

CJM REPORTER

Fall 2014

Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES



Youth In Action - attached

Each year, I have the privilege of updating all of you on what I have been referring to as a “hidden gem in the heart of Alberta”. God has taken an idea and vision from a small number of people to minister to the Japanese Canadians and has made it into something unimaginable from a human perspective.

Sunnyside Camp:

... an ever growing light by Dr. David Tano - Chair

The love and affection seen in so many of our campers year after year is a true testament to how God can work in such a ministry. It was not long ago where we were wondering if we should shut this ministry down as the numbers were dwindling...well God has clearly sent a message in this regard as this year was the largest camp we believe we have ever held with over 230 campers! Over the past few years, our camp has also become an exciting place where many are announcing to the world their allegiance to our Christ and Saviour through bap-

tism. This year was no exception. We had the honour of witnessing 9 baptisms this year, and I had the exceptionally proud moment to be the father of one of those being baptized. Those baptized were: Matthew and Hannah Wood (our speaker's children), Ethan Tano, Taiyo Okawa, Luka Schmidt, Vanessa Koo, Sachiko Okada, Daniel King and Akemi Ogle. Congratulations to you all!!! We are so happy for you.

Our speakers this year were both from the Vancouver area: Reverend Fukusaku and Reverend David Wood and came out with rave reviews. Thanks to the leadership of Robert Hasegawa and Robson Shukuda, we once again had an amazing camp.

A special thanks goes to the many volunteers who put their time and effort into making Sunnyside Camp 2014 another very successful camp.

For all of you who have never experienced Sunnyside, come join us in 2015! Next year's dates are August 2-August 8, 2015.

(Maybe if you come, you can witness another presentation from the Japanese Magic Michael Jackson - AKA Pastor Tom Horiuchi.) □



Tuck time and skill time at Sunnyside Camp

By Pastor Haruo Sato—Chairman of the committee

The 2014 North East Nikkei Christian Conference was again held at the Scarborough Missions, a facility established for Catholic missions throughout the world. The date of our conference was from the evening of April 25 to the evening of the 26th. The conference meeting room was comfortable and well suited for our meeting together with the total of 69 people who attended.

Our conference lecturer again was Setsu Shimizu, a missionary and staff of the Japanese Christian Fellowship Network (JCFN) and primarily an evangelist to the young people. The theme of this year was “Walk With Jesus With Smiles and Tears”. We learned many Bible truths about ourselves and how we need to live for Him. We were deeply blessed in each session as Shimizu sensei used the powerpoint media to teach God's truth. The worship sessions were led by groups from two Japanese churches. Both groups led to magnify the Lord and were very well received by all who attended

Northeast Nikkei Christian 2014 Conference

During our brief AGM, on the final day, we decided to invite Pastor Yonemura of Otsu Christ Church in Kumamoto, Japan, as a lecturer for the conference next year. This conference is a wonderful opportunity for local evangelical churches to meet together for fellowship, worship and to hear the Word of God spoken by God's servants. Our prayer is that more will take advantage of this opportunity as we now meet here in the city of To-



Attendees at the final session of the conference

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CO-EDITORS:

Nori Kanashiro 56 Wakefield Cres., Toronto, ON M1W 2C2 Tel: 416-321-5831 Email: nbkan11@gmail.com

Rev. Edward Yoshida 3650 Kingston Rd. PH-09, Toronto, ON M4C 2C4 Tel: 416-261-4302 Email: esyoshida@sympatico.ca

JAPANESE TRANSLATION: Miki Nakano, Yumi Ijichi, Marie Fuki

YOUTH IN ACTION Editor: Marie Fuki Email: marie.fuki@yahoo.com; Hazuki Eguchi Email: hazuki.eguchi@gmail.com

CJM Website: www.CJMin.com

Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

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



Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama,
Joshua (16) & Amy (14)

by Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." (Proverbs 19:21)
Theme for LJCF in 2014.

Ten years have passed since we were commissioned to the ministry in Lethbridge. Our journey in the Lord has had its hills and dales. Attendance at our worship services has had its ups and downs. Satoshi sensei became ill with Parkinson's disease and was worried if he was able to continue as pastor. We went through vary difficult times, but we thank God and all of you for your faithful prayers and financial support to us.

Recently, we were both moved and touched by the content of a book "Bloom Where You're

Planted". Because there are times when we cannot bloom, when wind and rain become fierce. There will be days when we become unable to bloom because of ongoing drought. During those times its okay not to strain oneself to blossom. Instead, send your roots deeper and deeper, and expand one's roots further. For this will cause the next appearance of blossoms to be even larger and prettier.

Through the ministry of LJCF we continue to serve our God and his people. We believe His call upon our lives in this ministry is firm, and we also believe it is through the prayers of many friends, their encouragements and their support, even though we feel so weak and inadequate. As we continue - in good times and not so good times, we want to follow God with humility as His servants. Please pray for us.

Minamide san, who was baptized in 2006, passed away last April. She lived her life of faith fully as our church member, and even opened her home for Bible studies. Having lost the

"mother of the church" and grandmother, too, we feel a deep sense of loss, but are thankful to God for giving us a joyous time together in the family of God while she was among us. □



After service fellowship over tea.

CJM Conference

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto



Pastor's wives & women
leaders session

With the gathering of nearly 20 out-of-town guests in addition to our 30-40 from our church, for our CJM AGM/Conf. on June 27-29, 2014, was a delightful, "non-businessy" atmosphere that prevailed over the weekend.

As always, our guest speakers, Martin & Ruth Ghent, OMF missionaries, Aomori, Japan, were inspirational, informative and encouraging.

A unique aspect of our conferences is the special session for pastor's wives and women leaders of the church. A very meaningful time of sharing, discussion and words of inspiration was enjoyed by all.

In another session related to multi-culture, intergenerational and bi-lingual discussion, a number of our young adults leaders who are from various ethnic backgrounds shared why they come to our church and why they feel at home here. CJM AGM/Conf. 2015 will take place in Vancouver, BC, hosted by the Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church. It is open to everyone. □

Comments

from the
General Director



Nori & Blanche Kanashiro

When the year 2016 arrives, it will mark 70 years since CJM was organized. It will be 74 years since Margaret Ridgway heard the call of God and voluntarily followed her Japanese Sunday School children and their families into the dismal, abandoned ghost towns of interior BC. As a result of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor, in December 1941, the 22,000 Canadian Japanese, by its government implementing the War Measures Act, were expelled from the west coast. Do you know this history? Some of us have childhood memories of these turbulent time.

God was still at work! A young lady, 27 years of age, heeding the call of God and choosing to live in an abandoned shack, spent her days bringing comfort and friendship to many children, young people and their mothers. Margaret has written a brief history of the challenges

she faced. You may read her testimony in the "CJM Historical Sketch, 1942-1978". The brief 50 page booklet is posted on our website at www.CJMin.com. A companion booklet compiled by Mary Holdcroft, "Pressing On" are brief testimonies, remembrances and vignettes of Margaret as many who came to know the Lord remembered her. This booklet too, is posted on our website. □

DONATIONS:

For support of the
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and/or the
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Canadian Japanese Ministries
2900 Warden Ave.,
PO. Box 92124
Scarborough, ON M1W 2S0

CJM Treasurer:
Larry Iwamoto
Tel: 905-471-2184
Email: lkiwamoto@rogers.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@telus.net
Website: www.crossoverjapanesechurch.com



Pastor Yoichi & Miyuki Taniguchi
with daughters Mana & Agasa

by Pastor Y. Taniguchi

Our vision has been 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances.”* Our Lord’s blessings have surrounded our lives in a very rich way. Of course, we

also have experienced a lot of problems and sorrows, but we have found His encouragements in midst of our difficulties.

Here are some events (blessings) we have had in spring and summer of 2014. On Easter Sunday, a 25 year old young man, Yuki Koyama was baptized. It was a double blessing, as we

learned that his younger brother was also baptized in Japan at the same time although they hadn’t shared their faith with each other.

On June 22, we had a joint service with Grace Japanese Christian Church in Banff at Cascade pond, Hiromi Suda and Carly Chislett

were baptized at this service. Hiromi was our first fruit from our mother and toddler’s exercise club which is held every Tuesday in the church. Carly is a high school student who is hoping to become a missionary in Japan

In August, Reiko Uehara, a Christian singer from Okinawa performed two concerts for us. Over 100 people came to Crossover to hear her testimony and her music. In September, we had a guest speaker from Portland Oregon. Mitsue Harrison shared her ministry, “Moms in Prayer International.” We were taught the importance of prayers for our children.

There were many other blessings besides baptisms, concerts and guest speakers. We will always keep counting His blessings, rejoicing and in prayer, no matter what kind of troubles and sufferings we may have to face in the future. □



Yuki Koyama's baptism

Grace Japanese Christian Church

Meeting at Banff Full Gospel Church
407 Cougar Street, Banff, AB
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am.
Pastor Minoru Enoki
Email: minoru303zzz@hotmail.com



Pastor Tokuko Muranaka

By Pastor Tokuko Muranaka

Ten years ago, my husband and I came to Banff to begin our ministry here. After 3 years, he was suddenly taken home to be with the Lord. As his wife, I succeeded him as pastor but it has been our prayer for some time that the Lord would send a successor. Our prayers have now been answered as a successor will be arriving in September 2014. We can expect the Mission work to continue in Banff and Canmore as before.

Our prayer is to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus with those who seek a worship place in an interdenominational setting. Last year, two seekers were saved. Again, this year, two more accepted Jesus into their lives.

I sincerely thank CJM Sunnyside Camp, which started over 60 years ago, and was reminded anew the huge significance of this ministry. I believe God will use Sunnyside Camp to greatly enhance and empower interdenominational unity and love for one another as Christians. □

Editor's Note:
CJM is grateful for Muranaka sensei's fellowship in the Lord over many years. We wish her God's blessing and continued fruitful ministry in Japan. She departed for Japan in October, 2014. God be with you!



Pastor Minoru & Izumi Enoki

by Pastor Minoru Enoki

Hello, My name is Minoru Enoki and my wife is Izumi. It is my privilege at this time to be given the opportunity to become the lead pastor of Grace Japanese Christian Church in Banff, AB.

I graduated from Briercrest Bible College in 2009, completing my B.A. Shortly after that I went back to Japan for four years to get involved in many areas of ministry in my home church. God graciously

opened up a new door of opportunity for us to be a part of this community in Banff. We are deeply thankful to God for preparing us to make this decision to follow Him in His service. It was my privilege and joy to have worked and be tutored under my senior pastor, Mizuno Akihiro sensei for the past four years in Nagoya, Japan. He has been a wonderful mentor and teacher to me.

As we now take up this great challenge, we have great expectations of what God will accomplish through working together with the people here in Banff. Each of them are called for the extension and edification of His kingdom.

Please continue to remember the people in Banff/Canmore in your prayers. □

To see CJM history, reports, churches affiliated with CJM, former newsletters and many other info and updates, please go to our website at www.CJMin.com

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 Mr. Cory Geisbrecht Tel: 204-779-6279
Email: corygie@hotmail.com
Website: www.wjac.weebly.com



by Rev. Reimer Clausen

Summer was late, but it came in time for our annual camp at Bird's Hill Provincial Park on the weekend of July 25-27. Friday afternoon about a dozen families with many excited children arrived and started to pitch their tents. Before the late summer sun started setting, we gathered around a campfire to sing and to hear testimonies. Saturday morning was our usual "undokai", sports time, like a 3-legged race. The children



"Undokai" at the annual camp

seemed to have boundless energy. Saturday afternoon we all headed to the nearby beach, returning famished for a meal of curry rice. Sunday morning's service again was a testimony to the goodness of God. After a lunch of

noodles that were floated down a bamboo pole (nagashi somen) the children with a few adults again headed to the beach. As the rest of us took down the tents, reminding ourselves that life is like this and that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had lived in tents and that we too have no permanent place here.

A few weeks later we all gathered again in Assiniboine Park for our annual picnic. Two picnic tables, laden with food and a grill that supplied us with hotdogs put everybody in a jovial mood. There must have been around 50 attendees, approximately half of them children. Two new families who had just immigrated to Canada and two young men also recent newcomers to Canada were able to experience the beautiful Canadian outdoors and hear a message from the Bible. God is good!

by Rev Bruce Yarrow

This past summer has been another season of blessings for the WJAC. We have had visits from friends from Japan, and record breaking attendances at our picnic and camp. However, we have a farewell for the Adachi family: 2 adults with 4 children. Mrs. Masako Adachi has been an excellent, spiritual, hard-working spiritual leader all her time with us. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin a new life on Vancouver Island. We are also excited with Cory & Masami Giesbrecht's coming missionary service in Japan, with their 3 active boys. But, when they will have all left us, we will be missing 7 children, 4 adults and 3 excellent, experienced and committed leaders.



Cory & Masami Giesbrecht with sons, Joshua, Noah & Sola

However, the Lord has always faithfully raised up new leaders to take their place. □

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



Pastor Tetsuya & Mari Fukusaku
Luke (12), Mark (14), Matthew (16) & Joy (12)

By Pastor (Ted) Fukusaku

Praise the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This summer was a very busy time at our church. I believe all the busyness was directed by the Lord for his glory and the expansion of his kingdom. I sincerely thank the CJM Sunnyside Camp, which has now operated over 60 years, and I was reminded anew the huge significance of its ministry. And I am expecting the Sunnyside Camp to greatly enhance and empower inter-denominational unity and love for one another as Christians.

The annual church BBQ which was held after the Sunday Service on Aug. 10 was a huge success. We had 235 people altogether who came to our morning and afternoon services. That is probably the record number during the more than 50 years history of our church.

Kids Day Camp, from Aug. 12 to 15 was also blessed by the Lord as we had more than 30 people, plus lots of adult volunteers.

We also had the Church Family Camp from Aug. 29 to 31 at Camp Luther, where we could enjoy wonderful fellowship as the family of God. The speakers for this year were Pastor Tetsuzo Kasagawa from Fukushima, Japan and Pastor Kenji Yokoi from Portland, Oregon.

In early September, we had sad moments as three of our members went to be with the Lord within 9 days. However, at their respective memorial services we also received hope and comfort from the Lord since we would meet them again when we all get to heaven.

Lastly, we had the 9th annual Gospel Night at Michael J. Fox Theatre on Sep. 19. As usual our church sponsored this gospel concert, but this year we had cooperation from 6 other churches (mostly Korean) after 6 months of preparation by dedicated members. There were about 300 people who came to the concert, including many non-Christians from Japan.

Now, we are getting ready for some Fall events and the Christmas season. We, as a family of God, are trying to fulfill his purpose for our church by practicing this year's theme, "Testimony and Mission" from Acts 1:8.

As Senior Pastor of this church I am greatly thankful to the Lord and to members here for their tireless and dedicated service for the Lord.

Thank you for your prayers and allowing us to be part of the CJM family; we are praying for your churches and ministries as well. □

New Westminster Evangelical Free Church

Japanese Section

c/o 7895 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC
 Sunday Worship service - 9:30 am
 c/o Mr. Mitsugi Sugita 604-531-0021 or
 Mr. Roy Uyeda 604-324-8952
 Website: www.nwefc.org



VICTORIA JAPANESE CHURCH

Meeting at First Baptist Church
 877 North Park St., Victoria, BC
 Sunday Worship service - 1:30 pm.
 Pastor Tsuguru Okamoto
 Email: hope078@hotmail.co.jp
 http://vjc2012.blog.fr2.com/blog-entry-3.html



by Roy Uyeda

Koin yano gotoshi”, is well said, time fleets like an arrow.
 It is already past 15 years since our small group began its first Japanese language service here on the first Sunday of January 1999. Our parent church, the New Westminster Evangelical Free Church on May 25 honored us with ‘a fete’ to commemorate our 15th Anniversary. Invited to the special Sunday service was Pastor and Mrs. Jacob Friesen (retired), the first pastor as well as becoming the pastor of the whole church. They also invited Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth Strom (retired), who was the succeeding pastor. In addition to these two former pastors, they also invited some distinguished guests and many friends of the church as well. The service was followed with a pleasant and delightful dinner where everybody enjoyed renewing old friendships and reminiscing about the past where God had been abundantly gracious to us all. It was a time of blessed gathering. □



Fellowship time over coffee and tea

by Pastor Tsuguru Okamoto



Pastor Tsuguru & Ryoko Okamoto with sons Dendo (7) & Mamoru (5)

Praise the Name of our Lord! First we would like to give praise to God that the Victoria Japanese Church was able to complete the application to become members of CJM. Greeting to all the churches that are part of CJM.
 This summer we were able to welcome many visitors to our church. On the 12th of July we had a church picnic at Goldstream Park. The Lord blessed us with a perfect day, and we had a wonderful time of fellowship with church members, attendees and friends.
 There is a new activity that our church will take part in this year. On the 25th of October we will have an information table at the fundraiser of the Japanese Cultural Festival. In this way we hope to let the Japanese community in Victoria know of our presence, and hopefully this will lead to more people checking our church out.



The congregation of the Victoria Japanese Church

We have begun our preparation of our Christmas celebrations. We will rejoice together knowing the joy that we have because of our Saviour’s birth, and pray that it will be a time when we can share the wonderful Gospel to those who have not heard it yet. Through these various out-reaches, it is our prayer that many will be led to make a decision to follow Christ followed by baptism. Please remember us in your prayers. □

Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

Meeting at: Wesley Chapel
 2385 Warden Ave., Scarborough, ON
 Sunday Worship: 1:00 pm
 Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa
 Tel: 647-347-3167
 Email: mmh1123@hotmail.com
 Website: www.wcjc.wordpress.com



by Pastor Toshi - testimony shared



Pastor “Toshi” & Mika Hatsusegawa with sons, Ayanari (8) & Yoshisone (5)

Iwould like to share a testimony of our brother who opens his home to have monthly Bible studies.
 “Why do I like the small group Bible study? Because I understand that being a devoted child of God is no longer a “one size fits all” proposition. People are led to Christ from four corners of the earth. We bring our cultural, historical and personal diversities to worship and give praise at his

feet. At Wesley Chapel Japanese Church I am happy that our church does not only offer traditional service that creates a historically familiar worship through liturgy, prayers and sacred music, but through small groups that creates a relaxed worship experience that includes open

discussion, live praise music and light refreshment. Through my Christian growth I have to say that small groups play a real part in transforming my cultural, historical and personal perspective to be more like Christ.”

As his testimony shows, our unity and growth have been strengthened through each small group that we have once a month. I am very thankful that God has been leading us towards the vision we have for 2014, “To walk with the Holy Spirit and experience the living God in our lives”. □



Wesley Chapel Japanese outdoor service

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



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: toshihiro@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ejcc.ca



Pastor Haruo & Yoko Sato

by Pastor Haruo Sato

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto had its beginnings by missionaries of the CJM in the year 1955. A number of those reached in the early days were young kika Niseis who were born in Canada, raised in Japan and later returned. Several of them made up the core of the beginnings of JGCT. Recently, we had a memorial service for a wife of kika Nisei and it reminded us that JGCT is built on their determination and faith in Christ Jesus.

At JGCT some of our Christian young adults, most who are bilingual, have started an after-service fellowship and study group called "Seed". It continues to be a very meaningful time for them.

Amongst the ministries involving the Japanese parents is one called "Parenting". It is a Christian mothers group studying and discussing how to develop good parenting skills and to instill Christian faith and values in their children. Two pre-school programs are offered on Monday and Tuesday mornings each week. They are called Aratama (Nursery Children's Circle) and Kohitsuji Hiroba (Drop-in). Aratama is attended by 10-12 mothers with their children and Kohitsuji by 18-20 mothers with their little ones.

Over the course of the year, we witnessed 4 baptisms. They were, Izumi Inoue, Hazuki Eguchi, Amy Wong and John Tamai. They have all been a wonderful encouragement to everyone in the



Baptism of Izumi & Hazuki on Feb. 16, 2014

church.

We now have six small groups in the Japanese congregation. Some had started 10 years ago. One of the groups is for young adults called "Buddies" and meets once a month. They are led by three young adults in the church. The focus of these sessions have been to share their Christian faith through testimonies, Bible studies, and for general fellowship with non Christian friends.

One other small group we have continued is a study called "Firm Foundations - Creation to Christ". It is very important to learn the basic truth taught in the Bible for not only beginners but also advanced



Installation service of Pastor Kevin Ueta



Pastor Toshihiro & Hiromi Tamura with daughter, Hinata (5)

by Pastor Toshihiro Tamura

After six years without a full-time pastor, the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church began a new journey last July. The church was prone to becoming inward-looking during those years without a pastor, but we have now taken on the challenge of becoming a

church that sows seeds and bears fruit, spurred on by the words of John 15:16. "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name".

In addition to our regular yearly events, this year we enjoyed some special gatherings involving bird watching, playing soccer, having a praise and worship night around a campfire. This was all made possible through the use of people's unique gifts, prayers and working together to sow the seeds of the Gospel message.



Praise and worship around the campfire

During the past year, we had the privilege of witnessing 3 baptisms, beginning with Yoko-san who was baptized last year at Sunny-side Camp, and we were granted much encouragement. As we look back on the bless-

ings God had provided, one thought comes to mind, that, because of those six difficult years, the church is where we are today. Six years of constant prayer, and the nurturing of faith and relationships have led us to this present time of sowing and bearing fruit.

I, with the rest of my family, am grateful to be able to serve such a committed congregation. Of course, it is always possible that the church may face challenges and trials again in the future. However, we are hopeful as we look towards our Lord Jesus, He will work for the good of those who love Him.

Christian. The Bible is a bread of life for us all.

Sunday, April 6, was a happy occasion for the congregation of JGCT. Pastor Kevin Ueta, who became a Christian through JGCT camp ministry later becoming its Youth pastor, was installed as the JGCT lead English pastor. □

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




GRACEPOINT FELLOWSHIP

English department of the
Calgary Japanese Gospel Church



Church location: 2203 - 15A St. S.E., Calgary, AB
 Sunday Worship service - 10:30 am.
 English Dep't: Pastor Brian Lavender Tel: 403-275-7132
 Japanese Dep't: Pastor Tomoyuki (Tom) Horiuchi Tel: 587-352-2233
 Website: www.calgarygospel.com



Pastor Gerald & Rie Neufeld with daughters, Rena (13), Irene (8) and son Jay (12)

by Pastor Gerald Neufeld
At Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship we have had a few members go back to Japan, but God has always brought new people to replace them. With an average group of 20 adults plus 16 children on a Sunday, there has been some-

one who hasn't attended for a while, or a new person, who comes and has a significant experience. We have felt God's encouragement in spite of having a small group that varies greatly in numbers.

It was exciting to have a baptism with a couple who have been attending for a while. We have two others who have also shown an interest in baptism.

Recently, we participated in our annual Mennonite Central Committee festival for world relief. It was the fourth year that we've been selling cucumber rolls and California rolls. We were happy to build a new connection and purchase the sushi through a church member and the Japanese restaurant where he works. This was the first year we've been able to sell everything (350 packages) without going below cost at the two day sale.

The other day, we had our first "men's breakfast" with a few men coming out to prepare pancakes, sausage, and salad. It was a good opportunity for some meaningful discussion. Now, we hope to expand the men's breakfast to a "family breakfast" to be held in November.



"BC day hiking" to Lake Minnekhada

Our annual "BC day hiking" took us to Lake Minnekhada, where a few people who don't usually attend church were able to join us for a beautiful day of enjoying God's creation.

Financially, MJCF has somehow been able to continue in spite of having used up all reserve funds. God provides. It's God's Church! We praise God who walks with us and leads us. □



Pastor Brian & Cindy Lavender sons, Noah (14) and Ethan (12)

By Pastor Brian Lavender
You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance." Psalm 65:11 NKJV

I'm recognizing more and more, that we have experienced the favour of God over the past many months. His graciousness has poured out over Gracepoint Fellowship and CJGC in so many ways.

As a church we are trying to increase our influence, and as it expands, our responsibility to communicate the message of the Gospel also increases. This fall we are trying to do this through our youth and children's ministries, as well as adult classes on parenting, marriage enrichment, and "How to Response to Sceptics - Giving Reasons for our Faith".

Ephesians 2:19-22 says, "You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your HOME country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You BELONG here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a HOME. He's using us all - irrespective of how we got here - in what he is building - with Christ Jesus as the CORNERSTONE that holds all parts together".

Looking ahead, we are believing that we will hear more testimonies of lives changed, families enriched and people in our spheres of influence assisted in practical ways as we live generously towards others and continue to build a church that God Himself would be proud to call His HOME. □



Pastor Tom & Takako Horiuchi with daughter Marie

by Pastor Tom Horiuchi - Japanese department.

With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

As we have given God's message to the world, the Lord really has worked through the word of God. It

is a blessing to know how God created us in His image to give His unconditional love. All we can do is to accept His unconditional love and His redemption for our atonement. We can grow closer to God anytime, anywhere, and in any circumstance. We are not able to change ourselves by our own efforts. However, He is able to change us into His image as we believe in Jesus. May the Lord bless you all through this coming year! □

CJM AGM/Conference 2015

June 12-13, 2015

Hosted by: Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church
 425 - 11th Street, New Westminster, BC