



Cerritos Baptist Church

Experiencing Grace, Growing in Love.

messenger

Spring 2016

Pray for the Japan Missions Team March 29 - April 11



Q: What are those blue things they're holding? And why are JoAnn Kaba and the Tawa and Akamatsu families holding them?

A: They're hippos. And it was JoAnn's idea (as always), creative and fun (as always). Find out about hippos and the missions team on page 3.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS



Sunday Sermons:

Closer to God:

The Real Reason for Lent

Mar 6 Erik Kakimoto

Mar 13 Donna Katagi

Mar 20 Brandon Katagi

Mar 27 Erik Kakimoto



Daylight Savings Time, March 13

Don't forget to change your clocks, and spring forward!



Good Friday Service, March 25

Join us at 7:30 pm as we gratefully prepare our hearts for Easter.



Easter Worship Services, March 27

7 am Sunrise Service

Pancake breakfast

10 am Second Service

For updated information and to listen to sermons, please check the website,

A Word from Pastor Erik

As I reflect on our past sermon series, "The Gospel and Homosexuality", that was concluded a few weeks ago, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude and appreciation for our amazing CBC family.

The level of grace and honesty in dealing with such a sensitive topic was truly humbling and inspiring.

So to our CBC family, on behalf of the staff: thank you for walking this journey with us. Thank you for the countless hours meeting with us, praying for us, and even challenging us, all with patience and understanding.

While the journey is far from over, we're simply grateful to walk it with all of you!

Youth Sunday Service

To kick off the start of 2016, our *Straightforward* Youth Group led the service on Sunday, January 3rd. Virginia Lavallo, from Ishinomaki Christian Center, shared about the ministry in Japan with which our Japan Youth Missions Teams have served, and youth leader JT Hayashi spoke on "Partnering with the Gospel".

The youth did everything for the service, including decorating the sanctuary with encouraging messages and testimonies (pictured, right). Here are some of their testimonies, which were posted on the walls:

God has given me the opportunity to make more friends. He has also given me hope in times of doubt. (Nolan, 11th gr.)

In 2015 God has helped me to get through many struggles in my life that I have never experienced before. He has also shown me that I am stronger than I think I am and I can overcome anything with His help. (Lexi, 9th gr.)

I'm thankful for God for the amazing 4 years of high school. Time goes by fast and I want to thank God for being with me. (Nathan, 12th gr.)

This year God has blessed me with SWAG friends and also blessed me with a wonderful family! He watches over me everyday 24/7. *SWAG = Sensitive Wise Accountable Got yo back (Brett, 9th gr.)*

I thank God for letting me reconnect with him. (Jaevin, 7th gr.)

In 2015 God has blessed me with so much. He has given me the ability to participate in JV volleyball. He has also taught me to love others and his glory. (Holly, 9th gr.)



*To God be the glory!
Great things He has done
in the lives of our youth.*

This year God has blessed me with friends who care for me! He also blessed me with a family I can never replace! (Luke, 8th gr.)



Ushers and greeters Nicholas, Braeden, Ashton, Phil, Caitlyn, and Nathan.



Snack servers Sarah, Ashley, Holly, Kevin, Krizha.

Japan Missions *Hippo Team*

By Nick Tawa

Before I say anything, I want to make it clear that this is JoAnn's team. It's her vision, driven by her leadership, and ultimately her responsibility (so please direct any complaints to her). Per JoAnn's direction, we are officially the *Hippo Team*, derived from her last name, Kaba; it means *hippopotamus*.

The mission of the *Hippo Team* is to support the Masons (Michael, Chris, and 15 year old Luke) in their long-term commitment to the Gospel in Japan.

I first met the Masons this past August. I remember their genuine and down-to-earth vibe. Chris shared that every spring, they invite a small team to provide a spring break program at their small Christian school - a simple, concrete task that blesses teachers, students, and administrators alike.

I thought to myself, "That sounds like a great opportunity. Maybe I'll send a team of young adults."

Fast-forward to October, when JoAnn asked if I'd like to go. My gut reaction was, "Sure!... If I didn't have 2 kids to take care of." But as I spent time in prayer and discussion with JoAnn and my wife, we decided that our whole family would go.

The Akamatsu's prayerfully discerned that their entire family would go as well. So here we are, "two families and an old lady" (JoAnn's words, not mine!) going to Japan on March 29 to serve missionaries that CBC has supported for years.

As with any missions team, we are open to whatever audibles God may call along the way. But as of now, we are diligently preparing for:

- A week long program for gr. 1-12
- Teacher training, parent training
- Easter Party

Thanks in advance for your prayers and support!

SPECIAL PRAYER MEETING

For the 5th Anniversary of the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami



On Thursday, Mar. 10th the short term missions team to Japan will be hosting an interactive prayer time.

Drop in any time between 3-9 pm. You can start at any of the 6 prayer stations, and proceed at your own pace.

Families are encouraged to come out and participate! The stations are very hands-on.

There will be snacks ready for everyone from 3 - 5:30pm.

Everyone is welcome to come as we pray for the healing and hope that only Jesus can bring to Japan.

Men's Fellowship

Here are some of the CBCers that enjoyed watching the Super Bowl, with lots of food, fellowship, and football!

Future Men's Fellowship events will be posted on the website; join the fun!



CBC Staff

Erik Kakimoto
Senior Pastor

Jo Ann Kaba
Children's Ministries Director

Donna Katagi
Executive Pastor

Brandon Katagi
Worship & Youth Pastor

Jon Tawa, Asst Youth Dir.

Gary Tawa
Pastor to the Seniors

Kacy Nagatoshi
Community Life Director

Steve Koshimizu
Administrator

Nick Tawa
Young Adults Pastor

Lyndsey Asami, Intern
Bianca Tolentino, Intern
Isabel Arechiga, Intern

Updates from the Church Family

Our condolences and prayers are with Geoff and Gail Monti on the passing of Geoff's mother on Nov. 5th in New York.

Congratulations to Jesse and Aze Apostol (and big brothers Jazen and Xander), on the birth of their son, Jazrael, on December 29th.

Join us for:

- Financial Peace University starts on Feb 28 and continues for 9 weeks.
- Next Baja Ministry, April 30-May 1. Get involved and be a blessing!



A worship movement for college students and young adults, and those who thirst for God. Sunday nights, 7 PM, Feb 21 – Mar 20

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