



Cerritos Baptist Church

# messenger

Spring 2018

## CBC ACADEMY: Another Rewarding Session!

On 3 Wednesday evenings in January, we enjoyed learning and growing together in 3 diverse classes at the CBC Academy.

In addition to spiritual input, we received the added benefit of enjoying new friendships, fun and fellowship -- as we listened, learned, discussed, and put it all into practice.

Pictured: classes on (top) *The Gifts of Imperfection*; and (bottom) *Fitness and Spirituality*.



## Upcoming Sundays

### Sunday Sermons: "more"

- Mar 4 Brandon Katagi
- Mar 11 Erik Kakimoto
- Mar 18 Donna Katagi
- Mar 25 Nick Tawa



### Daylight Savings Time March 11<sup>th</sup>

Don't forget to set your clocks – spring forward!



### Easter services, April 1<sup>st</sup>

7:30 am and 10:00 am  
Pancake breakfast will be served by our Young Adults between services



For updated information and to listen to sermons, go to [www.cerritosbaptist.org](http://www.cerritosbaptist.org)

## A Word from Pastor Brandon

In Psalm 145:3, David says, "Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom."

This is the foundation of worship. That God is unspeakably awesome. Amazing in ways that we can't comprehend. Good beyond our wildest dreams.

There is nothing more vital to the church than this conviction - that God is great and worthy of praise. Nothing

creates more energy and momentum for faithful living, nothing creates a deeper sense of community, there's no greater appeal to nonbelievers, than a church that celebrates and enjoys the greatness of God together in meaningful and often passionate ways.

Join us as we seek more of God's greatness in our current sermon series: "more: pursuing a real encounter with God."

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# Youth Retreat 2018

By JT Hayashi

Over the President's Day weekend, about 30 of CBC's youth and a dozen staff went up into the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains for their annual youth retreat. This year's theme was "Community," and the Scripture focus was 1 Peter 4:8: "Above all, love each other deeply, for love covers over a multitude of sins."

The retreat speaker, Dora Yiu, is the InterVarsity region director for all universities in the San Diego area; she also serves as the outreach pastor at her local church. Dora's messages, delivered with her animated personality and using personal anecdotes, helped the youth to consider the meaning and value of community through the life of Paul. The message topics included "What does Community look like in God's Kingdom?", "Being a Community of Encouragement," "Being a Community of Inclusion," and "Being a Community of Forgiveness."

During the Inclusion message, the youth got their hands dirty in an object lesson as they made bread dough from scratch! There was a missing ingredient from their supplies—honey—which is required to activate the yeast and help the bread to rise. Youth were challenged to think about who might be missing from their faith community and how those people could help "activate" their own faith.

In the following message, the junior high and high school students looked at the rift and reconciliation between Paul and John Mark. Dora explained that since ultimately forgiveness belongs to God, it is His to give—and not ours to withhold from those who have wronged or hurt us. The youth also participated in "table fellowship" by breaking bread with one another—the same bread that they had helped to make earlier that morning.

After each session, the kids broke into their usual small groups, facilitated by youth staff. They shared the points of each message that stood out to them, and talked



through ways that they could apply the lessons when they returned to their homes and schools. Small group time also included the opportunity for staff and youth to pray for one another.

Of course retreat wasn't all Bible study and quiet times: there was a little bit of fun and games, too! Pastoral intern Evan Quitugua designed a series of team challenges for group game time. These activities included an obstacle course, dodge ball, an engineering-and-building contest, and a spicy ramen eating contest! There was also free time during which the kids could go for a hike, participate in arts and crafts, or just take a nap.



As a special treat, God delivered snow as everyone slept during the final night. In the morning, the retreat site was blanketed in a layer of pure white powder. Naturally, a snowball fight ensued before everyone boarded the bus to come back home.

Youth Intern Matt Wada, along with Kristen Gima, put together a "lip dub" video that the youth and staff helped make. You can enjoy it at: <http://bit.ly/2CaPba0>

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# Children's Ministries: Did you know ....?

By Tina Lorenz

Did you know .....

..... We have new curriculum for our 4-5 year olds? Our PreK-K classes, taught by Clara Shota and Bobbie Sato, have started the Gospel Project (already used by our grade school kids, *pictured*) whose lessons take a chronological approach, spending equal time in the Old and New Testaments, allowing kids to see how Jesus fits into the entire Bible.

Children are engaged through creative activities which help bring the Bible stories to life! Thank you to all the teachers/aides who continue to help make Sunday School a wonderful place to learn about Christ and be loved.

Want to learn more about teaching these tiny humans? Contact Stephanie Luna at [steph@cerritosbaptist.org](mailto:steph@cerritosbaptist.org) or Tina Lorenz at [tina@cerritosbaptist.org](mailto:tina@cerritosbaptist.org).

..... Our 11:00am nursery, toddler, and preschool classes are growing? If you want to impact a child's life and partner with families in the spiritual development of the little ones, Steph and Tina would love to have a conversation with you!

..... Vacation Bible School 2018 will be July 16-20 from 9:00am-12:00pm? Families and volunteers, mark your calendars! Want to serve during this awesome experience in the summer? You know what to do!

*Jameson Lorenz, Mika Tawa, Landon Gilmore, shining bright after our Christmas program, Star of Wonder.*



*The 5th grade class in action with the Gospel Project*

..... All kids must be checked-in using our new online system, Breeze? Yes, that's why all the kids are wearing name tags! Safety is of paramount concern and this is a small step we are taking to ensure we know who is on the premises, children's allergens, and who to contact in an emergency.

Would you like to help check-in kids? Talk to Steph or Tina to see if this is a good fit for you!

**"How can I pray?"**

**We're glad you asked! Please pray for...**

- Our church family's expectant mothers and current families
- Continued stamina and self-growth for our Children's Ministry team as well as bringing new volunteers who have a heart for this ministry
- And pray for us, Steph and Tina :D

## 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  
Bianca Tolentino, CM Intern

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## Updates from the Church Family

Our condolences and prayers are with:

- Rosie Tamanaha and the Tamanaha family, as they grieve the loss of Miyoko Tamanaha, on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- John and Gayle Akamatsu, on the passing of John's father, Ed Akamatsu, on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Sat and Karen Mayeda, on the passing of Sat's mother on February 4<sup>th</sup>.



### Last Issue of the CBC Messenger

We want to inform you that this is the last issue of our newsletter, the CBC Messenger. Due to changes in our technology and human resources -- which would necessitate major changes in production -- we will no longer be mailing the newsletter each quarter.

We know you'll miss it! For that reason, we hope to continue to keep you informed about what's happening in our ministries through the website. We will be shifting to the website blog to post articles and updates at [www.cerritosbaptist.org](http://www.cerritosbaptist.org)

Please check the website periodically to find out what's new at church. For those who have limited internet access, we will also print relevant website articles and make them available at church.

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Worship Services ..... Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.  
Children & Youth classes on Sunday. Call for details.  
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