



CJM REPORTER

Spring 2005

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YOUTH SECTION ATTACHED

Her name is well known amongst Japanese evangelical Christians in Canada, and many of you have known and loved her as friend and co-worker. Margaret's Christian life displayed three important characteristics.

First, she was obedient. From the day when, as a teenager, she quit struggling and opened her heart to Jesus. Her one desire was to obey and serve Him faithfully. She learned under Mr. Harry to teach Sunday School in Japanese fishing villages, and was thrilled to be able to tell the Gospel story to those who had never heard. On Mr. Harry's death, Margaret took leadership and expanded the out reach to East Vancouver. Then, in 1941, war in the Pacific erupted. All Japanese living in coastal B.C. became "enemy aliens" and were uprooted and re-located to the Kootenay area, and the embryo Sunday School work was shattered. But this was God's moment. Margaret heard and obeyed His call to follow her friends into their exile and to show His compassion at this difficult time.

MARGARET RIDGWAY

Founder of the
CANADIAN JAPANESE MISSION

by Mary Holdcroft



1915

2004

Second, she was focused. From 1942 when she first went out to the Kootenays, right up to her retirement in 1980, she was totally focused on evangelism to the Japanese. She would settle in a community, set up children, youth and other groups, then enlist others to take over, and move on to the next challenge. In 1946 the Canadian Japanese Mission was organized and Margaret became its longest-serving worker. She was also a walking dictionary of all things concerning the C.J.M., its work and workers.

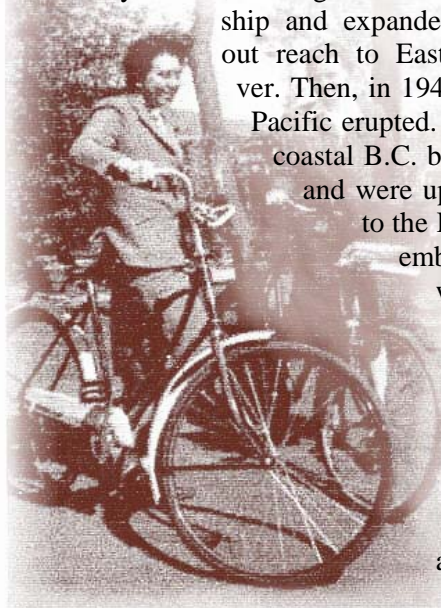
Third, she was adventurous. How Margaret loved a new challenge! Without that spirit of adventure she could never have accomplished all she did. She also loved, at times, to drop everything and set out on a moment's notice for a get-away trip and that is just what she did on November 5, 2004. Margaret never feared death, and when it came it all seemed so natural for her to just drop what she was doing and go off on her next venture. How wonderful to know that her final venture is to her heavenly home prepared in advance for her.

Margaret will be dearly missed by all who knew her. God has been good to bring her into our lives. And so, she is now "with Christ, which is far better." □



Mary Holdcroft

A former Missionary to Japan, was a lifetime friend, co-worker, companion and caregiver until the very end. Thank you, Mary, for your love for your Lord and Margaret.



Sayonara to an Evacuation Missionary

by
Pastor Ed
Yoshida

excerpt from
Nikkei Voice

Margaret was reared in a godly Baptist home. She became interested in the Japanese people even before the war. Befriended by "home missionaries" Mr. & Mrs. Harry of the Japan Evangelistic Band, she would faithfully visit and hold Sunday Schools for Japanese children living in cannery settlements such as the Celtic Cannery on Sea Island (now the Vancouver International Airport). This voluntary spirit became the "springboard" for her "calling" to work among the Japanese of Canada.

When her desire to do overseas missions was abruptly snuffed with the bombing of Pearl Harbour, she saw that the Lord had opened another door. In June of 1942, Miss Ridgway followed the Japanese ... into the ghost town of interior British Columbia.

The rest is well documented history...

Editor's Note: *The Canadian Japanese Mission which was organized in 1946, today, is called the Canadian Japanese Ministries. In 2006, we will celebrate 60 years of evangelical Japanese outreach and ministries in Canada.*

Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

by CJM missionary, Satoshi Akiyama



Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama
Joshua 6 and Amy 4yrs.

Pastor Satoshi commenced full-time ministry in Lethbridge, Alberta under CJM on June 1, 2004. He is a graduate of the Prairie Bible College, Three Hills, Alberta and also from a Masters program, Briercrest Biblical Seminary, Caronport, Sask. in April 2004.

Editor's Note:

CJM is grateful to partner with the Sion No Mure Nakano Church and their association of churches in Tokyo, Japan, to support the ministry in Lethbridge. This is the home church of Pastor Satoshi Akiyama. It is interesting to note that the Senior Pastor of this church is Rev. Manabu Ishikawa who met the Lord through a Canadian missionary of JEM. He was a student of the Kashiwazaki Bible College in Niigata during the time Iwao Ikenouye was a teacher and principal of the school.

Ten years have passed since we first came to Lethbridge when we were students at Prairie Bible College. Since then, studies have occupied our time, but now we are grateful to be in God's ministry in Lethbridge. We want to thank our individual supporters and the churches both in Canada and Japan for your prayers and financial support. We appreciate you from the depth of our hearts.

In February, the annual general meeting of our fellowship was held. We have decided to become a purpose driven church. I believe, every church needs to ask, "Why do we exist?" Until we know what our church exists for, we have no foundation, no motivation, and no direction for ministry. Our first task is to define our purpose and to recapture a clear vision of what God wants to do in and through our church family.

The Bible says, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself*". (Matthew 22:37-40) The Bible further says, "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" (Matthew 28:19-20) I clarified the five purposes of the church with the two passages of Jesus

Christ: ① Worship - to love the Lord with all our heart; ② Ministry/Service to other people - to love our neighbor as ourselves; ③ Evangelism/Outreach - to go and make disciples; ④ Fellowship in God's Family - to baptize; ⑤ Discipleship to be Christ-like - to teach. All the members at the AGM agreed to build our church with the five purposes and to apply them to everything we do.

We prepared our budget prayerfully with the five purposes in mind. Although our church is mainly made up of students, God has blessed with an increase of offerings to his work. God has been good!

There are four Japanese pastors in Lethbridge. Pastor Takashima is the pastor in the Japanese United Church. He has invited us to do music, give testimonies, and to join their activities. Pastor Shimoda and Pastor Sato work in Canadian churches. We started our prayer meeting in February, aiming to pray for the Japanese people in Lethbridge.

Pastor Takashima has also invited me to minister in Japanese to a small group of Japanese in Taber, Alberta, 60 km. east of Lethbridge. The members there have been thirsty for the Word of God in Japanese since their church closed some years ago.

Once every three weeks we have an English prayer meeting with the Nisei people. We begin with supper followed by Bible study and prayer. In February, we were grateful that missionary Takashi Ota of Wycliffe Bible Translators came to preach to our Nisei people. Please pray for our Niseis' spiritual growth.

Please continue to pray for our overall ministry in Lethbridge. □



Fellowship time following worship service- March 6, 2005

DONATIONS

For the support of the Akiyama's or the CJM General Fund, please send donations to the CJM Treasurer:

Brenda Ohara-Peters
669 Hillman Cres.,
Mississauga, ON L4Y 2Y1

In Remembrance of Margaret



Tom & Mary Tazumi
Former missionaries to Japan with
SEND International

.... A spiritual mother to many Japanese in Canada

by Thomas Tazumi

After attending the memorial service of Margaret Ridgway on November 12th, I was reminded of the wise woman in 2 Samuel 20: 15-22. This unnamed woman was peaceable, faithful and had the courage to plead on behalf of her city when it was under siege. As a result of her intercession, the city was spared and the woman was regarded as a mother of Israel. (vs. 19-NKJ)

Mary and I are grateful to the Lord for bringing Margaret into our lives. Before Mary became a Christian, the Lord laid upon Margaret's heart to share Christ with her back in the early fifties. One night while Mary was away at a dance, Margaret sat and waited on the porch until 2 am. and pleaded with her to accept Christ. Though Mary refused at that time, later she surrendered to the Lord as a result of God's conviction through Margaret's witness.

My first acquaintance with Margaret was back in the summer of 1953. In 1955 when I became a worker with CJM and the pastor of the Nisei Gospel Church in Lethbridge, Margaret was a source of encouragement to this young and inexperienced Bible School graduate, through her godly example and counsel. Her love for the Lord and the Japanese, together with her spirit of evangelism, were a real challenge to me then and throughout my ministry.

Margaret will be remembered as "a mother in Israel" by her many spiritual children. She has passed the torch of the Gospel to us, and now we who have received her nurturing, must take the responsibility of this light to the fellow Nikkeis, our kinsmen in the flesh. □



Rev. Iwao Ikenouye
Retired missionary from TEAM
International in Japan. Was the
first CJM missionary sent to
Japan in 1951.

In my reading in Leviticus I was impressed again with the holiness of God. The theme in Leviticus is, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." My acceptable service and my unbroken fellowship with Him depends on how well I practice this exhortation.

The Israelites were reminded that they were brought out of idolatrous Egypt to be a holy people to the Lord who is holy (11:45). They were to be a living testimony to the ungodly nations. So the Lord gave them practical instructions on how to live holy lives and how to worship the Lord to impact the nations (Chapters 19,20). Their holy lives would bring immense blessings to them both spiritually and materially. Biblical history shows that when Israel honored God, they impacted the surrounding nations to the glory of a Holy God.

We, too, are challenged to live holy lives in a world that does not know God. Godless lives are sending our nation towards moral destruction. We need to be examples of godly living. I Peter 2:9 says, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may PROCLAIM the excellence of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." What a privilege and what a responsibility we have to live a holy life. □

40 DAYS OF PURPOSE

A PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE CAMPAIGN

The Edmonton Japanese Christian Church started the 2005 year with PURPOSE....that is, the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign. It was a wonderful 40 days where, we as a whole church (children to seniors, Japanese and English speaking), focused on the 5 purposes of life (Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Mission) that God created us for. Since we found out that the book was also translated into Japanese, we thought this would be excellent material for our church. It definitely was what our church needed.

There were many positive things that came from this Campaign. First, it brought unity in the church, as we never before had curriculum where the whole church could study material together at the same time. All the Sunday school classes, small groups and sermons each week were coordinated together to bring God's teachings of the fundamentals

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

By Pastor Yuri Nakano

of scripture and faith. Each person also read a chapter a day from the Purpose Driven Life book and encouraged to memorize Scripture. Attendance in both the small group Bible studies and Sunday school classes grew because of this Campaign! The College and Career group doubled in numbers during the 40 Days Campaign and continues to be well attended even after the campaign.

During the week of ministry focus, many people in the church signed up to take part in ministries that they weren't doing before the campaign started. It was very encouraging to see many people motivated to be used of God to build up His Body, the Church.

Overall, the campaign was very positive for us and we just pray that God would continue to help us grow as a church in worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission.

Please pray with us for further evidence of fruit and for future vision and direction from God as we seek His Will in these coming days after this Campaign. □

Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

Changes...

by Iwao "Ike" Ikenouye
Pastor-at-large

... at the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church.

Last July we welcomed Mr. Yoichi Taniguchi and family who are from Aichi-Ken, Japan. He served as assistant Pastor after which he was unanimously accepted as the Pastor of the Ni-chigo branch of the Calgary church in January. He is appreciated for his detailed knowledge of the Bible and his teaching ministry.



Miyuki his wife assists him in three different home meetings using "The Purpose Driven Life", a first for our church. They have two daughters, Agasa, 16 and Mana, 9. See Pastor Taniguchi's testimony below.

Some of the younger ladies of the English church have joined with the Issei ladies and has created a closer bond, joining hands together in their monthly fellowship. They work and plan church activities, pooling their ideas, strengthening fellowship and outreach. Though we have separate Japanese and English services we are united in our calling to be a witness for the Lord.

There will be changes in our English congregation as Pastor Ron Dirks had announced his resignation in December, which becomes effective March 31st, 2005. Pastor Ron and Linda have faithfully served the church for almost 17 years. Our leaders today were in Junior High and High School when they arrived in 1988 as the youth pastor. They are now active members and leaders in all areas of the church. A celebration was held for the Dirks on April 2nd at the church. We wish them the Lord's best as they make the changes to serve the Lord in whatever capacity He leads in the days ahead.

A committee has been formed and applications for an English Pastor are being accepted. Pray for the Search Committee as they process the applicants. □

God Has Been Faithful !

My Personal Testimony

by Yoichi Taniguchi
Nichigo Pastor, Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

On December 24, in 1968, one event occupied the attention of the whole world. American spaceship, Apollo was about to step onto the moon. The astronauts were sending the Christmas message from the moon. Genesis Chapter one was read. I was listening to the message with a special excitement, because I just became a Christian ten days before this historical event occurred.

At that time, I was accepted to be a policeman. To me, a policeman reflected an image of a father, because I was raised without one. Soon after I became a policeman, I felt something inside me was missing.

I felt insecure because I did not have a map for my life. I was suffering the gap between an ideal image of myself and reality of myself. During that time, two words stayed in my heart. One was the confession of St. Augustine; since we were made toward God, we cannot get the peace until we are in Him. The other was the confession of Paul; "I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it: the sin within one is doing it." (Roman 7:18-20) I also realized the sinful nature of human being by reading 'Kokoro' written by Soseki Natsume, 'Sin and

Punishment' and 'Brothers of Karamazov' written by Dostoevsky. And through those books, I came to know that I am sinful before God and people. At that time I listened to a radio program by Mr. & Mrs. Frens, who were missionaries with TEAM. I became a Christian through their radio program. I

was the first fruit for their work through the radio when I decided to trust Jesus and gave my life to Him.

God has been faithful to me ever since I accepted Him. "I will not forsake the people who come to me". His word was true and is always true. After I decided not to become a policeman, I worked for a Christian publisher, Word of Life for four years. As my desire of studying the Bible became stronger, I decided to go to the Kansai Bible Institute. Following graduation, I worked with a missionary and with several churches. Later I came back to Nagoya to help the work of TEAM missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Frens, who were my spiritual parents. They started the meet-

ings from one small office room in Nagoya, called 'Life Center.' A couple of years later, we built other churches in various places. During that time, Mr. & Mrs. Frens retired and went back to America. I remained there for 10 years as their pastor while supporting myself. In January of 2001, I went to Seto Salem Church until the fall of 2003. After that, with the prayer of Jabez 'Enlarge our spiritual territory.' we went to America seeking an opportunity of church planting amongst the Japanese people there. In spite of our intension, God gave us His Word 'Go in the strength you have...Am I not sending you?' (Judge 6:14). In His perfect timing, He directed us to Calgary after ten months in American. □



Pastor Yoichi & Miyuki Taniguchi
Mana 9, Agasa 16 years

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto

by Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki

WHAT A RIDE WE HAD!

At JGCT, we have just completed an extra-ordinary spiritual growth campaign! It took just 40 days! God has saved some, in others, He is still quietly working and challenging them. I believe, it is safe to say that as a church, both English and Japanese congregations, we are more unified with a greater sense of moving forward with purpose. The 40 Days of Purpose campaign gave a strong, clear and focused message on the purpose and meaning of life: the main question was: "What on Earth am I Here For?"

Our Sunday English service attendance went up around 40% during the campaign and our small group participation went up around 600%. We are planning a baptismal service soon with at least 6 candidates, which includes the Nichigo congregation. Other good things happening too. The Purpose Driven Life emphasizes a balanced Christian life. So a lot of things happened in different areas of the Christian life: e.g., volunteering to serve in the church; missions; deeper fellowship with each other; personal devotions, intercession, worship, etc.

Personally, I was very impressed with how extensive and organized the plans were for the campaign. I am also quite pleased by the amount and quality of support that is given to churches who are in the campaign. Support is quite accessible by telephone and

they also send lots of advice and information by means of the internet. I highly recommend registering and working together with Purpose Driven Ministries.

To sum up, in my leadership experience, I've never seen anything like it. God's grace has been amazing. Now that this spiritual campaign is over, the next challenge is about to begin. Plans are now formulated for DAY 41. Our special Kickoff for Day 41 will be Sunday, April 24.



Launching our Campaign at the "Kick Off" Momiji Centre—January 23, 2005

Pastor Haruo Sato of the Nichigo department adds the following report from their Japanese 40 Day of Purpose experiences. All members and regular attendees of our Japanese congregation joined one of the six small groups. In addition, several Christian friends from other churches and non-Christians joined our groups making a total of 32 in all. One person committed her life to Jesus. Our Japanese ministry in this campaign was a total miracle. God was the provider, the Japanese version of the small group teaching on DVD were not available during our preparation period.

I was in touch with Purpose Driven Japan. They agreed to do their best to get it done in time for us. As it turned out, each DVD was completed and sent to us arriving only a day or two before I needed it. GOD IS SO GOOD! With such clear evidence of His love and care for us, we confidently leave all the results in His hands. He has shown again that He is in control! PRAISE HIS WONDERFUL NAME! ☐

CJM Annual General Meeting

in Winnipeg, Man.
May 20 - 22, 2005

Meeting Location:
St. Benedict Retreat Centre
225 Masters Ave., Winnipeg

Beginning on Friday with dinner and fellowship followed by a discussion on a relevant subject to our Japanese churches. Saturday, AGM and Board meeting, ending the day with an inspiring service. Sunday, worship and more time for fellowship

NORTHEAST NIKKEI CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

July 30-Aug. 1

Held at
Crieff Hills Community
Retreat & Conference Centre
RR#2, Puslinch, ON
(just east of Cambridge)

Theme of Conference:
"What Is True Marriage?"

Speaker:
Rev. Samuel Saeki
Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Ch.

For further info:
Mariko Ogasawara
519-634-8935
mariko_ogasawara@hotmail.com

Sponsored by CJM



July 31-Aug. 6, '05

Location:
Sylvan Lake, AB
(10 miles west of Red Deer)

Theme:
"Back to the Basics"

Speakers:
Brian Siewart - English
Rev. Y. Nakano -Japanese

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

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CO-EDITORS:
Nori Kanashiro
56 Wakefield Cres.,
Toronto, ON M1W 2C2
Tel: 416-321-5831
Email: nbkan@sympatico.ca

Rev. Edward Yoshida
700 Sammon Ave.,
Toronto, ON M4C 2C4
Tel: 416-425-6760
Email: esyoshida@sympatico.ca

JAPANESE TRANSLATION:
Mrs. Chieko Kondo,
Mrs. Miki Nakano
Pastor Haruo Sato,