



## virtual Sunnyside Camp20

by Daniel Hayashizaki

For Sunnyside Camp 2020, we unfortunately were not able to go to our campsite due to COVID-19. But through prayer and discussion with our staff, we decided that the Japanese side for the first time in camp history do a virtual Sunnyside Camp!



Our Japanese staff worked extremely hard, putting in extra hours brainstorming a program we can achieve. In the end, we had a little over 70 people register which is basically our usual camp numbers on the Japanese side. This year we had people from California, British Columbia, Alberta, and even from Japan tapping into our virtual camp! We simplified the program to evening messages on Zoom for five days, with breakout fellowship and a Q&A time with the speaker following the message. We found that the participants really enjoyed the Q&A session where participants can reflect and discuss with the speaker about the message or anything! It was a surprise blessing to see how even with our limitations, God blessed our virtual camp tremendously. Our speaker, Pastor Inatomi Yuichiro from California, delivered five messages on the theme “Heaven is ...” (sounds a lot better in Japanese). You can listen to his sermon on YouTube by searching “CJM Sunnyside Camp”. □

## Embracing the “New Normal”

The year 2020 began in a very uneventful manner but something horrendous was brewing under the surface that would forever change our lives in a most dramatic way. We are now into the 8th months of the disastrous COVID-19 pandemic which has ravaged every country on our planet. No one remains untouched by it. Everyone, from a child to the elderly can tell you their story of how it has changed their daily life. Every aspect of our personal, family, social and business life has been affected in one way or another. The question in all our minds is; “When are we going to get back to our normal way of life”?

In a recent internet posting, Theresa Tam, Canada’s chief public health officer, said, “We will not go back to what life was like before January of this year”. There are other health experts who voice the same sentiments. This is not what most of us wanted to hear. We do not accept changes readily especially if imposed upon us. However, in our deeper thoughts, challenges to change, whether in social human behavior, or personal spiritual behavior, when it deviates from the “norm”, it is not easily accepted.

What the “new normal” will look like is not very clear. In the Scriptures, God speaks about a radical change that we can call the “New Normal” when we personally encounter Jesus Christ and accept Him as Lord and Saviour. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians writes about the “old is gone and the new is here” referring to what we will personally experience when one becomes a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ. God desires this new life to become the “New Normal” in the life of each person. This radical change is a spiritual encounter with God that needs to be accepted and embraced, □

by Nori Kanashiro, General Director (CJM)

## Virtual Life in a REAL WORLD

We are living in a strange new world. Only months ago, we could not have imagined what we are living in today. With all the restrictions imposed on society in an effort to control the pandemic, our lives have been altered in a major way. Social distancing assumes we are all contagious and must limit or curtail our face-to-face interaction with people. Fortunately, we are also living in an advanced technological age which allows a “virtual” contact with people for socializing or for business purposes.

CJM AGM/Conf. 2020 was to be held in Calgary on May 22-23. In view of the pandemic, the event was postponed and a virtual AGM was conducted September 11. All who were able to join us were delighted to have a brief time of fellowship and to participate in the AGM. The Board of Director meeting was also conducted virtually online on September 25. Listed below are the Directors for the coming fiscal year.

### CJM Board of Directors 2020-2021

Izumi Araki	Vancouver, BC
Peter Chow	Toronto, ON
Pastor Minoru Enoki	Canmore, AB
Pastor Tetsuya (Ted) Fukusaku	Vancouver, BC
<i>Vice General Director</i>	
Marie (Fuki) Duavis	Toronto, ON
<i>Secretary &amp; Membership Secretary</i>	
Pastor Tomoyuki (Tom) Horiuchi	Calgary, AB
Mark Hoshizaki	Calgary, AB
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Nori Kanashiro	Toronto, ON
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Pastor Masato Murai	Toronto, ON
Tomohito (Tom) Ogasawara	Winnipeg, MB
Pastor Tony Schmidt	Vancouver, BC
Valerie Secord	Victoria, BC
Tim Shigemitsu	Edmonton, AB
Pastor Kevin Ueta	Toronto, ON
Haruyo Yoshino-Platt	Montreal, PQ

### 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 92124  
 Scarborough ON M1W 2S0



## GRACEPOINT FELLOWSHIP

English department of the

**Calgary Japanese Gospel Church**

Worship Service: 10:00 am Pastor Brian Lavender

Tel: 403-606-5483 Email: brianlavvy@me.com

Website: <http://gpfellowship.org/>



2203-15A St. SE.,  
Calgary, AB T2G 3N2



Pastor Brian & Cindy Lavender

by Pastor Brian Lavender

Greetings to all our CJM family and friends from Gracepoint Fellowship and Calgary Japanese Gospel Church. Grace and peace to you and your churches!

It has been an unprecedented time for churches during the past seven months during the coronavirus pandemic. As I am sure it has been for most of you, it has

been a time of challenge and opportunity. We are going through a time of change and learning for our church family, and even with the crisis, we can see God's work and blessing. Blessings, as we continue to grow as a community of faith; blessing, as we have started an increased online presence, with services first recorded onto YouTube, and then regularly streamed each Sunday; blessings, as our youth, young adults, homegroups, and more meet for Bible study and pray on Zoom or other video conferencing apps.

After the first couple of months meeting ONLY online, we have gone back to in-person meetings in our church building since July. This brought in new challenges of sanitizing, educating ourselves about safety protocols, and planning worship services in the new normal of Covid. This entailed going from one to two services with a maximum of 50 attendees to allow for social distancing each Sunday, sanitizing seats, doors, handles etc. after each service, putting in plexiglass partitions where needed, and various other new protocols for keeping everyone as safe as possible.



Sanitizing seats between worship services

Though much of this has been a challenge, I am so thankful for a strong committed church family to help with all this, and taking part in safety protocols to keep everyone as safe as possible.

I pray that we will remember to support

and pray for each other - especially in these times.

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* Hebrews 10:24-25 □

# 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



# JAPANESE GOSPEL Church of Toronto

301 Silver Star Blvd., Scarborough, ON M1V 0B6  
Tel: 416-335-5428 Fax: 416-335-5932  
Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am. (E & J)  
Pastor Kevin Ueta (E) 647-298-6422  
Adam Shih - Christian worker (E) 647-449-0704  
Website: www.jgct.com



Pastor Toshihiro Hiromi Tamura  
with daughter Hinata (8)

by Pastor Toshihiro Tamura

**M**y Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, I praise His name!

Over half a year has passed since the spread of the coronavirus had become a serious worldwide problem. Previous to coming to Canada, I had the opportunity to

serve as a pastor in Philadelphia for two and a half years, and it pains my heart to hear that some people I had connections with back then have passed away because of the pandemic. Firstly, I want to express my sincere condolences to the families of all who have passed on, and pray for comfort for all who have fallen ill from the pandemic.

At our church, the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church (EJCC), we terminated our regular in-person worship meetings on March 15 due to the pandemic. On Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we encouraged everyone to worship at home, but from March 29<sup>th</sup>, we began worshipping together online, and have been able to follow suit with online prayer meetings. Today, we continue with our online worship services. There are, of course, many limitations and issues that arise from weekly online services, but the Lord has blessed us with the discovery that this format also has its advantages. We have been able to reconnect with people who have moved from Edmonton due to school, work, marriage, as well as with others from far away who do not have a Japanese church close by. In addition, people who are usually

*The global spread of the coronavirus has totally upset the way we "do church", but I also believe it has made us more aware of what doesn't change eternally ...*

too ill or weak to attend physically have been able to spend time in fellowship from their homes. On the other hand, we recognize that there is a need to address the fact that some cannot access online services, and it is difficult to welcome new visitors adequately. Even if we start physical gatherings again, we will be faced with various restrictions such as social distancing, limits in numbers gathering, etc. in order to limit infections. We are prayerfully considering these issues as we seek a way to move forward.

The global spread of the coronavirus has totally upset the way we "do church", but I also believe it has made us more aware of what doesn't change eternally and what we can truly trust in. In the midst of this time of trial and darkness, I pray that the church – the Body of Christ, can truly be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and that the Lord's rich and abundant blessing would be upon each church's ministries. □



Pastor Kevin & Michelle Ueta with  
daughter Kiyomi (7) & son Taiki (5)

by Pastor Kevin Ueta

**T**he date was March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 when Premiere Doug Ford declared a state of emergency for Ontario due to the developments of the COVID-19 virus. When I first heard the news, I started thinking what would happen with our church.

I realized that things would probably look a lot different and my first thought was that this was only a temporary situation. However, as the days and weeks went on, I began questioning when we could go back to resuming "normal life" as the church.

Admittedly, I struggled during this period of time because I started believing that these barriers were too large for us and that we just needed to hold out for the storm to go away. My view of God and His sovereignty waned in light of the circumstances and I struggled, personally, with this.

It wasn't until sometime later when I came across the passage found in Paul's letter to the Ephesians 3:10-11. Speaking of God, Paul reminded the church in Ephesus that this was God's sovereign will for the church: to make known the manifold wisdom of God, and all this was according to God's eternal purposes. In other words, this purpose does not change, it does not wane, and it is never put on hold temporarily. This purpose is everlasting! As I continued to reflect on this passage, I felt convicted and then later reminded that whatever situation or difficulty we may find ourselves in, God is bigger than all of it. For us as the Church, we can, therefore, trust that God will make His manifold wisdom and His glory known to the world around us and we need to constantly be asking God how He may be calling us to partner with Him in this work.

After this, my prayers and thoughts strayed from trying to ride out this storm, to asking God for the opportunities for His church, and this has given me a renewed sense of vision for our church moving forward in this time.

At JGCT, we've started a new initiative to develop a healthy leadership and discipleship culture united in Christ, and to our God-given vision. It's our hope that through this, we'll continue to see a shift in our church ethos to a more active engagement with God and, with renewed boldness, live out His calling for us in obedience.

We continue to pray for all the members and churches of CJM during this time, and we ask that you continue to pray for us in this journey as well. □

# Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary

Meeting at Westview Baptist Church  
1313 Ranchlands Way NW, Calgary, AB  
Sunday Worship: 2:00 pm.  
Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi Tel: 403-455-0074  
Email: ymtaniguchi@hotmail.com  
Website: www.crossoverjapanesechurch.com



# 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



Pastor Yoichi & Miyuki Taniguchi with daughter Mana

by Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi

Since the 15th of March, when Westview Baptist Church, where we hold our worship services, switched to meeting online, we also moved our services online. We've been alternating between live Zoom services and uploading recorded video

messages. Our bible studies, prayer meetings, young adult gatherings have all switched over to meeting over Zoom.

The Japanese speaking department of Sunnyside Camp was also held virtually online. The speaker was Pastor Yuichiro Inatomi from Los Angeles, CA. His 5 sermons on "The Kingdom of Heaven" series was such a great blessing.

Due to self isolation, each of us have been able to take more time for individual fellowship with our Lord. And thanks to YouTube, we have been able to reach more people with the gospel message than when we had our services in the church.

Our greatest blessing has been 3 baptisms during this pandemic period. This was a simple baptism ceremony in our home, but it was greatly blessed of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit could be strongly felt.

We are scheduled to begin our in-person worship services in the church at the end of September. We were all separated up to now, but I look forward to this new start as we all unite again in Christ. □



Akane's baptism



Alex's baptism



VJGC Staff: (L-R) Mai Yoshino, Pat & Tony Schmidt, Tetsuya & Mari Fukusaku & Homi Akitaya

by Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. Psalm 91:2-3

Because of the COVID-19, not only our lives but our church has changed a lot! However, our Lord God never changes, and during this difficult time, he saves us, helps and leads us, and blesses us for his glory.

I'd like to summarize the past 6 months about how the Lord has worked in our church. Around the middle of March the situation became close to the lock down, and all of the church's activities became online except for the Friday morning prayer meeting. During the following week, we held our AGM and installed new board members. In gratitude to our young members in our church and by the grace of God we shifted to online services, activities and offerings. There are now, online prayer meetings, and small group activities being held almost daily.

If the COVID-19 had happened 5 years ago, we would have discontinued most of the church activities. Since we are not able to meet in person, our church staff along with the members have started to contact other members through phone calls or sending emails in order to stay in touch and pray for one another. I pray that this will help us remember that each and every one is a part of the church, which is the body of Christ, so that no one is disconnected from the fellowship.

As the government eased the restrictions, from July we have restarted Sunday worship services at 11 am and at 1 pm with less than 50 people. Beginning in September we started another service for the Japanese seniors from 9:30 am. Due to this, we now have about 80% of the people come back to the church. Although there are still many regulations, we receive joy and grace by getting together and worshipping the Lord.

During this time, two people were saved, one received baptism and another is taking pre-baptism classes. Also, non-Christian are frequenting the services too. However, no matter what happens, the COVID-19 is temporary and will end someday.

Therefore, as the Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help I trouble. Therefore I will not fear..." Psa. 46:1-2. I pray for you and your churches that the Lord's protection and guidance will be with you all. □

## 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

**I** sing praise to the Wonderful Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Upon the arrival of the coronavirus in March, the whole world was unsure and was tested in many ways. Canada was no exception, many people were infected and suffered. The church also during this time experienced things that it has never experi-

enced before as we abided by the directives from the federal and provincial governments.

During this time when the virus was spreading widely, Victoria Japanese Church was able to stay together through the wisdom given to us by our Lord, and His great leading and encouragement from those in the fellowship. I give thanks to the Lord from the bottom of my heart.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> brought a change to the way we held our worship service as we distributed the printed order of service, and for music we used sites on YouTube, discovering many beautiful hymns and worship songs bringing new blessings to the congregation. The scenes portrayed with the music were so beautiful plus we came across many new pieces of music. Through this we were able to experience how wonderful our Lord is, and with each worship service, our blessing overflowed. All this was so new to us; seeing things we had not seen or heard of before! God's grace abounds even during this difficult time of the coronavirus. We give thanks to our Lord for each blessing.

Worship services began in the church from the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Meeting those we love and worshipping together, made us realize once again how wonderful it is to worship the Lord together in His house. For those who are not able to attend the service, we are offering live Zoom video streaming directly to their computer or tablets, so that everyone can participate in the worship services from home. Some even joined from Japan and other countries, so again we are so grateful for the privilege of worshipping together wherever we may be.

We continue to be diligent and careful as we continue to worship in this way at the church, using Zoom, and putting our hope and trust in our Lord as we move forward praying together and leaning on His everlasting arms. □

## 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: banffgjcc.enoki@gmail.com



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

by Pastor Minoru Enoki

**W**ith the expansion of Covid-19 virus in Alberta, I heard that some residence in Canmore, where we live, were also infected by the virus over the past few months.

However, because of limited medical equipments and space in our local

hospital, all of these patients had been immediately transported to a larger city where treatment is more readily available. I have not heard of any wide spread infection in our town so far.

As the border restriction has been imposed since the middle of March, we lost a vast number of tourists in Banff and throughout the National Park. Since August, not many people are walking around on the streets of Banff any longer. In regard to the churches, it is now mandatory that all attendees have their temperature checked and also fill out a required form each time they attend a service. In spite of these impositions, I have been encouraged to see many of our congregants faithfully attend. Their passion and thirst for the Word of God brings them out every Sunday.

One of the gracious testimonies that I would like to share with you, is that no matter how stringent and demanding regulations are nor how dark the times might be, they will never stop the work of God. When this unprecedented situation hit us, I had to stop some of church ministries and discipleship trainings for several weeks, which gave me a sense of disappointment and discouragement. Nevertheless, God continued to work in our midst and to generate confidence that can only come through His strength in ministry according to His purpose. Along the way, many of us probably felt that this is the season of crisis in our evangelical efforts to touch the lives of others, when the regulations of physical distancing and other imposition were mandated. Our normal tendency is to feel that it will now be difficult to share the Gospel because we were no longer able to meet physically with others. To my surprise, as soon as we reopened our service, even some of the non-believers began to attend and continue regularly to this day. God always responds to us beyond our expectations if we diligently pray and seek His will. This is my prayer that the work of His Spirit would become more clear to individual CJM churches and that people come to know Christ by not our methods but His. □

## Montreal Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at Peoples Church (basement)  
2097 Union Ave., Montreal, QC  
Bible Study: 2:00 pm. (3rd Sunday of the month)  
Fellowship/Events: (1st Sunday of the month)  
Contact: Haruyo Yoshino-Platt or Kyoko Mathew  
Email: montrealjapanesechristian@gmail.com  
Tel: 514-342-8509 Website: www.mjcf.ca



Haruyo Yoshino-Platt, husband Richard with son Jonathan and daughter Aiko

by Haruyo Yoshino-Platt

The last six months have been challenging in many ways, yet God has been working in amazing ways among us. Since the pandemic started last March, we began meeting online. We continued to meet

twice a month for Bible study, interviews and dating seminars, even in July and August, when we normally take a break. Because we met online and people could join the meetings from their home, more people could participate. Many of our members are young and single, so many felt lonely during this time of confinement. These meetings were especially meaningful to them as they could see each other virtually and speak to one another.

We also began weekly online prayer meetings in May. We value prayer even more, and could see God answering our prayers. Facebook, Messenger, group chat, have also been a great tool for the members to connect. We can see some of the members growing in their faith, and it is very encouraging.

Two of our main leaders (a couple) are having their first baby! They need to take a break from the ministry. Consequently, we need new leaders. Please pray that some potential young leaders will be equipped.

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*But when we started the meetings online, an amazing thing happened. Some mothers in different cities in North America began to join! The group has been expanding since.*

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The parenting group for Japanese mothers has been meeting online as well. At first, I was hesitant to do it online because many mothers had to take care of children whose schools were closed. But when we started the meetings online, an amazing thing happened. Some mothers in different cities in North America began to join! The group has been expanding since. Before the pandemic, the participants were all non-believers, but now the participants from different cities are mostly Christians, so our group is a mix of believers and non-believers. It has been great to see Christian mothers sharing their testimonies in these meetings. Please pray that God would touch the hearts of non-Christians mothers through the testimonies of Christian mothers. □

The 75th Anniversary of CJM is scheduled to be held in Edmonton, AB in the spring of 2021. Date to be determined.

## 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



Leaders Tom & Miyako Ogasawara with sons Kei (7 yrs.) & Yuma (5 yrs.)

by Miyako Ogasawara

Who would have imagined that 2020 would be such a year? Seven months have passed since WJAC (Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church) stopped worshipping together on Sundays. In mid-March, when Easter was just around the corner, we were notified of a state of emergency in Manitoba due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. We discussed this

unprecedented concern and decided to cancel worship services and all meetings. Soon after, schools, public facilities, restaurants, businesses were closed one after another. I was also confined all day, every day, in our small apartment with our children. It was particularly difficult for the children who have excess energy and to keep them occupied meaningfully, all the while being anxious about the unknown virus called COVID-19. During that time, I didn't have the emotional strength to contact church members to check on their well-being.

It was under such circumstances, that much comfort and encouragement came to me in forms of emails and telephone calls from a senior in our church who assured me of their prayers saying "I'm always praying for you and the church". That gave me much strength to carry on. On another occasion, one of the sisters in the church sent a heartfelt card. She said it was for the whole church, and she imagined everyone's smile when they opened the card, and was looking forward to the day when the church services would resume again.

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*"... just as I received encouragement from others, I would like to encourage you in the same way, praying, and trusting in the Lord, serving one another as we face these uncertain days together".*

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The lockdown had some positive effects to "flatten the curve", lessening the infections and gave some hope that churches will be able to open again in September. Then came August, and the numbers of infected people increased and we soon realized that it was no longer possible to reopen the church in September.

Now, it is easy to imagine that the long and cold winter which is just around the corner will be tougher than ever. However, just as I received encouragement from others, I would like to encourage you in the same way, praying, and trusting in the Lord, serving one another as we face these uncertain days together. The Lord is still in control. Praise His Name! □

# Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

2203-15A St. SE, Calgary, AB  
 Sunday Worship - 10:00 am  
 Pastor Tomoyuki Horiuchi (J) Tel: 587-434-1783  
 (J) website: <http://calgaryjapanesegospel.com/wp/>  
 Pastor Brian Lavender (E) Tel: 403-606-5483  
 (E) website: <http://gpfellowship.org/>



Pastor Tom & Takako Horiuchi

by Pastor Tom Horiuchi

Since the COVID-19 lockdown and all its restrictions hit our country, provinces and cities, the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church (CJGC) has carried on ministry using Zoom for our Sunday worship services beginning at 10:00 am. since the month of April. We are now con-

tinuing our Sunday services both at the church in-person and through Zoom once a month.

Although we do not see one another in person at church every week, we do have opportunities to see each other virtually at least twice a week through Zoom. We can also view the worship message on YouTube through our site at: <http://calgaryjapanesegospel.com/wp/> every Sunday. Being able to view the video weekly has been very encouraging to the congregation and especially to those who are seniors.

Since the month of June, the Gracepoint Fellowship, our English department, led by Pastor Brian Lavender, has conducted two services each Sunday, observing all regulations and limiting attendance at both services. Children worship service will begin at church on October 4, 2020.

*“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” Jude 24,25*

Our prayers are for the entire world to learn of the Good News of Jesus Christ who can help us through any circumstance we face now and in the future. God bless you all! □



Calgary Japanese Gospel Church / Gracepoint Fellowship congregation

# 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](mailto:masmurai@yahoo.co.jp)  
[www.facebook.com/userGTJC](http://www.facebook.com/userGTJC)



Pastor Masato & Harumi Murai

by Pastor Masato Murai

It was a pleasure for me to have met the CJM board members twice in the month of September. The first was on September 11, when our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held online via Zoom video conferencing and the second on

September 25 during the virtual Board of Director’s meeting. It was a delight to see everyone in good health under the protection of the Lord in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic.

Our church, closed its doors in mid March 2020 and reopened on September 13, with some restrictions such as, wearing a mask and social distancing in place. In spite of that, including extra sanitization, it is great to meet in-person again to worship and to have some limited fellowship times together. I am also grateful that we have begun a Wednesday evening Zoom fellowship time which has brought the church people closer in spirit.

The Kodomoen Childcare Centre Inc. is another ministry opportunity. This licensed daycare, located at the Knox Presbyterian Church downtown Toronto, was initiated back in September 2012. The doors to this childcare was also closed back in mid March but has now reopened in September. In June we organized a reunion opportunity for children and parents with all restriction in place and was a delightful time for all.

Lastly, my report goes back to the past two years during which there were 2 infant baptisms and one adult baptism. Standing on the Westminster Standards our church provides infant baptism to willing parents. Its original blessings goes back to the Abrahamic Covenant, we believe. Our church people pray that all the children everywhere will be blessed through their parents by Jesus our Lord Saviour.

Covid-19 pandemic has given us all many challenges but also opportunities to grow stronger and united in Christ. As God’s Family, let us come closer to our ultimate model who is the Triune God, that is the Sagrada Familia. □



Parents and children of the Kodomoen Childcare Centre