



a missional partnership for Japan



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in Japan and Greater Asia*

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*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do
you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and
rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

How do you Roll your Sushi?

Team building can be fun. **Church on the Hill**, San Jose, CA, our home church, sent a team of nine individuals to serve at **Hokushin Calvary Church** last month. We made sushi rolls and burritos. These dishes have contrasting tastes, textures and colors and require spice: wasabi and chili sauce! Our sushi rolls had one other power food: **natto**, or fermented soy beans.



Eating these dishes helped to fuel church staff, our American team and over 50 kids at day camps and a youth event. The team also worked with several youth in small basketball clinics and over 30 medical personnel at a Medical Cafe.



Food can break down barriers to language and culture, but it pales in effect in comparison to the work of the gospel. I was proud of this team who flexed and cared deeply for people, endured difficult circumstances including daily heat in the 90s plus high humidity. Expectations, schedules and energy levels ebbed and flowed. But gospel-driven joy and humility worked powerfully as testimonies of hope, forgiveness and love moved freely across cultures. These collaborative efforts led to a number of children accepting Christ as their savior. I

had lengthy conversations with a neurosurgeon and a basketball dad about faith, suffering and the gospel.

Larry Wildemuth, retired pastor, and chaplain for over 40 years, led this team. He prayed for Harumi's salvation. It was as if he came all the way from San Jose to do this. It was a profound picture of the journey of Jesus from Heaven to the cross for us.



PRAYER

1. For two men who study the Bible with me—Harumi and Naoki to believe in Christ.
2. For Hokushin youth pastor Tomonori Kitsunai, to adapt to his new position.
3. For wisdom, preparation, and discernment for my speaking engagements and counseling and mentoring appointments this fall.
4. For Mia, our new granddaughter!

DAY OF PRAYER

My Day of Prayer for our supporters is the first of every month. Please send me your requests!

Integrity 2025 Update

♦**Resiliency-Based Leadership Development**

Mentoring, pastors and missionaries. Nine Mentees.

Future Events: Second Level Ministry Japanese Soul Care Retreat, 9/24-26, Los Angeles. Renown Conference, counseling ministry, 11/13-15, Shizuoka.

♦ **Finishing-Well Consulting** Helping pastors and church boards to thrive in ministry and transition into retirement.

Spoke at the Evangelical Free Church National Pastors' Conference with 80 pastors, June 24-26 in Tokyo.

Future Events: Main speaker, annual Conference of the Association of Evangelical Seminaries, 10/7-8, Sendai. Speaker, Over-60 Pastors Retreat, 11/18-20, Kinshuko, Iwate.

♦ **Fukushima Church Planting** Helping Hokushin Calvary Church connect with their community through Kids's Cafe, Orange Cafe and sports outreach.

Our home church, **Church on the Hill, San Jose**, helped us make significant gospel impact via a Kids Day Camp, Basketball Camp and Medical Cafe at Hokushin July 19-24. Bible studies with Harumi and Naoki continue.

♦ **Leadership Development at Hokushin Calvary Church** Mentor church leaders and train members.

Continue to mentor Pastors Kuba and Kitsunai.

♦**Marriage and Family Counseling** Encourage couples and families through the hope of the gospel.

Six couples and one individual. Completed sixth course from CCEF. I have one more class scheduled for January 2025.

Eriko and I thank you and the Lord for your faithful prayers and support.

Blessings,

John and Eriko

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