

THEME OF JAPAN FAIR IN SUMMER 2025

CHRIST HAS SET US FREE!

GALATIANS 5:1


 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OCEANSIDE
SANCTUARY (BUILDING ON THE RIGHT)
AND PARKING LOT

THE BLUE SKIES OF SAN DIEGO

My first time in San Diego! The clear blue skies that continued every day were very impressive.

As someone who knows the difficult journey that Pastor Kashiwagura undertook to get here, I once again looked up to the great One beyond the sky with deep emotion.

During my stay, the days were very fulfilling, even more so than the short-term missionary trip from seminary! Experiencing the work on-site made my prayers more concrete. I also came to understand the necessity of world missions and that the Lord is truly the Lord of the entire world. It was a truly blessed 10 days overflowing with grace.


 JAPAN FAIR IN OCEANSIDE
MESSAGE: PASTOR ARAHIRA

 WE SURFED IN OCEANSIDE
WITH TODD & THE TEAM.


JAPAN FAIR IN LA JOLLA.

BE FREE AND SERVE THE LORD!

Everyone listened intently to the message from Galatians 5:1. Living in the United States, a country known for its freedom, you may also feel a thirst for true freedom. Most corporate expatriates and international students return to Japan after a few years. Mission work overseas is directly connected to churches in Japan.

We are deeply grateful to the Kashiwagura family for their kindness. They prepared accommodations, provided daily transportation between their home and the church (approximately 30 miles one way), guided us on sightseeing tours, and even helped with laundry! The Kashiwagura children also assisted with numerous preparations. "I and my household serve the Lord." May the Lord richly reward and bless the Kashiwagura missionary family.

May more servants be raised up.

Applications for next year's caravan are already open. We hope you will experience the freedom and joy of serving the Lord.

Especially young people and Seminary students, please join us! Miyazaki North Bible Christian Church: Daisuke Arahira

We prayed in a circle with the volunteers for the Japan Fair.

“THE POWER OF PRAYER”

Last year, Pastor Kashiwagura told me, “We are planning a major evangelistic event next summer, so please pray for us.” I made up my mind to pray for the vision God had given me, and I took on the challenge of this event.

Before the event began, I was moved to see volunteers praying for the attendees in various places.

“The Lord will provide a lamb for the burnt offering.”

Gen 22:14



“THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK IS REALLY HARD! I SPENT A LOT OF TIME PREPARING MEALS.”

An evangelistic event titled “Japan Fair.” The main focus was not Japanese food, but it was still very popular. Among the dishes, the “imoni” (potato stew) from Pastor Kashiwagura's hometown was a big hit!

There were also many other dishes prepared, including fresh vegetables donated by Green Paradise Farm (Nishio) in Oceanside, meat and fruit purchased in bulk, and cups and plates. Under the guidance of Pastor Kashiwagura and Mrs. Haruka, we worked together with the children, a few volunteers, and church members to prepare everything. The volume was simply enormous! I imagine Pastor Kashiwagura and his wife must have put in tremendous effort from morning till night. Seeing the Kashiwagura children joining in the service was truly inspiring. The missionary family is amazing!



“PRAISE TO THE LORD BRINGS UNITY ACROSS NATIONS, GENERATIONS, AND RACES, AND ALLOWS US TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE.”



U.S.-Japan Joint Praise Team

This praise team was put together on the spot! With little time to rehearse with the American band members, we prayed as we prepared for the praise. In broken English...

It was an event with first-time participants, and we prayed that even those unfamiliar with praise would be blessed. We led the praise in prayer, but it was undoubtedly the Lord who guided us, not me.

After the event, hearing from a first-time participant that “the worship was wonderful” moved me deeply, as I realized that worship is a time when everyone can experience the Lord's love.

For next year's event, I hope more people from Japan will participate. They will surely experience the Lord's love. Please pray, invite someone, and prepare yourselves. “The Lord dwells in praise.” Psalm 22:3

**[Chairman of the Kashiwagura Missionary Support Association in Japan,
Pastor of Kisakata Christian Church] Hiroaki Sato**



CHRIST IS THE GREATEST JOY FOR EVERYONE!

Christ is the greatest joy for everyone! A non-Christian high school student testified to this. One of the high school students in the photo had never been to church or read the Bible before!

He experienced the excitement of Major League Baseball in the United States and enjoyed the most exhilarating surfing under the clear blue California sky. During his stay, there was joy and excitement every day, and he experienced various things as much as time allowed. He even uttered the famous quote, "I'm caught between enjoyment and my physical limits." Among all these experiences, what left the deepest impression on him and brought him the most joy was the evangelistic event "Japan Fair" held at the end of July!! There, the true joy of Christians who had been set free by Christ, as stated in Galatians 5:1, "Christ has set us free," was abundantly present. That is what he felt! Hallelujah!



Missions Door
San Diego Nikkei Christian Church
Hideyoshi Kashiwagura

THE FUTURE OF MISSION WORK AMONG JAPANESE IN SAN DIEGO AND NEXT YEAR'S SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP

The future of missionary work among Japanese nationals in San Diego depends, above all, on the growth of the two churches currently operating in Oceanside and La Jolla. There is no time to rest or stop. If I were doing this by my own strength, I would eventually stop. But the Holy Spirit never stops. He will never cease along the way. Until we reach the Kingdom, I want to keep running until the end, just as Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire and horses. In my case, it is "between joy and limits."

Regarding the caravan team, I actually had no intention of recruiting them every year. However, over the past three years, we have welcomed the caravan team every year, and both the receiving side and the sending side have experienced great blessings. Especially since non-Christian high school students have said that the church's evangelistic event was the most fun! There's no reason not to invite them. Plus, Major League Baseball is popular, so even more participants from Japan will likely join. Please start planning and saving now. We look forward to seeing you next year! The schedule will be in mid-July or later, with a budget of approximately \$2,000 per person (including airfare, insurance, accommodation, and some meals).

