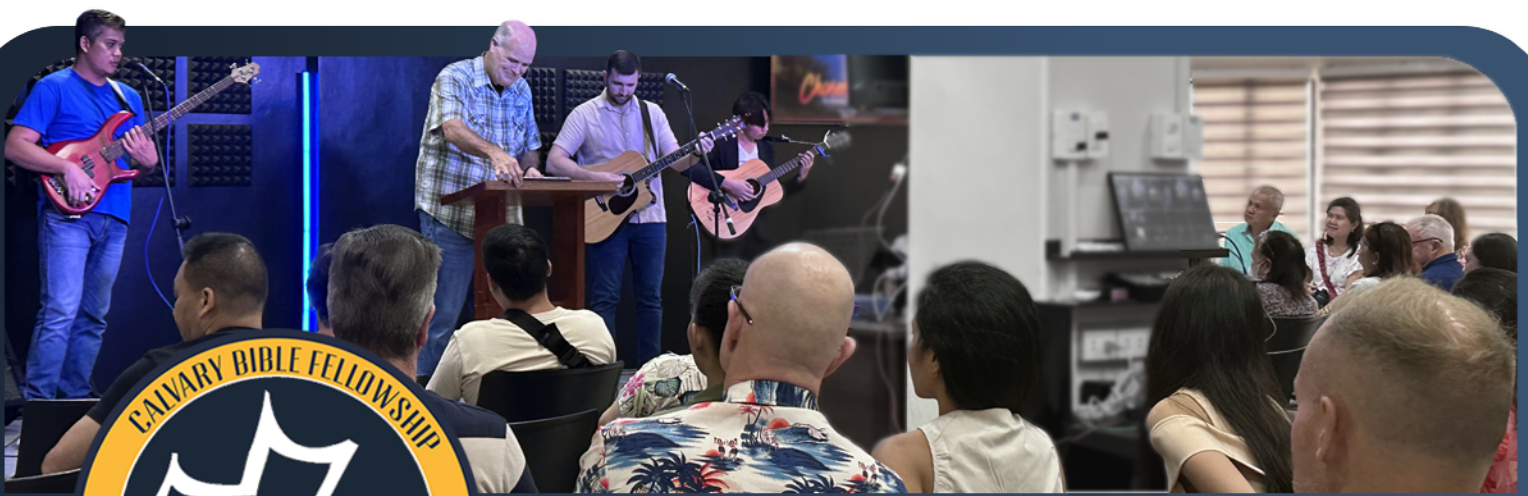




Calvary Bible Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 2025 - CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JAPAN MISSION TRIP



Calvary Chapel Iwakuni



March Missions Team



CCBF Missions Team

It all began about ten years ago when a young Marine captain, Nick Metroka, volunteered to lead worship at a Home Fellowship we were teaching at Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship in Temecula, CA. He had previously been stationed at MCAS in Iwakuni, Japan. His plan was to serve out his time in the military and then return as the worship leader at the Calvary Chapel in Japan. There is a well-established principle in the Kingdom of God: *blessed are the flexible!* As it turned out, Nick went on staff at the church in Temecula, met his future wife, Je, on a missions trip to the Philippines, and the rest is history.

Seeing the connection Pastor Nick brought between the church in California (where he still serves), the church in Iwakuni (where he remains very close to the pastor), and the Philippines (where his wife is from), Jen and I decided to spend five months in Japan when we first left to start the church plant in Bacolod back in 2020. It was supposed to be only two months—but we could not get back into the Philippines because of lockdowns. Those connections later led Pastor Glenn from CC Iwakuni to bring a team of Marines and their families last March to distribute the Christmas Shoe Boxes in both the church in Bacolod as well as in Himamaylan. They were touched by the ministry here in the Philippines, and the Lord put it on their hearts to deepen the connection.

Last month they invited Pastor Bem from *Simbahan sa Bukid*, along with Jen and me, to come over and help with their summer Vacation Bible School. We were blessed to minister to over fifty kids...



BODY OF CHRIST





CHURCH NEWS

"As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country."

- Proverbs 25:25

...most of whom come from the nearby U.S. military base. They did an extraordinary job transforming the church into a scene from the Old West. After church, everyone got together and spent nearly eight hours putting up decorations that wowed the kids (and adults!) when they showed up for VBS the next morning. We spent the next five days taking them through the life of Jesus—from His birth, through His death, to His promised return!

Both Pastor Bem and I also had the chance to teach on a Sunday while we were there in Iwakuni. I have to admit it was a bit more of a stretch for Pastor Bem since we were asked to teach in English. With good humor, as he began, Pastor Bem commented that because he was asked to teach in English, next time Pastor Glenn comes to the Philippines he should have to teach in Ilonggo!

It was a special blessing to get into the Word with the saints there. That, along with coming alongside their VBS outreach, helped cement the relationship between our churches. Lord willing, they will be coming back in March 2026 to once again help us with our Christmas Shoe Box outreach!

Worship and Kids - After helping with the VBS in Iwakuni, Pastor Nick, his wife Je, and their new baby, Brie, came over for a couple of weeks to visit their family here in Himamaylan. While they were here, we were blessed to have Pastor Nick

lead worship one Sunday, and both he and Je shared in a couple of workshops after the service. Nick gave a powerful teaching on the purpose of worship—to help us remember the Word—along with practical advice for those leading the worship ministry. Je, who has served in Children's Ministry for many years, met with the CM volunteers to encourage them as they continue reaching out in love to our kids.

They are now praying about leading a team from CCBF in Temecula, CA, to the Philippines next October. They have even been in conversations with Jana Alayra about possibly joining them to do concert outreaches. We are excited to see how the doors to use them as we reach out to the message of the Gospel!



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am - Book of Acts
- Second Tuesday 6pm - Pastoral Epistles
- Wednesday 6pm - Book of Isaiah
- First Wednesday 6pm - Worship & Devotion
- Second Thursday 6pm - Revelation
- Friday Study 6pm - Men - Women - Youth

