



Japan Update

MAY-JUNE, 2008



God shapes the world by prayer. Prayers are deathless. They outlive the lives of those who uttered them. ~ E. M. Bounds

REPORTED FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH

Praises:

1. Thank God that Mr. Yamamoto and Mr. & Mrs. Takahashi entered the Japan Alliance seminary this April! Also we are very glad that Rev. Young will be helping at the seminary this year.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for the Annual Council of the JAC which will be held in Hiroshima, May 27-28. The new Board of Managers (5 Members) will be selected.
2. Please pray for the church growth in the JAC.

REPORTED FROM THE MISSION CHURCHES

Doug & Carol Woon (Harumi Tokyo) ***Praise God for the 20 adults and 20 kids that He brought to our Easter Celebration in Harumi. It was a great opportunity to share the Biblical significance of Easter as well as some fun traditions, and an informal time of getting to know the mostly non-Christian guests who attended. Please pray that our next time of getting together, April 27th, will provide opportunities to discuss life's issues and the Bible's answers. In the meantime, we continue to meet with small groups of people to share our lives, faith and the love of Christ. ***Please pray specifically for Mrs. Sakata, Mrs. Kanno and Mrs. Yokote as we meet next week and for a new friend Mrs. Iida and her mother, who have shown an interest in our faith. ***Please continue to pray that through the mom's and tot's class, the mom's English class and the kindergarten class we'll have opportunities to meet moms and show them a little of who Jesus is and what he wants to do for them in authentic ways that will draw them to Him.

David & Deborah Kim (Shibuya) ***Please pray for the 2008 Family Camp from May 3-5. Because of the date conflict, we will have Family Camp at the church. Please pray that many will participate, and that we will have good weather and wonderful fellowship. We are planning a baptismal service May 4th during Family camp. Three or four people are preparing for baptism now. ***Brother Kevin Cho who has been one of the worship leaders will go to the Philippines for a year as a layman missionary in May where he visited last year. Please pray for his health and provision. ***We will send a short term mission team to the Philippines again this year. ***So many brothers and sisters are praying and preparing every other week. Some will join the July Olympic outreach. ***Please continue to pray about the church property so that we can dedicate our whole building to the Lord in the near future. ***Elder Majima graduated from Bible Seminary in March and became an official worker of our church in April. Pray for his health. Thank you for your prayers for David's health. He was very sick, but now he is recovering.

Ken & Kathy Young (Hiroshima) ***Please pray for the Young's return to Japan after a year of Home Assignment. Pray for housing to be found quickly and a smooth transition back to teaching at the seminary. ***Pray for their outreach ministries in Hiroshima and their Sunday ministries.

Dale & Heidi Lemke (Youth Work) ***We are excited to let you know that Hitomi decided to start following Jesus last week. Please pray for Heidi and Hitomi as they continue to meet for Bible Study and to pray for Hitomi's non-Christian friends and family. We are praying especially for Hitomi's husband, 11 year old daughter, and 3 year old daughter.

*** We are also excited that Heidi has had the opportunity to start an evangelistic Bible study with a small group of moms who attend the Sengendai Christ Church group for mothers of pre-schoolers. Please pray for these women and their families. ***Dale continues to meet with some young men and we have met with and are encouraging some Christian students at the local university to reach out to their classmates. ***Please continue to pray that God will help us meet people who are seeking for God and who would be interested in studying the Bible. God is answering our prayers. Thank you for praying!

KiDoo & Haeng Hwa Kang (Tama) ***Praise God for His help as the Kangs moved to a new neighborhood. Pray that God would use them as a witness to their neighbors. ***Praise God for the leadership of the recently appointed 4 new board members. ***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 for the church family to be strengthened and encouraged to witness and reach out to their unsaved family and friends.

Jill Landaw (Home Assignment) *** I praise God for a great spring tour and for safety as I traveled. After some time to rest, I continue to speak here in the MN area. Churches are excited about what God is doing in Japan! ***I also praise God for being able to spend time with my little nephew in the first weeks of his life. I missed this time in my niece's life, and it is really special to share in this time with my sister's family now! Please pray for me in the final speaking times, that I would be a faithful reporter of what I have seen God do in my life and in Japan.

David & Evangeline Kindervater (Sengendai) ***We praise God for the public profession of faith through baptism on 4/30 of Enoku, a junior high boy. ***Praise God for the pre-school playgroup continually reaching new families in the community. Pray for this ministry to mothers with young children (Isaiah 40:11). ***Praise God for the return of Mr. T to church fellowship after Mrs. K's funeral. ***Praise God for our children's good experiences in Japanese kindergarten and elementary school and please pray for their adjustment to American school this fall.

Hideaki & Kyon Suk Aomatsu (Narita) ***Praise God for seekers and newcomers attending services. We are praying for the church to grow to 100. ***As the church grows, we are in need of more parking space. ***Pray that the owner of a lot next to the church would be willing to sell it at a reasonable price. ***Please pray for children attending the Hallelujah Nursery School to believe in Jesus at a young age. Pray for their families to be saved. Pray for parents who are attending an English Bible Study. ***Please pray for revival in our church as we celebrate the church's 19th anniversary.

Darren & Minako Polischuk (Missionary Partners)

Our Japanese teams to Cambodia (March 22-30), Manila (March 25-April 1) and a mixed Japanese/Filipino team to Baguio (March 31-April 8) each made it safely out and back - each reporting life changing experiences and a new found passion to serve others in a missions role. **Praise God** for what He is doing in the hearts and minds of the Japanese people who open themselves up to an exposure to God's plans for their lives.**Praise God** for the provision of Rutsuko Nakajima who will provide ministry administrative support for the one year we are on Home Assignment.*****Praise God** for the work He is doing among our Philippines church/missionary Christian partners who are excited about hosting and interacting with Japanese non-Christian teams we will bring in the future to Manila and Cebu. Through the relationships developed in side-by-side ministry opportunities - we hope to see Filipino Christians planting seeds in the lives of the Japanese who are coming to serve. *****Praise God** for the response of the Japanese church who went on our Cambodian trip. They are embracing a new orphanage and sex slave preventative work in Cambodia. They expect to soon begin sending financial resources and manpower to Cambodia several times a year. God has given them a Kingdom vision for orphans, widows and girls at risk and we rejoice how His Holy Spirit is moving in lives that previously never stepped outside of the church building. *****Pray** that God would lead us to contacts in churches in Canada (over the next 1 year of our home assignment) who would be interested in partnering with us for future ministry development in Japan and beyond - both in financial support and people challenged to come and serve overseas. *****Pray** that God would lead us to potential short-term teams in Canada that would catch a vision for coming along side a Japanese team in Tokyo and going out to other countries in South East Asia together to deliver Gift Boxes, do project work and minister to the Japanese while jointly reaching out to a needy community. *****Pray** that God would lead us to Japanese people who are passionate about serving Him and can come along side the ministry efforts that He has charged us with. *****Pray** that the Lord would give us the strength and energy to finish this term well - even though we will attempt to run the ministry remotely from Canada for one year.

Aki & Chieko Minamitani (Yachiyo) *****Praise God** that Mrs. Kanamori, a mother of our church members (Mr. and Mrs. Matsubara) was baptized at age 91 on Easter. Thank you for your prayers. *****Please continue to pray** for Chieko's heart attack recovery as well as God's specific guidance upon her life in the future. She went through ups and downs but is recovering little by little.*****Please continue to pray** for Mr. Takuya Kawasaki who is now almost physically blind. Pray especially for his future, physical healing, social rehabilitation and salvation. *****Please continue to pray** for Megumi and Maki who need God's healing and love as they continue to struggle for their mental and spiritual conditions. *****Please continue to pray** that God would protect and nurture a young Christian, Kentaro who now studies in Texas. *****Please pray** for Mr. Toya, Mr. Miyamoto, Mr. Takimoto, Mrs. Fukushima, Mrs. Obiki and especially for Mrs. Mitsui and Mr. Miyamoto who need a physical touch from the Lord. *****Please continue to pray** for the salvation of Mr. Kikkawa, Mr. Ono, Sachiyo, Junko, Yoko, and Mr. and Mrs. Tanabe. *****Please pray** that God will give us clear guidance and wisdom as we eagerly seek for land, parking space and new church building. *****Please continue to pray** for God's blessing on the marriage of Aki and Chieko as well as God's wisdom and strength for Aki as he shepherds church.

Japan ~ one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. Thank you for praying for the work of the Japan Alliance.

Don & Hazel Schaeffer (Kawaguchi) *****Praise God** for a good annual church meeting. Two new elders were added. Several groups have new leaders. *****Pray** for each leader as they serve the church. *****Pray** for a concert on Mother's Day, May 11. The Chamber Singers from Christian Academy in Japan will perform during the regular service. *****Please pray** that it would bring people in from around the church. We are starting a study on the home for women in May. Jane Landaw will be teaching this series. *****Please pray** that God will use it to strengthen family relationships. ***Our family will be experiencing transition these next couple of months. Heidi, our oldest who has been teaching at CAJ, will be transitioning back to the States. Katie will graduate from CIU grad school. Mary graduates from Toccoa Falls College. Donnie graduates from high school, and Sarah graduates from middle school. Mary will also be getting married this summer. *****Pray** for God's wisdom and direction for each one. ***Don will be teaching at the Onnuri Missionary Training Center again during June 16-20. **Please pray** for this ministry to new missionary candidates.

Joel & Pauline Black (Home Assignment) *****Thanks to God** for a very comfortable home with more space than we have experienced in years. *****Praise God** for a healthy and easy readjustment for our family in Canada the last couple of months. *****Praise God** for a healthy pregnancy for Pauline and the new little Black soon to arrive. *****Pray** for meaningful relationships to be made with the people in our neighborhood here in Niagara Falls. *****Pray** for meaningful relationships and conversations with the people at the churches in our cluster. *****Pray** for safe arrival of our baby in early May. *****Pray** for us as we make decisions for the future

Don & Carol Love (Harumi~Sayama) *****Praise God** for bringing Pastor Miyoshi to Sayama. *****Praise God** for a new Bible study in Toyosu (near Harumi). Two new ladies have joined this study, opening the Bible for the first time. *****Praise God** for a planned new Bible study to open in the Nerima area (near to where we live). *****Praise the Lord** for the start of a Boys' Club in Toyosu. Six boys came from Harumi and Toyosu for our first meeting. *****Please pray** for Pastor Miyoshi and the Sayama church people to be led into new ministries and growth. *****Please pray** that the new seekers at Sayama church will continue to seek and that they will find God and experience His love and grace. *****Please pray** for the new evangelistic Bible studies in Toyosu and Nerima, for more people to join, and that those who join will have a real encounter with Jesus. *****Please pray** for the Harumi group that is exploring compassionate care for needy people. Only one member of the group is a Christian, but they all are excited about making a contact to work together with a C&MA missionary in the Philippines to help a needy area in Cebu. Please pray that this work will continue to open their hearts to Jesus.

Harry & Jane Landaw (Mission Office) *****Praise God** for 4 new students who have entered the Kotesashi Church English/Bible Class. Pray that they would accept Jesus as we study the Beatitudes. *****Praise God** Mr. Shishikura, the gas station owner continues to attend Chiba Church. Pray for a breakthrough in his heart.*****Please pray** that our Annual Field Forum April 21-24 will be blessed by the presence and leading of the Holy Spirit in every activity. Pray for Rev. & Mrs. Ron Morrison and a team from their church, and a team from PA who will minister to us. *****Please pray** for our Mission Family May 19-20 Workshop as we draft strategies for continued evangelism and spend time in prayer. *****Please pray** for Dick and Janice Kropp, Alan and Jill Kropp, and missionary apprentice, Amy Cervone as they prepare for coming to Japan this summer. Pray that needs will be met. *****Pray** for our May-June speaking ministries.