



# Riverside News

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Now... the Harvest!

Volume 2, Issue 2  
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## Inside This Issue

### Sunday Messages

#### **Bitterness**

Be self-controlled and alert.

(See Page 3)

### Testimonies

#### **Sowing is Giving; Giving is Receiving**

Yuzuru Kameyama and his wife have received double financial blessings from God.

(See Page 4)

#### **Surrender All Ourselves to God**

Alma Dory says she wants to continue making efforts to please God and she is confident in God.

(See Page 5)

### Evangelism

#### **Riverside Outreach**

Philippine children, from non-Christian, needy families have brought their parents to know Jesus.

(See Page 6)

#### **Action Activates God's Power**

God wants to fulfill our needs, but faith without action is dead.

(See Page 7)

Open doors in 2004.

..... a place of refreshing,  
recharging and restoration.



## Nothing is Impossible with God

By Pastor Hiromasa Amano

**“The angel answered (to Mary),  
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.””**

**Luke 1:35-39 NIV**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary conceived the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Who

came to the earth to save us from our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit, barren Elizabeth bore a baby in her old age. God instructs us “Only through Him all things can be done.”

Senior Pastor Amano, special guest speaker on the Christmas Message, testified how the Lord was glorified and exalted by the brethren and even the local people (unbelievers) in Shikoku Island, western Japan, during his evangelism.

In the very beginning Amano was not aware Pastor Kusu then terribly suffered from esophagus cancer,

(Continued on Page 3)



## Holy Spirit Within and Upon Us

By Pastor Marilyn Parsons

The Holy Spirit within and upon us has a double effect both in our lives and in the body of Christ, which is the church. The Holy Spirit within believers develops a Christ-like character in us as a blessing for ourselves, while the Holy Spirit upon us empowers us for service as a blessing for others. **First Cor. 3:16** tells us **“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lived in you?”** We are

called “the light” and our lifestyle is a witness to Jesus.

In **2 Cor. 6:14-16**, God says **“I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”**

Where the spirit of the lord is, there is liberty and freedom! So God no longer dwells in the tabernacle made by man -- He chooses to dwell on the inside of us. “Greater is he who is in me than he that is in the world.” (Continued on Page 2)

GLORIFY GOD WITH OUR TESTIMONY, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR BB.

# Holy Spirit

**The Holy Spirit** is the Spirit of living God, the third member of God, Who fulfills the invisible role of connection and communication between us and the Trinity. God is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient and so is the Holy Spirit.

He is our excellent consular, sweet comforter, perfect intercessor with God for us, mighty defender, great helper, stand-by (always getting ready to help us,) .....and so on.  
We should invite Him daily to get involved into everything we do.

(Continued from Page 1)

The church building is called the house of God because we the believers, carrying the presence of God, worship him in the church. It's dedicated unto his use, so our bodies are dedicated unto him. That is the reason we sing, "Something good is about to happen" because when praises go up the blessings come down. But don't just give God lip service. Don't mess with the presence of God! He is holy.

Our life with Christ requires commitment, such as commitment of our time, our talents and our lifestyle. When we dedicate our time to God, He will help and bless us.

We worship and praise God in spirit, as **Ps. 105:2** shows **'Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.'** We create an atmosphere for God to move mightily in our lives, for we need the manifestation of the presence of God in and among us.

Walking in the "Unity," **joining in union as one voice in praise to the Lord stated in 2 Chron. 5:13-14**, is a key to experience the presence of God.

Now, let us catch **'the voice of the Lord,'** the Holy Spirit as

referring in **Ps. 29:1-9**, for **Who is powerful and majestic, breaks the cedars, strikes with flashes of lightning, shakes the desert, strips the forests bare, and .....**

**Acts 2:1-4** says, **".. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them."**

But many are not convinced we should speak in tongues today because some believe it has passed with the apostles, some consider it as devil and others are afraid of transference of spirits (evil spirits.)

Remember we are covered under the blood of Jesus, living under the protection of the blood of the lamb!

**Acts 1:8** repeated **'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'**

Prayers filled with the Holy Spirit that the power of God will manifest individually and upon church, and that our lifestyle will shine the light of Christ.

## Reference

The Holy Spirit is described in the Scriptures

**As Wind**  
(Acts 2:2;)

**As Breathing**  
(Ezek 37:9-10;)

**As Dove**  
(Mk 1:10;)

**As Anointing Oil**  
(Is 61:1-3;)

**As First Fruit**  
(Rom 8:23;)

**As Downpayment**  
(2Corin 1:22;)

**As Gift Giver**  
(Acts 1:4;)

**As Fruit Bearer**  
(Gal 5:16-26;)

**As Fire**  
(Mt 3:11; Acts 2:3.)





## Bitterness

**‘See to it that no one misses the grace of God and no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many..’ Hebrews 12:15 -17 NIV** By Pastor BB

Bitterness is like a cancer eats up the host. It can damage the body of Christ and cut us off from the Grace of God. We must get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice (Eph 4:31.)

The following examples can lead us to understand how easy it is if we lack caution to fall into the trap of bitterness, and if we lack repentance to miss God’s blessings.

Ruth 1:20-21 tells us after Naomi lost her husband and two sons respectively, she became self-pity and lost her mind because she started complaining, blaming God for her misfortune. She even made it public and told her people to call her ‘Mara,’ meaning ‘bitterness.’

Hebrews 12:16-17 explains

how Esau compromised his faith by trading his spiritual birthright for a single meal -- a temporary ease. Though he regretted his loss, since he did not repent, he lost salvation from God.

It is like today when storms sweep over us or circumstances encounter us, if we do not stand still in faith and fear not, our faith will slide back quickly. Neither repentance nor awareness will deprive us of God’s blessing, which entraps us into bitterness and godlessness.

The Bible says ‘Offence would come, but we have to repent it before it destroys you, for bitterness breeds hatred in us.’ We must guard ourselves from the attack of enemy. 1 Peter 5:8 exhorts us **‘Be self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil

prowls around **like** a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.’

As we walk in the will of God, the enemy would try to break us into pieces. So brethren do not give the enemy any opportunity to devour us by planting even a tiny bitter root in our minds.

Let us resist him with love and stand firm in the faith, and remember God’s love never fails.

**Bitterness imprisons life but love releases bitterness; bitterness paralyzes life but love empowers it.**

We are one family in Christ Jesus, no matter of our nationalities or skin colors, and we must **Walk in LOVE and Walk into the UNITY,** and see no one misses the grace of God and no heart is troubled by bitterness. If one suffers, so does the rest.

## Nothing is Impossible with God

(Continued from Page 1)

a cancer on the food passage from the mouth to the stomach. His physician could do nothing with it and his health condition was deteriorating, said Amano. When Amano came to learn Kusu was ill with this fatal disease, he felt sad.

The Holy Spirit revealed to Amano ‘Nothing is impossible with God’ so the whole congregation started praying for the pastor.

Soon the miracle of God started working and Kusu was ‘instantly’ restored to health, said Amano. Kusu told his physician at the hospital he had no

cancer and demanded a health check but this irritated his physician for he could not believe it. However throughout all necessary examinations of Kusu’s health, the physician surprisingly found there was no sign or symptom of the cancer in Kusu.

Kusu also glorified God with his testimony on TV, and immediately this great news spread over the island, where the local people brought the sick to the church and received healing resulted from God.

Amano’s family is also another fabulous work of God and he would like to share it with us.



About ten years ago after his stepbrother receiving a position as a medical doctor at the Chiba University Hospital ‘suddenly’ committed suicide, puzzling everyone and breaking his mother’s heart. His mother became mentally ill.

On a certain day, his older sister brought the Bible to his mother and the scriptures in John 9:3 ‘Neither this man or his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life’” which healed the mother instantly. Amano concludes with Jer 32:37 **‘I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?’**

**“Test Me in this” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”**

**Malachi 3:10 NIV**

As darkness has covered over Japan’s economy since the economic bubble in 1992, “many others” are filled with fear they may be one of the scapegoats, and completely lack confidence in the nation’s economy revival. But as a child of God, Kameyama ignores the circumstance, and instead fixes his eyes on God and obeys His command -- **his faithfulness in tithing** – the result is God increase his wage by more than double.

“I feel secured and confident in my finance after I have brought the tithe to the House of God,” said Kameyama, who was raised in a Christian family but

never learned about tithing, a financial blessing resulted from God. “Church has responsibility to educate brethren on the significance of tithing,” he continued.

Kameyama and his wife started attending Riverside Chapel in June 2002. Four months later from then the very first time they received the knowledge of tithing from a testimony presented by a ten-year-old girl who received more allowance from her grandmother after she brought one tenth out of the allowance to the altar. This testimony tugged into their hearts, and though the husband had debt at that time they chose to obey.

**Obedience brings increase.** Since then, our faithful, mighty God has started throwing open

## Sowing Is Giving; Giving Is Receiving

**Testimony:** Let us learn how the Lord has poured out a double portion of financial blessing upon brother Yuzuru Kameyama and his wife, sister Hairong Hu, from Japanese Service of Riverside Chapel.



Yuzuru Kameyama and his wife take a trip in Disney Land, Japan on Aug. 2003.

the floodgates of heaven and poured out so much blessings they will not have room enough for it as He said in Malachi 3:10.

First, Kameyama no longer had to borrow money from his former company, and instead received a raise, and his wife got more translation work than average. Aug. 2003 he started working at Mitsubishi Estate Company Ltd’s Group, the biggest real estate enterprise in Japan, as a position of leadership with a salary more than twice as much as he had made at his former company. Besides, Wednesday and Sunday Messages from Japanese Service help him tackle the problems at his workplace. Their housing rent decreased. His toothache is healed and so on ...

Brethren, let us be a cheerful giver, an enthusiastic giver, and start expecting financial blessings from God.



**Testimony**

## Surrender All Ourselves to God



Alma Dory, from the Philippines born as a catholic and received Jesus Christ in 1999, wants to continue making efforts to please God, and she is confident in the Walk of Light.

Dory asks God each day in her prayer for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon her in order to submit all herself unto God and obey Him.

“I pray for it every day and ask God to enable me to walk in all His ways, for I want to obey Him and focus my life upon Him,” she said.

Dory has been blessed so much while in Japan, and even back home in the Philippines her families are all saved and blessed resulting from God. “Everyday I keep thanking God for caring for us,” she said with joy overflowing out from her eyes.

Dory has become a regular attendee at English Service and is taking part of Kids Ministry, and said she loves children very much.

Here, she would like to share with readers of Riverside News her testimony of how she pressed on and moved on from faith to faith.

The story began back in

2001 at a time she had an accident occurred at her former company, an on-and-off work, so to speak, because of the gloomy economy in Japan. That incident had set her hospitalized about 20 days and stayed home for recovery for months. Since she was then a temporary worker there, she feared she might have to pay for the huge amount of medication fee, she might lose her job and end up with nowhere to stay.

She then turned toward God and started praying and even speaking in tongues at her hospital room, where a nurse tried to stop her; however she ignored it and kept pressing on in spite of severe pains in her caused from the accident.

Shortly she became physically tired and fell into a sleep. When she woke up, she found her pains were gone and came to realize the Lord Almighty relieved her. Our God turned all to good, for she also received a whole year of wage as a compensation of injury from the company.

She said God had done so many great things on her, and she soon decided to focus her life on God instead in the world, saying “God is in control of my life and now I am on the right track.”

## Baby Dedication



### **Congratulations!**

Sister Florence Essel delivers a male baby on Dec. 27, 2003.

### **Let us Pray this:**

O Lord, I lift up my soul  
in You I trust;  
Show me your ways,  
O Lord,  
Teach me Your paths;  
Guide me in Your truth  
and teach me  
For You are God my Savior  
And my hope is in You  
all day long.  
All the ways of the Lord are,  
Loving and faithful  
For those who  
keep the demands  
of His covenant.

### **Psalms 25**

O Lord,  
Though sometimes we may not be able to understand Your ways, we choose to continue to serve, worship, and praise you, for I believe in Your Word, as 2 Cor. 12:31 says “I will show you the most excellent way.” In the precious name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

## Ministry in Riverside Chapel's Outreach

— New Jerusalem Church in the Philippines —

So many Philippines, including some non-Christians, were spiritually hungry for the Lord, received the Anointing of the Holy Spirit and dedicated their life to the work of their ministries, said pastor Marilyn, who last December with Pastor Nida Cabrera from Philippino Service and sister Michiko Yamauchi from Japanese Service evangelized at the Riverside's outreach and other churches in Quezon City of the Philippines.

Approximately 95% percent are catholic, some Buddhists and born-again Christians in the Philippines.

She said many manifestations of God's power took place in their outreach's ministries: such as children aged from three to 10 asked for blessings from God and also invited Christ in their hearts. A woman with the right side of the body paralyzed began to stand up and stamp her feet and praise God with joy in her heart, and shortly along with her husband invited Jesus in their lives on that day. A fever in a baby was relieved ...

The most impressive part of the ministries was around a hundred of Philippine children, most of them from non-

Christian, needy families, some attending Jerusalem Christian Academy (JCA) founded by the church's pastor Benny Cabrera, attended the Special Christmas Event. Some have drawn their parents to know Jesus as their Savior.

"God can bring revival to the nation and encourage their faith and, the promise of God will come to pass. Whatever they put their hands to God will bless them", said Marilyn.



Children's Christmas outreach and 120 attendance / Manila.

JCA, a non-profit Christian institute launched in the year of 2000, aims to educate children from needy families and to help them develop spiritually in a Christ-centered education. Since the institute is in its pioneering period, the institute lacks necessary funds to fulfill its aims and mission.

"God calls us to go out and preach the Good News because we carry the hope for the nations," said Marilyn, "One little seed planted bear for multiple harvests."



Pastor Benny Cabrera preaches at New Jerusalem Church in the Philippines.

**She encourages us to list their needs into our prayer requests and to walk in love as a 'Good Samaritan' to help and support them.**

- \* ¥ 3,000 can pay for the books of one pupil.
- \* ¥ 8,000 can pay for the Tuition Fee of one JCA pupil.
- \* ¥ 18,000 can support the entire Tuition Fee, Books, Uniform,
- \* School Supplies and Miscellaneous of JCA pupil for a year.

\* Any amount as donation to JCA, please contact English Service of Riverside Chapel.

The evangelists also attended Ordinations Service along with its pastor Suzette of Mindanao to preach and pray for healing, anointing, and blessing for brethren and about-to-be Christians there. They also received warm-welcome from them.

### Brief history of Riverside Chapel:

Riverside Chapel is an international Japan Assemblies of God Church situated a short five minutes walk from Matsubara Station, Soka-shi. It started as a church plant in 1991 by the first Assemblies of God Church in Tokyo with four members, including the Pastor and his wife! The church began with Home Bible Studies, then a small church building was constructed, and later our present facility was purchased, which has already been outgrown. Now, more than 800-900 people call Riverside their church home. There are three separate linguistic groups meetings with several outreach works. For more information please call.

## Action Activates God's Power

By Guest Speaker Pastor Mel Bond

**The Bible says ‘God gives us ‘all things’ by His Grace; we receive ‘anything’ because of our obedience of His commands; His divine power has given us ‘everything’ by His glory and goodness.’**  
(2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV; 1 John 3:22; 2 Peter 1:3)

God wants to fulfill our wants, needs and desires, but why it does not work?

That is mainly because **faith without action is dead**, as a light in a room when we need we switch it on. But if we do not move ourselves forward to turn it on, there is no light.

Therefore if we know the Word of God and do not do it, all we have got is a devil faith because the devil knows every word in the Bible. But he does not act on God's Word, walk in love, in kindness, in forgiveness.., as James 2:19:20 states, “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?”

If we have confidence and trust in God's Word, we have to walk upon His Word, for **the Scriptures is the power of God** (Matthew 22:29;) for **the gospel is the power of God** (Matthew 22:29.)

The universe was formed at the command of God (Hebrew 11:3), Who always sits in His throne, as He said twelve times in Genesis there was ... and there was ... The power of God has given us for the sake of Jesus.

The divine healing power performed by Jesus also instructs us the Lord Almighty merely said in NT because of their **faith** or He saw their faith they were healed. Peter saw ‘Jesus Walks

on the Water’ is a good demonstration of action activating God's power. He wanted to do what Jesus did and the Lord simply said a word “come,” then his faith and action started activating God's divine power.



Pastor Mel Bond

But the rest of disciples remained in the boat and they might think of how foolish Peter was and missed God's grace.

It is just like today's life if we get out of the comfortable boat, everything we want, need and desire will come to pass. The reason we are afraid to get out of the comfortable zone is we are afraid someone may laugh at us or we may get hurt or lose.

First Timothy 6:12 says “**Fight the good fight of the faith,**” fighting with the devil with the Word of God, but not fighting with each other. As long as we act like the Word, God's supernatural power will manifest in

our lives. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Words never pass away (Matt 24:35.)

### Brief Testimonies:

Pastor Mel Bond, from Missouri, US, himself has also received many manifestations resulted from God in his life. Once he suffered from blood disease and God revealed him the scripture 1 Peter 2:24 “**By His wounds you have been healed.**” After he got better God spoke to him, saying, “If you believe you are healed, act like it.” Then fear came to him for he had to get out of his “comfortable” bed and walked like he was healed. He took the challenge and fought with the devil by the

Word of God. He fell and fell many times and one day he stood upright and started to walk, as 1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV) says “**Fight the good fight of the faith.**” He has also received many financial blessings resulted from God. He said his faith in financial area started from small things like a pair of boots and shirts to bigger things like their own TV program, a Buick auto, a church with capacity of 1200 people and his own house. He encourages us to act like the Word of God, like a child of God.

### Discipleship Groups “We Build People”

Discipleship Groups is the main teaching aim of our church, to deepen the spiritual understanding of the Word of God and to build fellowship with one another.

**Mission:** “Therefore go and make disciples...”  
(Matt 28:19)

**Vision:** To make disciples who will go and make disciples...

**Purpose:**

- 1 Grounded in the Word of God
- 2 Built up and Encourage
- 3 Prayer Support
- 4 Training and Equipment for Ministry
- 5 Learn to be a Mentor



### The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning,

New every morning,

Great is thy faithfulness,

O Lord.

Great is thy faithfulness.

### There is None Like You

There is none like you;  
No one else can touch my heart like you do;

I can search for all eternity long and find., there is none like you.

### Worship Team

“The trumpeters and singers join in vision, as with one voice to give praise and thanks to the Lord, ...then the temple of the Lord is filled with clouds.”

**Our Goals:**

- 1 To create an atmosphere of worship unto God.
- 2 To usher people to the presence of the Lord.
- 3 To release the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 4 To minister through special music and song.

Also: Outreach, Special Events, All Church Outings, Cleaning Ministry, Women’s Ministry and Kid’s Church

We invite you to join with us.

#### Prayer and Intercessory Ministry

A church in prayer experiences the power of God available to us, to reach the needs of people.

Power Hour ----- Wed. 9-10 pm

Intercessory Prayer ----- Fri. 10-12am

All Night Prayer ----- Every 2nd Sat. Monthly

Courses Available:

Newcomers Study ----- 2nd and 4th Sundays

Japanese Bible Study ----- 1st and 3rd Sundays

Also Available:

Counseling, Marriage Counseling, Deliverance Ministry, Water Baptism Courses (April/Sept.)

#### ● 教会で行われている集いのご案内 ●

主日礼拝 毎週日曜日 AM11:00~PM1:00

賛美と祈り会 毎週水曜日 PM 7:30~PM9:00

教会学校 毎週日曜日 AM 9:00~AM10:00

ジュニアチャーチ 毎週日曜日 AM 9:15~AM10:30



日本アッセンブリーズ・オブ・ゴッド教団  
草加神召キリスト教会  
リバーサイドチャペル

〒340-0011 埼玉県草加市栄町2-7-34  
TEL 048-932-3419 FAX 048-932-3466

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Editor: Linda Chen

Writers: Divine Vivie, Bruce Kuteesa, Deladem Adodo

Addr., 2-7-34, Sakaecho, Soka, Saitama-ken, 340-0011

Tel: (048) 935-9022; Fax: (048) 932-3466