



Cerritos Baptist Church

Experiencing Grace, Growing in Love.

messenger

Fall 2017

CBC Loves Popcorn!



JT Hayashi serves popcorn to Jim Jang and Sunja Kakimoto

For six weeks this summer we had fun with *CBC At The Movies*. We enjoyed popcorn, candy, movie clips, and sermons based on the movies *Finding Dory*, *Jason Bourne*, *Dr. Strange*, *La La Land*, *Silence*, and *Inside Out*.

We discovered that there is truth everywhere, whether you're in church or a theater. There's always a chance that God might be showing you something about faith, your journey, and how to live – even at the movies.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS



Sunday Sermons:
Simplify

- Sept 3 Brandon Katagi
- Sept 10 Erik Kakimoto
- Sept 17 Nick Tawa
- Sept 24 Donna Katagi



Grandparents Day, Sept 10
Invite your grandmas & grandpas for fun and the annual family foto!



Baptism, Sept 17
Celebrate faith and new life in our church family!



Men's Retreat, Sept 22-24
Registration ends Sept 17, or sooner if space fills up.

For updated information and to listen to sermons, go to www.cerritosbaptist.org

A Word from Pastor Nick

This past weekend I went spearfishing for the first time. I had my eyes opened to a completely new world beneath the water's surface. I surf our Southern California breaks often, but I never snorkel. I was amazed to see the vibrant life, color and surprising clarity of our local reefs and and kelp beds.

I experienced the same ocean, but in an entirely different way. I felt exposed and in awe at the same time. I pray that as we enter the fall season, we would experience a similar shift in perspective as we approach the Scriptures, prayer practices, community and worship. May we find new joy in places we thought we knew so well.

Meet the Directors

By JT Hayashi

After many years of faithful service, JoAnn Kaba is retiring as the head of our children's program. And although Ms. JoAnn is undeniably irreplaceable, we have found two sensational directors who will continue her work –and make it their own.

Our new Director is Stephanie Luna (pictured, left), who spent her past two summers interning in CBC's Children's Ministry. Steph brings a wealth of training and knowledge from teaching 4th graders in New York City, as well as from her full-time position as a special education teacher right here in Cerritos.

Those who volunteered at this summer's VBS have seen Steph's artistic skill and prolific ideas at work to create a fun, safe, loving environment where children can learn about God.

Stephanie's Assistant Director is Christina Lorenz (right), who began working with children's ministry right here in CBC's Sunday school, back in 1999.

Her passion for children only grew while she served at Mr. Hermon, worked with Read for America, and worked for UNICEF. As a mother of three, Tina is motivated to teach God's gospel to the littlest members of God's family.



In their inaugural year, Steph and Tina's goals are to build community with families and teachers. Having been so richly blessed by the CBC family, Steph and Tina want to see each member of CBC tied to our community, "parent-to-parent, child-to-child, family-to-family."

They plan to evaluate our curriculum to ensure our children have a solid Christian foundation that enables them to experience grace and love—and share it with others.

Having both grown up in non-Christian households, Steph and Tina deeply understand the importance of training our children to share God's story with those who have not yet heard it.

Both Steph and Tina know they are stepping into large shoes, so they would love patient support from CBC's parents. They are enthusiastic to hear feedback and suggestions.

Please keep Steph and Tina in your prayers! In particular, they ask for God's wisdom and guidance as children's ministry makes this important leadership transition.

Both Steph and Tina have young children, so they'll be balancing their new roles with all their motherly duties at home.

Finally, pray that this year God will lay a strong foundation on which many, many years of ministry will be built!

CBC Staff

Erik Kakimoto
Senior Pastor

Brandon Katagi
Associate Pastor

Donna Katagi
Executive Pastor

Jon Tawa, Youth Director:

J.T. Hayashi, Intern
Evan Quitugua, Intern
Matthew Wada, Intern

Gary Tawa
Pastor to the Seniors

Steve Koshimizu
Administrator

Nick Tawa
Young Adults Pastor

Stephanie Luna, CM Director
Tina Lorenz, CM Asst. Director
JoAnn Kaba, CM Consultant

Bianca Tolentino, Intern

Care Packages for our Missionaries

By Luini Tan

It's funny how much joy you can receive from giving. I think this was a lesson that God reiterated to me, the Missions Committee, and Children's Ministry.

We had some extra funds in the missions budget, and Kenneth Chiem had the fantastic idea of putting together care packages for our long-term missionaries. We partnered with Children's Ministry to shop together for the missionaries' kids.

This involved connecting with our missionaries, figuring out what they wanted or needed, and learning about their interests. Building our relationship with our missionaries was an important aspect of this project for me.

Another joy was educating our kids about the importance of missions, the roles our missionaries played, and having them pray for our missionaries.

We then took the kids to Target (pictured) with shopping lists from the missionaries, and they picked out gifts for them. Each class wrote a card, and sent a picture of their shopping trip to their designated missionaries.

The response from our missionaries was overwhelming. We received heartfelt thanks, and many pictures of smiling faces upon receiving their gifts. (Letter from the Takamoto's, *below.*)

We wanted our missionaries to feel loved and cared for in a personal way, and the Lord gave us the desires of our hearts. How wonderful and good is our God!

In Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:25



Dear Friends at CBC ...



Ian and Olivia, enthralled and happy with their gifts

Our family was so touched by your generosity and love! The care packages were perfect for each of us.

Our kids loved having a special package of gifts for each of them. They loved each and every thing! The only problem was when Ian opened his Legos he didn't want to go to bed, haha.

Yesterday Olivia had 3 of her school friends over - two of whose moms have worked here at Nozomi. She hadn't had a play date in many months- and I'd been worried about her. But this happened, and they LOVED LOVED playing with the bubbles you sent! Thank you so much.

You guys have taken such good care of us. We are so grateful. Thank you!

Much love,
Sue & Eric, Owen, Annie, Olivia, Ian Takamoto

Updates from the Church Family

Our condolences and prayers to:

- Susan and Arthur Chen, on the passing of Susan's father, Yu-Chen Ho, on August 17, in Taiwan.
- Lori Okamura, as she grieves the loss of her mother, Ruth Kiyoko Okamura, on June 25, in Maui.
- Rika Hisayasu and family as her mother, Masako Hosozawa, passed away on June 21.
- Ernie Nishii, on the passing of his mother, Ernie Jane Masaki Nishii, on June 15.
- Debbie Ohara, on the loss of her sister, Kathleen Yuasa, on Mar. 27.

Dates and events to remember:

- Baja Home Ministry, October 7-8. Help build a house for a family in need; no experience necessary.
- Team World Vision at the Long Beach Half Marathon, October 8. Support your favorite runner or walker with a donation at: www.teamworldvision.org/longbeach
- Pumpkin Patch Party, Oct 28, Enjoy fun, games, and activities. Invite your friends!
- Alternative Christmas Bazaar, November 19

WOMEN'S DAY OUT, NOV. 11



A day to enjoy, have fun, laugh, talk, learn, relax, craft, line dance, enjoy good food, walk, hike, solitude, and/or hang out with friends.

*CBC women:
It's a day for you!*

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Worship Services Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.
Children & Youth classes on Sunday. Call for details.
Church Office Hours Tue - Fri 9:00 am - 4:30 pm



The Cerritos Messenger is published quarterly. Contact the church office to submit information or articles.