



# Riverside News

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Now... the Harvest!

Volume 3, Issue 3  
April — June 2004

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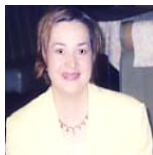
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Open doors in 2004.  
..... a place of refreshing,  
recharging and restoration.



## Our Dreams Are A Reality

By Pastor Marilyn Parsons

We may think about the giant of impossibility, incapability, inability, depression, discouragement, doubt, defeat, or I am a foreigner, or I do not have a right background or training. But remember the Word of God tells us, **"Let the weak say I am strong, and let the poor say I am rich,"** and now let us move forward by the power of the Holy Spirit to possess what belongs to the children of God and declare victory in our finance, family salvation, workplaces, promotion, situation and etc.

Our dreams are a reality in the mighty name of Jesus.

We must renew our minds daily in order to be set free from the strongholds of our mindsets. Years ago an American ministry went to a slum located in a Californian city full of negativity, prostitution and drugs where the slum's children were raised . (Continued on Page 2)



## Obedience Brings Increases

By Pastor BB

Keep God's commandments and do what He commands us to do is obedient to Him for the Lord is our Jehovah El-Shaddai, all sufficient Almighty God we call upon, as **Deut. 28:1 (NIV) says "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all His commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth."**

This is the way we obtain blessings from Him. But if we choose the other way around by following our flesh desires as the story of the Israelites who ignored God's commands by storing heavenly bread shown in Exodus 16:15-20, then curses come after disobedience. (Continued on Page 2)

• Exodus 16:15-20 (NIV) "When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.' The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed. Then Moses said to them, 'No one is to keep any of it until morning. However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.'"



(Continued from Page 1)

After the ministry taught the children the truth of the Word, they were set free from the strongholds. They did not grow up as drug addicts or prostitutes,

instead they were moving toward their dreams and making a difference in the world.

So are we, who are called to Japan to make a difference in the world and do not allow the enemy to press us back, discourage us or tear us down. There is no impossibility with our Mighty Creator God. Surely He can create jobs, surely move the mountains out of our way, and surely create promotion in our workplaces, and whatever God has placed in us to do will be a success.

It is like the stages in the life of a butterfly God makes, from a caterpillar to a cocoon, then coming out as a beautiful butterfly.

Yes, the process may take us time in prayers, waiting, hard work, staying in faith, digging into the Word, building up in the Word, or encouraging ourselves in the Word. But we must be patient and diligent to do so. Do not turn to the right or to the left, but hold fast onto the Word, then we will have a good success.

**Isa. 7:4** tells us **“Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood – because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah.’”**

So we are going chasing after the ‘giants,’ in fact, it is to change ‘our ungodly thinking to a positive godly attitude.’

Every morning we wake up and say, **“This is the day that the Lord has made. I’ll rejoice and be glad in it. Jesus is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. I’m the head, not the tail. I’m the top, not the bottom. I am the child of God. I’m possessing my possessions in Jesus’ name.”**

The story of David and Goliath shown in Samuel 17:1-26 encourages us that the giant Goliath, a Philistine champion more than nine feet tall (over 270 cm) well equipped for war against Saul and the Israelites was terribly defeated by David. It is because David rested his confidence in the power of the living God he triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone.

Do we know we are set in the heavenly place, in the high place with Christ? His covenant promises have been granted to us and He is our victory.

# Obedience + Increases

(Continued from Page 1)

Let us take a closer examination at what attitudes the Israelites had in the desert and learn from the history as a mirror to our daily lives.

The Israelites ‘murmured’ in the wilderness, and Moses went to God each time they ‘complained.’ Because God swore to their forefathers to give them the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey, He told Moses he would give them bread from heaven. They were instructed to take an omer each for the day they needed but they chose to ‘ignore and disobey it.’ The following morning it bred worms and stank and Moses was angry because of their disobedience.

The Bible said that those who took more, there was nothing left over and those who went by the instruction because of the fear of the Lord lacked nothing.

Deut. 28:15-20 also tells us if we do not obey the voice of the Lord nor observe carefully all His commandments, curses and confusion will come upon us. So without realizing it is all due to our own disobedient acts we start to blame Satan and sometimes God. As a child of God, we should carefully notice that when we sin our consciousness condemns us and we feel restless. The other example of the cost of disobedience is even Moses himself could not get into the Promised Land because of the lack of self-control and endurance.

(Continued on Page 3)

- Num. 20:7-12 shows “The Lord said to Moses, “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to the rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink. So Moses took the staff from the Lord’s presence, just as He commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, ‘Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?’” Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. but the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not trust in Me enough to honor Me in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I



# True Worshiper



By Pastor Nida Cabrera

**“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”**

**John 4:23 (NIV)**

Worship in the Greek language is “proskuneo,” “pros” means “face to face” and “kuneo” “kiss.” A true worshiper God desires is to have an intimacy with Him. Since God is Spirit in nature and Jesus Christ is the truth (John 14:6,) we must worship the Father in spirit and truth as well. Before Jesus came to the earth in the flesh, there were no true worshipers existing. Israel’s worship was just a shadow of the real substance for there was no faith in them. Meanwhile angelic beings’ worship is based on the relationship between master and slave and they are not allowed to see the Lord God face to face so they worship God with a pair of their wings covering over their faces, as seraphim have six wings and cherubim have four wings.

**Matt. 5:8 say, ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.’** If we store up good things in our hearts, our words and actions will be good (Matt. 12:34) for our heart is the wellspring of life (Pro. 4:23.) Then we will see God and receive His salvation, deliverance and blessings.

One of the best true worshipers is shown in **Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8; Luke 7:36-**

**48** concerning a sinful woman anointing Jesus with a jar of expensive perfume.

It said, “The woman poured the perfume on Jesus’ feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume (John 12:3).”

In those old days the perfume was used for a couple of reasons. One was for a bride to attract her bridegroom in her wedding night. The other was for the burial of a never-married woman. The alabaster jar of perfume was worth a year’s wages of about 300 pence as expensive as a precious stone at that time.

But the perfume was nothing valuable to the woman Mary because of her former occupation as a prostitute. Though worshiping Jesus cost her financially, she had to pour out all her personal ambition and desires to worship Him and only through true worship the woman with an immorality problem received the revelation from God.

As for the disciples of Jesus, they only acknowledged worship as prostrate, face down like a master-slave relationship.

The depth of our worship is only part of our relationship with the Lord God, part of Jesus Christ in us, and His revelation in us is also part of our hunger and thirst for Him.

**True Worship is not only singing holy songs to Him but also requires an intimacy with Him.**



(Continued from Page 2)

Moses disobeyed God by “striking” the rock with the rod twice instead of “speaking” to it as the Lord commanded so it prevented Moses from entering the Promised Land. “Anger” can make us disobey God when we are offended and lose self-control as Moses used his “past experience” by striking the rock shown in Exodus 17:1-7.

So we should learn to rule over our emotions, and

to forgive and forget who has done wrong to us. When we obey God’s instructions, we escape from the trap of temptation and receive good things God has in store for us. Now we need the touch of the Lord in every area of our lives, then we will see increase in our spiritual and physical (material) growth for obedience brings employment, promotions, victories, good health, financial breakthrough, family salvation and etc.



We are celebrating a year of successful ministry and growth of the New Jerusalem Takenotsuka Branch, under the umbrella of Riverside Chapel. We look ahead to the many miracles and successes and the growth God intends.

Do not ever think we come here by accident. God has a specific purpose for each individual believer connected to this ministry. He has uniquely designed and shaped us that we may have an impact in the world and bring Him all the glory!

**‘For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well... All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.’**

Psalm 139: 13-14 (NIV)

Our life is not meant just to work, live, breathe and die – **Jesus said, ‘I have come that you may have life,’** so He desires to use our particular **SHAPE** for His purposes in the earth.

**S – Spiritual Gifts;  
H – Heart, Passions;  
A – Abilities;  
P – Personality;  
E – Experiences.**

experience in our lives -- and that is the way we are being molded and shaped for He is the potter and we are the clay. Therefore **our purpose is to be more like Christ.**

Jesus said, ‘Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men.’ So in order to be fishers of men we have to follow after Christ. First give up our old habits and let go of unforgiveness, bitterness and any grudges we have held on, and we make a good choice to walk in love.

**Rom. 12:2** said **‘Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good pleasing and perfect will.’**

God is Elohim – Creator God, Who created the universe, the earth and everything in them. When He

made man He said, ‘It is very good.’ He has good plans for His people – **‘Plans to prosper us and give us a hope and a future not to harm you.’** This CREATIVITY is placed on the inside of you.

Look at technology. New things keep coming out! A few years ago I brought my CD player into a shop in Canada to get a battery. They asked, ‘What is this?’ Another time was I brought a small video in to be dubbed on a VHS, but they said ‘This is too small, we don’t know about this.’

If man can do this, how much more the children of God with the Holy Spirit on the inside can do!! So by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will infiltrate society, families, the education system and the work

force, where He gives us creative ideas, plans and purpose and the power to get wealth. By the power of the Holy Spirit, things are broken or perverted will be restored. Marriages will be put back together. The suicidal will find the purpose in life. Child abuse must stop. Relations must be mended. Speak words of encouragement. Lay hands on the sick and see them recover.

Do not worry about a recession in Japan for we have creativity, ability and multiplication anointing!! God will give us dreams and visions. ‘I am what the Word says I am. I can be

what the Word says I can be. I can do what the Word says I can do.’ ‘Freely you have received and freely give.’ But we do not conform to the pattern of this world because we do not belong to this world -- we are citizens of the heaven.

**Second Cor. 10:4-5** says **‘The weapons we fight with are not carnal, on the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.’**

**‘For you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light’** (1 Peter 2:9.) In the body of Christ, there is no room for prejudice, self-pride, racial discrimination and segregation – we will all worship Him together. Our Ministry is to serve the Body, and our Mission to (Continued on Page 5)

What Is My Purpose?  
What Is My Purpose?

By Pastor Marilyn Parsons

We may wonder why we have gone through some certain ex-

# Ask Pastors:

1

Self-Denial

2

Humility

3

Submission

**Dear Pastors, we are not clear about the definitions of ‘Self-Denial,’ ‘Humility’ and ‘Submission.’ Is self-denial sort humility? Or does self-denial mean submission?**

No, in fact, self-denial, humility and submission are completely different three elements. Self-denial is to give up things in order to follow Jesus. The Lord taught us that humility is meek and lowly in one's heart, but many thought the strength of self-condemnation is the secret of humility. Submission is to yield ourselves to God and accept His power. In other words, God is our top priority to everything and He demands total or absolute surrender where we become nothing. **With self-denial and humility comes the will to surrender**, a formula shown on the above.

**Pastors, please give us some examples and scriptures related to this topic?**

-- Self-denial means to sacrifice things like materials or pleasure in order to glorify the Lord. For example, gluttony is a common unobserved sin so fasting, the act of abstaining from food, can be method of self-denial. Things like giving up sleep or favorite things are also a method of fasting. For example, if one loves to eat chocolate, he or she always overeats them, then they can fast for a week or more not to eat chocolate.

Luke 9:23 (NIV) tells us **“Then He said to them all: ‘If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.’** We deny ourselves for the sake of Him not of things we give up. Self-denial is not

only about sin, but to deny our desires to find what our hearts long for. All the graces of Christians spring from the death of self.

-- Humility is perfect fruit of death to self. Jesus found His glory in taking the form of a servant as **Matt. 23:11-12 said, “The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”**

The faithful servant who recognizes his position finds real pleasure in supplying the wishes of the master. **James 4:10 tells us ‘Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.’**

Humility often comes in the form of testing or discipline as in Deut 8:2 ‘Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, **to humble you** and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands.’

-- Speaking of submission, God wants us to be all like Abraham who obeyed to sacrifice his only son Issac for everything he had came from God, so He has the right to take what is His. In **James 4:7 said ‘Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.’** The story in 1 Kings 20:1-4 is also an example of submission concerning the king of Assyria sending messengers to the king of Israel Ahab for demanding surrender, and Ahab replied “My Lord all that I have are yours.” By His grace He is willing to work it in us and not by our own strength, He accomplishes our surrender.

(Compiled by: bro. Divine.)

**WANT TO ASK PASTORS**, please send questions to English Service of Riverside Chapel.

(Continued from Page 4)

reach out to those who do not know Christ. We do not just get people saved but help them to find their purpose. Pastor Amano said at a conference held at Shizuoka, ‘Mt. Fuji has a very wide base, and the church's ministry is to be like that -- touching a wide space – reaching out to many kinds of people.’ Be aware. Some people are placed in our path that only we can reach.

## Brief Introduction:

Before the New Jerusalem Takenotsuka Branch was set up, the building was used for a Night Club. Since last year, the head waitress and some others have given their hearts to Jesus Christ and they are saved in Jesus' name. The owner gave the building to the Philippino Church to use for free.



## Personal Testimony: Princess Ogbewe

### The Lord Washes Me in His Blood!

On an occasion I came to touch drugs and the stuff soon took control over my life. In 1994 my husband left me alone, while my mom remained to stay for a hope of cleaning up. But neither any rehab centers nor anyone could help me out of that addiction. The world of hallucination due to drugs effect became a way to relieve my hurt and frustration.

One day our merciful God had sister friend Naomi Ehigie came to invite me to their Jesus Women Prayer Ministry. As Evangelist Mrs. Eunice Osagiede came to deliver God's message, saying "Those who smoke in bed should stop, so as not to set the house on fire," which immediately tugged into my heart and brought me into a vision where I saw myself smoking in bed, then falling into a sleep, and the following morning I woke up and saw there was a cigarette burn hole in my pillow.

Since I, then a non-believer, could not recognize "It is our living true God speaking to me." Rather than appreciate Him for His mercy I turned to be mad at sister Naomi for I suspected she must have told the evangelist about my personal privacy and said to myself, "I won't go there again."

The suspicion and anger remained in me even after I went home. As usual I sat in my bed and lit up a cigarette. The message came fresh out of my mind, but I brushed it off saying, "It doesn't matter!" I tried to remove the cigarette from my mouth, but I failed, and started to feel fear of God and immediately begged Him for forgiveness. Then I was able to re-

move it, and started to learn "God has really given the message to the evangelist."

The following week I went back to the ministry for counseling. I was instructed to fast three days — the first day asking God for forgiveness, and the second day seeking God to help my needs for I wanted my husband back. Within those three days of fasting, our Mighty God came to reveal to me in my dream saying, "The promises in Jeremiah 31 are for you," but since that time I lacked the knowledge of the Word of God, I failed to find it out, and soon left it behind and went back to my old life.

Three years had passed since then. One day I suddenly became desperate in seeking God and went back to the ministry. The evangelist realized what happened to me and helped me rebuke and bind Satan the devil in Jesus' name, afterwards I was set free from drugs.

In 2000 I came to Japan and attended at Riverside Chapel where our unfailing-love God delivered me from both alcoholism and cigarettes. Last August I received a phone call from my nephew living in London. Surprisingly he said he had got in touch with my husband, who sought for a family reunion. So brethren I would like to encourage you, **"God answers my prayers and with Him all things are possible."**

*Sister Princess Ogbewe*  
— very active part at Praise  
Team and Kids Ministry of  
Riverside Chapel.



GLORIFY GOD WITH OUR TESTIMONIES, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR BB.

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We are called as **MEMBERS** of God's Family,  
**MODELS** of Christ's character,  
**MAGNIFIERS** of His Glory,  
**MINISTERS** by His Grace,  
**MESENTERS** of His  
Goodness.

We have a **MINISTRY** to serve the Body and a  
**MISSION** to reach out to others.

## Riverside Chapel Women Assembly Kicks Off



“To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth – and not I only, but also all who know the truth – because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever (2 John 1:1-2 NIV,)” Sister Gladys said to all sister attendees as an opening.

The assembly highlights on the women Bible Study, which consists in righteousness in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God.

Gladys said when we women worship and praise God, we also have to ask God to renew our minds daily, as Romans 12:2 said ‘Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.’”

We are God's chosen people, a holy nation, representing God in this nation at Riverside Chapel. Whatever the enemy speaks to us, we women are going to unite together and walk in unity and -- whenever we pray, God's manifestations will take place in our lives for God hears our prayers.

As God's angel was sent to bring the good news

to Mary for she was going to conceive the Christ and from that very moment on whoever believes in Him receive eternal life, this is the factor today we are able to gather together to wait on Him in His sanctuary.

We women also have to pray for revival in our individual and spiritual life and for our children, husbands, family, financial breakthrough and etc. If all of us receive revival in increasing measure, under the leading of the Holy Spirit we can level down the mountains before us and continue our journey.

There are many talents and abilities God has placed in all of us and we should share them with others in order to bless them as well. Though we are not perfect, in fact, God does not expect us to be perfect, so we will do all things through His transformation power upon us, for His strength is made perfect in our weakness. We must serve Him willingly with all our hearts led by the Holy Spirit.

The Women Ministry is scheduled on the last Sunday of every month. We believe every woman will enjoy this great new gathering, and we need you all to join with us.



### 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

### 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







### What is the Alpha Course?

The Alpha Course consists of a series of talks addressing key issues relating to the Christian faith. After each talk we divide into small groups to discuss the topic of that day, ask questions and express opinions. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple, and it also gives people a chance to get to know each other.

### Who's it for?

Alpha is for everyone, especially those:

- Who want to explore the meaning of life.
- Who want to study the life of Christ.
- Who want to investigate Christianity
- New Christians
- Newcomers to the church.
- Who want to brush up on the basics.
- Who want to study for Evangelism.

Alpha runs in every type of church, including Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Salvation Army, Free Church, Pentecostal, Assemblies of God and House Churches.

© 2004 Alpha Course

## GOOD NEWS

### Schedule of Alpha Course

April 4	Who is Jesus?
11	Why did Jesus die?
18	How can I be sure to go to heaven?
25	Why and how to read the Bible?
May 2	Why and how to pray?
9	How does God guide us?
16	The Holy Spirit How can I be filled with the Spirit?
23	How can I resist evil?
30	Why and how to tell others?
June 6	Does God heal today?
13	What does the Holy spirit do?
20	What about the church?
27	Celebration Service (Short Testimonies in Service) How can I make the most of my life?
July/August	Continuation Studies/Follow-up

## ★ Come 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. 9pm — 10pm

**Intercessory Prayer** - - - Fri. 10pm — 12pm

### Courses Available:

**Newcomers Study** - - - - - 2nd and 4th Sun.

**Japanese Bible Study** - - - 1st and 3rd Sun.

### Also Available:

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

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

Tel: (048) 935-9022

Fax: (048) 932-3466

### ● 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

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