To encourage and be encouraged by one another, it is necessary to be a part of a Christ-body church. This is not an option. It is a crucial part for the life of every follower of Jesus to belong to and participate in a local church body.

From studying Hebrews 10, we are instructed in verses 24-25 to not forget assembling together. "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Finding and attending a church on a consistent basis is very important to your life with Jesus. God did not design you to walk by yourself. You need others and others need you to live a healthy and vital Christian life.

At SANLO, it is our hope and prayer you will discover it a place where you not only develop your relationship with God but also find it welcoming and a place to form close relationships.

If you are feeling alone or isolated, invite Jesus into your life and find a church where you will learn and grow in your faith. If you are already a Christ-follower, seek others who might be feeling lonely. Help them, come alongside them, encourage them, and remind them that they are not alone. In doing so you may even find yourself healed of loneliness.

Inviting Jesus into your life and becoming a member of the family of Christ is the way to a fulfilled and exciting life. Life with Jesus is a life with purpose, a life that can help you and others avoid feeling isolated, a life with God where you are never alone.

-- Pastor Brian

"Know God and Be Known"

Hebrews 10:19-25

Still thinking about attending the
All-Church Retreat?

It's not too late!! Please join us!

Go to: www.slzjcc.org and click on
"All-Church Retreat" to register!

My Spiritual Journey

By: Yuri Yokota

When I was around eight or nine, our family friend, the Nabetas, who were devout Christians, invited my sibling and me to attend a church in Richmond. They would pick us up every Sunday and we dutifully attended. My parents, who were Buddhist, never objected to our going. Our church attendance was interrupted for awhile when I was about 10 years old, our whole family went to Japan.

After a year and a half, we returned again to our home in Richmond. While I was growing up, I felt I did not completely belong in America.

I went to Japan again after I grew up and worked as a bookkeeper for a Canadian firm in Kobe, but still did not feel like I belonged in Japan either, so I returned again to America. Then very shortly after my return, the war broke out.

When the war broke out, more people gravitated to church... as though, somehow, we would be shielded against all the ill wind swirling against the Japanese people in California.

During the war years in Topaz, I kept my weekly church attendance when I became engaged. I thought that my future husband, who I thought was Buddhist, would want to get married in a Buddhist church, but no – he said, “You’re a Christian aren’t you? We should get married in a Christian church.”

We were married in a Christian church in Idaho on March 12, 1945. After about a year and a half on the Idaho farm, we moved to San Leandro, next to my sister’s nursery. We started our nursery there in 1946 or ’47.

I started to go to the San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church (then San Lorenzo Holiness) after an invitation from Yuri Shinoda, Rev. Dan Shinoda’s wife. I was baptized along with my daughter, Agnes, and my husband, Masao, in 1996. Nothing dramatic happened to make me come to that point. It was a gradual process.

Yuri recently joined the Wed. Women’s Bible Study for the first time. The study of Isaiah will be challenging, Yuri says, but she desires to keep learning and growing in her spiritual walk.



Although Rev. Dan and Yuri were the first to invite us to church, Rev. Dan was not the one to baptize us. Rev. Jim Toda came over our house one day and invited us to be baptized. It was just simple ... we said, “yes” and that was it!

I can still remember my feelings at the time of baptism – it was like a warm blanket protecting us, and all the warm welcomes we received from the members of the church gave us such a feeling of finally belonging. I no longer felt like an outsider and I cherished that feeling I learned in my journey of life.

I know that I have grown and matured in my faith through the years. I’ve come a long way! I remember when I was a teenager and someone talked about all of us being sinners. I was so insulted and said, “There may be some who are not sinners!” Needless to say, this person must have been shocked by my ignorance. Since then I’ve learned that we all have sinned and I have learned about God’s grace.

A couple of sayings that have touched my life are:

*“The journey that we’re on each day
Has many roads to choose
But if we trust the Lord to guide
Our way, we cannot lose.” -- Sper*

*“Let us be like Christ’s true disciples,
Looking to another’s needs,
Making stony pathways smoother
By a gentle word or deed.” -- Thorson*

3 on 3 Hoops Classic

On August 21, we held our 15th Annual 3 on 3 Hoops Classic. 59 teams signed up in six different divisions. Players came from all over California for this one day event. We were blessed to have about 50 people come to help either on that day or beforehand ... and I am truly thankful.

There were close to 300 players and a packed house came to the Alameda Naval Station to play basketball, watch their friends play or come to help out. Former All-Pro and Super Bowl Champ, Guy McIntyre, came to share about how God turned his life around. Close to 20 people responded to God's call and asked Him into their lives.

I love how we can get together as a church and provide a place for people to come out, have fun and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. It was a great day and there were so many who came out to help – God worked out every detail as we see Him do each year. It's truly amazing to see how the tournament all comes together, up to the very end.

Thank you to everyone who helped out, prayed or in some way supported this awesome event! --
Scott Shimada



Former All-Pro, Super Bowl Champ, Guy McIntyre speaks to a few hundred people at the 3 on 3 Basketball Tourney.



Players came from all over, many for the first time, many who return each year ... A great time was had by all!

Harvest Festival

**Sunday, October 31
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**



Come join us for loads of fun, games, prizes, candy, story time and friendly costumes. A safe place to bring the kids and it's free!

Sincere condolences...

... to the family of **Hanako "Michiko" Richardson** of our Nichigo Dept. Michiko went home to the Lord on Aug. 19. She was 91. A memorial service was held at our church on Sat., Sept. 11.

... to the family of **Kiyoshi Yoshii**. Kiyoo, Midori Yoshii's loving husband, went home to the Lord on Sept. 8. Kiyoo was a long-time faithful member of our church. He was an American hero, serving in the famed 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II. Please pray for Midori and her children Karen (Marc), Laura (Harry), Greg (Aili) and Brian (Catherine) as well as grandsons, Nick and Joshua. Kiyoo was surrounded by his loving family when he passed away. He was 92. A Celebration of Life memorial service will be held at our church on Sat., Sept. 25, 2 p.m.