

100
Days of
Prayer

Praises and Prayer Requests

NEWSLETTER

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Founded in 1921

LOS ANGELES HOLINESS CHURCH

Praise, that we were able to hire a senior pastor during the pandemic. It was unfortunate that we had to search for a new pastor under difficult circumstances. The loss of our pastor is hard, but it's even harder when the pastor grew up in the church and had built lifelong relationships. However, many people stepped up to fill in the void in different areas. There was a rotation of a group of people who preached each Sunday. Some took it upon themselves to visit people and even provide meals. Healing only began once we grieved and surrendered ourselves to God. People used the gifts God gave them and used them exceptionally.

More praise! Remarkably, our new pastor, Michael Furuyama, and his family, were able to sell their old house quickly, move cross country, and buy a house in Southern California. Unable to



Michael, Aya, Matthew, Nathan, Hannah



meet their new church family in person for months, they connected with us through the church ministries, mostly virtually. That is a praise for God's provision for the family and of His assurance in trusting in Him for our church.

Also praise the Lord that we were able to host various events such as Thanksgiving, Easter, and graduation drive by's, Dash of Love which delivered monthly generous bentos and baked goods to our seniors and caregivers scattered through four local counties, and many virtual special events. (Satoshi N.)

A praise story! In February 2012, the West Adams Christian Church in our neighborhood held its final service after worshipping for 60+ years. Their newer church was built in 1950 after their return from the internment camps of World War II for they were not allowed to worship together as a Japanese American congregation in their former building. The interim pastor, Aki Kawamata (who later pastored our sister church in Tucson), contacted former LAHC pastor Seigo Takayoshi to request inviting the remaining members of West Adams to join in our worship service to consider making LAHC their new

community of worship. The LAHC congregation was made aware of the situation at West Adams and was encouraged to extend a warm welcome to those from West Adams. About seven of the members attended our service including Pastor Kawamata. There was nothing noteworthy about that day but Pastor Seigo gave an encouraging message from the pulpit, acknowledged our guests, and we most likely shared a luncheon together. After that first service, about 5-6 attended our services on a regular basis making Los Angeles Holiness Church their own.

During the years that followed, relationships strengthened and our body of Christ grew more and more in love with Jesus. We worshipped together, laughed together, bore each others' burdens, encouraged each other, and walked in our journeys of faith together. Sachi Kaneshiro, her sister, Mary Karatsu, Sam and Esther Kawata and Mat Karagiri ended their faith journeys as beloved members of LAHC, and although we had only known them less than 10 years, I praise God that we had the privilege to call them brother and sisters in Christ and walk beside them. I praise God that He provided them with a new house to worship Him and that He did not abandon or forsake them. I praise God that we were able to hear their amazing testimonies of God's provision and love in their lives. I praise God that through Sachi Kaneshiro we are connected to her son-in-law, Pastor Mike Fernandez from Calvary Chapel in Minnesota who was able to preach on several occasions while we were still searching for a new senior pastor. I praise God for blessing us at LAHC to be a blessing to others!

More Praises

My other praise story! Several years ago, our youth (middle school and high school) group fellowship was dormant. Because of the dedication of leaders like James Takaki, Claire Cho, and Holly Yamagata, our youth were able to have a fellowship group where they could learn about God and have fun together. Fellowship meetings and retreats such as Winter Vision, Mt. Hermon and even our own Family Camp provided our youth opportunities to grow spiritually among their peers. Many of our youth are serving in the worship service, serving on the worship praise teams, and have participated in missions trips. I praise God for raising up a new generation that have their hearts set on following God, undivided in their commitments to serving Christ and each other. I praise God for providing our young people leaders who are dedicated to their spiritual growth and who invest their time, drive many miles and give our youth the nurturing environment they need to develop their relationship with Jesus. (Brian L.)



Praise! The children's Sunday school class taught a series on "the LORD's Prayer." During this time, one of our Sunday school teachers, Becky, was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was announced that Becky would be taking a break to begin her cancer treatment. The kids were asked if they would like to pray for Becky. Expecting only the teachers to pray, one young child began to pray immediately and others



Founders' Day 1941 at LAHC; Rev. Kuzuhara is front center right

followed. The teachers were surprised that the kids were praying and knew what to say when they prayed. They were short, sweet, and sincere prayers for Becky. They put into practice what they had learned. And Becky is improving. We thank God that he used even this difficult news of illness to train our children to trust in Jesus. (Yoh N.)

Praise for the legacy!

Many men and women who have passed through the doors of LAHC have responded to God's calling of service to Him in full-time ministry. After coming to salvation in Christ, they studied and trained to become pastors, missionaries, and leaders to share God's love and His transformational power. Our very own pastors Shunji and Atsuko Mizoguchi, Tak and Reiko Furuyama, Lester Yamashita, KC Uyemura (passed away), and Rob Yonemoto (formerly at Crossway) all came from LAHC. There are many others who are serving or have served in other denominations as pastors, like John Katagi. Praise the Lord!

During the nearly seventy years my parents have attended LAHC, the Nichigo congregation had seen incredible growth as young student

pastors from Japan came to study in the U.S. and teach the Bible at LAHC. Upon completion of their studies, those pastors returned home to minister, and during my nearly twenty years in Japan, I reconnected with and also met for the first time so many of them pastoring throughout the country. What a blessing! They shared with me such fond memories of their time at LAHC and how the Lord prepared them for full-time ministry. I realized that the Holy Spirit was continuing to change lives thousands of miles away in Japan through these pastors. Praise the Lord for using LAHC to send workers to the field. Praise the Lord for that legacy. (Lillian S.)

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you..."

(Luke 10:2-3a.)

Prayer Requests

1.
That we would be holy. His holiness is based on God making us whole through his finished work on the cross. Pray they will believe that God has made us complete in him and to live out and generously share his completeness spiritually, physically, mentally, relationally, and emotionally.
2.
That we would experientially know Jesus as our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and coming King. Please pray we would simply obey Jesus and what he has taught us through the scriptures.
3.
As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary as a church, we need God's discernment to know what traditions should be kept and what needs to change so that we can develop a stronger passion for Jesus and reach more people with the gospel.
4.
To establish good communication and relationship between the Nichigo and English leadership as we have a new English pastor and the Nichigo are expecting their new pastor later this year; that we can pray for the needs of both departments, not just our own sides. May God grace us with vision for the future and grant us the spirit of unity to carry out His mission through LAHC.
5.
For the Nichigo department's ministry and its revival; for an organist/ accompanist. With our Nichigo department predominantly elderly, we pray that a new generation of believers would be reached and disciplined under the new leadership of our future Nichigo pastor. Pray we will humbly seek God and that a great revival would take place.
6.
For God to reign and reclaim the world from the pandemic, allowing us to worship free from the threat of the covid-19 virus, and any variant strains; that we would be able to reconnect with our dear brothers and sisters who have felt isolated and be able to return to worshipping together, breaking bread

with each other through our luncheons, and gathering with our Nichigo congregation and the Spanish speaking church; that we will be able to resume our Sunday school and that parents will be comfortable with kids returning to the classrooms.

7.
For all the much needed repairs and renovations of the church in the next couple of years; for the funding of these projects
8.
For new volunteers as opportunities to serve have increased dramatically due to the changes to how we do church: livestream team, social media, security, and so on

PRAY FOR OUR CONFERENCE CHURCHES coming up soon

- July 8: San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church
- July 15: San Diego Japanese Christian Church
- July 22: Honolulu Christian Church

100 Days of Prayer

A message from Pastor Michael Furuyama:
I wanted to invite you and your respective churches to celebrate our 100th Anniversary as a conference by praying for 100 days for our conference churches. Just as the conference founders had a deep devotion to prayer, it would be fitting for us to continue that legacy by praying for vision and growth for each church in our conference. I believe that our founding fathers and mothers humbly asked God that God would bless their hands so that they could be God's blessing to those of Japanese descent and God responded mightily. In the early part of our conference history, we were one of the fastest growing Japanese churches in the States with establishing 5 churches in 10 years. For Jesus said in Matthew 7:8, "For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." ... **Read on by visiting the conference website or by clicking here:** <https://www.omsholiness.org/100-days-of-prayer>

