



CJM REPORTER

Spring 2010

Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE



CJM website is finally on-line!

Check us out at www.jgct.com/cjm

The site is intended to be informative, of historic value, culturally sensitive, while promoting spiritual values and experiences of Japanese evangelical Christians

Sunnyside Family Camp

July 25 - 31, 2010

Sylvan Lake, (16 km. w. of Red Deer, AB)

Inspirational and fun-filled days for the entire family

See details on page 6 or www.jgct.com/cjm

As we spend time this spring celebrating Easter, and the central fact of our faith – that Jesus conquered death, sin and rose from the grave, it is great to know that even through times of struggle, loss, and trials, Jesus died for us so that we can start afresh. Not only that, but Jesus has already won the final victory for us. We are not asked to win the battle because the battle is already won. We are only asked to be faithful.



by Pastor Brian Lavender (English department of Calgary Japanese Gospel Church)

What length and depth God has gone to show His love for us. He has loved us as sons and daughters and taken us into His family; into His Kingdom – and that not because we have earned it, but by the grace of God. May God's outrageous love motivate us all, as His church, to step out boldly to spread His word and His love and His promise of eternal life to all who choose to believe and receive His Son, Jesus Christ.

One of our focuses at Gracepoint Fellowship this season has been going back to the basics. As part of each Sunday service we have a teaching time going through all the basics of Christian faith and theology. We have to know God's word if we are to live by it.

In many ways it has been a difficult year for Gracepoint Fellowship and Calgary Japanese Gospel Church as a whole. We have lost several families since the departure of pastor Taniguchi. Yet I believe that God has and will continue to use even these tough times to refine us and help us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, Jesus. God continues to bless our children's ministry and youth ministry, which is great since we are a church of young families with lots of children.

Our home bible study groups have spent the last several months using the "Purpose Driven Life" study by Rick Warren. It has been encouraging to many of us as we learn to view our lives through God's intentions for us as we work, worship and serve communities. We are looking forward to another great season as we learn together, and seek to reach our friends, neighbors, relatives, and colleagues who don't know God. □



July 31 - August 2, 2010

See details on page 4 or www.jgct.com/cjm

CJM AGM/Conf.

April 23 - 24, 2010

See details on page 4 or www.jgct.com/cjm

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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 10 and Amy 8 years

by Satoshi Akiyama
 (CJM Missionary)

We want to continue to build our church on the principles of the "Purpose Driven Church". Our new theme for the coming year is "Seeking To Understand God's Purpose for LJCF". We are aware that the Bible says, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails". Proverbs 19:21. Unless the

church is responding to God's leading, the health and growth of the church will never be what God intended. Through this coming year, based on His Word, LJCF is asking God to show us His direction and plans for LJCF.

We are deeply grateful that **Pastor Ron Dirks and his wife Linda** come to Lethbridge from Calgary every 2nd and 4th Sundays to lead our English service. Pastor Ron has been my spiritual mentor and Linda has been working with Mari in the children's department. Our English ministry is mainly made up of the 2nd generation (Niseis) born here in Canada. We pray for their growth in faith and salvation. We also pray for an effective outreach to the mixed marriage couples here in Lethbridge.

Christmas is always a wonderful time to plan an outreach event. With the theme "Good News" we invited local Japanese residents to the Jesus birthday party. Many non-Christians came, an estimated 50 local people in addition to 26 children plus our regular church members. The message of Christmas was given and everyone enjoyed the warm and friendly atmosphere. Let's pray that some of the visitors will return to meet the One who was born in Bethlehem.



LJCF Family Christmas Party 2010

We have had good a relationship with local young Japanese couples who are permanent residents in Lethbridge. We are in touch with 19 young Japanese families. There are many children amongst them and they enjoy programs such as indoor soccer, Christmas program, fishing and tempura day, Joy Kids, Junior Joy Kids and some church activities too. At least three of these families are coming out to the Sunday service regularly. Mari has mom's fellowship weekly and I often have time with their husbands. We have enjoyed there fellowship over dinner at our house and it has been a joy to share the love of God with them. We are trying to keep a balance reaching out to local residents and the short term students.



Joy Kids "Angel Choir" performing at the
 Family Christmas Party 2009

I wish to thank many of you who have been praying for my health. It has been a difficult year, however with the advise of my doctors and the understanding of the CJM Advisory Committee and the local ministry Board, I believe I am well on the way to recovery.

My regular schedule has been reduced and time away from ministry from time to time has lessened the stress I had been feeling. I have also now included more time for relaxation and physical exercise such as swimming, walking and activities with my children. The Board has given me the months of July and August off so that I can relax with my family. Thank you for your prayer. □

DONATIONS:

For support of the
AKIYAMA'S
 and/or the
CJM GENERAL FUND,
 remittance may be sent to:

BRENDA OHARA-PETERS

669 Hillman Cres.,
 Mississauga, ON L4Y 2J1

Tel.: 905-949-4182

Email: bjobjo@aol.com

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

Meeting at the Zion Baptist Community Church
Church location: 9802—76th Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB T6E 1K5
Sunday bi-lingual Worship Service at 2:00 pm.
c/o Mr. Jocelyn Hudon
www.telusplanet.net/public/ejpc



By Sue Shigemitsu

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As God continues to work in our lives, He has blessed us through the English-speakers and young people of our church who are gradually making the transition of taking on new leadership roles. Our church is still in need of a pastor, so please pray that God would provide us one very soon.

Last January, we were given an opportunity to attend Breakforth 2010 held at the Shaw Conference Centre. A big thank you to Motoi Aita who organized the application for our group to attend. Through well-known speakers such as Anne Graham Lotz and Frank Peretti, we were challenged and encouraged to live a Christ-centred life. After participating in worship-filled assemblies and informative workshops; some of us later met together sharing what we felt God was telling us through this wonderful Breakforth experience.

February was mission's month at our church. On Febru-

ary 19th to 21st, some of us volunteered at Missions Fest. During the event, each person had the opportunity of interacting with other Christian networks outside of our church, in addition to an exciting window's view of what God is doing through various ministries within the country and around the world. Now with our church supporting Becky Lengefeld and Yuri Nakano, whose funds are fully met, we are excited at what God will be doing through these missionaries in Japan. Becky departed on March 2nd and will be followed by Yuri Nakano on April 21st. Please remember them in your prayers as they work with the North American Baptist Conference in Tsu, Mie ken.

As for local ministries, God has been using the Wednesday night Bible Study held at Tyrannus House as a launch pad for ESL students to come to church. With about a dozen attendees, mostly from Asian background, the Bible Study starts with a supper meal followed by an introduction to Christianity using the Alpha Course. We are hoping that God would use this opportunity to touch the hearts of these students sparking their spiritual hunger for the gospel.

Blessings to you all. □



Wednesday Bible Study Group at Tyrannus House



Some of the volunteers at Missionfest 2010
(L-R) Tama, Tim & Sue Shigemitsu and Joyce Aita

CJM AGM/Conference April 23 - 24, 2010

Fri. (23rd): New Westminster Evan, Free Church, 5-9 pm,
7895 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC

Conference Speaker:

Ms Setsu Kuroda

Intl. Director: Japanese Christian Fellowship Network (JCFN)

Sat. (24th) Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church, 8:30 am - 9 pm
425 - 11th St, New Westminster, BC

For further information, please contact:

Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku 604-517-4578 Email: vjgc@telus.net

Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

Church location: 2385 Warden Ave., Scarborough, ON M1W2L6
 Sunday Worship service: at 11:00 am
 Pastor Ed Yoshida Tel: 416-216-4302 & Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa
 (Japanese congregation)



Testimony of Satomi Ikeda

by Pastor Edward Yoshida

Prior to her arrival in Canada as a working holiday young lady, Satomi Ikeda was a fun-loving and pleasure-seeking person in Fukuoka, Japan. In her search for happiness she sought many forms of self-satisfaction but nothing seemed to work. She became so disappointed that she even thought of suicide - so common in Japan. While living under the roof of her father, she was impressed with the God and faith of her Catholic uncle. She said to herself, "One day I must spend time with him and ask him about his Christian God." However, this chance never came because her uncle died so unexpectedly. But she was indeed touched by this uncle's calm faith and lifestyle.



Satomi Ikeda

When she finally obtained her work visa to Canada, she hoped then that this would be her golden chance to learn more about the God of her uncle. She lived for some time in Canadian homes, but when her savings began to dwindle, she found employment as a nanny-domestic at the home of a Japanese shiatsu therapist - a lady therapist, who was expecting a child any day. She was a previous attendee of the Kingsway Japanese Baptist Church until her marriage to a Catholic Christian.

When Satomi shared her curiosity about God and Christianity, she was referred to Wesley Chapel Japanese Church because her employer's friends, Tosh & Asako Yamashita, were attending there. This provided her with a God-arranged opportunity not only to visit a Japanese language congregation but also a ride to church with them.

Satomi first arrived at Wesley on September 13, 2009. She was warmly introduced and welcomed. (Over the years Wesley has earned a reputation as a warm and friendly church to any newcomer and visitor). It was not too long after that that she began her Bible study with the new Assistant Pastor Toshi, following the regular worship services. She became a regular and steady attendee. By December, 2009, she was ready to accept Jesus as her Saviour. When she was invited to share her background and testimony, it became a time of unusual blessing and inspiration. There were very few dry eyes in the church. She followed her decision with Christian baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on January 3, 2010, the first Sunday worship of the New Year.

When her time for return to Japan arrived at the end of February, 2010, the church had a "lay of hands" ceremony, and prayed for her to return to Japan, not only as a returnee but a "new missionary" to her people of Fukuoka. A lovely Farewell cake and party followed the prayer. Thanks be to God for another Japanese who met Jesus while in Canada! This is fulfilling the goal of the CJM, to reach the Nihonjin of every category for Jesus. □

Sunnyside Family Camp

July 25 - 31, 2010

Speakers:

Rev. David Wood, Assoc. Pastor
 Coquitlam Alliance Church, Coquitlam, BC

Rev. Akira (Allan) Takano,
 Yonezawa Kojo church, Yonezawa, Yamagata, Japan

Registration:

Sue King 780-464-4152; Nicole Iwabuchi 780-416-8221
 Email: cjmcampregistration@hotmail.com

For further information:

Dr. David Tano 403-830-1593 Email: mdtano@gmail.com

Northeast Nikkei Christian Conference

Crieff Hills Retreat Centre
 Puslinch, ON (near Guelph, ON)

July 31 - August 2, 2010

Speaker:

Rev. Sunao Shimada, Pastor
 San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church
 San Leandro, CA

Registration and Information

Mariko Ogasawara Tel: 519-634-8935
 Email: mariko_ogasawara@hotmail.com

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

by Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki

This is my 10th year serving as a pastor at JGCT. I have found that there is a certain rhythm to JGCT's church year. In the autumn, there's a busyness: school starts, fall retreat, outreach events, Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. In January to March, there's a slowing down of activities which gives opportunity to deal with less urgent but important issues. It's also a very good opportunity to prepare for spring and summer events where we can be quite active and busy. "In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war" (2 Samuel 11:1). I am inclined to believe that although the rhythm changes in autumn and winter, the issue is faithfulness to the Lord, thus both busier and quieter times are equally important.

Ladies Craft Event on November 21/09. Here's the report that Sharon Shintani and Frances Katsuragi gave: "Praise God for blessing us with 93 ladies, of which 31 of these ladies were first-timers. It was a joyful time of sharing God's love and friendship. We were encouraged by the positive comments expressed by many guests, some of whom are eager to volunteer next time." **The Joy of Christmas** (November 28/09). This concert (whose mission is to share the gospel to the unchurched through word, music and arts) is usually the largest Japanese Christian event of the year in Toronto. For the first time it was held at JGCT's new building. About 370 people were in attendance. We received a lot of positive feedback.

Church ministry plan: The winter months gave opportunity to review and evaluate our ministry plan. JGCT is an independent church and we are continuing to investigate joining a denomination. Another area of concern is to do a more effective evangelism. Amongst other issues the upcoming Leaders Retreat will be crucial in our evaluating and rethinking during this particular time of our yearly rhythm! □



Pastor Haruo & Yoko Sato

by Pastor Haruo Sato

This year, 2010, is the 50th anniversary year for JGCT. Coincidentally, and providentially, we will be receiving 30 sakura trees from the Sakura Project of the Consul-General of Japan and a plaque unveiling ceremony is scheduled for April 17. It is a wonderful gift from the Consul-General's office and from God. It will be a perpetual reminder of the beauty and significance of our heritage and relationship with Japan



Baptized on Sun. March 14, 2010
 (L-R) Adam Shih, Magdalene Sugimura and Sumiko Nishiwaki

We had a baptismal service for three candidates. One of them is from Japanese congregation. Mrs. Sumiko Nishiwaki wanted to have her baptism in the new building. She was excited to testify publicly before family and friends and also to be part of the first group to be baptized in our new portable baptismal tank.

The Japanese congregation currently have 6 small groups and one more will be added soon in the west-end of Toronto. As a Japanese congregation, we had a praise meeting with curry and rice for lunch after the service. These times encourage new comers and bonds us to each other. Praise His wonderful Name! □



Spacious English sanctuary of JGCT. Seating capacity 325. Used for multipurpose functions.

Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at St. Helen's Anglican Church,
10787 - 128th St., Surrey, BC V3T 3A2
Sunday Worship service at 2:00 pm.

Pastor Gerald Neufeld Tel: 604-596-7928 Email: grneufeld5@yahoo.ca



*Pastor Gerald & Rie Neufeld
son Jay 7, daughters, Rena 9 and
Irene 3 years*

*by Pastor Gerald
Neufeld*

As a church, we at the Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship will be celebrating our 10th anniversary this year. We began as a house church with now retired mission worker, Anna

Dyck. Afterward, Takahiko and Mari Yoshiyuki gave leadership for many years. Starting two years ago, in 2008, Gerald and Rie Neufeld have continued working with the congregation till the present. Our group belongs to Mennonite Church British Columbia. We strive to follow Jesus' gospel of peace, grow in faith as his disciples, and as a Christian community serve one another in love.

We'll introduce some of the activities we had during the last number of months. In the Fall our Camp Squeah retreat became a tradition as we headed off to the town of

Hope area for the second year in a row. Surrounded by mountains and coloured leaves we enjoyed a rich day of fellowship and singing praise to God. The year before, we had chartered a bus, but this time, with budget restraints, we wondered if the retreat would be possible. This time, we were thankful that a number of people volunteered to drive their cars and we again experienced God's blessings in a new way.

In the area of youth outreach, two of our university students had a desire to share the Gospel with youth on "working holidays" and exchange students who had never set foot in a church before. They initiated a regular program called "CrossRock" where we had music, a meal, crafts, videos, and a short message from the pastor. The Japanese-style cooking of things such as okonomiyaki, dango, curry, and takoyaki turned out to be quite popular, and many people participated in the twice a month event.



Young people dressed up for a special CrossRock dango party



*Radek ponders his next move during a giant chess game
at Camp Squeah*

We are a small group but we've been blessed with many children. Now the challenge is to share the Good News bilingually so that all ages can understand. We continue to pray for more workers, and for the spread of the Gospel to more Japanese in the Surrey area and beyond. We look forward to working together with others related to CJM. □

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

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Church location: 425 - 11th St., New Westminster, BC V3M 4G1

Sunday Worship services (Japanese & English) at 11:00 am.

Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku (Japanese) Tel: 604-517-4578 Email: vjgc@telus.net

Website: www.japanesegospelchurch.com



by Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku

"Moving Forward"

Our Church's theme for this year is "Fellowship with Christ and each other". This year, we want to continue moving forward as a body of Christ by deepening, strengthening, and widening our fellowship with Christ and with each other. Some of our specific goals for this year are as follows: (1) Small group activities: to be able to receive and welcome newcomers to church and widen our fellowship. (2) Small group leaders, staff members and board members: to grow spiritually to be able to lead small group activities well. (3) Target of 120 in combined worship service attendance (4) 50 prayer meeting participants and (5) 10 baptisms.

Our future vision (within 5 years) are, (1) to do multiple Sunday services in order to have 200 plus in attendance, (2) to deepen ministries to every generation: Japanese nursery and pre-school program, young couples, senior's support and care groups, (3) To start church-based bible school for Sunday school teachers and continuing biblical education for Christians through cooperating with JTJ.

Although our church members are mainly Japanese speaking people, we are thankful to see a number of non-Japanese increasing in our services. We are also glad to see that in our services we have every generation of people from small children to the seniors. In addition, we who are from another country experience a very unique affinity with each other. We do not have our families, friends and the familiarity of our former surroundings so our fellowship together in the church and with God is a special blessing when we are members of His family. We experience changes in our society as well as in our church, but we can keep moving forward and

have seen people getting saved and growing in Christ, and God has added new family members.



VJGC short-term Mission Team to Korea - spring 2010

Last year, God has answered our prayers by sending 2 pastoral interns to our church. Several people were saved through our down-town mission centre ministry. Our second mission trip to Korea will take place in April, 2010. We now have 17 Sunday school teachers. The IYG (Int'l Youth & Young Adult Group) has grown phenomenally. The teens group has started and 2 teens were recently saved. We praise the Lord for what He has done and provided for us. We continue to search for a part-time Children and Youth Pastor. We know that God is all-knowing and He knows our needs. We will continue to trust His leading as we seek to build His kingdom. He has answered and rewarded our prayers as we dedicate ourselves to His ministry.

We continue to pray for all the CJM affiliated churches. Please pray for us as well. □



Bible Study at the Nikkei Home in Burnaby

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Family Camp

August 27 - 29, 2010

Lutheran Retreat & Conference Centre
Mission, BC

Speakers:

Rev. Youichi Nakano (Japanese)

Ms. Setsu Kuroda (English)

For information: vjgc@telus.net