

CJM REPORTER

Spring 2009

Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES

YOUTH SECTION ATTACHED



The All Nations Returnees Conference (ANRC) in Saitama, Japan, on March 19-22, 2009 was a success beyond expectation. The organizers of the conference had to scramble a great deal of the time to make arrangements for all the people who had

they had opportunities to meet other youths with a similar experiences.

The Canadian group at the conference numbered about 20. The majority were students who spent time in the Vancouver/Victoria

All Nations Returnee Conference (ANRC)

come. A total of about 500 + were in attendance, of which, in my estimation, over half were young people who were returnees. As I recall, there were representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Italy, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom and North America. I'm sure there were others there too. The plenary and the small group sessions were profitable and insightful. Everyone expressed a very positive note on this first attempt to bring a better understanding of how to prepare the returnees back into the Japanese society and into their new life in the church. A goal is to have a network in all regions of so that the returnees will have a contact upon their return. It was agreed that another conference should be held again next year at the same time and location.

One of the blessings for me, amongst many, was the opportunity to meet and converse with numbers of Christian leaders from Japan and overseas. The returnees too, were excited about having a conference of this nature where

area. It was wonderful to hear of their experiences in Canada and how they came to trust in Christ. Two of the young men who were there spent time in Lethbridge and Three Hills, Alberta. They were Takafumi Miyasaka and Kensaku Higashi. They also attended Sunnyside Camp in the last few years as well. Takafumi will be involved in giving leadership to the newly formed network for returnees to the Tokyo area. The network ministry will be extremely important as it will be the focal point of contact for the returnees to Christian fellowship and possibly a home church.

It is most encouraging to see Japan's youth touched by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God is indeed doing a great thing beyond what we had ever expected. Let's continue to pray for Japan, it's churches, pastors and it's youth. □



Nori Kanashiro
CJM
General Director



A "crowd" of over 500 attended the first-ever ANRC



The Canadian contingents at the ANRC

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CO-EDITORS:

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

Rev. Edward Yoshida 3650 Kingston Rd. PH-09, Toronto, ON M4C 2C4 Tel: 416-216-4302 Email: esyoshida@sympatico.ca

JAPANESE TRANSLATION: Miki Nakano, Minako Ebisuzaki and Makiko Toyonaga

LETHBRIDGE JAPANESE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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



Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama
Joshua 10 and Amy 8 years

by Satoshi Akiyama

We thank you very much for supporting our Japanese ministry here in Lethbridge, Alberta.

This past March, Satoshi had an opportunity to attend the All Nations Returnees Conference in Saitama, Japan through the kind support of the Missionary Support Committee in my home church in Tokyo.

Those in attendance at the conference were the returnees who had accepted Christ in a foreign country, seekers who lived in foreign countries, churches and Christian groups who had dealt with the new believers in foreign countries and the local churches and Christian organizations in Japan. This conference was held for the advancement of missions to Japanese people in foreign countries and for the chance to make a cooperative network with domestic and overseas Christians. The conference provided us with a booth to introduce the Japanese ministry in Lethbridge and also through my presentation.

Mr. Nori Kanashiro and Satoshi had a meeting with the Support Committee for the Lethbridge ministry. Mr. Kanashiro shared the history of CJM and thanked them for their faithful prayer and financial support for this ministry in Canada. We further discussed our future ministry and follow-up of the returnees who had accepted Christ during their stay in Lethbridge. Takafumi Miyasaka whose home church is the Tachikawa Evangelical Free Church in Tokyo, was present with us. He accepted Christ and was baptized in Lethbridge in 2006 and has now returned to Japan. He has now joined the Lethbridge ministry Support group as one of its mem-

bers. He is willing to be a bridge between the returnees, who are not connected to a church, the Lethbridge ministry-supporting group and with us. We are thankful that our network has gradually spread out.



The Missionary Support Committee of the Sion No Mure Church in Tokyo - for the Akiyama's in Lethbridge, AB.
(Front row L - R): Nobuko Irie, Takako Sato & Naomi Yoshikawa, Assist. Pastor. (Back row L - R): Takafumi Miyasaka, Satoshi Akiyama and Blanche Kanashiro. Nori Kanashiro taking photo.

The Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship had a baptismal service for Hiromi Ekura (student) at our Easter service. Hiromi has been coming to our Sunday service since last fall. Shortly after she began Bible study, she accepted Christ. She wanted to get baptized earlier, but her parents did not allow her. Although she is over 20 years old, she decided to wait until her parents understood her faith. LJCF has earnestly prayed for her. It was only recently that her parents allowed her to be baptized. Praise the Lord! Pastor Ron Dirks and his wife Linda have come twice a month, to serve the Lord in our English ministry. Please pray for our English ministry, seeking God's guidance and wisdom. □



Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship - Easter Service 2009

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

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), Pastor Robert Brown (English)
 Website: www.japanesegospelchurch.com



Pastor Tetsuya
Fukusaku

By Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku

This year our church's theme is "Worshipping in Spirit and Truth". Worship is the centre of the Christian life as well as the activity of the church. We'd like to worship God, the Lord in spirit (with heart) and in truth (with right knowledge). Our church, as the family of God, endeavours to wor-

ship God together from small children to seniors, both Japanese and non-Japanese. So please pray for us.

Already, a third of this year has gone by. Beginning in May, we have plans as follows; Our 5th Seniors Spring Bus Trip to Victoria is on May 5th. Euodia concert which is a cooperative effort with 6 other Japanese churches is on May 16th. Rev. & Mrs. Nakano will be visiting our church from June 20 to 24. Rev. Saok Cho from Seoul, Korea will minister from June 30 to July 7. The second Ladies Luncheon will be held on July 3. The Church Family Camp is Aug. 28 - 30. The fourth Gospel Night at Michael J. Fox Theatre is on Oct. 9. In addition to these, plans are underway for four couples in our church to get married this year. As we have many plans, please pray that they won't be just events but will be used for the Lord's ministry and the expansion of His kingdom. We'd like to incorporate worship, service, fellowship, spiritual growth, and evangelism into each of the activity.

For the last few years we've had numbers of people who have come to our church by checking our internet home page. We are revising it to be more effective in our ministry. Our church's home page address is www.vjgc@telus.net. We have also started our IYG (Int'l Youth and Young Group) home page. It is www.iyg4u.com. Do not forget to put www. when you take a look at it. Please include our church and IYG home page addresses into your links.

We pray that each church which belongs to CJM continues to be blessed and guided by the Lord for His glory. □



New Years Service 2009 - Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church



VJGC Family Camp 2008 at the Lutheran Retreat Centre, Mission, BC

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Family Camp

August 28 - 30, 2009

Lutheran Retreat & Conference Centre
Mission, BC

Speakers:

Dr. Keiko Fujii (Japanese)
Ms. Setsu Kuroda (English)

For further information and registration,
please inquire through
vjgc@telus.net

Please register as soon as possible

Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

Church location: 2385 Warden Ave., Scarborough, ON M1W2L6
 Sunday Worship service: at 11:00 am
 Pastor Ed Yoshida (Japanese congregation)



Pastor Ed & Yoko Yoshida

Niagara Nikkei Network (NNN)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

by Pastor Ed Yoshida

The big concern of Christmas 2008 for Niagara Falls was the weather. Fearful weather forecasts were given a few days

before. We asked many friends from Niagara, Buffalo, Toronto and elsewhere to pray for right judgment and journeying mercies. The 16--20 cm. of snowstorm in Toronto on Friday closed schools and caused many accidents. We called Buffalo, Niagara and the Ontario Highway Information to ascertain the safety of QEW. In the end we had to trust God for journeying mercies and venture out in faith. The highway was basically clear and safe except for a few kilometers near the Jordan Station.

The people came in unexpected numbers. They came and they came. One of the men counted at least 58 adults and children. There were so many new faces and first time visitors that I could not possibly remember their names. Then the variety of food was better than going to any famous buffet. The separate dessert table offered so many varieties that the choices were difficult. The Program was Christmas-centered. During the carols the 3 musicians--Setsuko Kadohama (Buffalo), Schiefer Sensei (Buffalo) & Alan Doerksen (St. Catharines)-joined their

talents to accompany us. Cliff Schiefer played his saxophone, Miki Kakiyara read the Scripture from Luke 2:1-11 and Pastor Yoshida gave the Christmas message, using a KAMI SHIBAI special. When the program ended, it was hard to get away without greetings all the friends. But we wanted to return to Toronto while it was still daylight for the 2-hour trip. This was a record-breaking gathering for any indoor event in our 10-year history. And we want to thank the key families - Sappolito's, Berisha's, Kakiyara's, Doerksen's and Suzuki's - for their cooperation and hard work behind the scene. □

WESLEY CHAPEL JAPANESE CHURCH CALLS NEW PASTOR

by Pastor Ed Yoshida



Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa with wife Mika and son Aya

After many years and many candidates Wesley Chapel Japanese Church has finally called Munetoshi Hatsusegawa 初瀬川宗利 of Osaka, Japan, as the new pastor. He is a graduate of Regent College, Vancouver, and has had some "internship" experience at both Megumi Church and a Mennonite church plant in North Vancouver.



Niagara Falls Nikkei Network (NNN) Christmas Party—2008

He is 35 year of age, with wife, Mika, and a son, Aya. Another child is expected in April, 2009. If all the conditions are satisfied, they hope to arrive in Canada in the summer. So, to set them up in their Toronto apartment and to make them comfortable, we are calling our Nikkei churches and Christians to do all they can to make donations of their garage sale items to be used by this young family. Tax receipts for the value of their donated items will be considered by our church.

Upon arrival he will become an "associate pastor" to Pastor Yoshida for two years, doing much of the preaching during this period of internship, when he is expected to complete the required Free Methodist courses towards his ordination. Your prayers will be much appreciated for Pastor Toshi and his family. □

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. Rui Nakao Tel: 780-488-4168
www.telusplanet.net/public/ejpc



by Cathy Nakao

We at the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church have been experiencing God's amazing blessings. Last September, Hiromi Yamakawa and Sally Suzuki, two ESL students from Japan, were baptised by Yuri Nakano, our former pastor who is currently preparing for her term as a missionary to Japan. Both of these young women were struggling with the inability to attend school in Japan, but through Christ, their families are being changed. Sally is now connected to a church in Japan. Hiromi is busy studying English and the Bible as she



Hiromi Yamakawa



Sally Suzuki



Congregants at the baptism of Hiromi and Sally

prepares to attend a Bible school in Canada starting in September.

On April 26, Natsumi Takanashi was baptised. She originally came to Edmonton as a toddler 19 years ago with her mother and father (who was a researcher at the University of Alberta). Her mother began to attend our church, and was baptised in 1991. The family returned to Japan a few years later. After more than 10 years, Natsumi returned to Edmonton as a high school student, homestay with a Christian family, and entering the University of Alberta. At first, she felt hesitant to come to church, but through God's mysterious guiding hand, Natsumi moved into homestay at a church-member's home. Gradually, she began attending the Sunday services, Wednesday Bible studies, and developed a desire to be baptised at the same church that her mother did many years before. She also began praying for her brother and father, who do not know God. Natsumi's father will be travelling to Edmonton to witness her baptism, which will be officiated by Yuri Nakano and her former homestay father, Pastor Stan King. We are delighted to hear that Natsumi's father in Japan now attends church with her mother.



Natsumi Takanashi with former Pastor Yuri Nakano

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household." Acts 16:31. □

Editor's Note: CJM is pleased to commend to you the future ministries of Yuri Nakano and Becky Lengefeld. They are both appointees to minister in Japan. Yuri had pastored for a number of years at the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church (EJCC), while Becky, as an MK came to study in Edmonton and during this time was active in ministry through the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church.



Yuri Nakano

I am an appointed missionary with NAB (North American Baptist Conference) to Japan. Currently I am raising a support team so that I may be sent out in the Fall of this year. I will be helping with church planting and discipling women. More information about myself and the mission can be found on the NAB website: www.nabconference.org under the missionary listing.



Becky Lengefeld

I have been appointed by North American Baptist Conference as a continued-term missionary to Japan! I am currently raising prayer and financial support, and am praying that the Lord will provide me with all my needs so that I may go back to Japan by this fall (same as Yuri!). I will be taking over my parents' work as director of the Christian Education Center in Tsu, Mie ken (my hometown). Please refer to the NAB website for more info:www.nabconference.org

JAPANESE GOSPEL Church of Toronto

Church location: 301 Silver Star Blvd., Scarborough, ON M1V 0B6
 Sunday Worship service - 11:00 pm. (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 7 and Christy 4 years

by Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki

Camp Ministry Update:

There is an exciting possibility of a Japanese soccer club in Toronto joining our Camp this summer. This soccer club has around 40 - 60 kids and around 3 adult teams participating. We are

thinking of having soccer clinics alongside our other Camp activities. Please pray that the Lord's will would be done regarding this possibility.

Church Building Update: our first Sunday worship service in our new church building was on Thanksgiving weekend, October 12, 2008; it was a wonderful, bilingual celebration service! The following Saturday, Oct. 18, we had our first wedding in the new church building. It was a beautiful wedding service. And then 7 days after the wedding on Oct 25, we held our Official Opening Celebration which was perhaps the largest JGCT service in its history. To our surprise, the building was quite adequate to handle the large number of people. We received a large amount of positive feedback to this event. These were exciting initial events in our new church building for which we are grateful to our Lord.

In the following months since October, I have been surprised how having your own church facility can open up many more possibilities of ministry. (JGCT has gone for over 45 years without our own facilities, so this is a new experience for us.) We've had a youth semi-formal, College & Career Retreat, Mochi-making get together, Sushi bee, Easter Egg Hunt, small group meetings, praise and worship practices, Blanket-making and other gatherings in the church building so far. Please pray for us that we would have God's guidance in all that we do. □



Sushi bee for the Momiji Bazaar on March 27, 2009



Pastor Haruo & Yoko Sato

by Pastor Haruo Sato

It is already six months since we took possession of our new church building. Our Opening service was on Saturday, October 25 at which time 450 people crowded our new facility. We are still in need to develop our

Japanese garden just outside of our Japanese sanctuary and the foyer. Curtains need to be installed throughout the building as well. However, more importantly, we are challenged to utilize the building to its full capacity and for the purposes for which God gave it to us.

At the heart of this church is the unity of the two congregations, though we worship separately in separate sanctuaries, we are a single congregation in spirit and purpose. This was greatly evidenced during our construction period of nearly 18 months. During this time, we worked together, we supplied meals together, we prayed and sacrificed together along with many faithful volunteers from various parts of the country. I sense that God has given a deeper awareness to us all that this is His church and we are one in Him. As ministries are envisioned and created, we are anticipating more programs to be planned and prepared together. As an example, recently, we held an event called Easter Egg Hunt. This was planned by the leaders and participants from both congregations. The intent was to reach out to the non-Christian parents with children in our community. To our surprise and excitement, there were more than 80 people - parents and children who attended. This was our first event planned together. God gave us a glimpse of many who are willing to attend if we plan to work together and with Him. I believe this opens a new page in our church outreach opportunities as well. In days to come, we need to be used of God as a single unified church though we may speak and worship separately. Our purposes are the same and some events can be planned together. Please pray for us. □



Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 5, 2009

NorthEast Nikkei Christian Conference 2008

by Rev. Masato Murai, Chair of the Steering Committee

The 22nd annual NENCC was another very successful conference. It was held at our usual location at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre near Guelph, ON between the dates of August 2 and 4. We enjoyed the largest attendance in recent years with 33 adults and 6 children as full-time conferees. We are thankful to the Lord and to the special efforts made by our regular attendees to encourage others to come.

As it's chairperson, I wish to extend my appreciation to the faithful committee members who worked hard to plan and prepare during an year long preparation time. This year again, we had several very meaningful sessions by guest speaker, Rev. Tetsuo Kagiwada, who has served us for three consecutive years. His Gospel presentation from the series on the "House of Faith" based on the Book of Romans was wonderful. He also conducted a two hour workshop on basic Buddhism, which too, was deeply appreciated. In addition, a thrilling report of their experiences was given by Mr. & Mrs. Keita Takayama, a

missionary couple to Khabarovsk, Russia. The children's classes were led by a mother/daughter team of Harumi and Shoko Murai; were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and the parents alike. Please continue praying for the steering committee members. They are Shozo & Yoko Iwai, Morio & Mariko Ogasawara, Reiko Chiba, Yosuke Mikami and Masato & Harumi Murai. Finally, as chair of the committee, I would like to thank all of you who have been supporting this evangelical Japanese outreach ministry in Eastern Canada. □



Make It Happen 2009 (MIH2009) In recent days it became evident that the purpose and intent of the Youth Leadership Development Conference scheduled for Toronto on July 10-17, 2009 could not be met. It was viewed to be an opportunity to bring youth from the west and the east together both for fellowship and training in leadership and service. We regret to announce it's cancellation at this time. Perhaps in the future another opportunity will arise.

Nori Kanashiro, CJM General Director on behalf of the Organizing Committee

Sunnyside Camp 2009

July 27 - August 2, 2009

Location:
Sylvan Lake, AB
(106 km. West of Red Deer)

Theme:
"Who Is Our Neighbour?"

Speakers:
Jim Tillotson - English
Rev. Kagiwada - Japanese

For further info:
Sue King
780-464-4152
Email: dsking@shaw.ca

CJM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 10 - 12, 2009



at the
Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto
301 Silver Star Blvd.
Scarborough ON M1V 0B6
Church Tel: 416-335-JGCT (5428)

(Fri.) 7:30 pm. Pastor's Session
(Sat.) 9:00 am. CJM AGM
2:00 pm. CJM Board Meeting
5:00 pm. Dinner, Fellowship,
7:00 Celebration Service
(Sun.) 11:00 am. Worship Service

NENCC NorthEast Nikkei Christian Conference

August 1 - 3, 2009

Location:
Crieff Hills Retreat Centre
RR#@, Puslinch, ON -
(just east of Cambridge, ON)

Speaker:
Rev. Sunao Shimada
Pastor of the
San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church

For further info contact:
Mariko Ogasawara (519) 634-8935
or
Rev. Masato Murai (416) 789-1902

All are Welcome!