Vision of Praise

October 2026

From the editor

For this issue, we would like to share testimonies from Northern California mission trip, "Prayer of Heaven – Praise Is Waiting–" by Yuki Shibuta, a HQ staff, and "How Sublime God's Plan Is!" by Etsuko Kawakami, a house church leader in California, together with "Creation Waits!" by Seiko Takechi, a regional staff in Tokyo.

May God fill all the creation with the healing light of Christ through our praise and prayer.

Prayer of Heaven

Praise Is Waiting

Yuki Shibuta (Ashiya)

Prayer for the Healing of the Earth

For 10 days, from August 27 to September 8, we were sent to the West Coast of the United States, specifically to Northern California and the Washington State.

In Northern California, there is a leader named Etsuko Kawakami, who will turn 85 this year. She lives with her 92-year-old sister, Iki, in a ranch home surrounded by vast farmland in Morgan Hill, a little south of San Jose. Since Etsuko is elderly and can no longer attend Joint Worship services, we usually visit her during our mission trip and sing praises together.

Last year when Seiko Takechi, Michael, and I visited her, she told us, "This place is right next to the San Andreas Fault, where Agnes Sanford used to pray." Seiko Takechi was deeply moved because she had been reading Agnes Sanford's book "The Healing Light" while translating it into Japanese on her own. I, too, had learned about that fault line through Agnes Sanford's book "Creation Waits," which was the first book

published by Kohitsuji no Mure, translated from English into Japanese by Pastor Peter 30 years ago (unfortunately, it is now out of print).

Agnes Sanford is considered a pioneer of healing prayer in the United States; it is said that she paved the way for this practice, even though no Christian had previously, consciously engaged in "praying for Christ's healing." The original English book of "Creation Waits" was published in 1977 and describes how, in her later years, she became aware of the need to pray not only for the healing of people but also for the healing of the Earth itself, and the importance of that mission. Through this book, I learned that, although she had lived on the East Coast of the United States for a long time, toward the end of her life she received a revelation from the Lord to pray for the San Andreas Fault, the major fault line running across the West Coast, so she moved to California and fulfilled that ministry of prayer.

When our mission trip this year was planned, Etsuko Kawakami shared us her passionate desire to "go and pray for the San Andreas Fault." There is a Mission (an old church) standing right on top of the San Andreas Fault and she expressed her wish to hold a time of praise and prayer there.

Upon looking into it, I discovered that it was the San Juan Bautista (Spanish for "Saint John the Baptist") Mission, a Catholic church built by the Spanish in 1797 (229 years ago).

It was about a 30-minute drive south from Etsuko's house, and along the way, what she told us was another surprise. Long before she encountered Kohitsuji no Mure Church, while she was still in Japan, she had been deeply moved by reading the original English edition of Agnes Sanford's "Creation Waits." And upon learning that this was the church where Agnes spent her final years, she visited this

town as a tourist. It was from the priest of this church that she first heard the name of “Jesus.” She apparently grew fond of the town and visited many times after that, and it was her long-held wish to sing heavenly praise there.

Since it was called “Mission,” I had imagined it would be a small, shack-like place, but when I went there, I found a hill with a beautiful wooden cross, a rose garden, a garden filled with magnificent cacti, and, above all, a beautiful sanctuary with high ceilings.



When we asked if we could sing praises there, a man in charge of the place named Benito came to meet us. When we explained that we had come all the way from Japan hoping to offer our praise and prayer here, he gladly gave us permission. It just so happened that it was cleaning time and the vacuum cleaner was running, but we were able to sing praises as freely as we wanted. When we asked, “Would you like to hear just one praise?” Benito sat down to listen. We sang “M’barach Ho Marya” and “Yeshu” multi-dimensionally. The acoustics were beautiful as in a cathedral in Spain, yet because it was a wooden church, the sound was even warmer. I could feel the prayers of Agnes Sanford and other many pioneers who had prayed for this land.

Benito was deeply touched and said, “The moment you started singing, I felt a sense of calm wash over me and all my tension melt away. It was wonderful!”

He also told us that because the acoustics here are so good, many famous artists hold concerts in this church when

they're on world tours. We told him that we had also sung at the Sagrada Familia in Spain.

However, when we asked Benito about Agnes Sanford he didn't seem to know who she was.

After Benito left, we sang a few more praises, but there was a moment, for about 20 seconds while we were singing "Jesus," when the vacuum cleaner stopped. I could record it, and it sounded truly beautiful.

While praising at this church, with more and more praise overflowing I felt that our praise had been awaited through the prayer of Agnes. I was so touched to see that Agnes, this land, and this fault line had been waiting for our praise. I became certain that the praise and prayer from this place had been protecting the land from earthquakes.

I really think that it is Kohitsuji no Mure Church who succeeds Agnus's faith to pray for the healing of the earth.

Praise Itself at Work



Mission San Juan Bautista

Mitsuko, who had read my mission trip report about singing praise at this Mission, said that a new heavenly tune came resonating from the report to her. Mitsuko said that during this California and Washington mission trip, she felt that she was doing more than just joining in prayer with one heart for this trip. She felt that she was working together with the Lord, and that it wasn't so much she was working, but rather praise itself was at work.

Since the Sydney mission trip two years ago, it is said that for every mission trip the whole Church of the Wind also joined spiritually in prayer, being sent along, which means, praise itself is sent out to the mission.

The fact that Mitsuko, who is in Japan, received the *sanbi* (heavenly tune) means that the *sanbi* of the Church of the Wind is resonating together with this church situated atop the fault line. Through this resonance with the *sanbi* of the Church of the Wind, the lost *sanbi* returns, Mitsuko says. I cannot help but wonder just how great work has been entrusted to us through this *sanbi*.

The prayers of those who have returned to heaven, beginning with Agnes Sanford, are now resonating with the sanbi of the Church of the Wind, bringing about healing.

Now we have begun praying that we'd like to hold a "Healing of the Earth" concert at that Mission together with Agnes and many others of heaven. Please join us in prayer.

September 25, 2026

How Sublime God's Plan Is!

Etsuko Kawakami (Morgan Hill, California)

Today, along with our mission team members, we finally visited Mission San Juan Bautista. We were blessed with permission to sing praises inside their sanctuary.

As we worshiped and glorified the Lord together with the staff members of Mission San Juan Bautista, they were so deeply moved that they said, "Please come back anytime."

From a distance across the fields, we could even see the San Andreas earthquake fault lines.



In the book “Creation Waits,” the author Agnes Sanford shared that she chose the San Andreas Valley in Northern California as the final place of her life. This valley creates a deep fracture running from north to south through California, a place where a major earthquake could strike at any moment.

How sublime God’s plan is that now, we, Kohitsuji no Mure Church is standing on top of this very place, offering the Lord heavenly praises, and praying for the healing of the earth.

September 3, 2026

Creation Waits!

Seiko Takechi

Last year, when I was sent to Northern California for mission trip, Etsuko first told me about the church, San Juan Bautista, I was filled with joy just knowing I had been near it.

It was the very place where Agnes had moved and spent her later years praying so that the damage from potential earthquakes along California’s San Andreas Fault would be minimized.

But now, hearing that Kohitsuji no Mure actually sang

praises there, my spirit felt as though I were visiting the place together with them. It gave me an incredibly wondrous, heart-pounding sensation.

Agnes Sanford was born in 1897 and went to be with the Lord in 1982. While suffering from depression and crying out for healing, she discovered one day that the healing light of Jesus Christ exists within the universe. As she boldly sought this healing, she began to convey God's love to others. In 1947, at the age of 50, she published her testimony of God's love in her book, "The Healing Light." It became a bestseller and went through 35 printings.

In the winter of 1985, as my family was preparing to return to Japan from London, my friend Ann, with whom I shared a prayer group, handed me that very book. Our prayer companions were all thirsting for the love of Jesus.

Upon returning to Japan, I was so busy that it was five years later when I finally opened "The Healing Light." It was just after I encountered the praises of Kohitsuji no Mure Church.

The praises of Kohitsuji no Mure Church were the very "healing light" that Agnes had encountered. As I read, it became perfectly clear that what my spirit had been searching for was God's love itself–healing. When I mentioned "The Healing Light" to Pastor Peter, he told me that he, too, had read it.

What a divine coincidence! And later, Agnes's "Creation Waits" was published in Japanese, translated by Pastor Peter. While "The Healing Light" was Agnes's first book of faith, "Creation Waits" was her final work on this earth. Having known God's healing, Agnes prayed for the healing of the land and the peace of this earth before she was called home to heaven. At the very end of "Creation Waits," Agnes writes:

The earth is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, so that the earth, in bondage because of man's sins—in fact, the whole creation, worlds beyond worlds, and galaxies beyond galaxies—will be lifted into God's glory.

For this, creation waits!

Dear Agnes, the sons and daughters of God whom the earth has been longing for are right here! It is Kohitsuji no Mure.

God has placed heavenly praises upon the lips of His children. You are surely watching from heaven and rejoicing to see how, through these praises, God's healing is advancing even further, and His power is being manifested.

Just as I was guided into the Lord's light across time through the books Agnes wrote, I believe that "The White Dove" written by Mitsuko, as well as Pastor Peter's books of "Redeeming Love" will become eternal lights delivering Christ's love to the entire world.

The love of Christ is eternal. I believe that the time will come when everything on this desolate earth will bow down before the Lord and praise Him, Amen.

October 1, 2026

Join the Bible Study in the Wilderness!

"Year for Praise to overflow the whole earth"
Due Date: December 2, 2026

The Lord has told us that 2026 is the "Year for Praise to overflow the whole earth." Looking back on this year, how do you receive this message? Please write freely. If any Bible verse comes to you, please also write about it.

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