

CJM REPORTER

Spring 2016 Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES

Youth In Action
Centerfold

70th Anniversary Celebrating

In Calgary, Alberta

On (Sat.) June 25, 2016

**In conjunction with the CJM AGM/Conf'
June 24, 25, 2016**

**Calgary Japanese Gospel Church /
Gracepoint Fellowship**

Please Register at www.CJMin.com

1942

"I shall never forget ...

that spring day in 1942, when the words of the ancient prophet leaped at me from the page: 'Go up to the mountain ... build the house, and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified ... I am with you ... fear ye not.'

With the feeling of exultation and yet of solemnity I rose from my knees in the kitchen of our Vancouver home where I had been kneeling before my open Bible. God had spoken. I had no doubt now that He was calling me to leave my "ceiled house" - the security of my home, my church and my familiar surroundings - and follow my Japanese friends who were deprived of their homes and their livelihoods and were being sent to makeshift quarters in the narrow valleys of the Kootenay and Slokan Rivers. I was to have a part in building God's house there, not a building made with hands, but one composed of living stones ... "the glory of the latter house would be greater than the former".

(excerpt from Margaret Ridgway's testimony in CJM Historical Sketch 1942 - 1978, page 4)



SUNNYSIDE CAMP 2016

July 31 - August 6

Located at *Sunnyside Christian Retreat Centre*
Sylvan Lake, AB (16 km west of Red Deer, AB)

For Information contact: Marie Hasagawa
(403) 288-7584 Email: rob.and.marie@shw.ca



Northeast Nikkei 2016 Christian Conference

April 29-30, 2016

at

Scarboro Mission

2685 Kingston Rd.,

Scarborough, ON

www.scarboromission.ca

For further information, contact
Shozo & Yoko Iwai
Email: yoko-iwai@sympatico.ca



The CJM REPORTER is published semi-annually by the Canadian Japanese Ministries. News items, reports, testimonies and notices of events are welcomed by the editors. Next publication, October 15, 2016. Published in Toronto, ON

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CJM Website: www.CJMin.com

2016 is another milestone for the Canadian Japanese Ministries. There are now only a few left who can recall the 70 long years when the Mission was formally organized in 1946.

Margaret Ridgway, our founder, who was called home to glory in 2004, was already ministering amongst Japanese children through Sunday School in the early 1930's before the Pacific war began in 1941.

Our **70th Anniversary Celebration banquet** on Sat. June 25, will reflect on the past through slideshow and testimonies but will also envision what the Lord may have for us in the future.

We hope the friends of CJM from near and far will make a special effort to join us for this momentous occasion.

Further information and register is available on the CJM website at www.CJMin.com. Please register as soon as possible. Thank you.

Lethbridge Ministry

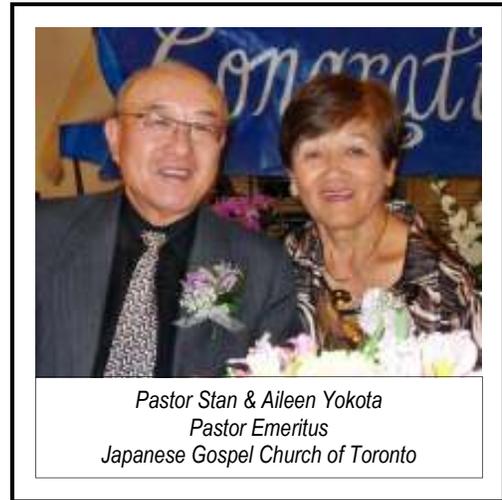
CJM is grateful for the years we were able to assist the Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship (LJCF). The partnership began in the year 2000 and continued until the end of 2015.

With our missionary/pastor Satoshi Akiyama contracting Parkinson disease several years earlier, he was no longer able to continue ministry. Under a very difficult situation, the Board of LJCF decided to cease operation of this church-plant ministry at the end of October, 2015. Akiyama sensei's formal role as a missionary under CJM ceased on December 31, 2015.

Please continue to pray for Akiyama sensei, his wife Mari, Josh 17 and Amy 15 years as life continues for them in Lethbridge.



With blessing in Christ,
Nori Kanashiro
General Director



Pastor Stan & Aileen Yokota
Pastor Emeritus
Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto

The Hope of Renewal is in the Lord

As a senior who turns 80 this year, I feel privileged to challenge and encourage others to continue serving God with a loving, hopeful passion no matter what your age. It has been my Christian experience to realize the truth in Isaiah 40: 28-31 *"The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but **those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.**"* The testimonies of the CJM workers over the past 70 years bear witness to the Lord's powerful presence in our Japanese communities. How great is our God!

As I grow older, I find wisdom in learning from those who have gone before me in the Lord's service. I often look back or reflect on the past and remember how overwhelmed I felt to minister in a large city as Toronto. There were many times of discouragement when only a few people would attend our meetings. I recall talking with Rev. Charles Bayley who was the General Director of CJM and he said: "Don't feel discouraged, the ministry in general is not easy and you are in a specialized ministry among a small ethnic group of the Japanese community. Keep looking to the Lord and be faithful". Those words and his encouragement gave me hope to keep on.

The Apostle Paul wrote: *"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful"*. (1Tim 1:12) Then Paul advised Timothy, *"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.... that your progress may be evident to all."* (1Tim4:12).

May those words ring true in each of your lives. May we keep looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. **The Lord bless you and keep you and give you peace.** □

DONATIONS

Donations to the CJM General Fund can now be made on-line through **CanadaHelps.org** or you may go the CJM website at **www.CJMin.com**

Donations can be mailed to:
Canadian Japanese Ministries
PO Box 92124
Scarborough ON M1W 2S0

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Church location:
425 - 11th St., New Westminster, BC V3M 4G1
Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am.
Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku Tel: 604-517-4578
Email: vjgc@telus.net.
Pastor Tony Schmidt Tel: 604-420-2335
Email: tony.schmidt@omfmail.com
Website: www.japanesegospelchurch.com



Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary

Meeting at Westview Baptist Church
1313 Ranchlands Way NW, Calgary, AB
Sunday Worship: 2:00 pm.
Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi Tel: 403-455-0074
Email: ymtaniguchi@hotmail.com
Website: www.crossoverjapanesechurch.com



Pastor Tetsuya & Mari Fukusaku
Children (L-R) Mark (16), Matthew (18),
Joy 12, & Luke 16.

by Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku

May the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified through CJM churches in Canada. Thank you always for your fellowship in the Gospel with us.

On March 6, 2016, VJGC held an Annual Congregational Meeting.

This year's theme is "Strengthened in the Faith", the Bible verse is Acts 16:5. Some of the specific plans and goals for us are as follows:

1. Members are to encourage and strengthened each other by the word of God for our spiritual growth. For example, using Daily Bread, Bible Readings for the Week, Hibino Mikotoba among small group activities.
2. Members are to participate in the church's 4 prayer meetings and pray for each other in order to strengthen our faith.
3. Publishing our Church's original text book so that members are to learn individually as well as among small groups to strengthen the foundation of our faith.
4. Continue the process to open VJGC Pre-School in order to serve the community.
5. Expand our mission activities through 5th Easter Celebration on April 1, 3rd Iwate Mission Trip from May 9 to 16, and 11th Gospel Night on Sep. 17.

Please join us in prayers so that the Lord will use these plans and events to expand His kingdom as well as to glorify His Name. We are also praying for each church belongs to CJM as a family of God. □



New Years Service 2016

By Miyuki Taniguchi

Blessings from Julie

A young lady from Quebec who is preparing to become a missionary in Japan visited our church in January. Her name is Julie Paquet. Julie drove about 10,000 kms. in total during her trip from the east.



Pastor Yoichi & Midori Taniguchi
with daughters Mana & Agasa

The time we got to spend with her was only a few days but the things we have learned from her were great.

First of all, I was amazed at the fact that she drove here all by herself in the middle of winter. What an incredible personality she has as a future missionary! Her responses to my questions also gave me encouragement.



Julie Paquet

One of the questions I asked her was, "As a missionary, isn't it difficult to get a financial support?"

To this question, she answered, "God is my employer so He will provide me with everything I need. I don't have to worry about anything!"

The other question I asked was during a small group gathering. I said, "Can you please tell us, how did your parents raise you to become such a wonderful Christian?" To this she replied, "My mom drove us kids to the church every Sunday morning that was an hour away by car. After church, she would drive us back to the church to a youth night. She was someone who prioritized God at all times."

I have wished that I could be a spirit-filled Christian just like Julie. □



After-service fellowship time

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

Meeting at
 Zion Baptist Community Church
 9802 - 76th Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB
 Sunday bilingual Worship Service - 2:00 pm.
 Pastor Toshihiro Tamura Tel: 587-986-8161
 Email: tamuratoshihiro1981@gmail.com
 Website: www.ejcc.ca



Pastor Toshihiro Hiromi Tamura
 With daughter Hinata (7)

by Pastor Toshihiro Tamura

Greetings and blessings to all brothers and sisters in Christ. We are grateful to celebrate CJM's 70th Anniversary with all of you this year. May God continue to bless CJM's ministry by His grace.

As for EJCC, God has been blessing us through many opportunities. We are filled with joy to see new people who started coming through various church events are now becoming regular attendees. There are many who are facing various challenges, including people who have recently lost loved ones, or who are facing physical and mental hardships. But even in these difficulties, we praise our Lord for we are always able to find God's comfort and His peace by loving and caring for one another in Christ.



College & Careers Snowboard outing

This year, our theme is "Living for Christ", in reference to 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Our focus is to know God's love and grace more deeply, in such a way that they motivate us to live for

Christ. As a part of this new focus, we started a new fellowship and bible study group this year. Current members are mostly from the college and career age group and they are a good mix of Christians and seekers. Please pray for this group so that seekers can meet Christ, and that Christians can grow further in their faith. □



Praise Night with the church family

Grace Japanese Christian Church

Banff, AB

Meeting at Banff Full Gospel Church
 407 Cougar Street, Banff, AB
 Sunday Worship: 9:00 am.
 Pastor Minoru Enoki
 Email: banffgjcc.enoki@gmail.com



By Pastor Minoru Enoki



Pastor Minoru & Izumi Enoki
 with daughter Yuika (6 mos)

Greeting to the CJM family and the member churches.

Last year was an exciting and an adventurous year for us as we welcomed our new daughter, Yuika, into our family. It was a great joy but also a challenge for us to nurture our first baby, not in Japan, but here in Canada. God is so good to us by sending many people into our life to assist us with her growth. Although she is not speaking yet (5months), we think she loves singing and worshipping God which brings us a great joy to our family and our church.

At the beginning of 2016, God gave our church a new desire to step forward with new expectation from Him. The theme passage of GJCC for this year is from Malachi 4:6 "And He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...", as this addresses our aim to restore our spiritual relationship with our Father. This is what we are aiming for this year.

As my wife and I had been privileged to pastor here in Banff over the past year, we have come to see some of the realities of our community life, many we have noted are of broken families and relationships. However, through the difficult circumstances God gave us His heart to pray for this community and encourage us to show His compassion for them. I strongly believe that we are given the perfect direction for GJCC this year. We earnestly look forward to God's transforming grace in our lives, growing in our love for Him, building our character in order that we might touch others in our community for Him. □



Japan de Night - monthly gathering for worship and enjoying Japanese dishes

VICTORIA JAPANESE CHURCH

Meeting at First Baptist Church
877 North Park St., Victoria, BC
Sunday Worship service - 1:30 pm.

c/o Kaori St. Cyr
Email: kstcyr@telus.net



by Kaori St. Cyr

At the end of August of 2015, Pastor Okamoto and family resigned from the church and returned to Japan. We have been able to continue to have our Sunday worship services without a minister. We are downloading and showing Pastor Kiyoshi Gushiken's messages from Hawaii Makiki Christian Church. If there are children who come to the service then we are able to offer Sunday school classes and teach them about Jesus in a way that they can understand.

After the service, we offer an ESL class through our church member Alfred Schultz. This is offered at no cost to the students and gives the students a time to befriend the church family. Every class includes a memory verse from the Bible. Some of these students attend the worship service and others come after the service. We sponsor ESL classes and pray that God will be revealed and that some will show interest in the Christian faith and be saved. Please pray with us for the Gospel to reach these seekers and that God will use Mr. Schultz for His glory.

We have several meetings other than the worship services. Once a month the ladies group, Saffron, meet and have a fun time together. Once a week we have a prayer time and Bible

study, where we share what we have learned from the passages. We also pray together for the church, its members and attendees. In our monthly board meetings, important decisions of the church are made. Some of these are; inviting guest speakers, what activities to carry on in the church, delegation of responsibilities and financial matters.

We are grateful to our Lord that we have been able to continue to meet each week, even though we do not have a minister. The workers are few, and the task is large, yet we will trust our Lord to bless His work. It is our desire to one day call a minister again. Please pray that the Lord will give us His wisdom and strength, and as He remains the Head of the church, that we will be able to stand stronger spiritually, financially and others to be added to His church. We are thankful for those who tirelessly serve in the church and pray God's abundant blessing on each one. □



Easter service attendees, 2016

Reflecting on the Blessings of AGM/Conf.2015

As it often is, the highlight of most conferences is the guest speakers handling of the Word of God or teaching principles related to the Christian life or ministry. CJM Conf. in 2015 in Vancouver was no exception. Rev. Richard Nakamura of Bellevue, WA, Japanese Diaspora missionary under SEND International, taught and expounded well the theme "The Church and Evangelism".

Rev. Nakamura's emphasis on the church being a place of discipleship and training, backed by Scripture was most appreciated. It is sometimes overly stated in our Japanese church context that our believers should bring their friends and the unsaved to the church to hear the Gospel. Evangelism and sharing the Gospel should be taking place in the community by believers who have been trained and disciplined in the church. All believers need to be equipped to do the work of evangelism - whatever shape that evangelism comes in. □

Please consider taking out Membership to CJM. It allows us the maintain publication of the Reporter and also your participation and voting at the Annual General Meetings. Go to:
<http://www.cjmin.com/Membership-Individual.html>
for church or corporate membership
<http://www.cjmin.com/Membership-Churches.html>

CJM Board of Directors 2015-2016

Edward Arinobu	Lethbridge, AB
Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku	Vancouver, BC
Marie Fuki	Toronto, ON
Pastor Tomoyuki Horiuchi	Calgary, AB
Mark Hoshizaki	Calgary, AB
Larry Iwamoto	Toronto, ON
Nori Kanashiro	Toronto, ON
Pastor Gerald Neufeld	Vancouver, BC
Pastor Tony Schmidt	Vancouver, BC
Tim Shigemitsu	Edmonton, AB
Pastor Kevin Ueta	Toronto, ON
Pastor Edward Yoshida	Toronto, ON

Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church

Meeting at Trinity Baptist Church
549 Gertrude Ave. W., Winnipeg, MB R2L 0M9

Sunday Worship Service: 2:00 pm.
c/o Rev. Bruce Yarrow - Leader
Email: faith43@shaw.ca
Website: www.wjac.weebly.com



Journeying into 2016

by Miyako Ogasawara

Spring is in the air in Winnipeg! We are thankful that God has been faithful to His small flock here. We have been able to continue to meet and worship.

Keeping our tradition, we were able to welcome the New Year with a party, though a bit late, at the end of January. Rather than the usual Pot Luck dinners, we ordered sushi. A good time of fellowship was had by all.

On March 8, we celebrated Mrs. Tatsue Okamoto's 100th birthday. She has been a faithful member of this church for many years, playing the piano and blessing us with her musical talents. Rev. R. Clausen planned and arranged the party and Rev. B. Yarrow created a special card with many old photos and special well wishes. Cake and flowers provided a nice touch to the celebration at the assisted living home where she is presently residing. She is unable to attend our services regularly, but all are amazed at the health and mental alertness that the Lord has granted her at this age.

Counting adults and children, church attendance is only a little under 20 people, but often we do have new visitors. The Japanese population here is increasing. New students and immigrants are coming from Japan. Please pray that through us the light of the gospel might shine among them. □



Tatsue (Tats) Okamoto (front center) on her 100th birthday. Enjoyed the day with her church family and friends

Editor's Note: CJM congratulates our sister Tats Okamoto on reaching a milestone in life. Tats, together with her late husband, Sam, called Margaret Ridgway to Alberta (sending money for her train ticket) to begin an evangelical Japanese outreach in 1946. That is the year the CJM was formally organized - 70 years ago. Due to that action by the Okamoto's, and together with other Japanese Christians, the evangelism in Southern Alberta reached scores of displaced Japanese Canadian from BC for Christ. Both my wife, Blanche, and I, are fruit of their labours from those days in southern Alberta. We thank God for faithful and sacrificial ministry of the Okamotos and their co-workers.

Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at: Living Hope Christian Fellowship
12246 - 100th Ave., Surrey, BC V3V 2X1
Sunday Worship Services at 3:00 pm.
Pastor Gerald Neufeld, Tel: 604-596-7928
Email: grneufeld5@yahoo.ca



Pastor Gerald & Rie Neufeld
Rena (15), Irene (9), & Jay (13)

By Pastor Gerald Neufeld

As a church, we are blessed to have the same number of children as adults, so things have been both vibrant and busy. Naturally we've been trying to focus on activities in which both adults and children can participate.

Looking towards the summer, together with the English-speaking Mennonite church group from whom we rent worship space, we have a church retreat at Camp Squeah, scheduled for June. Even though we would like to have more fellowship with them, we still have a tendency to be shy, and keep to ourselves, especially when the fellowship includes the challenge of communicating in English. Mr. Imai is one of our members, who is like a father to all. He has been good at grasping the hearts of the children, and at his proposal we have decided to work on preparing a puppet play with the children, for the retreat this

year. We have also begun faith exploration classes, for the youth, twice a month. In addition, it has been a great blessing to our church to have Saturday night Bible studies led by Mr. Park and his wife. These studies have continued on a rotation basis in various homes, with discussion often continuing late into the night.

This year, we are inviting guest speakers, once a month. We feel blessed during these times of sharing with people who have come from other places in the Vancouver area.

We pray the Lord's blessing on all the Japanese ministries happening across Canada. □



Kids puppet play

Megumi Baptist Church

Meeting at: Oakridge Baptist Church
6261 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC
Sunday Worship Service - 3:00 pm.

Contact: Junko Minami 604-434-1124
Email: j.stells.minami@gmail.com



by Junko Stella Minami

We are thankful that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Great Shepherd leading us directly since we don't have a pastor for more than ten years. We have experienced some painful events; however, we encourage one another and continue to worship the Lord together despite the small size of the congregation. Knowing our weakness and inadequacy, our merciful Lord has been strengthening and guiding us to look beyond where we are to further His Kingdom. The followings are what our Great Shepherd has been equipping us;

1. **Eating His Word:** (a) God sends us a couple of preachers to teach us. Though most sermons are preached in English, we learn God's truth through Japanese translation. (b) On most Sundays, we hold a systematic one-hour Bible Study prior to service by the preacher on that Sunday. We look forward to learning apologetics in May.



Isao & Junko Minami
Leaders at Megumi Baptist

2. **Breathing His Word:** We talk to our dear Father in weekly prayer meeting to intercede for the country of Canada all those who are unsaved.

3. **Helping fulfill the Lord's Great Commission:** Partnering with other Baptist churches, (a) we support a missionary family in Rwanda, Africa. They work with refugees and share Gospel through the medical clinic they built (2) we also support churches in rural areas in Vietnam.

4. **Spreading His Word:** Sharing the Gospel is not limited to pastors or missionaries. Every Christ's follower is given the privilege to share the Good News with friends/family members.

No matter the size of a congregation, God can use us as long as we are obedient to His Word.

Let's live to anticipate the Lord's

second coming. The Bible verse for 2016 is from the Book of Micah 6:8. "He hath shown thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" □

**CJM AGM/Conf.2016 &
70th Anniversary Celebration**
June 24-25, 2016

We encourage all who are able to come to register
as soon as possible
Register on-line at www.CJMin.com

JAPANESE GOSPEL Church of Toronto

301 Silver Star Blvd., Scarborough, ON M1V 0B6
Tel: 416-335-5428 Fax: 416-335-5932
Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am. (E & J)
Pastor Haruo Sato (J) 416-495-1534
Pastor Kevin Ueta (E) 647-298-6422
Website: www.jgct.com



by Michelle Ueta

Missional Time Management

Time. Everyone says it's precious, but you really start to appreciate time after you've had kids! With church activities, family commitments and kids' extracurriculars, our schedule gets filled up pretty quickly.



Pastor Kevin & Michelle Ueta
son Taiki (1) & daughter Kiyomi (3)

At church, we've been talking about using the natural rhythms of life as part of our ministry. Acts 2:44-46 tells us that "the believers were together and had everything in common" and that they "ate together with glad and sincere hearts." Jesus spent the majority of his ministry with his disciples. So what does that mean in the context of my life? For me, it means that instead of scheduling separate meetings in addition to my busy schedule, I try to think about how I can invite others to join me as I eat, shop, play with my kids, or do any number of everyday tasks. I'm trying to "do life" with others, and to hold personal time with a looser grip. For example, I had been thinking of trying to connect more with my neighbours, so when my kids are playing, I've invited them over for a casual play date. Heading out to study at Tim's? Invite a few classmates to go with you. Are you going out for lunch after church? Bring some newcomers along. Take initiative and be bold to share your time with others.

This shift in my time management mentality has really

affected how I initiate and grow in my relationships with others. As you spend time with other believers, you can challenge each other to grow in faith and share what God is doing in your life. I've gotten to spend some time with some non-believing Japanese moms lately, and I think it has helped them be more comfortable with our church and Christianity.

If you've been wondering how you can get more involved in God's Great Commission in the midst of your busy days, take a step of faith and invite people into your days! It has been a blessing in my life to witness God growing my faith, my relationships and even multiplying my time as I seek to make every moment of my day more missional! □



Moms and grandma enjoying time together with kids