



# CJM REPORTER

Spring 2006

Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES



YOUTH SECTION ATTACHED



# 1942

## "I shall never forget

that spring day in 1942 when the words of the ancient prophet leaped at me from the pages: "Go up to the mountains ... build the house, and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified ... I am with you ... Fear ye not."

With the feeling of exultation and yet of solemnity I rose from my knees in the kitchen of our Vancouver home where I had been kneeling before my open Bible. God had spoken. I had no doubt now that He was calling me to leave my "ceiled house" the security of my home, my church and my familiar surroundings - and follow my Japanese friends who were deprived of their homes and their livelihoods and were being sent to makeshift quarters in the narrow valleys of the Kootenay and Slocan rivers."

(introductory words of Margaret's testimony, CJM Historical Sketch 1978)

### HOW DID C.J.M. BEGIN?

In 1942 when the Japanese were evacuated from the Pacific coast at the time of the second world war, Miss Margaret Ridgway, alive to the need and opportunity of bringing the comfort of the gospel to these bewildered people, accompanied them to the interior towns of British Columbia. Under the blessing of God, the work grew and spread, and in 1948 the Canadian Japanese Mission was incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta. Gospel work is now being carried on among Japanese in three provinces: Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. A number of Japanese young people, saved and nurtured in C.J.M., are presently serving at home and on the mission fields as pastors, missionaries and workers. Others are in training.

(excerpt from CJM Courier, circa 1956)



# 60th Anniversary Celebration

June 24, 2006

Has CJM touched you in any way?  
If so, you need to be here!

### The Celebration Banquet

Sat. June 24, 2006 - 5:30 pm.

Floata Seafood Restaurant  
4380 No.3 Road, Richmond, BC

*Please register as soon as possible!*

For information and registration, contact:

**Mrs. Machiko Budai**  
7451 Francis Road,  
Richmond, BC V6Y 1A1  
604-277-3925  
Email: kuroy@shaw.ca

CJM AGM - Fri. June 23, 7:30 pm.  
CJM Board of Dir. - Sat. June 24, 9:00 am.  
Both meetings at the  
New Westminster Evan. Free Church  
7895 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC



# 1946

CANADIAN JAPANESE MISSION

"Before I left for Alberta I told my pastor that I felt the need of a committee of some sort to undergird the work. Accordingly, in September, 1946, the Lord brought together a few people with hearts burdened for the evangelization of Canada's Japanese. The name CANADIAN JAPANESE MISSION was chosen as most truly representing our scope and purpose." (CJM Historical Sketch-pg 11)

# Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

By Pastor Satoshi Akiyama—CJM Worker



Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama  
Joshua 7 and Amy 5 years

In the year 2000, the Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship requested CJM to provide a worker to assist in their outreach and church planting ministry. Pastor Satoshi Akiyama follows Pastor Yoshinosuke Nakao in this ministry.

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#### 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 at the Kashiwazaki Bible College in Niigata during the time Rev. Iwao Ikenouye, CJM's first missionary to Japan, was a teacher and principal of the school.

Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship (LJCF) is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Pastor Tomoko Sakamoto, who was a former CJM missionary, started the LJCF, and it has continued with devoted efforts by many pastors since that time. In the year of the 20th anniversary, God sent Pastor Yoshinosuke Nakao as a full-time pastor. We are planning to have a special service for the 25th anniversary in the fall of this year. LJCF adopted the theme "Understanding Together, the Church, as God's Family" in 2006. We are focusing on loving fellowship, encouragement and prayer as our ministries to build God's family and our church.

Before Christmas, we sent in our application to the Government of Canada for permanent residence status. Many people helped us in this process. Now, we are waiting and praying for a positive result. Nearly two years have passed since we became CJM missionaries. We have been able to devote ourselves to the ministry in peace, having been supported by lots of prayer and financial support through CJM and my home church and their associates in Japan. We appreciate all of your love and kindness. Please continue to pray for our ministry through the Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship.

On October 16, 2005, LJCF had a baptismal



service for those who accepted Jesus as their personal Savior at Sunnyside Camp during the summer. Five high school students including Yusuke Kodama, who came to Lethbridge as a one year student in Canada, were baptized. More than 100 people including their host families, friends, and even their teachers came to our church and had a joyous time together. All have now returned to Japan, so we are praying that they will find a good church in order to grow in their faith. □

## DONATIONS:

For the support of the  
AKIYAMA'S or the CJM GENERAL FUND  
may be sent to the CJM treasurer

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



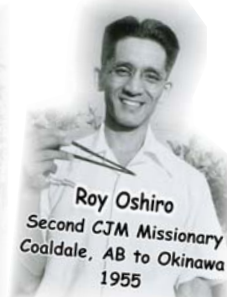
B. Kanashiro family - sugar beet field  
Iron Springs, AB - 1954



Kootenay Camp 1953 - 1961



1954-1968



Roy Oshiro  
Second CJM Missionary  
Coaldale, AB to Okinawa  
1955



Taber, Alberta - 1946



Iwao Ikenouye  
First CJM missionary  
Kelowna to Japan - 1951



Pastor Bill & Harriet Tamagi  
First Kootenay Camp Director 1953  
- from Coaldale, AB



Ethel & Hiko Kinoshita  
& Faith  
Kelowna to Toronto - 1955



# WESLEY CHAPEL JAPANESE CHURCH

BY Pastor Edward Yoshida

Excerpts from an interview with ART SAKAMOTO, Nisei Veteran

## What led you to join the Canadian Armed Forces?

Our family owned a farm in Ruskin, B.C. before the war (W.W. II). Evacuation shipped me to a road camp near Revelstoke, B.C. From there I went to Toronto. Jobs for the Japanese boys were difficult to find. I worked for a demolition company and then in a brick factory. All of this was extremely strenuous. In 1942, when the army recruiters came, I volunteered.



## How old were you and where was your Basic Training taken?

I was 26 at the time, and our basic training was taken on the grounds of the C.N.E. in Toronto. After 3 months we were shipped to Vancouver. The former Vancouver Japanese Language School was used for a refresher course in Japanese. Then came V.J. Day (Victory in Japan). We, Niseis, were assigned to the special S-20 Unit. I was promoted to the rank of sergeant. There were 95 Niseis in this unit. Following training in the UK, we were then flown to Madras, India.

## Where was your field of assignment and what was your role?

From India we joined the Australian armed forces to travel to Japan. We arrived in Kure (S. Japan) with the Aussies and spent the next several months restoring its harbour. Fellow Niseis, Art Hasegawa and Shigeru Oye, then picked me to work with them in Okayama with the British-India Division. I stayed there for the remainder of my term (June, 1946).

## How about your life after discharge?

I arrived in Toronto after discharge, found work but I got hooked on gambling. Had I not met my future wife, Ms. Alia Gracias (Macao-born Chinese, R.N.), my life would have ended tragically. Our friendship developed into marriage in 1959. She saved me from a life of addiction. She is a devoted Roman Catholic believer.

## Can you share a bit about your family background?

I remember very little about my parents. They both passed away while I was very young. I was born in Vancouver, grew up on a farm in Wonnock and went to high school in Haney which is now Maple Ridge. I went to UBC and graduated in agriculture in 1941 just a few months before Pearl Harbour.

*Continued on page 4*

## Reflections

by Nori Kanashiro  
General Director



Nori & Blanche Kanashiro

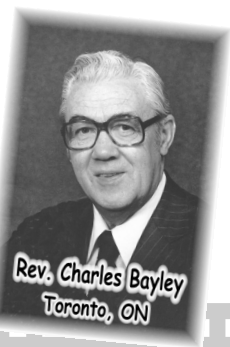
My first contact with CJM was in the sun-scorched sugar beet field in Iron Springs, Alberta. Tom Tazumi, trudged 1/2 mile along the dusty field to invite us to the Nisei youth meetings. That was around 1954.

The history of CJM is filled with exceptional and unusual steps of faith and bold evangelistic efforts to reach the Japanese with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the initial years of CJM, there were no established evangelical churches amongst the Japanese in Canada. The Gospel message touched and changed the lives of hundreds of children, youth and adult in a relatively short period of time. Many young people heard the call of God to attend Bible schools in preparation for full-time service on foreign fields, at home, or in lay leadership. Those were exceptional days of the Spirits work in the Japanese community.

A question can be asked, "Why are we not seeing similar working of the Spirit in our community today?" At the risk of stepping on toes (mine included) I offer these observations. First of all, I observe that we have relegated evangelism as an optional church program. Secondly, we emphasize and teach evangelism as a spiritual gift for some - not as a life style for all. Perhaps, most importantly, our focus on keeping our organized "ship afloat" amassing all willing people has virtually snuffed out the energy and sense of Spirit-led evangelism.

Our roots are firmly established in His Word and His ways. CJM's purposes is yet unfulfilled! Let's press on together doing His work in His ways! □



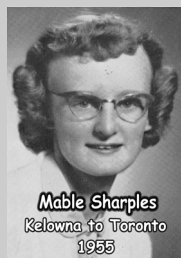
Rev. Charles Bayley  
Toronto, ON



Mary (Uchida) Tazumi  
Blanche (Kawasoye) Kanashiro  
Fair Glen Bible Camp - 1959



Kootenay Kamp Quartet  
1954



Mable Sharples  
Kelowna to Toronto  
1953



Sophie & Bill Iwabuchi  
Edmonton, AB

Fair Glen Bible Camp

Beaverton, ON - 1955 ... continuing in God's blessings today!

# EDMONTON JAPANESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By Pastor Yuri Nakano



Pastor Yuri Nakano

## Refocusing

The Edmonton Japanese Christian Church has been having summit meetings throughout 2005 and into 2006 undergoing a process of review, evaluation, and visioning. This process is loosely based on the Refocusing Package by Church Smart Resources which we are

using as a tool to guide us. The highlight of this process is that we are getting into the discipline of prayer and fasting.

Before each summit meeting, we spend time fasting and praying from 1 pm till the next morning. We then gather at the church and break the fast together. What do we do at these summit meetings? We have a time of prayer together and we also spend time discussing various topics. We started by looking at our past and where we came from. Then we evaluated the present and the values that we hold dear as a church. We came up with a mission statement which we will use to further build on to come up with a concrete vision for the future. We are in the last phases of this process and hopefully will be able to finish this "marathon" with success and much growth. It has been a learning and growing experience through the process itself. This

is teaching us to wait on the Lord and to seek His Will for His church. Prayer and the guidance of Scripture will be the key to our growth.

We celebrated

another baptism in February for a young mother named Mayumi Wong. She first came to our church one year ago and through her we started a new mother's Bible study group which is becoming a wonderful new outlet for growth and fellowship.

Thanks to all who prayed for the Japan Prayer Team. That 3 weeks mission trip, visiting churches in various parts of Japan, was very rewarding as we spent time sharing our testimonies and praying with our sister churches. □

Continued from page 3

**Art, you have been blessed with longevity (87 years). What was your significant event in your "sunset years?"**

After a long life of having no religion I was influenced by my wife and my nephew. I

became a Christian believer and was baptized at the WESLEY CHAPEL JAPANESE CHURCH, Toronto, on Easter, 2005. □



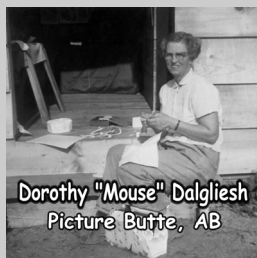
**Interviewer's Note:** Today, Art lives in a senior's apartment in Scarborough. His wife - struggling with dementia, is a resident of the nursing home section of the same building. He is totally devoted to her and visits her daily.



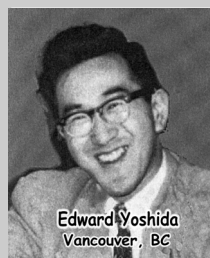
Breakfast Fellowship



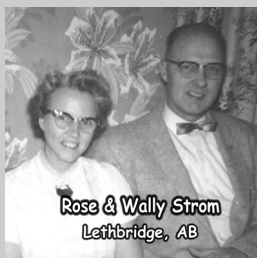
CJM Conference - 1959  
Kelowna, BC



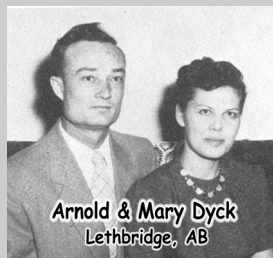
Dorothy "Mouse" Dalglish  
Picture Butte, AB



Edward Yoshida  
Vancouver, BC



Rose & Wally Strom  
Lethbridge, AB



Arnold & Mary Dyck  
Lethbridge, AB



Pastor Stan & Aileen Yokota  
Vancouver, BC



# Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

by Pastor Brian Lavender—English Department  
by Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi—Japanese Department



Pastor Brian & Cindy Lavender  
Noah 4 1/2 and Ethan 3 years

This past year has been a year of transition for the CJGC English congregation, but we are excited about how God has been leading us in the past six months. The English Leadership Team (ELT) has been working hard, or at least thinking hard, about where God is leading us. Our new ministry

night, which focuses on ministry to the whole family, has been very positive – especially our new Awana program for kids, and the Junior youth.

We have also started to pursue a prayer focus in our church, including a weekly e-prayer update for all the prayer needs of our church, and a renewed focus on prayer in our adult Bible Studies and cell groups.

Our services since last summer have had two major themes: for the fall – “The Church You Always Wanted” which focused on what kind of church God wants us to be, and after Christmas – “Why God?” which was used as an outreach series looking at questions people often have about God, such as, “How do you know God exists?”, “Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world?” and “How do you know Christianity is true?”. We pray that God will continue to work in the lives of the non-Christians that came out to these services.

Overall, our church family is happy and excited about how God is leading and working in our congregation. □

Last September our Japanese department enjoyed a Fall Retreat. We welcomed Rev. Masaomi Takeuchi of the Seattle-Tacoma church as our guest speaker. With the title, “The Secret of a Faith Afire”, he touched on the church's spiritual warfare and challenged us with his fervent messages. The retreat opened its doors not just to our church but to many who came from Edmonton and Lethbridge.

Our weekly ministry continues with small group studies in four separate areas of the city. Our groups are known as the Agape Bible Fellowship and use as our textbook, the “Purpose Driven Life”. From Nov. 05 to Jan. 06, four ladies received baptism and of these, three were contacts through ABF. Apart from these four who were received into the church fellowship three others took out membership in our church.



Pastor Yoichi & Miyuki Taniguchi  
Agasa 17 and Mana 10 years

We continue with two prayer meetings each week, and since January, our numbers have grown. This is an added blessing to our church. In our adult Sunday School we are presently viewing videos on “The Prayer of Jabez”. We desire and wait for God to enlarge our ministry during 2006.

In February, it was our joy and honour to celebrate Rev Iwao Ikenouye's 80th birthday. We thank God for his Caleb-like strength in ministry and express our congratulations to him. □

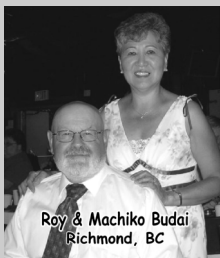


Rev. Iwao Ikenouye with his wife Sachi, enjoying happy moments during his 80th B'day celebration.



Sunnyside Camp  
1975 ... to present

Okanagan Bible Camp, 1961 - '63 - Winfield, BC  
Sandy Beach Camp, 1963 - Little Shuswap Lake, BC  
Pender Island Bible Camp, 1969 - Pender Island, BC  
Columbia Bible Camp, 1971 - '72 - Cultus Lake, BC



Roy & Machiko Budai  
Richmond, BC



Vauxhall Outreach  
1972 - 1976

1979-  
2002  
JCECS



Sue & Jack Iwabuchi  
General Director of JCECS  
Edmonton, AB



Bill Hoshizaki  
Kelowna, BC

## JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH OF TORONTO

by Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki



Pastor Ray & Minako Ebisuzaki  
Sean 4 and Christie 2

### Update ... On God's Blessings

The Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto (JGCT) has been an exciting place over the past year. With the exceptional blessings of the 40 Days of Purpose in Jan. to Mar. of 2005, we are continuing to ride on it's wake. In addition to the numbers who came to Christ during that campaign, and it's subse-

quent baptismal services, we are enjoying the many small groups which were born through this campaign. In all, there are approx. 80 people in our church continuing in small groups. Majority of our groups are studying the foundational material called Day 41, as we work toward the Purpose Driven Church model with it's five underlining principles, which are worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry and mission.

Missions is an area where young adults of our church have been challenged to consider. Michelle, one of our gifted youth leaders, is serving for one year in East Asia with Campus Crusade for Christ. We are looking forward to her return later this summer. Kevin Ueta, also one of our faithful youth leaders, was called to serve with OMF in Aomori, Japan. He left earlier this month to serve for a 6 month period. God has been good, and we are grateful that the hearts of the youth continue to be open to His call and purposes for their lives.

Our church building project is moving forward. This is a continuing miracle. We understand today that vacant property in Scarborough is not available for churches. God miraculously provided a 1.5 acre of land in a prime area for our ministry needs. The management team announced two Sundays ago that the architect will have preliminary drawings for the congregation in the next few weeks. If all goes well, we anticipate a ground breaking to be in October or November of this year. Please remember us in prayer as we face great challenges ahead. We are fully aware that, "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psa 127:1, NIV). □



Roger Chai  
Fair Glen Camp  
Beverton, ON

## Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

by Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku - Japanese Department

Praise the name of our Lord! Pray for His rich blessings over CJM churches and families.

This year, our theme is "Preach the Lord Jesus Christ", 2 Cor. 4:5. We wish to carry on His mission by spreading the gospel, baptizing those who came to know the Lord, and to disciple them as His body in this community.



Pastor Tetsuya & Mari  
Fukusaku  
Shinya 8, Yuya 6 Kazuya 4 &  
Lina 2 years

Our mission continues to focus on: 1. Japanese who reside in the lower mainland, 2. non-Japanese in this community (Canadians, Koreans, and Chinese) and 3. Japanese who reside here temporarily (students and working holiday visa holders).

Our mission has set the following target and goals for this year.

1. Inviting, attracting and keeping newcomers
2. Church members are encouraged to have a positive attitude toward newcomers
3. Small groups need to receive and become more attractive to newcomers
4. Music needs to develop and become more attractive to newcomers
5. We need to make the church a comfortable and inviting place for everyone

Our last year's theme was "To deepening the fellowship of God's family". We praise the Lord for the good atmosphere to nurture both young and old in our church. We are seeking, with God's help, to reach many more who do not know the saving grace of Jesus. There are strong evangelistic efforts by Japanese cultic groups in the lower mainland area. They are gaining in numbers rapidly.

Please continue to pray as we try to spread the true gospel of Jesus Christ which can save their souls for eternity. □



Ski Retreat - 1980  
Sunshine Resort - Banff National Park



Sunil & Ed Arinobu  
Vancouver, BC



Jessica Tsuda David Tsuda Kenji Namiki  
Fair Glen Camp - Baptismal Service - 2003



Gordon & Lil Kogawa  
Calgary, AB

# New Westminster Evangelical Free Church

By Pastor Jacob Friesen



Pastor Jacob & Junko Friesen

Our Japanese language membership at New West is a unique presence in many ways. Several prefer to attend the main English services for varying reasons. The Japanese represent the largest single ethnic group in our integrated fellowship, having their own worship service, as well as a monthly Home Bible Fellowship. A large number of the greater Vancouver Nikkei population are still dependant on the Japanese language, and it is clear

that we must maintain a strong ministry to reach them.

Permanent leadership for the church following my retirement has yet to be secured, but God who is at work building His church, has brought not one, but two interim ministers to us!

Miss Akemi Nakahara, a part time student at Regent College and a graduate of Hokkaido Bible Institute and former associate to a Sapporo pastor, will occupy the Japanese pulpit until July of 2007. Rev. Kenneth Strom takes all the English services and serves as senior pastor for the entire church. Ken has committed to serving in three month increments, or until a permanent pastor-leader is brought to the church.

God has been good! It is He who is the Author of the faith journey that has taken me through 65 years of gospel ministry! That is a lot of years! Thirty five enjoyable years of that was in Japan, in a evangelism and church planting ministry. The Lord has favored me with a "help meet" only He could have brought alongside, to groom and to prepare me for the ongoing blessings of a significant ministry experience. Doors opened, not only to Canadian Japanese, but together with them, to an ever broadening multiethnic and cultural diversity that mirrors God's passion for every people, tongue, tribe and nation! Praise His Name forever! □

## Megumi Baptist Church

Vancouver, BC

by Tomoko Sakamoto, Associate Evangelist



Tomoko Sakamoto

Megumi Baptist Church remained without a pastor through 2005. However, God, not only sustained us but has given renewed passion to everyone to serve Him. We have had to deal with some major issues, but it drove us to His Word in Galatians 5:13b – "by love serve one another" – which was the church motto in 2005. We also established a Pastoral Search Committee and a Constitution and By-Law Committee which had spent a great deal of time to finalize the task. We

held a Friend's Day on two occasions for the purpose of strengthening the church and reaching out to others.

Christmas service and celebration is always a wonderful opportunity to serve others. God's merciful Hand has brought us through numerous situations this year. We received pastoral preaching

assistance twice a month and are also blessed by studying together the "The Purpose Driven Life" at worship services, prayer meetings, and home Bible studies. We are always reminded by the five "life purpose" banners hanging in the sanctuary that we must strive to engrave these as our life purposes.

We are deeply grateful to Rev. Akira Uchida who has given invaluable and sacrificial service over the past two years. His worship messages, communion, and children's blessing have enriched us all. Rev. Uchida will continue with us but we will miss his service which ended on Dec. 2005. Thank you Rev. Uchida for your support and ministry amongst us. With God's help and the equipping received we shall carry on His work together.

In March, it will be three years since we have been without a pastor. Our urgent prayer is that God will provide His chosen servant this year. We shall continue "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" Hebrews 12:2a. We started 2006 with this motto. Please pray for us. □

To view or download this newsletter from the internet,  
Please log on to [www.jgct.com](http://www.jgct.com)

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Sunnyside Camp - Campfire 2005  
Sylvan Lake, AB



Mary (Mom) Sharples  
100th Birthday celebration  
July 8, 2005  
Kelowna, BC

