



CJM REPORTER

Spring 2008

Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES



Pastor Yuri Nakano

The following was the military memorial service message delivered by Pastor Yuri Nakano in Edmonton, AB on Saturday, March 15, 2008. Michael, 25 years of age, was a member of the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church.



Trooper Michael Yuki Hayakaze

Michael, as I like to call him, was always the fun-loving kid at the church. My best memory of him is when we went tobogganing down Connors Hill with the church youth group. I was terrified of going down and refused to go but he gently encouraged me and convinced me it would be safe because he'd go with me. Of course I screamed all the way down as I hung on to him for dear life while he laughed and enjoyed the ride. What really impressed me about him at that time was how good he was at explaining things and his ability to put me at ease.

His mother was telling me the other day the meaning of his Japanese name, Yuki. The Chinese characters which make up his name have the meaning of good teacher or messenger, and one who shines bright. I thought that this described him very well.

What message would Michael be giving us now? I would like to share with you in his own words what he shared at his baptism on June 23, 1996 when he was 13 years old. He said, "I received Jesus Christ when I went to Sunnyside Camp two years ago because I heard a verse. The verse was John 3: 16 "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." When I heard this verse I was surprised for I never knew that I could have eternal life. I wanted eternal life because I wanted to live with Jesus for the rest of my life praising and worshipping God."

The apostle Paul said it well in his letter to Timothy chapter 6:12 which says, "Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." Michael made his confession and he has taken hold of the eternal life and we all can be comforted by that fact.

Michael always shone bright with his friendly personality and even more so because he enjoyed being a soldier and took pride in his responsibilities as one.

What does a soldier look forward to? A soldier loves to come home. Though we are all saddened that he could not come back to his earthly home, Michael is in his heavenly home. He is at home with God who loves him and knows what is best for him. Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms." It is a place promised where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and a place where everything is made new. A soldier also looks forward to victory. I believe God wants to encourage each one of us today that Michael has won the victory! It is because Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, won the victory first. It was Jesus who fought the battle against death and sin as Jesus hung on the Cross. Jesus carried our sins and paid the price with his life. Jesus

sacrificed his life for us on the Cross. He was buried and in three days Jesus rose again and Jesus won the victory. Jesus' resurrection paved the way for Michael and for us to be cleansed and forgiven of our sins and to spend eternity in heaven with Him. Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

"Death has been swallowed up in victory. "Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15: 54-57)

True to Michael's personality and character, I believe he would want us to live our days in victory. He wouldn't have wanted us to feel defeated and hopeless about his death. Just as Michael encouraged me not to be scared to go down the snowy hill, I can imagine him saying to me and all of us here, "it's all good" and "what a party we will have when we all get to heaven!" □



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 9 and Amy 7 years

by Pastor S. Akiyama

When the Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship (LJCF) had its **Christmas Party** on December 22, those who regularly attended the church invited many of their family and friends. The theme was "Let's Celebrate Jesus' Birthday Together" On this theme, I preached in Japanese and Pastor Ron Dirks in English. We had an enjoyable programs which included a Christmas quiz and Christmas bingo. A children's program was also provided. The celebration and the fellowship was warm and joyful, There were numbers of non-Christians and some for the very first time. December was an extremely busy month.

LJCF had its **Ramen Party** in January and the **Ice-fishing & Tempura Party** in February. These are outreach events, planned as follow up of new people who came to the Christmas program. Several local Japanese resident families joined the events. These are wonderful opportunities to build and deepen relationships with them.

Our **theme** this year is "Church that Loves to Do What Christ Wants Us to Do" Our prayer is that we will fulfill this by being at rest in His love and grace, and having joy and gratitude to Him. We wish to focus on three points: (1) to be a model of Christ's character, (2) to be a minister of His grace, and (3) to be a messenger of His love.

At the end of May 2008, we will complete five years of

ministry in Lethbridge. Our family will be returning to Japan for our first **home assignment** trip leaving on June 26, 2008. I will be staying in Japan until July 23, however, Mari and our children will remain until August 28. My Sunday ministries in churches while in Japan have been confirmed. Pray for opportunities to minister and to share the work of Lethbridge and Canada to other churches in order to broaden our prayer and financial support groups. We are praying for a deep work of God and His blessings while in Japan. Our schedule includes visiting supporting churches who have stood behind us over the past five years and to encourage young people who had relationship with us and were saved in Lethbridge. After my return back to Canada, Mari and our children will visit the churches which Mari was serving at when she was in Tokyo Biblical Seminary and will also attend some Bible camps.

Our hearts are encouraged as we have heard that many of our CJM supporters have contributed to sending us on our first home assignment to Japan. We deeply appreciate your love in this way. Please pray that our short assignment back home will be blessed of God and fruitful. □



Easter service 2008



Ramen Party in Jan. '08



Pastor Ron speaking to children—Easter 2008

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

GRACEPOINT FELLOWSHIP

English department of the
Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

Church location: 2203 - 15A St. S.E., Calgary, AB

English department: Pastor Brian Lavender

Japanese Department: Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi

Website: www.calgarygospel.com



Pastor Brian & Cindy
Noah 7 and Ethan 5 years

by Pastor Brian Lavender

Greetings from “Gracepoint Fellowship” in Calgary! If you are thinking that you have never heard of Gracepoint Fellowship, that is because it has not existed for very long. **Gracepoint Fellowship** is the new name that has been adopted by the English congregation at **Calgary Japanese Gospel Church**. The leadership felt a new name was needed to identify our ethnically diverse congregation, especially to those we are trying to serve and attract to our church. We want to be like the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 9:22, who said, “I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some”. We still remain part of Calgary Japanese Gospel Church, but are adding the new name only as a means of identification for our English congregation.

In other news – we may have set a record for the most births in a year (for such a small church). We are so happy that children are a big part of our church. Because of this our children’s ministry and youth ministry (NOS - Needing Our Shepherd) is becoming a greater focus at our church. I am reminded of God’s word to us regarding children from Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up”. If we can just live up to this one command, I can’t help but think that the future will take care of itself. We are so thankful for how God has provided, and blessed our church with these children, and for how He continues to grow our church family from without, and within. □

Sunnyside Family Camp

Sylvan Lake, AB (16 Km West of Red Deer)

July 27 - August 2, 2008

Speaker: Rev. Jason Matta (English)

**Canadian Director: Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel (AMG)
with Special Guest: Aileen (Lombardo) Matta (Gospel Singer)**

Speaker: Rev. Sunao Shimada (Japanese)

San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church, San Lorenzo, California

For further information contact:

Sue King (780) 464-4152

Email: dsking@shaw.ca

CJM AGM at Sunnyside Camp - Mon. July 28, 2:00 pm.

The Reason why

(Continued from the last issue—Fall 2007)

“Can it be that simple?” my friend asked. “I know Jesus was put to death on the cross but how does that relate to me?” Good question! I asked that same question years ago too and was directed to a verse in I Peter chapter 2, verse 24: which says, “*He (Jesus) personally carried the load of my sins in his own body when he died on the cross, so that we can be finished with sin ...*” [Living Bible translation].

There was an eternal purpose in God’s mind when Jesus was put to death on the Cross. This did not just happen because the Roman soldiers could overpower Jesus. God had our salvation in mind, to bring a “lost” sinner back into fellowship with Himself. It cost the life of His only Son to do that. This is why it’s good news for us. In the Gospel of John chapter 3, verse 16, the Bible says, “*For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*”. [Living Bible] God did not plan that our way back to Himself would depend on our maturity of understanding, how good, “religious” or outstanding we are, it all depends on trust and faith on the finished work of Jesus on our behalf on the Cross.

My friend listened carefully and thoughtfully. He said “It sounds all too easy”. As we parted he said “I’ll give some thought to this”. I have not seen my friend since.

The Bible says, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death*” - separation from God forever. (Prov. 14:12) Let’s accept God’s pre-scribed ways for our lives. □



Nori Kanashiro
CJM General Director

Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church

Sunday Worship service, 2:00 pm. at Trinity Baptist Church,
549 Gertrude Ave. W., Winnipeg, MB
Web: www.winnipegjapanesechurch.com

The following is a report written by Pastor Ed Yoshida of Wesley Chapel in Toronto who was the guest speaker at this Retreat.



WHEN GOD CAME DOWN TO WINNIPEG

Retreat weekend, November 16 - 18, 2007

When the two young mothers, Masako (Adachi) and Masami (Giesbrecht) discussed the possibility of holding their first Retreat in Winnipeg, they didn't realize the enormity of their task; the faith needed, the sacrifices necessary, the selection of a guest speaker and the results to be expected. With no resident pastor and Matsubara Sensei receiving nursing care at home, they were on their own. But they prayed earnestly, and carefully organized each detail. Who will arrange the transportation, the potluck and the meals? Who will be involved in the meetings? Who will take charge of the children?

If the young mothers had any doubts about the outcome of the Retreat, that wasn't necessary. Masami was there at the airport with Joshua and Noah (only 7 mos.) in the double stroller. Reimer and Nobuko (Clausen) drove the speaker to the Trinity Baptist (their venue), Rob (Duncan) also helped with the rides. Cory (Giesbrecht) minded the children and led in worship on Sunday. Matsubara sensei and Yoneko pushed themselves to attend the Sunday Service, with a tube attached to his weakened body. Hallelujah! God honoured their prayers and efforts. When the group photo was taken after the Service, there were no less than 28 present. It was an exceptional weekend.

And the afterglow keeps glowing. Calls made to their friends outside Winnipeg shared their revival-like weekend. Relationships were strengthened with those who periodically attend. The speaker returned to Toronto rejoicing, and with a greater burden for this precious Winnipeg flock. TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY! □



Winnipeg Retreat attendees.
Guest speaker, Rev. Edward Yoshida, (middle row, left)

New Westminster Evangelical Free Church



Located at 7895 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC. Sunday Worship services:
(Japanese) 9:30 am & 1:30 pm (English) 11:00 am.
Pastor Ken Strom (English), Pastor Akemi Nakahara (Japanese)
Website: www.nwefc.org/index/php

by Pastor Akemi Nakahara

Praise the precious name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. By your prayers we are sustained and are receiving abundant blessings from God. Although we have not had any dramatic changes in our church nor increase in attendance at the services, we are conscious of the definite workings of the Lord in our usual assemblies and fellowships thus far.

I wish to report on the wonderful happenings in our fellowship since autumn of last year. A brother and a sister were added to our assembly by being received into membership. Each Lord's day the members are actively serving and participating. After service Bible studies are being conducted by dividing into two groups; one for sharing the sermon message, and the other to read through the Bible together. Both groups use their time well encouraging active participation by seekers who ask relevant questions. It is also an encouraging time for believers who intercede in prayer for salvation of souls.



Bible Study at the church

The Japanese language Bible study takes place on Tuesday every two weeks. Participants are deepening in their faith evidenced by their exchange of views and testimonies of their understanding of the Word. In addition, two more meetings have started. One, is a small worship service on Sunday afternoons. This is geared to those who are unable to attend the morning service and targeted as outreach to the younger generation. The other is, the Wednesday afternoon's study group which discipled the faithful to a deeper and a closer walk with God.

The ESL classes are continuing while adding new members. Christmas and Easter programs are wonderful opportunities to introduce our faith. Our hope and prayer is that the Lord will continue to use the ESL program not only to teach the English language but outreach to our community.

(Continued from page 5)

Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

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

Itsuki – Wesley Chapel’s “Young Fruit” by Pastor Ed Yoshida

Itsuki was born as the first son of Kozuke and Chieri Harada in Tokyo on December 28, 1990. Like most Japanese homes the family could be introduced as traditional and nominal Buddhist. When Itsuki visited Japan last December, he was asked to visit the ancestral gravesite. When he spent a few days with his grandparents in Osaka, he was expected to pay attention to the family Buddhist altar.

However, providence would have it that both his aunts on the mother’s side married foreigners and lived abroad—the younger in the U.K. and the second sister in Toronto. Upon completion of his junior high school he was encouraged to take his high school education initially in England, but later ended up in Toronto at his Christian aunt Emiko’s place. Emiko’s son was attending the Scarborough Christian School where he also enrolled to continue his education. This little Christian school had a small student population and a very supportive and helpful staff. He enjoyed and benefited from the personal attention he received, not to mention their Christian influence. Within 14 months, under their training and the role models demonstrated by his best friend, Mabuta, and Mr. Ohi, his teacher, Itsuki opened his heart to Jesus and made a decision to be His follower.

Has this decision changed his life in any way? Yes, he feels God’s Presence in his life each moment, and there is a sense of freedom that he never had before. He was especially touched by the words of Apostle John, “if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

He is so thankful now that he feels the responsibility of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18—20): “Go into the whole world and teach all nations...” He now wants to share the joy, which Jesus brings, to others. And especially to his family. And in obedience to the Great Commission he was baptized at the Wesley Chapel Japanese Church on Easter Sunday, 2008. □



Itsuki Harada receiving his certificate of baptism from Pastor E. Yoshida on Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008

Continue on page 5

On Friday, the 21st of March, we again welcomed Madam Hiroko Kato and Madam Yumiko Van Rooi. During this season of Christ’s Sufferings, the Cross, and the Resurrection, we were able to hold a concert of praise with the theme of “From Sorrow and Agony to Hope”. There were approximately 120 people in attendance who were blessed with an enriching time of worship and fellowship surrounding the Easter events.



Local Bible meeting at the Uyeda’s home

Concerning the spiritual growth of our church, for which I requested prayer in my last writing, I believe God is answering as church members have begun to take definite steps in practical ways resulting from their prayers. For this, I am deeply thankful. I believe the Lord is preparing us for a fruitful harvest of souls as we look to Him and be ready as His servants. □

Northeast Nikkei Christian Conference 2008

August 2—4, 2008

Location:

Crieff Hills Conference Centre
 (RR#2, Puslinch, ON (just east of Cambridge))

Theme: “The House of Faith”

Speaker: Rev. Tetsuo Kagiwada
 San Fernando Valley Holiness Church

For information and to register:
 Mariko Ogasawara (519) 634-8935
 Email: mariko_ogasawara@hotmail.com

Please register as soon as possible

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Church location: 425 - 11th St., New Westminister, BC V3M 4G1
 Sunday Worship services (Japanese & English) at 11:00 am.
 Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku (Japanese), Pastor Robert Brown (English)
 Website: www.japanesegospelchurch.com



“Divine Appointments”

by Pastor Robert Brown

At a recent meeting of our senior's group, a church member spoke of how the Lord had been revealing Himself to her by means of “chance” encounters. I have recently noticed an increase in the number of “chance” encounters being experienced in my own life. But rather than call them “chance” encounters, I prefer to call them “divine appointments.”



In February, about a dozen of us attended the annual & national “Reaching Japanese for Christ” conference in Seattle, WA. The inspiration, encouragement and knowledge gleaned was greatly beneficial. Each of us came away with something to assist us in doing our part to serve Christ in the fields that are white unto harvest.

Many of our seniors are struggling with the advance of age-related illnesses, nevertheless, they remain an active group and have planned a bus excursion to Whistler in May.

Once again, we will host Camp Shalom (our annual Family Camp) and expect more than 120 people in attendance. If you're interested in attending, please contact us. We'd love to have you join us.

Christ is building His church. Our theme this year is “Loving God and Your Neighbour.” May the Lord bless our efforts to do so, and may He bless your efforts as well. □

Unity & Cooperation in the Lord

by Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku

Our church has been cooperating with a group of Korean churches for the past three years to reach Japanese for Christ.

We had heard that a nearby Korean church was praying for the salvation of Japanese people. As a result, contact was made with the Juhoon Church (Korean Methodist). Their vision was/is reaching Japanese for Christ and connecting them with a local evangelical Japanese church, such as ours. So far, we have had a number of combined evangelistic events. Last October, we had a “gospel concert” at a nearby community college. About 300 attended and many of them were Japanese international students. As a result, many now come to our church and renewed sense of purpose has grown in the youth of our church.

On May 13th, we will participate together again and host a Mother's Day ladies luncheon. This will feature traditional Korean cuisine prepared by their ladies at the National Nikkei Heritage Centre.

Another similar area of cooperation has been initiated with a Korean Southern Baptist missionary, who has established an outreach centre in downtown Vancouver. They want us to use their facility as part of our outreach to Japanese international students in that area.

The relationship between Korea and Japan has improved in recent years. By the love of the Lord and much sacrifice, the Korean Christians are seeking to reach the Japanese. We now experience the joy of serving God's kingdom together. □



CAMP SHALOM

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church—Family Camp

Sept. 5 - 7, 2008

Lutheran Retreat & Conference Centre, Mission, BC

SPEAKERS

- * Rev. Yuichiro Nakano (Japanese) Mount Olive Ministries—Hawaii
- * Rev. Walter Patterson (English) Wellington Church, Burnaby, BC

For further information:

Rev. Robert Brown (English) Email: reverend2u@shaw.ca
 Mari Fukusaku (Japanese) Email: marifuku@telus.net

PEARCE WILLIAMS CHRISTIAN CENTRE

(Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto - new Bible camp location)

8009 Iona Road, RR#1, Fingal ON

(near London, ON)

August 9 - 15, 2008

Speaker:

Jason Matta - Canadian Director: Advancing the Ministry of the Gospel
 - with special guest: Aileen (Lombardo) Matta - Gospel singer

For further information contact,

- * Scott Ohashi: Email: faboo95@hotmail.com or
- * Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki 905-597-5428 Email: pastorray@jgct.com
 Please register on line—www.jgct.com

JAPANESE GOSPEL Church of Toronto

Sunday Worship service - 2:00 pm. at the Chinese Pentecostal Church, 220 Duncan Mills Road, North York, ON
 Pastor Haruo Sato (Japanese congregation) 416-495-1534; Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki (English congregation) 905-597-5428
 Website: www.jgct.com



Pastor Haruo & Yoko Sato

by Pastor Haruo Sato

Despite the very long and severe winter in Toronto with close to record snowfall, we continued building our church while carrying on our regular ministries.

This church building was a long time dream of church members.

One of our founding members, Mr. Paul Tanaka who had been involved in the church building project from the beginning passed away last fall. This project is very unique to have volunteer workers as the main work force. Because of that, anyone over the age of 16 years can participate. Some volunteer workers helped the tradesmen, some helped in food services providing meals each day. Others billet, provide transportation, financial contributions and everyone by prayer and encouragement. We are not able to do this project without the prayer support of Christians all over the world. We are able to have wonderful fellowship with members of other churches who are participating as volunteers. Our Lord Jesus died on the cross for our sin, and rose from the dead after three days. He is alive, and living in us through His Holy Spirit. We can see the living Lord Jesus in every volunteer worker. God is planning to finish this building project in His time. He is giving us the privilege to use this building for His purpose and glory. Please join us in His project by prayer support, so that we are able to see His glory together. □



Spring has finally arrived in Ontario! Exterior work can begin soon.



English speaking congregation worshipping at the rented facility of the Chinese Pentecostal Church



Pastor Ray & Minako
 Sean 6 and Christy 3 years

by Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki

It's been a long winter! This winter has been particularly challenging for our **church building project**. Both the construction and the shingling of the roof were done in cold wintry weather. I am deeply grateful and proud (in a good sense) of all volunteers who have endured the hardships

of the past months in order to erect this building for our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ.

As you can imagine, when you are in a church building program, much of your time is taken up in one way or another related to the construction. It is essential that all ministries carry on, so it has been a challenging journey over the past year. Through it all, the Lord continues to provide, and the people are united in ministry and mission to our community here in Toronto.

In the last few months, our **Camp Ministry** has made a decision to leave Fair Havens Camp Grounds (where our Summer Camp has been located for over 50 years) and to move to Pearce Williams Christian Centre this year. Fair Havens had changed their vision and made structural changes to accommodate their vision. Last year we tried to partner our ministries together but it became clearer that it would be hard for both visions to "fit" together. And so we leave Fair Havens on good terms and we leave regretfully. And so today we're on to a new adventure!

Also, we have recently just about completed our **Core Values** for JGCT. The Core Values will become part of the foundation for our church strategic plan.

Finally, our **church logo** in the last few months was completed and approved. □

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, 2008. Published in Toronto, ON

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