

## **History of the MISSION ROAD CHURCH (Formerly Loma Linda Japanese Church)**

- ◆ October 1967 - Dr. Shirou (May) Kunihiro organized a Japanese-language Sabbath School in Griggs Hall
- ◆ 1973 - Japanese group began to hold its own worship services at the Loma Linda University Church youth classroom
- ◆ June 16, 1991, Masumi (Yoshiko) Shimada was sent by Japan Union to serve as a full-time worker for three years.
- ◆ January 8, 1994, the Japanese group broke away from the LL University Church and was officially organized as the Loma Linda Japanese Company
- ◆ Other pastors from Japan on a three-year rotating basis:
  - Issei (Yuko) Horiuchi (1994-1997)
  - Shigenori (Yoko) Morimoto (1997-2000)
  - Hiroshi (Sakiko) Yamaji (2000-2003)
  - Toshio (Kyoungmi) Shibata (2003-2006)
  - Morihiro (Shinobu) Kohama (2006-2009, extended 2009-2011)
  - Isamu (Noriko) Udagawa (2011-2014)
  - Daisuke (Michiko) Fujimori (2014 - current)
- ◆ October 1995 - English division started by Pastor Shige Arakaki
- ◆ June 1996 - Dean (Cathy) Horinouchi becomes the senior pastor of the Loma Linda Japanese Company
- ◆ August 10, 1996 - 40 members from the Loma Linda Chinese church requested transfer of membership to the Japanese Company
- ◆ January 1, 2000 - Officially organized as Loma Linda Japanese Church
- ◆ Church experiences remarkable growth: 1994 - 81 members; 2014 - 391 members
- ◆ Because of the large diversity in the church, voted to change the name to Mission Road Church (location of property) on Feb. 23, 2002.
- ◆ Southeastern California Conference officially changes church name to Mission Road Church (began making plans for building) in September 2009
- ◆ After 40 years later of wandering in the “desert” of rented facilities, the church put down a deposit to purchase its own facilities in Redlands, CA
- ◆ January 15, 2014, the church purchased the former Christ Community Church at 27240 Alabama Street, Redlands, CA 92373 for \$2.5 million.
- ◆ First worship service at new facility was held on April 5, 2014.
- ◆ Grand Opening/Ribbon-cutting service was held on April 26, 2014 with conference officials (Sandra Roberts - president, Jonathan Park - exec. secretary, Verlon Strauss - treasurer, Elizer Sacay - Asian vice-president) present to dedicate the new church facility.
- ◆ 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of a Japanese language Sabbath School in Loma Linda was held on Oct. 14, 2017.