

April - June  
Volume 4, Issue 2

# 和 Central Harmony

Quarterly Newsletter of Central Japanese-American Community Church of SDA

## Easter Social



**Address:**

2113 East Villa Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107

**Phone:**

(626) 304-7800

**Questions/Comments:**

[harmony@centraljapanese.org](mailto:harmony@centraljapanese.org)

**PR/Communication Staff:**

Keiko Takeda  
Mika Aoki  
Izumi Kono  
Maki Vance

**Contributing Writers:**

Dennis Imai  
Yoko Lamn

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.centraljapanese.org](http://www.centraljapanese.org)

## “Bare Feet on Holy Ground”

The bush was burning. It should be a pile of ashes. But it was not burning up. The shepherd was curious so he moved toward the fire-proof bush. “God called to him from the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ ‘Here I am!’ Moses replied. ‘Do not come any closer,’ God told him. ‘Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground.’” Exodus 3:3-5 (NLT)

Do you wear shoes in your home? Not in our home. Our entry sometimes looks like a shoe store after a group of teens has tried on every “cute” shoe. If you need a new pair of shoes, come to our house during a party, and as you leave, just choose a better pair that fits.

Why do we take off our shoes at home? Because we always have. It is comfortable and it feels like our floor stays cleaner. Did God tell Moses to take off his sandals because Moses would be more comfortable? To keep the pebbles, snakes and dirt clean? No. Why did Moses have to take off his sandals? Because God told him it was “holy ground”.

Holy ground? Because pebbles, snakes and dirt are holy? Was there a hidden holy scorpion? The ground was holy because God was there meeting Moses. It was all about God.

While the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God told them to build a tabernacle, “I want the people of Israel to build me a sacred residence where I can live among them.” Exodus 25:8 (NLT)

The tabernacle was an important structure, a special sanctuary. God gave very specific instructions about its materials and construction, how the services were to be conducted, who could come inside and even the exact equipment and furnishings.

God did not need a house. He did not design His home for Himself. He did not need a place to live. Then why did He want them to build a “sacred residence”?

He wanted His people to know that He was with them. He wanted them to remember that He was part of their life. The tabernacle was an assurance and

reminder of this.

The tabernacle was where God revealed His will and provided instructions. Exodus 25:21-22. The tabernacle was where the High Priest would confess the sins of God’s people and where the sacrifice is offered. The tabernacle was where God told His beloved people that they were forgiven. The tabernacle was a reminder to His people that He wants to walk and talk with them, like He did with Adam and Eve.

God did not and does not need a reminder that He loves us or that He wants to “live” with us. He doesn’t need a residence on earth. He remembers that He loves us and lives with us.

Every Sabbath we come to CJACC. We worship in our sanctuary. Why? Are we here because the concrete, stucco, wood or electronics are holy? No. Do we have to come here to meet each other? No, we can meet anywhere. For great sermons? No, we can get that on the TV, radio or CDs.

On April 23, 2011, we had a special service in the afternoon and dedicated our sanctuary to God. We had posters and a slide show to remember our roots. Southern California Conference officers came with special messages and prayers. We praised God for leading us to this location, to this specific building.

Why did we dedicate our sanctuary? Why was that specific room with the pews and high ceilings dedicated? What is now the purpose of our sanctuary at 2113 East Villa Street in 2013?

Like the tabernacle of the Israelites wilderness wandering, does our sanctuary and its services foreshadow the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary? No, the debt for our sins has already been paid by Jesus’ death. Do we need to go to the tabernacle to learn God’s will? No, the Holy Spirit impresses our hearts and minds and through His written word.

So do we still need the sanctuary? Yes. Why? Just as the tabernacle was holy, just as the ground around the

burning bush was holy, our sanctuary is holy. How is your sanctuary of wood, concrete and cloth holy?

Let us first define “holy”. According to Holman’s Bible Dictionary, “holy” means “to be set apart” by or for God. Buildings, writings, places, objects and even persons may be holy if they are set apart because of God’s presence or God’s special blessing.

Dedicating our sanctuary was our declaration that the space was set apart for God. Not to give Him a place to live but as a reminder for us. A reminder that God loves us and still cares about our needs.

Whenever we worship God in our sanctuary, it is a time to recall His leading while we searched for a church home. When we walk through our sanctuary, we remember the entreaties we prayed at noon every day. When we raise our voices in praise, our praises reflect our thanks for God’s leading and caring.

“The main purpose of our church is to experience the power of the living God.” Our sanctuary is a place of reverence, where we are reminded of our connection with God. Let us remember that our sanctuary is holy ground because just as His presence in the burning bush made the desert sand holy, God is present in our sanctuary.

---

Dennis Imai  
Administrative Pastor

---

### 「裸足の聖地」

芝は燃えていた。灰の山があるはずだった。しかし燃え尽きてはいなかった。羊飼いは、不思議に思い、燃え尽きない芝に向かって歩いて行った。

『神はしばの中から彼を呼んで、「モーセよ、モーセよ」と言われた。彼は「ここにいます」と言った。神は言われた、「ここに近づいてはいけない。足からくつを脱ぎなさい。あなたが立っているその場所は聖なる地だからで

ある」。』出エジプト記3章3節-5節

皆さんは家で靴を履きますか？私達の家では履きません。我が家の玄関は時々まるで10代のグループが‘かわいい’靴をいろいろ試した後の靴屋さんの様になります。もし皆さんが新しい靴が必要でしたら、私達の家でパーティがある時にいらしてください。そして帰るときに足に合うもっと良い靴を選んでいって下さい。

なぜ私達は家では靴を脱ぐのでしょうか。なぜなら私達はいつもそうしてきたからです。そのほうが気持ちがいいですし、床がきれいに保たれるような気がします。神がモーセに靴をぬげと言ったのは、モーセが楽になるからでしょうか。小石やヘビや土をきれいに保つためでしょうか。違います。ではなぜモーセは靴を脱がなければならなかったのでしょうか。それは神がそこは、‘聖なる地’だと言われたからです。

聖なる地？小石やヘビや土が聖なるものだからでしょうか？そこには聖なる蠍が隠されていたのでしょうか。そこは聖なる地でした。なぜならその場所で神がモーセに会っていたからです。全ては神によるものでした。

イスラエル人が荒れ野をさまよっている時、神は彼らに幕屋を建てなさいと言いました。『また、彼らにわたしのために聖所を造らせなさい。わたしが彼らのうちに住むためである。』出エジプト記25章8節

幕屋は特別な聖所で、重要な建物でした。神はその材料と建築方法、またどのように礼拝は行われ、誰が中に入ることができるか、さらには道具や調度にわたり、とても明確な指示を与えました

神は家が必要なわけではありませんでした。神はご自身のためにご自身の家をデザインしたわけではありませんでした。神は住む場所が必要であったわけではありません。ではなぜ神はイスラエル人に‘聖なる住まい’を建てさせたのでしょうか。

神は、ご自身の民に神様は彼らと共におられるという事を知らせたかった

のです。彼らに神は彼らの人生の一部だと言う事を覚えていて欲しかったのです。幕屋はこの事を確信させ思い出させるためのものでした。

幕屋は神がそのみ旨を示し、指示を与える場所でした。出エジプト記25章21節-22節 幕屋は大祭司が神の人々の罪を告白し、生け贄を捧げる場所でした。幕屋は、神がお愛しになった人々をお許しになる場所でした。幕屋は、神がアダムとエバにしたように、人々が神と共に歩き、語る場所として思い出されるものなものでした。

神はご自身が私達を愛し、また私達と共に‘生きていたい’という事を覚えている必要はありませんでした。神は、地球上に居住する必要はありませんでした。神は私達を愛し、私達と共に生きるという事を覚えておられたのです。

私達は安息日の度に、CJACCに来ます。私達は礼拝堂でお祈りを捧げます。なぜでしょうか。私達は、コンクリートや漆喰、木、電化製品が聖なる物だからここにいるのですか？違います。私達はお互いに会いに来るのでしょうか？違います。私達はどこでも会う事ができます。すばらしいお説教のためでしょうか。違います。私達はそれをテレビやラジオ、CDで得る事ができます。

2011年4月23日、私達は午後特別礼拝を行いました。そして私達の礼拝堂を神へ捧げました。私達のルーツを思い出すためにポスターやスライドショーも行いました。南カリフォルニアカンファレンスの役員も特別なメッセージとお祈りを捧げに来られました。私達はこの場所、この特定の建物を示して下さった神を賛美しました。

なぜ私達は礼拝堂を捧げたのでしょうか。なぜあの会衆席と高い天井のある特定の部屋が捧げられたのでしょうか。2013年の2113 イースト・ヴィラ・ストリートにある私達の礼拝堂は今何の為にあるのでしょうか。

荒野を放浪するイスラエル人の幕屋の様に、私達の礼拝堂と礼拝はカルバリーのイエス様の受難を予示している

のでしょうか。違います、私達の罪はイエス様の死によってすでにあがなわれているのです。私達は幕屋に行つて神のみ旨を知る必要があるのでしょうか。いいえ、聖霊は神によって書かれたみ言葉を通して私達の心全体に焼き付いています。

では私達は、礼拝堂がそれでも必要なのでしょうか。そうですね、なぜでしょうか。幕屋が神聖な場所であったように、燃える芝が神聖な場所であったように、私達の礼拝堂も神聖な場所なのです。では礼拝堂に使われている木やコンクリート、布は神聖な物なのでしょうか。

まず‘神聖’について明確にしてみましょう。ホルマンの聖書辞典によると、‘神聖’とは、神様によって‘区別される’という意味です。建物や文章、場所、物、人でさえ、神のご臨在や特別な祝福によって区別されているのであれば神聖でありえます。

礼拝堂を捧げるのは、その場所が神によって区別されているという私達の証です。神が住む場所を造るのではなく、神が私達を愛し、私達の必要に心を留めていてくださることを私達が憶えていく為です。

礼拝堂で神を賛美する時にはいつでも、私達のための教会を探している間神が私達を導いて下さった事を思い出す時です。礼拝堂を歩く時、毎日正午に私達は祈り懇願した事を思い出します。私達が賛美の声をあげる時、神の導きと慈悲への感謝が賛美に現れます。

「私達の教会の主な目的は、現存する神の力を経験することです」私達の礼拝堂は、神への敬意の場であり、神との交わりを思い出させる場所でもあります。燃える芝にある神のご臨在が砂漠の砂を神聖なものにしたように、私達の礼拝堂は聖なる地である事を憶えていましょう。神は私達の礼拝堂におられるのです。

デニス今井  
信徒牧師

## 小林輝子さんの思い出 / Memories of Mrs. Teruko Kobayashi



Mrs. Teruko Kobayashi, with whom we have praised and worshiped the Lord together as a church family here at Central for many years, is moving back to Japan this June. Starting as a deaconess, she has also spent many years serving Central Church through managing the sale of Japanese Christian literature. Also, she was very supportive to any students who had come abroad from Japan to study here by cooking for them as well as giving them a place to stay.

I have asked a number of Mrs. Kobayashi's church friends to share their favorite memories they've had with her while she has been here:

"Teruko-san always opened her home to many and offered great meals for her guests. She invited many to her home more than I did to my home."

- Mr. Reijin Fujita

"We were always together so I will miss her very much. I hope that she will do well while she lives over there."

- Mrs. Hideko Tsushima

"As we have known each other since high school, I will be extremely sad when she is gone. I look forward to when I can meet her in Japan."

- Mrs. Hiroko Matsumoto

"I have known her for a long time, back when we were both single and working at Eisei (SDA) Hospital. Parting is sad, but let us also meet in Heaven again."

- Mrs. Naoe Matsuda

Mrs. Teruko Kobayashi, thank you for your service and fellowship with our church all these years. May you be in good health and we pray that God richly bless your new life back in Japan.

長年セントラル教会の家族として一緒に神様を賛美、礼拝してきました小林輝子さんが6月中旬に日本へ引越されることとなりました。小林さんは女執事を始め、書籍役員などを長年務め、教会でご奉仕下さいました。またたくさんの留学生や若者を自宅に迎え美味しいご飯、時には住むところを与えてられました。

教会のお友達の何人かに輝子さんの思い出、メッセージをお願いしました。

輝子さんはいつもだれでも家に招待してご飯を食べさせてくれた。自分が招待するよりも彼女が自分たちを招待してくれたことの方が多。そういう人です。

藤田礼仁さん

いつも一緒にいたからすごく寂しいです。元気で過ごして欲しいです。

津島日出子さん

高校の同級生で付き合いが長いので、いなくなるのは寂しいです。日本でまたお会いできるのを楽しみにしています。

松本ひろこさん

ずいぶん昔からの付き合いです。まだお互い独身で衛生病院で一緒に働きましたね。お別れするのは寂しいですけどまた天国でお会いしましょう。

松田直江さん

小林輝子さん、長年のセントラル教会でのご奉仕ありがとうございました。健康が支えられ神様が日本での生活を祝福して下さいますようお願いしています。

## Thank you, Obara Family!



In March, our beloved Pastor Obara and his family, who had been in dedicated service to our Central Church family going on ten years now, have returned to Japan. I first became acquainted with them through the church program called Total Life Seminar. This led to my attending their Bible study for one year and ultimately, with two other friends, in being baptized by Pastor Obara. Because of the many things we had in common, from our ages, to the length of time that we've lived in the States, as well as our children's ages, I have grown close with this family and have gotten to spend a lot of time with them.

When at first I knew nothing about Christians, in getting to see how the Obara family lived their lives, I have come to learn much. Around the time that Sachiko gave birth to their twins, Pastor Obara was also busily attending school pursuing a degree. And while I believe that that time must have been draining both physically and mentally on the two, they opened their homes to many mothers with little children in tow, giving Bible studies and on many occasions, lending a listening ear to us if ever we had problems or were seeking advice. In the giving of their time and service to the many mothers who came to the Total Life Seminars, they worked passionately in spreading the gospel to nonChristians. When it came to supporting the church, from tasks both large to so small that they'd go unnoticed, this family has held us up through their prayer and encouragement. To any about whom they heard were sick, they would quickly drive over to visit; to any who were troubled and in need, they gently took their hand and prayed with them.

I was convinced that those who shed tears out of sadness that they were parting, as well as the abundance of gratitude expressed for them, was a testament to what this family really meant to us while they were here in LA. Along with our thanks for their dedication and service to our church family, I pray that God pour His blessings and His love abundantly upon them as they start their new life.

- Yoko Lamn



## 小原家、ありがとうございました！



10年以上に渡りセントラル教会にて尽力下さった小原望牧師とご家族が3月に日本へ帰国されました。私は教会で行われているトータルライフで知り合い、1年間の聖書研究を経て2人の友人と共に小原牧師から洗礼を授かりました。お互いの年齢、渡米時期、子供達の年も近いということで小原家と共に多くの時間を過ごさせて頂きました。

キリスト者として何も分からない私は小原家の生活を通して沢山のことを学びました。幸子夫人が双子を出産された頃、小原牧師は学校へ通っていらっしゃいました。お二人とも体力的にも精神的にもとても厳しい環境であったと思いますが、小さな子供を抱えたお母さん達の為にご自宅を開放し聖書研究を開いて皆さんの悩みや相談事に親身になってくださいました。トータルライフではご夫婦で沢山の時間を割いてください、ノンクリスチャンの方々へ伝道活動を熱心にしてくださいました。教会活動においては勿論のこと、私達教会員が気づかない小さな事もいつも心にとめ、ご家族で祈り、励まし、支えてくださいました。病気の方がいれば車を走らせ駆けつけ、困っている方がいれば優しく手を取り祈ってくださいました。

別れを惜しむ沢山の方の涙と感謝の言葉が小原家のLAでの生活の全てを表していると思いました。小原家の労に感謝すると共に新生活が神様の祝福と愛に満ち溢れたものでありますように、お祈りさせて頂きたいと思います。ありがとうございました。

ラム庸子

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### Keiro Nursing Home Visit

**Saturday, July 13 from 3:00-3:45pm**

Keiro Nursing Home, 2221 Lincoln Park Ave, LA 90031

If you and/or your children would like to join us, please contact Maki Vance at makikaneko@gmail.com.

### Family Fun Night

**Saturday, July 27 at 6:00pm**

For more information, please contact James Matsuda at jamesmatsuda@hotmail.com.

### Castaic Lake Church Campout

**Friday, August 2 – Sunday, August 3**

Castaic Lake, 32132 Castaic Lake Drive, Castaic, CA 91384

For more information, please contact Maki Vance.

### Vacation Bible School

**Monday, August 5 - Friday, August 9 from 5:30pm-8:00pm**

Ages 4-12 are welcome! For more information and to sign up, please contact Jessica at vbs@centraljapanese.org.

### Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

**Starting Saturday, August 24 at 2:30pm for 9 consecutive weeks**

We all need a plan for our money. *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

For more information, please contact Maki Vance.

### Message from our Church Elders:

*Dear Church Family,*

*The Elders would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for helping us raise the money for the air conditioning/heating system, and electrical update for our Community Hall in such a short time! It will be great to be able to enjoy the air conditioning this summer and especially for our seniors when we celebrate "Keiro no Hi". It is truly amazing to have such a wonderful, responsive and generous church family. God is blessing our church... Thank you all, again.*

### インターネットで献金ができます! ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE!

Tithe and donate to your ministry of choice by using your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or Debit Card. Please visit our website at [www.centraljapanese.org](http://www.centraljapanese.org) and click the "TITHE AND DONATE ONLINE" tab.

#### Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly Events

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| * Japanese Language Ukulele Group         | Tues 10am-11am |
| * Japanese Language Bible Studies         | Tues 11am-12pm |
| * Japanese Language Prayer Meeting        | Wed 10am       |
| * Total Life Seminar (Japanese Language)  | Thu 10am-2pm   |
| * Family Fun Night                        | Monthly        |
| * Women's Ministry                        | Quarterly      |
| * Oil Change Ministry (Japanese Outreach) | Quarterly      |

If you would like to be added to our email list for announcements and updates, please contact Melissa at [news@centraljapanese.org](mailto:news@centraljapanese.org).

この教会のイベント情報などを e-メールでお送りしています。ご希望の方は以下のアドレスからメリッサ外間まで [news@centraljapanese.org](mailto:news@centraljapanese.org).

Central Japanese-American Community Church  
2113 East Villa Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107

日本人コミュニティー中央教会

visit us at our website:

[www.centraljapanese.org](http://www.centraljapanese.org)