

San Diego Japanese Ministry

AUG 2026

2026

SUMMER CAMP
JAPAN FAIR

SUMMER CAMP @ JULIAN

WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION, SO THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE IN ANY AFFLICTION, WITH THE COMFORT WITH WHICH WE OURSELVES ARE COMFORTED BY GOD. 2 CORINTHIANS 1:4

AT CAMP AND JAPAN FAIR, I WAS DEEPLY MOVED TO SEE SO MANY CHRISTIANS JOYFULLY SERVING OTHERS BY PUTTING THEIR GIFTS TO USE. THE WAY SO MANY PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER—LED BY PASTOR KASHIWAGURA AND HIS WIFE—TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENTS WAS TRULY A REFLECTION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. DURING THE CAMP, I SPENT TIME WITH THE CHILDREN IN SMALL GROUPS, AND WE BECAME SO CLOSE THAT THEY WOULD OFTEN CALL OUT TO ME, “LET’S PLAY!” IN ADDITION, ONE PARENT EVEN ASKED ME, “WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A TEACHER AT OUR KINDERGARTEN?” I WAS GRATEFUL THAT I WAS ABLE TO USE THE GIFT OF CHILDCARE—WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN ME—RIGHT HERE IN THIS PLACE. WHAT STAYED WITH ME MOST WERE THE WORDS FROM A NON-BELIEVING MOTHER. “THANKS TO YOU WATCHING OVER THE CHILDREN, I WAS ABLE TO LISTEN TO THE BIBLE STORY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION WITH PEACE OF MIND. THANK YOU SO MUCH.” SHE EXPRESSED HER GRATITUDE IN THIS WAY AND THOUGHTFULLY ASKED, “SINCE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM JAPAN, MIHO, DIDN’T YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO LEARN YOURSELF?” I REPLIED, “THE GREATEST JOY FOR ME IS BEING ABLE TO HELP THESE MOTHERS HEAR GOD’S WORD AND DRAW CLOSER TO SALVATION.” I WAS TRULY GRATEFUL THAT, THROUGH THE GIFT GOD HAD GIVEN ME, I WAS ABLE TO BE OF SERVICE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL. AT THE JAPAN FAIR’S KIDS’ ACTIVITIES, THERE WAS A PARENT AND CHILD WHO WERE HESITANT TO LEAVE THEIR YOUNG CHILD—WHO HAD NEVER BEEN SEPARATED FROM THEIR MOTHER BEFORE—IN OUR CARE. HOWEVER, GOD USED MY EXPERIENCE AS A FORMER CHILDCARE WORKER, AND WHEN I EXPLAINED THIS TO THEM, THEY HAPPILY ENTRUSTED THEIR CHILD TO US. THE CHILD DIDN’T CRY AT ALL AND SPENT THE TIME ENGROSSED IN STORYTIME AND STICKER ACTIVITIES. GOD ALSO BESTOWED A GREAT BLESSING UPON ME PERSONALLY. BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN CAMP AND JAPANFAIR, WHILE TRAVELING FROM LOS ANGELES TO SAN DIEGO, I FOUND MYSELF AT A STATION THAT WAS CLOSED WITH NO STAFF IN SIGHT. JUST AS I WAS FEELING LOST AND PRAYING, A CHRISTIAN WOMAN APPEARED. NOT KNOWING HOW TO BUY A TICKET, SHE USED HER OWN CREDIT CARD TO PURCHASE MY AMTRAK TICKET FOR ME. WHEN I TRIED TO PAY HER BACK, SHE REFUSED, SAYING WITH A SMILE, “IT’S OK! YOU ARE MY BLESSING TODAY,” SHE SAID WITH A SMILE. I EXPERIENCED FIRSTHAND THAT GOD IS THE ONE WHO PROVIDES THE RIGHT PERSON AT THE RIGHT TIME. DURING THIS MISSION TRIP, I RECEIVED BOUNDLESS LOVE AND KINDNESS FROM MANY PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AS WELL AS FROM MY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND THROUGH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE ACTS, I FELT GOD’S GREAT LOVE. WHEN LIVING IN JAPAN, IT’S EASY TO FIND YOUR HEART DRIFTING TOWARD THE WORLD’S VALUES BEFORE YOU EVEN REALIZE IT. HOWEVER, THROUGH THIS MISSION TRIP, I WAS REMINDED ONCE AGAIN THAT GOD’S LOVE IS WIDER THAN THE SKY AND DEEPER THAN THE OCEAN. MIHO NARITA

JAPAN FAIR 2026

For this year's JAPAN FAIR, we learned from last year's experience and decided to hold a three-day, two-night camp beforehand to ensure the evangelistic event wouldn't end as a one-off event! However, since this was the first time for our family—and for our church—to hold a camp in the U.S., it was a major challenge.

On the other hand, both my wife and I had attended numerous camps since our single days, so the concept of a camp wasn't entirely unfamiliar to us. So, while we had almost no anxiety about the camp itself, we were concerned about holding it in a new location and about the responsibility of leading a group of about 60 people, including non-believers. To begin with, the reason we decided to hold the camp was—as I mentioned at the beginning—that we felt it was absolutely necessary to deepen relationships and build trust so that the evangelistic event wouldn't end as a one-off event. A camp is truly the best opportunity for that! In fact, a strong sense of unity emerged through the Camp, and we could see the rich fruit of Christ's love everywhere. It was wonderful!

Also, continuing from last year, Bethany Church from Long Beach and a short-term mission team from Japan came to join us, and everyone served wholeheartedly right up until the very end. What's more, they all served with joy. Furthermore, this year a short-term mission team also came from Desert Springs Community Church in Arizona, and they, too, served with heartfelt joy and great enthusiasm. Without all of these people,

we could never have held either Camp or JAPANFAIR on our own. We are truly grateful from the bottom of our hearts. We must also not forget the church members, Christian friends, and the many intercessors who worked tirelessly behind the scenes for JAPANFAIR, even though they did not participate in Camp.

In many of his letters, Paul writes, "Give my regards to so-and-so," but in one he notes, "These two (Priscilla and Aquila) risked their own lives to save mine..." Because his ministry was never a solo effort—but rather one supported by many people—he was always filled with gratitude. I am also deeply grateful to Pastor Waters and Brother Noah, who served as my interpreters even when they were tired. At the Camp, there were about 30 non-believers among the participants, and at JAPANFAIR, there were about 45. Please pray earnestly that souls among them may be saved. With heartfelt gratitude.

Hideyoshi Kashiwagura

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus.

The brothers who are with me greet you.

Philippians 4:21



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