



Can you imagine a prayer meeting with 580 people?

That's what happened at the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto on the evening of Sunday, March 27, 2011, when the Toronto Chinese Evangelical Ministerial called on its community and the Japanese community to pray for the people of Japan devastated by the earthquake and tsunami.

580 attend Prayer Meeting

by Nori Kanashiro

The number immediately reminded me when Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist of the 1800's was asked, "How is it that you have so much power in your ministry"? He replies, "I have over 500 people praying in the basement right now".

The added significance of this prayer meeting was that the bleak history of our two nations was forgiven and our Chinese Christian brothers and sisters extended their hands of friendship and support at this critical time. Many Chinese people still bear the wounds of the Sino-Japanese war which was the result of the aggressive imperialistic attitude of

Japan in the 1930's and 40's. As the Spirit of God converts the hearts of men and women, we are able through His help to forgive the atrocities of the past and hug each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus Christ and His Spirit alone are the ultimate answers to the needs in Japan today.

As we do our best to help in the humanitarian needs which is a God-given responsibility and privilege, hearts will



open to Christ and HOPE will come to them.

Japan needs our prayers more than ever before. The devastation is total when tsunami follows an earthquake. Unbelievable images still are part of the north eastern Japan landscape today

CJM is grateful to be a participant to initiate the Disaster Response Chaplaincy ministry soon after the disaster struck Japan. Although we were unable to continue as originally planned, God prepared Forerunner Prayer Force of Calgary, an evangelical missionary agency to come alongside of us to continue the

vision of this ministry. The initial 6 member team, registered under CRASH Japan who were ready to depart by end of March did not materialize. However, on April 28 Mark McLeod (former Rapid Response Chaplain for Billy Graham Assoc.- Canada) and Rev. Brian Gilroy of Unionville, ON. left for Japan under this initiative. After his one month service in Japan assisting CRASH and working in the devastated regions, Rev. Gilroy said in an interview with his local paper "The carnage of the tsunami was stunning. It tore away my heart. Hearing stories of the giant graveyard of bodies.....". Mark McLeod continues in Japan at this time and will do so until the end of October. Continue to pray for him and the on-going relief and clean up in northeastern Japan. □



Photo by Aileen Yokota

Prayer Meeting organizers and participants

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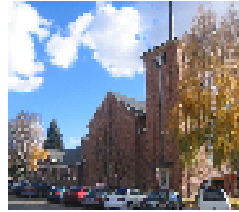
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Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at the First Baptist Church, 1614 - 5th Ave. South, Lethbridge, AB
 Sunday Worship service - 2:00 pm.
 Pastor Satoshi Akiyama Tel: 403-317-1987 Email: sakiyama@telus.net



Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama
 Joshua 11 and Amy 9 years

Note from CJM General Director, Nori Kanashiro

At the time of this writing - June 10, Pastor Satoshi Akiyama is in Japan for the purpose of receiving an extended series of health examination. As you know he had been in a weakened state of health for the past year and a half. Following a battery of test here by specialist he had shown marked improvement and had assumed some responsibilities in the ministry. In recent months, however, his health declined again. A rather urgent decision was made together with his home church in Tokyo that it would be helpful if he went to Japan to see specialist there for further assessment.

We wish to thank his home church, Sion No Mure Nakano Church and the Sasaerukai for taking care of the expenses of this trip. At this time, he is expecting to return around the middle of June. Let's pray that the doctors in Japan will be able to assess the condition more clearly and that he will soon be on the road to complete recovery. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Pray for his wife Mari, too, as she seeks to support Satoshi and keeps the household together. Mari's health too is in need of your prayers. □

By Pastor Satoshi Akiyama

(In preparation for the CJM AGM, May 13-14, Pastor Akiyama submitted the following report. Highlights only are recorded below)

We continue to focus on being 'a purpose driven church', trying to be built on the eternal purposes of God.

Our new year started on March 1, 2011. Based on John 13:34-35 'Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another'. We also believe that a Biblical love-fellowship in God's family should be: 1) to accept each other, 2) to trust each other, 3) to speak the truth in love, 4) share our true feelings, 5) to encourage each other, 6) to support each other, 7) to forgive each other. Through this church year, based on His Word the Bible, LJCF is asking God to show us His direction and plans for our church.

We are thankful that Pastor Ron & Linda Dirks continue to come down to Lethbridge to lead our English services. Pastor Ron has been my spiritual mentor. We pray the LJCF will be able to reach out to mix-marriage couples as well. We now pray for the future of the English ministry, seeking God's guidance wisdom and for the future.

Three people were baptized at our special Easter service on April 24. God has continually sent seekers and young families to our Sunday service. We have had good relationship with 20 young Japanese families who are permanent residents of Lethbridge. Pray as we seek to maintain a balance between the outreach to the Japanese student population and the local residents.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. □

DONATIONS:

For support of the
AKIYAMA'S
 and/or the

CJM GENERAL FUND,
 remittance may be sent to:

Canadian Japanese Ministries
 Attn.: LARRY IWAMOTO
 2900 Warden Ave.,
 PO. Box 92124
 Scarborough, ON M1W 2S0

Tel: 905-471-2184 / Email: lkiwamoto@rogers.com

NEW TREASURER FOR CJM



Larry & Kelly Iwamoto

Larry Iwamoto

Larry was born and grew up in Toronto, ON. He attended the summer camp organized by the Japanese Gospel Church in 1974. The camp made a great impression on him so at the retreat in the fall he accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He has attended JGCT ever since.

Larry has been an active member in the church, assisting in the youth ministries, Sunday School, camps and retreats and leading in worship services.

He obtained his CMA in accounting in 1992 and is currently employed by Power-Stream Inc. as a senior rates analyst.

He has served as the treasurer and Board members of JGCT for many years. He currently serves on the church Board of Directors and VP of Finances.

Larry is married to Kelly Ohara, who is a busy mom and works fulltime as a pharmacist at Shoppers Drug Mart in Markham. Their two sons, Bradley and Jason are both attending universities in Ontario.

Welcome to CJM, Larry! □

Grace Japanese Christian Church (Banff, AB)

Meeting at: Banff's Full Gospel Church
407 Cougar St., Banff, AB T1L 1B1
Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 - 10:00 am.

Pastor: Tokuko (Anna) Muranaka Tel./Fax: 403-609-2388
Email: tokukomuranaka@hotmail.com



By Pastor Anna Muranaka

It was ten years ago that we received our approval from government and our church formally started by renting at the Banff Full Gospel Church. As you know, Banff and the Canadian Rockies are huge tourist spots. We receive many students and visitors from Japan and they join our fellowship while they are in Banff, however, most of them return back to Japan after 1 or 2 years. It is a privilege, nevertheless, to be able to minister to young Japanese people here and send them back to Japan or other parts of Canada as new persons in Christ.

From the very beginning, we wanted our church to be an easy place to visit. So in early years we had the worship song singing class called Gospel time, and during the Easter and Christmas, we organize a gospel choir to go and sing in senior homes and hospitals. Through these activities, some people are saved. As an example, a young girl who was a student when she first came now attends our church as a mother. Another couple who went through many difficulties came to ask for help and started their new life in Christ. By the grace of God our church is growing as a community of love and encouragement.



Last November, a husband whose wife was praying for him for over 10 years came to know Christ. He kept refusing the Christian message as a religion he doesn't need in his life.

Last year, when he began to face financial difficulty and health issues things changed. He asked help from a Christian who lived close by and through that person's prayer, he was freed from the heavy burden and realized that Jesus is the real God. He was baptized in January and the

(Continued on page 4

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

Meeting at the
Zion Baptist Community Church
9802 - 76th Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB

Sunday bilingual Worship Service - 2:00 pm.
c/o Mr. Jocelyn Hudon
www.telusplanet.net/public/ejcc



By Sue Shigemitsu

The earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11th deeply affected the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church as a good number of the members had families and friends in the affected areas. This disaster reminded us of the necessity of prayer for Japan. On March 20th, our church held a special service for the victims of the Japanese tsunami and earthquake. The service was organized and lead by our praise team mostly consisting of young people. Songs of God's faithfulness flowed interspersed with prayers (both silent and intercessory) for the victims of the disaster. Tweets, news stats and other summaries of events that have happened during the nine days since the disasters were read through the service reminding us of the great need. Based on the hymn "It is Well", worship leader, Rui Nakao shared about "the eternal hope that all believers have, no matter what pain and grief befall them on earth." Our guest speaker, Rev. Redschlag, gave us a message about anchors of the soul we need during life's "storms". The service closed with a candle service and a moment of silence.



Perhaps the strongest impression and blessing was the presence of many non-Japanese people who joined us in prayer for Japan on the March 20th Service. This service brought many people from different backgrounds together in unity as the body of Christ. May God bless these people for the love and compassion they have shown to our church and to the people of Japan. □

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Church location: 425 - 11th St., New Westminster, BC V3M 4G1
 Sunday Worship services (Japanese & English) - 11:00 am.
 Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku Tel: 604-517-4578 Email: vjgc@telus.net
 Website: www.japanesegospelchurch.com



"Building a Church"

Pastor Ted Fukusaku

In November of 2010, we celebrated our 20th anniversary of our own church building. We praised and thanked our Lord for the years of His blessings and goodness to our church. At that time we announced the VJGC VISION 2020, so I'd like to share this visions with you. Please join us in prayer so that we can glorify the Lord to expand his kingdom.

1. Deepen and increase fellowship among God's family in all age groups

- Increase the number of age-specific small groups and expand the programs they offer
- Increase the number of worship services
- Strengthen English language worship service and create new English small groups
- Hold special Easter and Christmas service at Nikkei Centre

2. Help each person to grow spiritually in the body of Christ

- Support and send missionaries on short/long term basis, and run mission trips
- Start a bible school/seminary (JTJ satellite school)
- Increase training and development opportunities for current staff and hire new staff (Pastor, Assistant Pastor, English Pastor, Children & Youth Pastor, Education Director, Music Director, and Secretary)

3. Serve the community through the uniqueness of church

- VJGC Pre-School
- VJGC Seniors Support Service
- VJGC Japanese/English School
- VJGC Mission Centre in down town Vancouver to expand outreach to int'l students and those on working holiday visas

Our updated our website is: www.japanesegospelchurch.com
 You can check some our activities of last year through VIDEO on the website.

As a part of CJM community we are praying for all the CJM churches, so that our Lord blesses each church and its members, and each church may carry out the will of God and expand the ministry. Blessings to you all. ☐



(Continued from page 3)

accompanying photo is his baptismal service. He is now an energetic Christian who attends prayer meetings, gospel times and Sunday worship services regularly.



Congregation of the Banff Grace Japanese Christian Church

I pray for God's blessing to rest on all churches, pastors, their families and church congregations who are a part of the Canadian Japanese Ministries. ☐

CJM AGM/Conf. 2011 May 13, 14, 2011

The Calgary Japanese Gospel Church / Gracepoint Fellowship hosted the memorable CJM weekend. The highlight of the weekend was the informative and challenging messages and interactive sessions led by Rev. Sam Tonomura - former ED of JEMS in Los Angeles, CA. The theme, was built on the subject of evangelism beginning from our personal relationship with Christ and extending to a deliberate "bridges-building" efforts to touch the lives of others.

In his overview of the 2nd session, Rev. Tonomura said that "The New Testament way or plan chosen by God to reveal Himself to the world is through the Church, the Body of Christ. Therefore, understand the importance of how the church must function in order to fulfill God's plan and purpose.

At the local church level, there are two components: Pastor and members. The pastor is called to serve God by leading and shepherding his church. The members are called to live out their faith amongst non-Christians in daily life/world as God's witnesses. In order for the church to be an effective instrument for God, these two components need to be serving/functioning in a proper ways.

JAPANESE GOSPEL Church of Toronto

Church location: 301 Silver Star Blvd., Scarborough, ON M1V 0B6
 Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am. (English & Japanese)
 Church Tel: 416-335-JGCT (5428) Fax: 416-335-5932

Pastor Haruo Sato (Japanese congregation) 416-495-1534;
 Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki (English congregation) 905-597-5428
 Pastor Kevin Ueta (Youth department) 647-298-6422
 Website: www.jgct.com



Pastor Ray & Minako Ebisuzaki
 Sean 8 and Christy 5 years

“My Best Advice”

By Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki

This is not actually the “best advice” for our churches or even my own congregation - only God can give that. This is simply the best advice I have for churches at the present time. And this

comes from what I’ve been learning from recent church experience.

#1: Jesus is well able to coordinate and arrange His own body. As a result of the Japan earthquake and tsunami, Chinese Christian leaders contacted our church to have a united prayer meeting. It was pointed out that some Chinese people have negative feelings towards Japanese because of the history of atrocities against them. On Sunday, March 27 at JGCT, we had this joint prayer meeting. There was a uniting among the churches during the meeting and Pastor Sato offered an apology regarding the Japanese treatment of the Chinese people. Even more importantly, many prayers were lifted up to the throne of God on behalf of the Japanese people. It’s my hope that there will be an ongoing relationship with Chinese churches.

#2: The importance of doing one-on-one Bible studies. I’ve done small groups but not so much with one on one. I started about 2 months ago and I’m quite pleased with the fruits that I’ve seen so far. There are 3 situations that I now have an eagerness to engage in one-on-one (or possibly up to a group of 4) Bible study together: (a) with a non-Christian seeker [I’m using “Life Issues Book 1”]; (b) with a visitor at church and I’m not sure where they are spiritually—it’s kind of like an assessment tool [I’m using “Design for Discipleship” Book 1]; and (c) for the Christian who wants to grow spiritually [I’m using “Growing Strong in God’s Family” Books 1-3].

#3: Don’t focus so much on the strategic plan; instead focus on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. We’ve worked on a strategic plan for years but it still is not done. However, God has been active and seems to be growing the church. Our Sunday attendance has grown somewhat in the last year. Camp ministry is seeing some growth as well as other ministries at church. And yet we haven’t been so focused on strategic plans but focused on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Anyways, this is what the Lord seems to be teaching me and is my “best advice” at this point in time. □



Pastor Haruo & Yoko Sato

By Pastor Haruo Sato

On March 11, 2011 a massive earthquake, measuring 9.0 struck near the coastline of North East Japan. Its destructive scale was far beyond our imagination. This was immediately followed by the giant tsunami that levelled and washed away everything in its path.

More than 30,000 people were dead or missing. Compounding the problems is the Fukushima nuclear power plant which was literally destroyed and continues to leak radiation to this day.

On Sunday, March 27, 2011, 7:30 pm several Japanese and Chinese churches assembled for a joint prayers meeting at the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto. Approx. 580 people were in attendance. We prayed for those who lost family and possessions and for the relief workers. Also those who were risking their lives at the Fukushima nuclear plant and the thousands who were now crowding into available shelters.

Many Chinese people bear wounds of Japanese invasion during World War II. The Chinese Christians they came to us anxious to pray with us for the calamity in Japan. Following meaningful words of regret and forgiveness, both the Chinese and the Japanese Christians praised the Lord together who gave all to save us. During the evening offering a total of \$21,000.00 was collected for Japan Relief and sent to OMF in Japan.

The destructive tsunami waves tore loose the anchored ships in the bay and deposited them far inland amongst the mangled debris. However, fishermen in their boats on the ocean were able to ride the tsunami waves so they were not affected nor their ships damaged. We have to keep watching and praying for the wave of God. When we find a wave then we should go forward and ride on it. That is the way to see the glory of God.

“The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, than the mighty waves of the sea.” (Psalm 93:4, NKJV) □



Photo courtesy of Roy Sakaguchi

A total of 580 people prayed in 3 separate areas of the church

Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church

Sunday Worship Service: 2:00 pm. At Trinity Baptist Church
549 Gertrude Ave. W., Winnipeg, MB R2L 0M9
Website: www.winnipegjapanesechurch.com



Testimony of Kyoka Yabe (at her baptism)

Life was pretty difficult for me before I believed in God. I had a hard time during my first year in Canada, and I would like to share with you how I ended up here.

When I was in elementary school I was involved in a basketball club, but the students were not playing basketball at all. They were just playing video games or bullying the

younger students and taking their money. For these reasons I really didn't like it and I couldn't relate to the other members of the club. So I left the club. That day, my mom invited me to watch a professional basketball game in my hometown. I went to every home game after that.

After a few months I became friends with some of the staff members, and one day I won a contest that let me join the team as an assistant to the sports trainer for one game. I was so impressed with how well the trainers could communicate in English with the foreign players. That is when I decided I wanted to be like them, and so I chose to study abroad and came to Canada.



After I arrived, I had a very difficult time communicating with people, including my host family. It concerned me that I couldn't build relationships with them, and I ended up staying with several different families. When I

started living with my fourth host family, I began attending church with them every Sunday. Through the pastor's teaching, the hymns and the Bible, I learned that Jesus Christ died for my sins. My host family would also tell me every day, "God is always with you." I began praying and thanking God for the things that happened each day.

As I continued to pray, my life was gradually changing. For instance, when I first came to Winnipeg, life was very stressful for me. Slowly the stress began affecting me physically and I wasn't able to enjoy life in Winnipeg at all. There were even times when I thought about suicide. That was when I talked with a Japanese-speaking counselor at my school. This counselor went with me to the counseling sessions. I knew God had sent her to help me. She helped to relieve my stress. Now I have been blessed with many good friends, and have less and less stress.

God made me a special person, because the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins and has restored my life so I can be useful to other people. Even though I am a sinner, the same power that raised Christ from the dead lives inside of me. By the power of the Holy Spirit, now I am a Christian.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Matthew 7:7. "Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." I love this Bible verse, because when I ask God how to solve a difficult problem, He always answers my prayer. When I ask Him to show me a better way, He always helps me. When I am stressed because of school and I ask God for help to relieve the stress, He always sends someone to help me. For instance, this semester I was taking an English class for Canadian high school students. But the class was too hard for me and so I prayed and asked God what to do. After that I met with my school counselor and found out that there was an easier English class I could take. I thank God that I was able to move to this new class.

From now on, I want to live my life thanking God everyday. I want to serve the Lord and tell many people about Him. Please continue to pray for me. Thank you! □



Congregational photo following Kyoka's baptism

To view this newsletter in color or download past or present newsletters from the internet, please go to our website at www.jgct.com/cjm

Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

Church location: 2385 Warden Ave., Scarborough, ON M1W2L6
 Sunday Worship service: - 11:00 am
 Pastor Ed Yoshida Tel: 416-216-4302 & Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa Tel: 647-347-3167
 Website: www.wcjc.ca



Pastor "Toshi" & Mika Hatsusegawa with sons Ayanari (4 yrs) & Yoshisone (2 yrs)

By Pastor Edward Yoshida

The two of our biggest crowd-drawing events are by far the annual Outdoor Service/Picnic and the Xmas Concert. On December 5, 2010, we had some 80 adults and children come to witness this afternoon event. It is always bilingual, as many regulars and visitors are not Japanese-speaking. The novelty of this year's program was the 8-minute Skit, which included the parade of the Roman soldiers (John Carter and Makoto Tang), who marched to the grotto of the Holy Family, but only to be deceived by a wise spider's web, who protected the baby Jesus. The Skit was narrated by Tomoyo Takeuchi. Pastor Hatsusegawa's message, *Back To First Xmas*, was correlated to the theme and music of the Concert.



Children at Wesley Chapel performing at the Christmas concert

From the very beginning our church has been a part of the larger Wesley to promote Missions in February. A Faith-Promise Commitment to donate to Missions for the following fiscal year is made. Annually a promise in excess of \$9000.00 is allocated to our missionaries. Among such recipients are Satoshi Akiyama of Lethbridge and the Minori Lucas family of the jungle missions in Peru. The climax of the Missions emphasis is the multi-congregational International Buffet (not full course dinner) of many countries. Countries represented at the Buffet also display their typical desserts and snacks. The Japan table had inari, maki-zushi, yokan and other sweets. The ladies and girls wore their yukata or a kimono and the men wore their happi jackets. The event is always very successful. □

Then the delicious Japanese and western potluck topped off with mouth-watering dessert always adds more people to the congregation. Our second novelty of the Concert was a new Santa Claus in the person of Mike Shoultz - rather a skinny Santa at that. The overall evaluation of the event enjoyed high praise from all who attended.

CJM Sunnyside Camp
July 24 - 30, 2011
 Sylvan Lake, Alberta
 16 km (10 miles) west of Red Deer, AB

Inspiring, fun-filled days for the whole family

Guest Speakers:
 Rev. David Wood - English Department
 Rev. Akira Takano - Japanese Department

For more information contact:
 Dr. David Tano
 Tel: 403-830-1593
 Email: mdtano@gmail.com

REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Note to CJM MEMBERS and Recipients of this newsletter

Enclosed with this newsletter or attached with your email newsletter is a membership application form for the new year. (Due to unexpected circumstances which took a lot of our time, this spring edition is very late). Thank you to those who annually take out a membership in the amount of \$20.00 per year.

We wish to thank those who are not members but have sent in donations to assist in the production of this newsletter.

CJM's new Postal Mail Box is as follows:
Canadian Japanese Ministries
 2900 Warden Ave.
 PO Box 92124
 Scarborough, ON M1W 2S0

Celebrating 25 years
NORTHEAST NIKKEI CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

July 30 - Aug. 1, 2011
 at
 Crieff Hills Retreat Centre
 (near Guelph, ON)

Guest Speaker:
 Rev. Manabu Nishikori
 Japanese Christian Church of New Jersey, USA

For more information contact:
 Mariko Ogasawara: Tel. 519-634-8935
 Email: mariko_ogasawara@hotmail.com