



# Japan Update

January ~ February, 2007

## REPORTED FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH

### **Praises:**

1. The Nagoya Church (Rev. Tanaka) is extending its ministry to the Nagano area. The Minami-Shinshu Chapel building is now under construction and will be completed this spring.
2. Rev. Toshiaki Yasui, a pastor of the C&MA in Brazil, will be the main speaker at the Miyajima Deeper Life Conference this summer. **Please pray** as we begin planning.

### **Prayer Requests:**

1. **Please pray** for the many Japanese people who will visit shrines in the first few days of the New Year. **Pray** for opportunities for them to hear the gospel message and turn to the living God this year.
2. **Please pray** that many will attend and be blessed by the Sunday School teachers' seminar to be held March 21<sup>st</sup> in Hiroshima.

## REPORTED FROM THE MISSION CHURCHES

### Hideaki & Kyon Suk Aomatsu (Narita)

\*\*\***Please pray** that many would attend the church New Year's party January 7<sup>th</sup>. \*\*\***Please pray** for Pastor Aomatsu and the other 200 participants attending a conference for Korean missionaries Jan. 4~6. \*\*\***Pray** for God's blessing on this year's church events. \*\*\***Please pray** for a godly person to lead the board of elders this year. \*\*\***Pray** that many new people would be lead to the church this year, that the church body would have a deeper commitment to Christ and that Pastor Aomatsu and his wife would be able to lead the church well.

Joel & Pauline Black (Language Study) \*\*\*In January, we will start a new chapter as we will have more time available, now that language study is officially over, to get involved in the community. **Please pray** for wisdom as we decide how to move ahead. Some things we are praying about are: opening English classes in our apartment complex or in the nearby community centre, volunteering in a hospital, and starting new community groups.

KiDoo & Haeng Hwa Kang (Tama) \*\*\***Please continue to pray** for us as we lead the church in 2007. \*\*\*We are so thankful for the 70 people who attended our Christmas concert this year. **Pray** that God would continue to work in hearts and lead these people to regular church involvement. \*\*\***Please continue to pray** for our seminary students, Mr. and Mrs. Koyanagi, as they minister regularly in the Itsukaichi Alliance Church in Hiroshima.

David & Deborah Kim (Shibuya) \*\*\***Please pray** that the 4 people who were baptized on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> would grow and be used by God for His Kingdom. We are thankful for the great celebration of our 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary that we shared on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. **Thank you for praying!** \*\*\*We are thankful for the ministry of a short term team from Australia Dec. 24~30. \*\*\***Please pray** for the ministry of a team coming from Korea, Jan 17-26. \*\*\***Please pray** that God would continue to use our church for intercession and outreach through 2007.

David & Vangji Kindervater (Sengendai) \*\*\*We thank God for the new contacts which were made and opportunities to share the story of Jesus during the Christmas season. **Please pray** that the seeds planted would bear fruit. \*\*\***Please continue to pray** that God would provide a pastor for Sengendai Church. \*\*\*This year, we will be focusing on Christ as our Sanctifier. **Please pray** for the continued growth of our believers.

Harry & Jane Landaw (Chiba) \*\*\***Praise God** for people from the Sports Ministry and our neighborhood ministries who attended the Chiba area Christmas Concert, the children's outreach, our neighborhood Open House and worship services at Chiba Church. A 72-year old lady who received a Gideon Bible said it is the first Bible she has ever owned, and then stated that she was going to begin reading it that night. A young doctor, who studies the Bible with Harry, brought his family to an outreach for families at Chiba Church. \*\*\*A 90-year old Buddhist mother has moved in with her Christian daughter and son-in-law. They read the Bible with her every day. She came to a Christmas event at our house and has a goal of climbing the stairs to Yachiyo Church (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor) to attend services. **Please pray** for her salvation. \*\*\***Praise God** for the baptism of 2 women, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. **Please pray** as they grow spiritually. \*\*\***Please pray** for our continued community outreach, for a high school discipleship class Harry is teaching, for God's help in teaching His Word and for speaking ministries.

Jill Landaw (Narita) \*\*\***Praise God** for a fun, Christ-centered and very well-attended Christmas Celebration on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Thank you for praying!** **Please pray** that the seeds planted in the hearts of all those who attended would bear fruit. \*\*\*The ladies from the Thursday English Bible class, as well as a few other ladies, came over for a Christmas party at my apartment. We had a wonderful time eating and talking together. **Please pray** for 4 of these ladies, who are still seekers. **Praise God** for a Christian

woman from the church who is now able to come to the class. It is wonderful to have a Japanese Christian present in the class, and she is a dear friend too. **\*\*\*Please pray** as the youth begin to take leadership in new ways, to prepare for my home assignment, summer 2007. **\*\*\*Please pray** for several families in the nursery school who are thinking of transferring to public nursery schools that are cheaper due to government funding. **\*\*\*Please pray** for another English teacher for the nursery school, to begin in April.

**Dale & Heidi Lemke (Youth Work)** **\*\*\***God has opened doors to make contact with students at the local university in Sengendai. We were excited to connect with 20 students in our home through Thanksgiving and Christmas parties. We are praying for a group of students to emerge who would like to learn about Christ and read the Bible together. **Thank you for praying!** We are also excited to report that Mia received a visa enabling us to travel to the States for the holidays.

**Don & Carol Love (Home Assignment)** **\*\*\***We have finished the first semester of school at Alliance University College in Calgary. We are thankful for the chances to have input into many people's lives. **Please pray** that a growing number of people will develop a caring heart to pray for God's work around the world. **Pray** also for young people to consider going overseas to serve and for those who are heading in that direction to be protected and led by the Lord. **\*\*\***We have recently had opportunities to meet a number of International students, some Japanese, at church events and even in our neighbourhood. **Please pray** that we will have wisdom to know how to help these students and that they will open up to us. **Please pray** that we will have opportunities to introduce them to the love of Jesus.

**Aki & Chieko Minamitani (Yachiyo)** **\*\*\*Praise God** that Mrs. Seki has been baptized. **Please pray** for her continued spiritual growth. **\*\*\*Please pray** that God would protect and care for Mrs. Fukushima, Mrs. Mitsui, Mr. Miyamoto, Mr. Takimoto and Aki's parents who need a physical touch from the Lord. **\*\*\*Pray** that God would protect Mrs. Obiki spiritually. **\*\*\*Please pray** that God would protect Mizuka and her baby during her pregnancy. **\*\*\*Please continue to pray** for the salvation of Mr. Kikkawa, Junko, Yoko, Sachiyo and Aki's Mother. **\*\*\*Please pray** that God would give Aki vision, strength and wisdom as he shepherds the church.

**Darren & Minako Polischuk (Missionary Partners)** **\*\*\*Praise God** that Greatest Gift ministries was able to send 600 gift boxes, along with nine computers to the Philippines and 120 gift boxes to Cambodia in Dec. **\*\*\***Darren recently returned from a 6-day trip exploratory trip to find new locations where gift boxes might

be needed, as well as meeting partners who will help coordinate gift box distribution and short-term mission trips. **\*\*\***NHK (Japanese national television network) featured Greatest Gift Ministries on Christmas Day to about 10 million viewers. **Praise God** for this opportunity to demonstrate His love and the greatest gift, Jesus Christ to millions on viewers, especially on Christmas day. **Pray** that many will want to know more about Him.

**Don & Hazel Schaeffer (Kawaguchi)** **\*\*\***We praise God for the baptism of Mr. Yoshida and his 2 children on Christmas Sunday. His wife joined the church. **Please pray** for physical healing for Mr. Yoshida and for continued spiritual growth for the family. **\*\*\*Praise God** for the good outreaches during Dec. Many non-Christians attended the Ladies Christmas Tea and the children's outreach. **Thank you for praying! Pray** that they will come back to church. **\*\*\***We are starting a study on the family. **Please pray** for God to use it to strengthen the marriages and families in the church. **\*\*\*Pray** for the youth group that has been started by the Lemkes. They made and distributed 100 boxed lunches to the homeless at a major train station at the end of the year. **\*\*\*Please pray** for God's provision for a pastor and for a building. We are in need of more space.

**Ken & Kathy Young (Japan Alliance School of Theology)** **\*\*\*Praise God** that the Higashi Hiroshima building is almost complete. We plan to begin some ministries there in January. **Thank you for praying! Praise God** for people in many of our churches who are showing a desire to serve the Lord, possibly full-time, as pastors or missionaries. **Continue to pray** for "Seminary Day" ministries. Our next ones are in January, at the Kawaguchi Alliance Church and in February, at the Chiba Alliance Church. **\*\*\*Please pray** for salvation for Miss Omori (Kurose home Bible Study) and for psychological healing for Ms. Ishii (Yasuura house church). **\*\*\*Please pray** that the seminary students would have stamina and health to finish the school year well. Also, pray for Mr. Koyanagi, along with his wife and 2 elementary school sons, as he prepares for graduation in March, then assignment to a church as a pastor.

**Doug & Carol Woon (Mission Office)** **\*\*\*Praise God** for the 50 people who attended the Christmas outreach party in Harumi in Dec. Many attended for the first time and enjoyed fellowship and a first glimpse at the true meaning of Christmas. **Pray** that many of these would begin attending the Alpha Course as God continues to work in hearts and lives. **\*\*\*Please continue to pray** for spiritual interest to be ignited in the hearts of people attending the many outreach programs in Harumi.