

YOUTH IN ACTION

AN ATTACHMENT TO THE CJM REPORTER



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Salt Shakers
Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto
 By Scott Ohashi

With the new year well under way, our J.G.C.T Young People are eager to see what awaits us. With strong bonds between the youth group and our strong spiritual bond with the Lord, the possibilities are endless. But the new year also brings on new challenges. Our long time youth leader Kevin has been called to serve with OMF in Japan. Though still undetermined at this writing, he may be gone for as long as 6 months. Though we are saddened to see another one of our leaders going overseas, we can't help but feel excited that God is using him to do His work. We all wish him the best and pray that God will use his time in Japan to further his kingdom on earth. Though there were the occasional bible studies and events, things have been pretty dormant during the winter season. But spring is around the corner so that means it's time to awaken from our hibernation and get back into action! Our Salt Shakers are busy with planning and running future events for the youth group as we speak, so it's time to put those bowling skills to some good



The Salt Shakers



JGCT High School Class
Teacher James Ishiguro, hiding behind Angie on lower left

use! Our worship team is still actively leading our congregation and the drama team is coming up with skits to entertain us for future services. And even though our youth retreat is 2 long months away, the planning stages are already happening. With our Judges team ready for another season of softball, everybody looking forward to another fun filled week at our annual summer camp, and the anticipated return of our youth leader Michelle, the year already seems hectic! With so much already on our plate, we

ask that you pray that God will continue to guide our leaders, that he will use the youth to do His works, and that they continue to stay strong during their spiritual walk with the Lord.

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Since I can remember there has always been someone in

my life talking to me about God and helping me see all the wonderful things he has done for me. As a little girl my mom would make me pray with her every night, read me bible stories before bed and go to church every Saturday. So you see I've always been aware there was a God but I'd be lying if I said he was ever, truly, a part of my life. When you're a child you simply do what you're told and don't question it. So I prayed and attended church regularly. It wasn't all that bad, it actually became very much a routine for me and I had no problems doing it. But as one grows older they're able to make decisions for yourself. I decided that I didn't need to go to church or pray every night to be close to God. After all, this was God we were talking about, He knew I believed and that was more than enough right? I conveniently made myself think that it was and went on with my life, every so often checking in with God. Usually it was to ask why things were going wrong in my life, guess I needed someone to blame other than myself. Eventually even the little contact that I had became non-existent. People always say

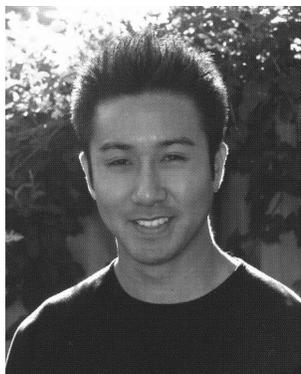
Draw close to God
Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto
By Alicia Ninahuanca

“And how could you not love someone who loves you so unconditionally?”



things happen for a reason and I believe this to be true. I also believe that the reason is that God has planned it for you. About a year ago my sister invited me to the Kick Off of the “40 Days of Purpose” campaign.

When she first approached me I thought “Ok, here we go, another way for her to sell me on this church going thing”. I couldn't understand why she just couldn't accept my way of being religious. Reluctantly I accepted and even brought a friend. Afterwards I felt no different. She asked me to take a book with me and my first question was “How much?” Free? Sure why not”, after all I didn't want to hurt her feelings. I can tell you now that I never thought I'd open it, but I did and I have not been the same person since. Most of my life I've felt like a screw up, constantly doing things I shouldn't be. How could I approach God with all my sins? I have pushed Him away so many times surely He will reject me as I have Him. In **James 4:8** it says **“Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you”**. With the 40 Days of purpose book I learned something that seems easy enough to see now but for me was not. God just wants to love me, He wants to forgive me and all He asks is for my love in return. And how could you not love someone who loves you so unconditionally? With the help of this book and with the help of a small group I've come to learn a lot about the Lord and it just makes me hunger for more knowledge. I have purpose in my life now but most importantly I have God.



Kevin Ueta of the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto left in February 2006 to work with OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) in Aomori, Japan. He is committed for a 6 month period and will work under the guidance of Martin Ghent, a long time missionary friend of the Toronto church.

From Toronto to Aomori, Japan

Excerpts from Kevin's recent newsletter

I've been having a great time getting to know the people in the various communities in the Aomori prefecture. I've helped out in several English classes, attended a few Bible studies and community group meetings. I've also been involved in getting to know and establish connections with a few high school and university students. Pray for me as I get to know some high school students in Itayanagi. Pray also for a university professor in Hirosaki with whom I hope to have a regular language training sessions as well as for a bible studies with him, His wife is a believer and he is a seeker right now. Pray that the Spirit will continue to work in his heart. We recently created a new band with four members and call ourselves the MCB (multi-cultural band). We'll look for opportunities to minister.



Letter from the editor

Nori Kanashiro - CJM General Director



How great to read about so many of our young people in the churches involved in missions. Missions is what emanates from the very heart of Jesus. We call it “missions” as if it was just one of the options for Christians to do. But Jesus saw it as a natural life style of a Christian. Just before He ascended to heaven, His last words were “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8. The Lord will offer many opportunities to be involved in missions in our “Jerusalem” - our own community, in “Judea” - our province, in “Samaria” - our country and “to the ends of the earth” - internationally. God be with you young people. Keep alive to these opportunities whether through your church, CJM or international missionary agencies.

What in the world is J.A.G.? It stands for Japanese Active Group. This is the name of the “youth” group of the Edmonton Japanese Community Association. It’s mostly made up of College and Career age people. The church College and Career people have joined with this group and have become active leaders and organizers for it. The group just re-started this year. This

J.A.G
Edmonton Japanese Christian Church
 By Pastor Yuri Nakano

group meets once a month and is open to anyone who wants to just get together. It’s an awesome way to get to know people in the community and meet and invite new friends. So far we’ve had two events with many more planned for the year ahead. The first event was a pizza and games night. The second one was skating at Hawrelak Park. The next event coming up is IRON Chef night...to test our culinary skills! Hopefully we will all enjoy the evening without any food poisoning!



Check out my photos at www.flickr.com/photos/bekiko-



Witness in the flower shop

Several months ago I became friends with a lady who works in a flower shop near Tsu Station, and was delighted to find out that she was a Christian! Since then, she has come over to my place several times and we have read the Bible together. We met this past Tuesday for the first time this year and read the first 10 chapters of Genesis together. Since she works on Sundays, she hasn't been to church in a really long time. I lent her several of my worship CDs and she especially likes the band Casting Crowns, so now whenever I visit her I am amazed to hear such songs as "Voice of Truth" and "Who Am I" playing in her shop! She said lots of her friends and customers comment on the music and she's had chances to share the meanings with them! I praise God for Hitomi-san!



Extended again!

After much prayer and thought, I was led to extend my missionary contract for yet another year! I struggled with discerning because my pastor suggested that I enter a seminary to get Though I have the desire to study at a seminary here in Japan, I didn't feel at peace about doing so at this time especially because it seems like I have only just begun to get to know my students on a deeper level and to have a presence here in my community. Yesterday as I was walking the 8-minute

Warm greetings to you from Tsu, Japan in the name of our beautiful Savior on this chilly, blustery day! Was Christmas really already more than one month ago?? I can't keep up anymore...! Christmas was truly a blessed time as we celebrated the baptisms of Yuichi and Nozomu, two men who were led to Christ through the ministry of Joy Chapel. It's been such a joy to witness God's saving grace at work in their lives. About 80 people attended our annual "Christmas at the Center" program in the evening, and we praise God for the many seeds that were planted in the hearts of our friends and students. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to work miracles in their hearts so that they would discover new life in Christ.

Flowershop
Edmonton Japanese Christian Church
 By Becky Lengefeld



God's will for this next step further training in the Bible. I struggled with discerning because my pastor suggested that I enter a seminary to get Though I have the desire to study at a seminary here in Japan, I didn't feel at peace about doing so at this time especially because it seems like I have only just begun to get to know my students on a deeper level and to have a presence here in my community. Yesterday as I was walking the 8-minute walk from my apartment to the Christian Center, I met about 15 kids from the nearby elementary school where I teach and then one guy that I know from the Mie University Bible study! I praise God for blessing me with so many connections in my community and am daily grateful for the prayers that are being offered up to Him on my behalf. If any of you are interested in supporting me financially, please notify the NAB Worldwide Outreach Office (mkrispense@nabconf.org). To those of you who have been supporting me, the Worldwide Outreach Office would appreciate it if you let them know whether you want to extend your support or not. Thank you so much for sowing your money and prayers into God's work here in Japan. I can't help but praise God for constantly fulfilling my every need these past 3 years and strengthening me through your prayers. May the Name Above All Names continue to be proclaimed throughout this world as we faithfully serve Him with all of our hearts, souls, minds and strength.



Congratulations!
Shuichi & Jennifer
...they're Engaged!
God's rich blessings on you!

Shuichi Ishiguro of Calgary Japanese Gospel Church has been the one and only editor/publisher of the Youth In Action section of the CJM Reporter since its inception in 2001. He believes that God is moving him into other phases of His work and wishes to pass this responsibility to other "more capable and talented young people". This may be a tall order to fill but I am confident there is someone who can take up this challenge. Please email Nori at nbkan@sympatico.ca if you feel God's calling you to this ministry. Thank you so very much, Shuichi, for the great work you have done for us all. God be with you in all your future plans!

Nori - Editor of the CJM



Pray for our CJM Churches and their youths

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto
www.jgct.com

Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

Grace Toronto Japanese Church

Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church
www.geocities.com/joyful_jac

Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church
www.telusplanet.net/public/ejpc/index_j.htm

Calgary Japanese Gospel Church
www.calgarygospel.com

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church
www.japanesegospelchurch.com

New Westminster Evangelical Free Church
www.nwefc.org

Megumi Baptist Church



My name is Goro Hasegawa recently involved in the NOS Shepherd) Jr. High Youth Group others named Robson Shukuda shizaki. Our name is a of what our focus is youth group. We ally look to our Lord guidance as sheep do to

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Psalms 23:1-3

and I am currently (Needing Our along with two and Miho Ho-representation within our hope to continue for wisdom and its shep-

Sheep and Shepherd
Calgary Japanese Gospel Church
 By Goro Hasegawa

kids attending our church, as well as anyone who wants to come. This year has been very exciting in regards to what the Lord has done. Each Wednesday of the month, we our Jr. high youth group to lates to the every day needs dents. The night begins with interact and get to know each then continue with a topical week to week encouraging know who Christ is within lives. Snacks are then pro-to where we all just enjoy pany. We also include each activity outside of the church together either bowling, volleyball and more, spending time in fellowship with each other. In the future, Lord willing, we hope to continue with this program and hope to see more of His fruits to grow in all of us. Continue to pray for this ministry that God will encourage and grow each Jr. high student to where they will be mature men and women pleasing to God.



herd. This year was the first year to start up a youth program for the Jr. High Wednesday, apart from every first invite anyone who wants to come to study the scriptures and how it re-and concerns of Jr. high stu-fun filled games where the kids can other in a comfortable setting. We study that varies the kids to get to their hearts and vided shortly after each others com-month with an where we all get skating, beach

