



# Japan Update

March-April, 2008

"I live in the spirit of prayer; I pray as I walk, when I lie down and when I rise, and the answers are always coming." George Mueller

## REPORTED FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH

### **Praises:**

1. The Board of Directors of the Japan Alliance School of Theology and the Japan Alliance Church held a joint meeting January 31-February 1. Praise God for His leading in this meeting.

### **Prayer Requests:**

1. Please pray for the Board of Directors meeting of the Japan Alliance Church and Japan Alliance Mission to be held in Tokyo March 28.
2. Please pray for Japan Alliance School of Theology prospective students. The Entrance Exam will be held March 6.

## REPORTED FROM THE MISSION CHURCHES

**David & Evangeline Kindervater (Sengendai)** \*\*\*The Sengendai Church has spent many Sunday afternoons recently in prayer and discussion as we head toward transition from Mission-leadership to the National Church. We thank God for preserving unity during these intense discussions. **Please pray** that God would provide the next missionary/pastor for Sengendai church as we go on home assignment in June. **Please pray** that God would provide a Japanese pastor and a building for the church. **Please pray** with us that the believers would not look with fear, but with faith and expectation at the many uncertainties of the future. \*\*\***We praise the Lord** that Enoku, a 6-th grade boy, wants to publicly declare his faith by baptism. **Please pray** for Enoku as the Jr. & Sr. high school years are very difficult for Christian young people.

**Don & Carol Love (Harumi~Sayama)** \*\*\***Praise the Lord** for opening up new opportunities for Pastor Ichimori to serve in Tojo Church in Hiroshima Prefecture. \*\*\***Praise the Lord** for providing a new pastor, Rev. Miyoshi, for Sayama Church. He will begin in April. \*\*\***Praise the Lord** for helping the Sayama Church to find a building for the church where we would not have thought it possible. \*\*\***Please pray** for the Sayama Church people as they prepare for changes ahead. **Pray** that they would have faith, hope and unity as they contemplate buying a building. \*\*\***Please pray** for Pastor Miyoshi in his new start there. \*\*\***Please pray** for new ways of outreach and that we can find ways to lead contacts into a deeper experience of the love of Jesus.

**Joel & Pauline Black (Home Assignment)** \*\*\***Praise God** for our first term of ministry in Japan, and His guidance as we packed up and returned to Canada. \*\*\***Praise Him** for a wonderful rental home complete with a yard. We are grateful for the help of our home church in helping us with furnishings. \*\*\***Please pray** for our children as they adjust to their new surroundings and neighborhood. \*\*\***Please pray** for the Lord's guidance as we begin setting up ministries in churches and also as we anticipate the May arrival of our baby.

**Ken & Kathy Young (Home Assignment)** \*\*\***Please pray** for us as we are into our last week of Missionary Tour. After tour we will immediately begin packing for our return to Japan in April, and also traveling to see family before leaving the States. \*\*\***Please pray** for strength, good health and also safety in our traveling. \*\*\***Please pray** that God would open doors for quickly finding a house in Higashi Hiroshima when we return to Japan. \*\*\***Please pray** for preparations for classes we will begin teaching at the Alliance Seminary (JAST) upon arrival back in Japan, and starting the ministry in the Higashi Hiroshima area.

**Don & Hazel Schaeffer (Kawaguchi)** \*\*\***Praise God** for the dedication of our new church building. The church was packed with pastors, missionaries, and believers from other churches. **Pray** that we would use this new facility for God's glory and that many in our area would find Christ. \*\*\*On March 30 we are having our annual church meeting. **Please pray** for wisdom as we plan the calendar for the next year. **Pray** for new ministry leaders as they begin their service in April. \*\*\*One of our church members living in Australia is having treatment for breast cancer. **Please pray** for Mrs. Shibata that God would heal her. \*\*\***Pray for** unsaved family members that they would put their trust in Christ and be baptized. **Pray** for some members who have not been attending regularly.

**Aki & Chieko Minamitani (Yachiyo)** \*\*\***Please pray** for two major issues: One is that Chieko had a catheter treatment on her heart in the hospital in early January. At that time, the doctor placed a stent in her artery. Praise God that He saved her life as she just avoided collapsing from a heart attack. **Please pray** for her recovery and God's clear and specific guidance upon her life in the future. Secondly, Mr. Takuya Kawasaki (42 years old) who is the son-in-law of our church members, Mr. and Mrs. Matsubara, is now almost physically blind. **Please pray** for his future, physical healing, social rehabilitation and salvation. **Thank you for your prayers.** \*\*\***Please continue to pray** for God's blessings upon the bond of marriage for Aki and Chieko as well as God's wisdom and strength for Aki as he continues shepherding the church in this situation. \*\*\***Please continue to pray** for Megumi and Maki who need the love of God as well as His specific and clear guidance upon their future. They struggle for their mental and spiritual conditions and many things are unknown for their future. \*\*\***Please continue to pray** that God would protect and nurture a young Christian, Kentaro who now studies in Texas. \*\*\***Please pray** for Mr. Toyo, Mr. Miyamoto, Mrs. Obiki and especially for Mrs. Mitsui, Mrs. Fukushima, and Mr. Takimoto who need a physical touch from the Lord. \*\*\***Please continue to pray** for the salvation of Mr. Kikkawa, Sachiyo, Junko, Yoko, Mrs. Kanamori, and Mr. and Mrs. Tanabe.

**Doug & Carol Woon (Harumi Tokyo)** \*\*\*I (Carol) have been privileged to be able to share my faith with several young mothers from our moms and tots group and kindergarten class. **Please pray** that Mrs. Tamura, Mrs. Yokote, Mrs. Uenishi, Mrs. Inamura, Mrs. Sakata, Mrs. Tsuchihashi, Mrs. Ida and Mrs. Nakaguchi, who I've been able to meet with on a regular basis, would be willing to study the Bible and eventually desire a personal relationship with Jesus. \*\*\***Pray** that God would open hearts and lead us to those who are willing to accept his message. \*\*\***We thank God** for the opportunity we had last week to present Canada to the entire local elementary school. **Pray** that this will open new doors to share Christ as we get to know even more people in our community. \*\*\***Please pray** for Doug and Don Love's English Outreach class. Last week they were able to share about their motives for coming to Japan. \*\*\***Pray** that Doug would be able to meet men that he can share his faith with at the health club that he's recently joined and through time spent in our neighbourhood. \*\*\***Please pray** for one of our Christians, Mrs. Otani, who is experiencing a time of fatigue and is questioning her faith. \*\*\***Thank you for praying** for our daughter Heather in Pakistan. God has kept her safe and has given her wonderful experiences and opportunities.

**Jill Landaw (Home Assignment)** \*\*\* **I praise God** for his help and safety so far during spring tour in Maryland and Virginia. It has been great seeing familiar faces and visiting with the wonderful church families! I also **praise God** for the use of a missionary wheels vehicle while I am on tour. Thank you, Mid-Atlantic District Alliance Men! **Please pray** as I finish my spring tour, visiting churches and homes, reporting on all God is doing in Japan and thanking the many, many people who support missions. **Please pray** for safety and continued good health as I travel, and for God to use me. I will also be doing some extra speaking back in Minnesota when I return. Thank you.

**David & Deborah Kim (Shibuya)** \*\*\***Praise God** for protecting our church members on a trip to Turkey from 1/25-2/8. Rev. Son was the leader and he and the Harvest Praise Team led the worship in the assembly there. Rev. Son will return to the USA after 3 years of service here in Shibuya Church and Japan. May God continue to bless him and his family. \*\*\***We praise God** for our Japanese and English small groups. They are very active and are growing in their relationships. \*\*\***We praise God** for the new Women's Fellowship Cabinet for 2008.

**KiDoo & Haeng Hwa Kang (Tama)** \*\*\***Praise God** for the appointment of 4 believers from the church to serve on the church board. **Please pray** that they will know God's leading in each decision. \*\*\***Please pray** for Pastor and Mrs. Kang's 2 daughters who are attending a Korean Christian School in the Philippines. Pray that they will be protected each day. \*\*\***Please pray** for the church family to be strengthened and encouraged to witness and reach out to their unsaved family and friends. Pray for God's blessing on each one.

**Dale & Heidi Lemke (Youth Work)** \*\*\*We are thankful that God continues to give us opportunities to study the Bible with non-Christians. **Please keep praying** for Hitomi, Hideto, and Masa. We are in contact with a number of other non-Christians whom we hope to invite into Bible study in the coming months. **Please pray** for receptivity and God's direction. \*\*\***Please pray** for our friend Hisako as she joins a Christian volunteer trip to Cambodia. \*\*\***We continue to pray** that God will help us meet non-Christians who will follow Christ and have a Paul-like zeal to reach their friends, family, and nation for Christ. **Thank you for praying!**

**Hideaki & Kyon Suk Aomatsu (Narita)** \*\*\*As the church grows, the church is in need of more parking space. **Please pray** that the owner of a lot next to the church would be willing to sell it at a reasonable price. \*\*\***Please pray** for God's protection on the health of Rev. and Mrs. Aomatsu. **Please pray** for miraculous healing of an eye problem for Mrs. Aomatsu. \*\*\***Please pray** for God's provision of an English teacher for outreach ministries.

**Darren & Minako Polischuk (Missionary Partners)** \*\*\***Praise God** for prompting Japanese people to respond to help children in need throughout Asia. Japanese people have contributed, Gift Boxes, clothing and other donations of toys, stationary and hygiene items - enough for an estimated 5000 Gift Boxes. We have processed approximately 1500 of those boxes to date with our small but growing team of volunteers. **We praise God** for the way that people in Japan have responded. **Praise God** for what he is doing in the lives of the distribution trip participants. Many Japanese people join our overseas trips and God is using this time to open their hearts and minds in dramatic ways. For Christians, this has meant an opportunity to breath passion and meaning into their faith journeys and to listen to the Holy Spirit about the plans and purpose that God has for them. For non-Christians there continues to be a spiritual awakening where God is drawing these Japanese hearts closer to a relationship with him! \*\*\***Pray** for the people God is already speaking with about joining our ministry in the near future. \*\*\***Pray** for our preparation to return to Canada for one year starting in the summer of 2008. \*\*\***Pray** for personal support financial solutions that need to be resolved for the future.

**Harry & Jane Landaw (Mission Office)** \*\*\***Praise God** for the appointment of new missionaries Alan and Jill Kropp and missionary apprentice Amy Cervone. **Please pray** for them in these next months as they prepare to move to Japan. \*\*\*In addition, retired missionaries, Dick and Janice Kropp have been asked by the Japan Alliance Mission to return for a 2-year ministry at Sengendai Church. **Pray** as they raise support and prepare to arrive this summer. \*\*\***Please pray** for Field Forum April 21-24, and for Rev. Ron Morrison, a team from his church and a team from Summerset, PA who will minister to us. \*\*\***Praise God** that Mr. Shishikura, the gas station owner attended church and asked to purchase a Bible!! \*\*\***Please pray** for our speaking ministries.