



Sunnyside Camp 2022

by David Tano – Chair of the Camp Committee

Sunnyside : A new hope?

It has been so long.....

The last time we had our camp was over 2 years ago, in 2019. It's been a tough, 2 years. For some it has been a time of isolation, for others, a time of reflection, of great stresses and losses. We pray for all of you and look forward to the exciting times ahead.

It is with great excitement and joy that we announce,

Sunnyside Camp 2022 is a go!!!!!!
The dates are: July 24-30, 2022.

WE ARE SOOOO EXCITED!

It will be a miracle to fellowship and worship together again as a community.

Our confirmed English department speaker is **Daniel Komori from Gracepoint Fellowship in Calgary** and the Japanese department guest speaker is **Pastor Yuichiro Inatomi of the Gospel Siloam Church in Los Angeles, CA.**
<https://www.facebook.com/gospelsiloam/>



Daniel Komori

We anticipate another great camp together with old and new friends as we play, study, praise and worship our Lord and Saviour. Hoping to see you all this summer! It is truly a new hope... Please register as soon as you can.

For all of you who have never experienced Sunnyside, come join us in 2022!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2428043826>



Pastor Yuichiro Inatomi

Northeast Nikkei Christian Conference 2022

By Pastor Masato Murai

The 35th NENCC was held on Sat. Feb. 26, 2022, with a lecturer from Japan, Rev. Kazuhiro Sekino, pastor of the Lutheran Tsudanuma Church, Japan. The theme of the conference was "Christian common sense is nonsense to

the outside world." In other words, church and biblical terms are irrelevant to those outside the church.

Following our conference in 2021, the committee members, Makiba Tamai, Noriko Maeda, Yumi Yu, Masato and Harumi Murai, held preparatory meetings several times, one of which was attended by Rev. Sekino. The theme sounded challenging and our expectations rose. His messages were joyfully received.



Pastor Kazuhiro Sekino

Due to covid restrictions, the Conference was again held online via Zoom. Pastor Sekino participated in the middle of the night, Japan time, to accommodate our time here. His testimony and real-life stories as a chaplain/pastor was fascinating and gripping that all conferees were not able to digest it all. Here are some comments from the conferees. "The presentation was very easy to understand and relate to". "He showed me a broader concept of salvation, which is also a process or experiences of being saved every day". "I was challenged to make someone smile every day", which is the goal Pastor Sekino seeks to fulfill each day of his life. "With him as my model, I want to walk as a carrier of Good News also..". Rev. Sekino has written a number of books mainly aimed at people outside the church. As a hospital chaplain, he is also a lifelong seeker.

In the future we would still like to maintain online learning conferences together but also to encourage local in-person fellowship opportunities. Thank you for your prayers and support. Please keep in touch through <https://sites.google.com/view/nencc/> □

From the desk of the General Director

By Nori Kanashiro

Three scores and three years (63 years) has slipped by since I first became involved with CJM. I was asked to be the assistant Sport Director at Kootenay Kamp on the shores of beautiful Kootenay Lake, near Nelson BC. Since that auspicious beginning and having served in various capacities with the Mission/Ministries in BC, Alberta and Ontario, I come now to my final months of leadership in CJM. I would do it all over again, if it were possible. God has been good every step of the way.

Time nor space would allow me to reiterate the blessings which began in those early days which also includes numerous churches in the US who “sent us back” to Canada as a missionary to our

own “kinfolk in the flesh”. Then again, to my dear “employer/boss”, George Klassen (Klassen/Rose Electric) who told me to come back to work anytime I needed work when we carried on ministry in a bivocational context in Calgary.



Nori Kanashiro
General Director

God has permitted us to be involved in church-planting, children, youth and family ministries, summer camps, bilingual retreats, sport ministries, and various diaspora ministries amongst young adults and

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CJM AGM/Conf 2022
(Sat.) May 14, 2022 - 12 noon EDT
(virtually on Zoom platform)

Please register as soon as possible through this link
<https://www.cjmin.com/agm>
or through the CJM website
www.CJMin.com

Guest Speaker:
Pastor Stan Yokota (Pastor Emeritus
Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto)

CJM Board of Directors 2021-2022

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Testimony

From Tochigi to Halifax

By Pastor Shintaro Yorifuji



Pastor Shintaro & Aki Yorifuji,
with son Tadashi (9 years)

Praise be to the Lord. It is my pleasure to greet you in the name of the Lord. I am Shintaro Yorifuji who came from Japan to the city of Halifax, NS in the summer of 2021. I had served as a pastor in a church in Tochigi prefecture in Japan.

In midst of the COVID-19 difficulties, my wife and I were called by our glorious God to the Maritime in eastern Canada. I had cherished a vision for over 20 years to launch a ministry of evangelism amongst the Japanese living in that area. We are currently attending a local evangelical church named Sheffield Baptist Church, and by God’s grace, hope to start a Japanese Christian congregation. With this vision in mind and the encouragement of the church congregation, we gladly joined its memberships last October. Since that time, I have taught Sunday School and also voted in to become a member of the Deacons Board. I am currently studying English and will start a career in Early Childhood Education beginning in May with aim to receive a Permanent Visa.

I am thrilled at the prospect of beginning the first Japanese biblical congregation here in the Maritime supported by many praying churches in Japan. The Sheffield Baptist Church is very supportive of our vision and we are also delighted to connect with CJM churches across Canada.

We are in our mid-forties and our 9 year old son is an avid hockey player. Our mission name will be called the Halifax Japanese Bible Fellowship.

Please keep us in your prayer as we pray for CJM. Thank you very much. □

DONATIONS

Donations to the CJM General Fund may be made on-line through **CanadaHelps.org** by going to the CJM website at www.CJMin.com

Donations can also be mailed to:
Canadian Japanese Ministries
PO Box 97018, Harvest Hills RPO
Calgary, AB T3K 0P2

VICTORIA JAPANESE CHURCH

Meeting at First Baptist Church
877 North Park St., Victoria, BC V8W 1S9
Sunday Worship service - 1:30 pm.
Pastor Yutaka Ishiguro Tel: 778-265-6092
Email: ymishiguro@shaw.ca
Website: www.vicjapanesechurch.com



Pastor Yutaka & Miho Ishiguro

By Pastor Yutaka Ishiguro

We praise the precious Name of our Lord Jesus.

The Scripture verse that was given to Victoria Japanese Church this year is from Joshua

1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

This verse of the year assures us that the Lord is always with us, giving encouragement and strength. The Israelites faced a river without a bridge, then they were provided a miracle right in front of their eyes as they crossed on dry ground. Our church also began with prayer meetings, then a church, which officially became Victoria Japanese Church in the year 2000. In the past 22 years, there have been difficult and challenging times, however, in spite of what may lay ahead, the same Lord who encouraged Joshua as he faced the Promised Land, will be with us. We will keep our eyes focused on Him as we face the future.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we held our services on zoom until June 2021. From that time, we have held in-person services at the church and realized once again how wonderful it is to worship together and offer songs of praise to our Lord. In December during our Christmas Worship Service, the ladies choir sang in beautiful harmony. The youth group also brought special music, bringing glory to His Name. Hallelujah! We are so thankful.

Victoria Japanese Church has a desire to deepen our relationship with CJM, and to be encouraged as we witness God's work across Canada, witnessing God's power, and hope.

We ask that you remember Victoria Japanese Church in your prayers. Thank you so very much. □



Ladies choir performing during the Christmas service 2021

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

Meeting at
Zion Baptist Community Church
9802 - 76th Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB
Sunday bilingual Worship Service - 2:00 pm.
Pastor Toshihiro Tamura Tel: 587-986-8161
Email: tamuratoshihiro1981@gmail.com
Website: www.ejcc.ca



Pastor Toshihiro & Hiromi Tamura
with daughter Hinata (9)

By Pastor Toshihiro Tamura

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, praise be to our Lord.

Two years have passed since the outbreak of Covid-19. During this time, not only our daily lifestyles, but also our worship services,

prayer meetings, and other forms of meetings such as times of fellowship have changed dramatically. There have been controversies over various restrictions and health measures, such as the introduction of vaccine passports, the wearing of masks, and lockdowns. These have caused conflict and division among people, locally and all over the world. I thank God, however, that our church is not experiencing such conflicts and divisions, but there are people who are confused by the new style of worship and are not able to participate in the fellowship as before.

In deciding on the theme verse for this year, we first prayed and discussed the major direction we should take this year. As a result, we were given a key word: rebuilding a community and unity in Christ. Based on this keyword we prayed and came up with several verses. Following another meeting, God led us to Hebrew 10:23-25.

In these verse, the writer repeats the word "Let us" in the sense of the community and tells us what "we" are encouraged to do. The first is to "hold on to the hope and promise" of the One who is faithful, our Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, to consider one another to provoke "love and good works" in Christ. Thirdly, we are told that in order to do this, "we should not neglect to gather together, but instead encourage each other". This is because God's love is not only fulfilled in an individual, but in each one of us through the community of the body of Christ.

This year, we would like to consider, pray and share what we can do to rebuild such a community in Christ. I pray that this community, the body of Christ, will be a source of comfort, hope, and joy for each person who gather here, and that it will become the salt of the earth and the light of the world, richly expressing the glory of the Lord throughout 2022. □

Did you know that CJM was born out of the ashes of the War Measurers Act imposed upon all Japanese living in Canada immediately after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Hawaiian Island in 1941? Margaret Ridgway, 27 years of age, heeded the call of God to follow the bewildered Japanese families into the ghost towns of interior BC. So began the Canadian Japanese Mission (CJM).

EFC of Lethbridge

Meeting at: Evangelical Free Church
4717-24th Ave. S, Lethbridge, AB
Contact: Ed & Suni Arinobu
Tel: 403-381-7354
Email: arinobu@hotmail.com



**“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good
His love endures forever”.**
I Chronicles 16:34

Following the cold, snowy, prairie winter, bright sunny days are heralding the hint of spring. However, southern Alberta weather is unpredictable, where we sometimes experience four seasons in one day. The year 2022 has ushered in the continuing unpredictable events, creating anxieties and fears of what the future may hold. In the midst of all the uncertainties, we are reminded that our God is good, loving, and sovereign.

Reflecting back on 2021 and to the present time, God continues to lead us with His loving hand. At our church, the Evangelical Free Church of Lethbridge (EFC) Japanese ministry, is under the umbrella of Intercultural Ministry. Our committee normally plans a variety of activities (Plans A, B, C), but as COVID 19 evolved, and policies changed, we were not able to carry out many of the activities. However, we managed to celebrate the outdoor Fall Festival in the church parking lot where close to 100 people from various people groups participated.

Each week we attend the 9:00 am in-person service and then at 11:30 am., Keiko Yamada san will phone us to go over the morning message, in addition to a brief phone fellowship. This weekly time together has become one of the highlights of the week.

For many people, I am sure, zoom meetings have become a part of our lives. Since early 2020, we have

been holding Conversational Café (ESL class) via zoom. This allows participants from different parts of the world to join us. Our 2022 winter session includes students from Mexico, Japan, China, and couple of friends from the New West church. Because of this amazing technology, we have been able to participate in Serve Conference in Vancouver, Fall Retreat in Calgary at the Japanese Gospel Church, and also the Northeast Nikkei Christian Conference (NENCC) from Toronto.

We wish to express a special thank you to Horiuchi sensei, Mariko san and people at Calgary church, for welcoming us to their worship service. We have been blessed. We look forward to the day when we will see each other in person, praising our good and loving God. □



Keiko Yamada, Ed & Suni Arinobu

Grace Toronto Japanese Church

Meeting at Glebe Road United Church
20 Glebe Road East, Toronto ON. M4S 1N6
Sunday service—1:30 pm.
Pastor Masato Murai Tel: 416-789-1902
Email: masmurai@yahoo.co.jp
www.facebook.com/userGTJC



By Pastor Masato Murai



Pastor Masato & Harumi Murai

The church resumed in-person worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. However, immediately after that, we were back online until Father's Day, June 20 when we were permitted to resume in-person ser-

vices again. Our Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Fellowship continues online and these two gatherings are our main activities of our church at this time. The following are some of the events which took place during the past year.

1. At our Christmas service on December 19, 2021, we conducted a baptism for Ms. Y. The family members on her husband's side came and witnessed the occasion. It was a time of grace for all.
2. It was an unusual blessing to conduct three weddings in the sanctuary during the restricted months of 2021. I, the officiating minister, prayed for God's blessings and challenged each couple through the message of Genesis 26: 24-25, prioritizing (1) worship (2) family and (3) work. If each couple maintain these as their priorities and habits in their lives, the blessings of the Lord will follow.
3. The mother of one of our church attendees was a Buddhist who accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord and was baptized just before her imminent death. She joyfully and triumphantly returned to her heavenly home last May.
4. Pastor Murai has been a tent maker/pastor over the years. His Japanese downtown, Kodomoen Day Care Centre has remained open and in service throughout the pandemic as an essential part of the downtown community. Now, concerning my retirement as the pastor of the Grace Toronto Japanese Church. Our church serves under the Presbyterian Church of North America. In securing a pastor, certain procedures are followed. Often, this takes time, so prayers are appreciated for a smooth transition.
5. At midnight on July 1st, the phone suddenly rang. A man living in Illinois, USA, called finding our Japanese church on the website. The very first question to Rev. Murai was "What is the true religion?" About two hours later, the man concluded the conversation by saying, "It was a great conversation. I wanted to kill myself."
6. Prayer is especially necessary for the youth of our church. The Corona virus with all its restrictions and mandates have brought extra-ordinary challenges of faith to our youth. I know this is not limited to our church only. We need to pray for the strength, wisdom and patience for each parents through these extremely challenging days.

Finally, please pray for Joy of Christmas sponsored annually by the Renrakukai in Toronto. We hope this can happen again this year. □

Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church

Meeting at Trinity Baptist Church
549 Gertrude Ave. W., Winnipeg, MB R2L 0M9
Sunday Worship Service: 2:00 pm.
c/o Miyako Ogasawara - Leader
Email: winnipegjapanesechurch@gmail.com
Website: www.wjac.weebly.com



New Life Christian Church Japanese Division

Meeting at: New Life Christian Church
480 Huntingwood Drive, Scarborough, ON M1W 1G4
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am.
Pastor Edward Yoshida Tel: 416-261-4302
Email: esyoshida@sympatico.ca



By Miyako Ogasawara



Leaders Tom & Miyako Ogasawara
with sons Kei (9 yrs.) & Yuma (7 yrs.)

Again, this winter we experienced a lot of snow and extreme cold. "Be careful when you drive." "Keep warm," were some of the cautions we heard more than during other winters. Even during this difficult cold season, we were able to continue to worship once a month together.

We have now become a very small fellowship, but sometimes small fellowship has its benefits too. During this restrictive, lockdown period, a number of our attendees and their families have been struggling with health issues. We have been able to pray and encourage them during and after the service. In this way the church has been more alive and able to carry out its mission more meaningfully than in the "good times" of the past.

At this time of the year, the cold of winter slowly gives way to optimism of spring. Little by little, we are seeing this take place and this year in particular, as we had to deal with restrictions of COVID-19, we are grateful that most of it has been lifted during the month of March.

At the end of March, Cory and Masami Giesbrecht, with their family, who have been serving as missionaries in Japan with Multiply, (MB Mission) will be returning to Canada to visit their supporters. They will also visit our church and report on their missionary work. We look forward to seeing Cory and Masami and their growing children again, and we are planning a fellowship meal after the service. It has been over two years since we have been able to have a fellowship meal together at the church. Later on, this year another missionary family that we support is also scheduled to visit us. So, in many ways as we look forward to new life in the spring, we are looking for new life in the church too. □

Continued from page 2

students from Japan. All are rich blessings to recall.

When the Lord called us to Toronto in 1988 to assist in stabilizing the church ministry there, little did I realize that our anticipated 6-8 years in Toronto would stretch now to 34 years. However, God has been faithful far beyond our expectations.

In gratitude to God and His people, we thank you for your faithful and generous support over these many years. Let us continue to pray as the new leaders face uncertain days ahead. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Heb. 13:8. To God be the glory! □

By Pastor Edward Yoshida



Pastor Edward Yoshida

When Pastor Bill Tamagi 'tapped' me on the shoulder as a graduating student at Seattle Pacific College, I had no idea that I would serving most my life with the CANADIAN JAPANESE MISSION. That was in 1956, some 66 years ago. My first involvement was to start a Nisei church in Vancouver. As our ministry continued, we learned that

a former funeral home was vacant on Hastings St. With some interest, we visited the property and found that we could afford to rent the building. We stepped out in faith and with a little cleanup of the property it became the NISEI GOSPEL CHURCH OF VANCOUVER. It is today, known as the Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church located in New Westminster.

In 2020 when COVID19 struck, one of my regular ministry was serving as a chaplain at the Momiji Seniors Centre. Prior to the pandemic, our monthly chapel was held in the Japanese language. However, after it opens up again our chapel service will likely be in English, as those dear Isseis have now passed on.

Earlier this year, at the Momiji restaurant, Toke S. and Dave A. were discussing with me about attending a cinema showing of the movie THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY related to the 2nd World War with Japan. Two sisters, Jean Y(98) and Miyo I. were listening to our conversation at the same table. "Can we join you"? they asked. "Certainly you may", we replied. However, circumstances became such that they were unable to join us. But this incident gave me an opportunity to visit Jean at Momiji at a more leisurely moment. When that time came, I visited her and found out that she had Sunday school experience and was open to the Gospel. After several visits, and understanding the Gospel more clearly, she eagerly invited Jesus into her life. Her favourite hymn now is; "What a Friend We Have In Jesus". Despite her senior age and frail steps, she has attended church on several occasions. TO GOD BE ALL GLORY AND PRAISE! □



Men's bi-weekly study/world-events discussion gathering at restaurant

Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at: Living Hope Christian Fellowship
12246 - 100th Ave., Surrey, BC V3V 2X1
Sunday Worship Services at 3:00 pm.
Pastor Gerald Neufeld, Tel: 604-596-7928
Email: gneufeld5@yahoo.ca



Pastor Gerald & Rie Neufeld

By MiwakoTada & Pastor Gerald Neufeld

Over the last two years our church has undergone many changes. There was a time when we could not have the worship services in the sanctuary due to the corona virus, however, we were able to connect with each other by Zoom. Now, we are thankful to be able to meet in-person in the sanctuary.

Our major event here is that our pastor and his family have moved to Japan. We will miss them, but we believe that God will continue to lead our church here in Surrey, BC. We are without a leader right now, but Pastor Gerald and Rie continue to attend services online from Japan. Everyone is welcome to come to our church, and we enjoy meeting new people.

The current war between Russia and the Ukraine is heartbreaking and sad. We pray for the Lord's salvation for all those who are hurting. I am reminded of the words from Revelation 18:21, "Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, 'With such violence Babylon the great city will be thrown down, and will be found no more'. Then in Rev. 14:12, "Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus".

Images from the Book of Revelation remind us that the power of God's love is greater than the destructive violence of war. We pray for those who are working for peace in war-torn areas throughout our world today. □

CJM AGM/Conf 2022
(Sat.) May 14, 2022, 12:00 noon EDT
conducted virtually on zoom
Please register via this link
<https://www.cjmin.com/agm>
or on CJM website at
<http://www.cjmin.com/>

The conference guest speaker is Pastor Stan Yokota (Pastor Emeritus of Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto). Pastor Stan became a Christian through the ministry of CJM in Kelowna, BC in the early years of 1950s. He has since, served as missionary and pastor in CJM affiliated churches. With his lifetime of ministry amongst the Japanese of Canada, Pastor Stan will have many words of wisdom and advice as we face the unknown future.

Please register as soon as possible.

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Church location:
425 - 11th St., New Westminster, BC V3M 4G1
Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am. & 3:00 pm
Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku Tel: 604-521-7737
Email: jvgospelchurch@gmail.com
Pastor Tony Schmidt Tel:604-420-2335
Email: tony.schmidt@omfmail.com
Website: www.japanesegospelchurch.com



VJGC Staff
(Front L-R) Pastor Tony & Pat Schmidt, Pastor Tetsuya & Mari Fukusaku
(Back L-R) Shoko Sasai, Homi Akitaya

By Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku

Praise the name of the Lord. The theme of our church this year is "Follow the Lord's Will", and the Scripture of the year is Prov. 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." The main ministry plan and goals of the church

this year are as follows;

1. To walk in dependence on the Lord, regardless of the circumstances in the world. Even in difficult times when members of the church are unable to see the future.
2. To enhance the multiple worship services (1st, 2nd, and online services) in order that more people can share the gospel, be connected to the church, be saved, and be added to God's family.
3. To have church members participate in church school and small group activities (including online) to deepen and broaden their fellowship as God's family. For example, each gathering will grow as a place where people can study the Word, share their problems and sufferings, in a secure and peaceful environment, and pray for each other.
4. Establish a missionary month to pray for and practice world missions. Example: Invite missionaries so we can learn about world missions. e.g., invite missionaries from OMF to Thailand as our emphasis of missions in February.
5. Cooperate with other churches and Christian organizations to practice the Lord's work. (e.g. Refugee Committee, Crisis Pregnancy Centre, Union Gospel Mission, etc.)

Please pray that the Lord will bless these goals and policies and that His work will move forward. □



VJGC congregation at the New Year's Service 2022

Grace Japanese Christian Church

Banff, AB

Meeting at Banff Full Gospel Church
407 Cougar Street, Banff, AB
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am.
Pastor Minoru Enoki Tel: 403-707-6132
Email: banffjcc.enoki@gmail.com



Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary

Meeting at Westview Baptist Church
1313 Ranchlands Way NW, Calgary, AB
Sunday Worship: 2:30 pm.
Pastor Minoru Enoki Tel: 403-688-2091
Email: lifehouse.alpha@gmail.com
Website: www.crossoverjapanesechurch.com



By Pastor Minoru Enoki

Dear members of CJM churches, praise the name of the Lord!

Lately, the evidence of spring is showing up all around us. We have had continuous warm days, and it feels like spring is just around the corner. Also, in recent days, our society has cautiously entered a “post-Covid” period with our attention now focusing on the Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and other world affairs, let us keep our attention on our Lord of hope, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I am thankful and praise His name in spite of world circumstances, His Kingdom continues to move forward. Let us continue to pray for world peace and reconciliation as we remember the state of the world today.

On a different note, many restrictions for Alberta were lifted in March, and church gatherings have resumed. Grace Church continues to offer worship service in-person and online. As a shepherd, I am deeply encouraged by the members actively participating in cell groups and many in our early morning weekly prayer meetings that started during the pandemic. A number of these have also have taken on various roles in the church. Also, since the beginning of the new year, an interpreter and a PA technician have begun to serve in these needful capacities. They have been a grateful addition as we prepare for another season of ministry.

Since the Lord has led in my concurrent ministry in Banff and Calgary, I am deeply blessed by knowing of the intercessory prayers and spiritual support not only from here but through CJM churches which has been under girding our ministries here. Another recent blessing is that people who separated from the church because of the pandemic are gradually returning. The challenges are endless, but please pray for the Lord’s will to be done as Grace Church reaches out for souls to be saved. □

By Pastor Minoru Enoki

Greetings to our beloved CJM churches, Praise be to our Lord.

Upon Pastor Taniguchi's retirement in September 2021, Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary began a new journey under a new structure and leadership. It was my privilege to be installed as their new pastor.

All this took place in midst of the pandemic. At that time, Crossover was having services online but since that time, restrictions have lifted and we have been able to have face-to-face services since the month of September.

Each week, under the Lord's guidance, our services continue on a bilingual basis with numbers of volunteers gradually growing and taking various responsibilities. One of the ministries we started in the church over the past several months is the Prayer Partner (Prayer Ring). Prayer partners contact each other during the week over Zoom, sharing their blessings and concerns and pray for each other. The Prayer partners change every month to keep the “fresh air” constantly flowing, enabling a rich spiritual connection between individuals within the church. As a spiritual family (oikos), we believe this enhances deeper spiritual meaning, connection and growth within the church. We thank the Lord for the testimonies arising every day through this ministry.

As I look into the future, it is my hope and prayer that God would raise up future Japanese churches in Canada, I also pray that many pastors and servants of God be raised in Alberta and all around the country too. Please remember and pray that the mission entrusted to us will help advance the Kingdom of God and that the Japanese souls in Calgary will be led to Jesus. □



Pastor Minoru & Izumi Enoki with daughters Yuika (5), Mitsuki (3) & Wakana (1 mos.)



Our Family Ski Fellowship in February



Sunday worship service at Crossover Japanese Church in February

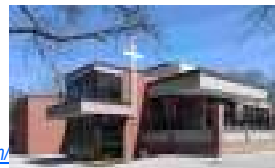
Montreal Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at Peoples Church (basement)
2097 Union Ave., Montreal, QC
Bible Study: 3:00 pm. (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)
Fellowship/Events: (1st Sunday of the month)
Contact: Haruyo Yoshino-Platt
Email: montrealjcf17@gmail.com
Website: www.mjcf.ca



Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

Meeting at: Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church
2385 Warden Avenue, Scarborough, ON M1W 2L6
Sunday Service at 1:00 pm
Pastor: Misa Mochinaga Tele: 416-904-5496
Email: misa.mochinaga@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.wesleychapeljapanesefmc.com>



Haruyo Yoshino-Platt with husband Richard

By Haruyo Yoshino-Platt
Last October, in the Montreal JCF reopened for in-person meetings but shortly thereafter, had to return to online meetings in January and February. Then, in March we were permitted in-person meetings again. Since then it has been such a blessing to meet and sing live with the praise team again!

We thank God that we were able to celebrate Christmas at church this past year. On that day, Andrew Buchanan, who is preparing

to go to Japan as a missionary, gave the message. Although we could not share a meal, it was a very special occasion to celebrate Christmas together since we could not do so the previous year.

Our group has been blessed by a different guest speakers each month. In addition, we also have a monthly Bible study. Our Japanese study group, started in the Gospel of Luke and the English group began a study in the Gospel of Mark. We are blessed to have some of the members meet online to pray every Thursday and Saturday mornings. The children's online Sunday school continues every Sunday.

The Japanese mothers' group meets online three times each month. We are studying the books Boundaries with Kids and also Boundaries in Marriage. The group has grown to be genuine and very supportive. One mother who struggles with her daughter wrote in our group chat, "Thank you for listening to my struggles and giving me various advice. You were all trying to think of solutions with me as if the matters were yours. My heavy heart became much lighter as I shared my problems with you. Thank you so much!"

We thank God that a new parenting group will be starting in April. Many are joining from Japan. Please pray for God's guidance for this new group. Please continue to pray for the other ministries of the Montreal JCF. □



Our Christmas Celebration 2021

By Pastor Misa Mochinaga



Pastor Misa Mochinaga

John 9 records the story of Jesus healing a man who had been born blind. In this account, the healing itself is briefly the focus. The story is about the rest of the characters who witness the healing but fail to recognize the work that God was doing in their midst. None of them can understand what is really going on. The disciples engage the situation by trying to find who is to blame, but Jesus reframes the situation by pointing through his question that "they were asking the wrong question."

I think many of us have asked the wrong question too in the midst of the pandemic: why is this happening? Instead of asking, God what are you doing in all of this and how can we join you in it? What are you saying and how can we hear you better? What are the works of God waiting to be revealed in us through the pandemic?

We have resumed in-person worship services on March 6th (with live streaming) after two long years of online services. The joy of being together again made us realize how much we had longed to be in each other's presence. It will take some time before everybody feels comfortable to come back, but we are thankful for this gift.

In the midst of this ongoing celebration of community, I feel that as leaders, we must help ourselves and our congregations not only mourn our losses and challenges, but also remember God's presence, work, and activity during the pandemic. He protected us and kept us safe from the virus. He raised leaders and volunteers with a heart for Him and His church. He healed broken family relationships. God helped us see Him and hear Him more clearly. He gave comfort to the lonely and broken-hearted. He gave courage to those living in fear. He gave peace to anxious souls. He gave rest to those who were carrying heavy burdens. He gave hope to the troubled. He healed the sick. He is accompanying people in pain. He met with us in our fear and uncertainty. He provided for those in need. He helped us grow in our love for Him and creatively express our love for our neighbours. We learned more about God and ourselves. He carried us in the darkness. He taught us to count our blessings and remember His faithfulness.

Paul says in Romans 8:28, "we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." As we learn to be community again, I look forward to seeing how these individual changes translate into the transformation and growth of our church. □