

# CJM REPORTER

Spring 2015 Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES

Youth In Action  
Enclosed

## Sunnyside Family Camp August 2-8, 2015

Location: Sunnyside Christian Retreat Centre  
202 Birchcliffe Road, Sylvan Lake, AB  
(16 km. west of Red Deer, AB)

### Guest Speakers:

English department:  
Matt Moore, Intern,  
First Alliance Church,  
Calgary

Japanese department:  
Pastor Haruo Sato  
Japanese Gospel Church of  
Toronto

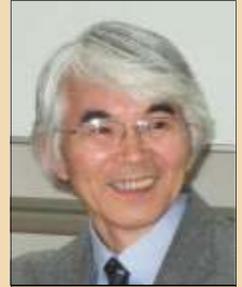
For further information, contact:  
David Tano (403) 242-5270 Email: mdtano@shaw.ca

## Northeast Nikkai 2015 Christian Conference

April 24 - 25, 2015

Location: Scarboro Missions  
2686 Kingston Road,  
Scarborough, ON M1M 1M4

Contact: Yoko Iwai 416-429-4151  
Email: yoko-iwai@sympatico.ca



Rev. Eiji Yonemura  
Ohtsu Christian Church



*Editor's Note: CJM is an Affiliate member of JCFN in the promotion of the GRC2015. This is an united effort on the part of the global evangelical Japanese churches to encourage the youth and young adults whom we have had contact with to attend this conference to be spiritually enriched in their walk with the Lord. Let's pray and support this endeavour.*

by Setsu Shimizu, North America Director  
Praise the name of our Lord!

I would like to introduce an exciting conference that will take place in September 20-23, 2015 in Yamana-shi, Japan.

As you may know, God is reaching out to Japanese in Canada and all around the world and sending them back to Japan as ambassadors of Christ to their family and friends. However, as they return to Japan, for those who have received Christ while in Canada and other places, they face challenging re-entry transitions which would be very difficult to go thorough without prayers and support from the brothers and sisters in Christ. This conference, GRC15 (Global Returnees Conference) would be a great place for those who need support and also for those who want to support these

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## CJM AGM/Conf. 2015

Hosted by:

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church  
425 - 11th Street, New Westminster, BC

**Fri. June 12 -13, 2015**

### Conference Speaker

Richard Nakamura:

Served in Japan in church-plant ministry under SEND International from 1989-2011.

Currently ministering together with his wife, Keri, in Bellevue, Washington. as Japanese Diaspora missionaries.



Conference weekend begins at 5:30 pm on Friday with registration followed by pre-ordered obento dinner.

For further information, please contact:  
Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku (604) 521-7737 or  
Email: vjgc@telus.net

or  
Nori Kanashiro (416) 321-5831 Email: nbkan11@gmail.com

See CJM website: www.CJMin.com for  
Registration & schedule

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YOUTH IN ACTION Editor: Marie Fuki Email: marie.fuki@yahoo.com

CJM Website: www.CJMin.com

# Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at First Baptist Church,  
1614 - 5th Ave. South, Lethbridge, AB  
Sunday Worship service - 2:00 pm.  
Pastor Satoshi Akiyama Tel: 403-317-1987  
Email: ljcfatoshi@gmail.com



Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama  
with daughter Amy (14) & Joshua (16)

by Pastor Satoshi Akiyama

The Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship (LJCF) was started by Kaz and his wife Akemi Hayashizaki approx. 30 years ago. They were burdened to share the Gospel with fellow Japanese, and opened their home for meetings. It is hard to estimate how many have met the Lord

through their ministry. Kaz and Akemi were tireless in their efforts to reach the unsaved with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since he was suddenly called from this life on Nov. 22, 2014, everyone at LJCF are still dazed and unable to “digest” the emptiness left behind. After Kaz’s passing, these lines written by him was found:

*Since this group, the LJCF, was pioneered, more than 30 years have passed. Before our full-time workers, Pastor & Mrs. Akiyama arrived, we received prayers and support from many friends. Some came to salvation and shared in the grace of baptism. I, too, was greatly blessed and encouraged. Even from this juncture I am burdened to share God’s wonderful Gospel together with the Akiyamas.*

Through this difficult time, Akemi desires to comfort others rather than be comforted herself. By faith in her heavenly Father, and the strength given by His Spirit, Akemi accepts the events that suddenly took her husband and seeks with God’s help to move forward in faith. We wish to worship and serve Him together, and are leaving everything in His hand. Do pray with us.

We visited Japan this past winter to deliver personally our report to our home churches. They have been faithful in supporting us over the past 11 years through both good times and not so good times.

Together we have learned to trust in God.

This was our first Japan visit since being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. We wanted to thank these concerned and praying people, and to let them know my condition, and also to obtain a second opinion from Japanese specialists. Fortunately, I was able to received both diagnosis and treatment at the hospital which is connected with the Jun Tendo University. I was advised to take a lesser

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## TRIBUTE & REFLECTIONS

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”  
(Isaiah 55:8,9)



Kaz Hayashizaki

*At the Memorial service of Kaz Hayashizaki on Dec. 6, 2014, the following was the words of “Tribute & Reflection” brought by the General Director of CJM, Nori Kanashiro.*

It is my privilege today to bring a few words of Reflection and Tribute on behalf of the Canadian Japanese Ministries (CJM) in remembrance of our faithful brother, Kaz Hayashizaki.

I, first of all, wish to express my personal condolence to Akemi san, Janet & Norma, Emily & Yasuaki and Daniel. I also wish to express the same on behalf of all the CJM affiliated churches and fellowship across Canada, who, are today remembering you in your time of deep sorrow. The Scripture encourages us in times like this through the Psalmist who says, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servant” *Psa. 116:15.*

Kaz’s passing was certainly untimely and unexpected, but it not a surprise to God who understands the beginning and the end. The Bible further says, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” *Isaiah 55:9.* We want to continue to remember in prayer the recovery of the bodies of Nishibayashi Fuki san and Danny Heyland and their families and loved ones.

My acquaintance with Kaz goes back 40 years, to approx. 1975, when he, together with a number of other young Japanese fellows, attended our CJM Chestermere Lake Winter Retreat. Kaz reminded me on several occasions that because I had beaten him once playing table tennis at that Retreat, that, that was what spurred him on to serious practice which later led him to achieve provincial and national accolades. He, of course, just “toyed” with me on a couple of occasions since that time.

After Kaz and his wife, Akemi, came to know the Lord in a very personal way in 1976, God placed in their hearts a strong desire to share the Word of God and also a vision to establish a local Japanese church in Lethbridge. In the year 2000, Kaz and Satoshi Akiyama, who was a seminary student at that time, came to a CJM AGM to request support for a missionary to work full-time in Lethbridge. All of us on the Board of CJM saw their optimistic vision, faith and plans, so we were soon “on board” to support their cause. We continue to do so today.

Kaz had one purpose and passion in life, and that was that many more people would come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Everything he did, whether through his landscaping business, fishing or table tennis, he did for the glory of God and to touch the lives of others.

Kaz has been an integral part of CJM for nearly 40 years. He is a current member on the Board of Directors and has served in this capacity on and off for nearly 30 years. Kaz brought a sense of stability to the Board of CJM and his vision and passion for ministry had challenged us on numerous occasions.

In addition to integrity and commitment to ministry, Kaz will be

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### DONATIONS:

For support of the  
**AKIYAMA'S**  
and/or the  
**CJM GENERAL FUND,**  
may be sent to:

**Canadian Japanese Ministries**  
2900 Warden Ave.,  
PO. Box 92124  
Scarborough, ON M1W 2S0

CJM Treasurer:  
Larry Iwamoto  
Tel: 905-471-2184  
Email: lkiwamoto@rogers.com

## 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@telus.net  
Website: www.crossoverjapanesechurch.com



Pastor Yoichi & Midori Taniguchi  
with daughters Mana & Agasa

By Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi

**W**e have had two significant blessings we would like to share with you. One is our “Mom & Toddler’s exercise club”. There are increasing numbers of young Japanese people coming to Canada with

working holiday visa. We pray for them as well as their children to come to know Jesus. Once a week we meet at the church and do some exercises and activities with the children for about one hour. Afterwards, we have lunch in the playroom and discuss various topics such as “How to raise children”. This outreach activity is very important because these young Japanese mothers are separated from their parents and cannot get their support to raise their children and in some cases, support with marital problems. Our mission is to become their sincere supporters



Mom & Toddler’s exercise club

and share the Bible with them. We want them to know that all of the answers to solving those problems are right there in the Bible.

Another blessing was that we sent three young adults to The Equipper Conference that was held in Los Angeles, California. Their lives have been changed tremendously. This conference was mainly for the young Christians to be encouraged and equipped so that in days to come, they will be ready to become leaders and to serve our Lord. Their faiths have become stronger and they shared their testimonies with us. They were a huge blessing to us all. (Please see Mana’s testimony and photos in the Youth In Action section of this issue) □

(Continued from page 1)

returnees. At this conference, there will be wonderful worship time, deep and clear Biblical teachings for us to grow in Christ, various fellowship and network time to get connected to old and new friends, and practical workshops to help us to move forward in any situation we might find ourselves in.

This will be the best opportunities to invite



Yoko & Shozo Iwai with young adults from their previous Jesus Family at the ANRC 2012

## Grace Japanese Christian Church

Banff National Park, AB

Meeting at Banff Full Gospel Church  
407 Cougar Street, Banff, AB  
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am.  
Pastor Minoru Enoki  
Email: minoru303zzz@hotmail.com



Pastor Minoru & Izumi Enoki

by Pastor Minoru Enoki

**G**reetings to all CJM Family and staff!

It is such a wonderful opportunity to briefly share our life with you and how God has been impacting our community by transforming the lives of people through His Word. It is 7 months since we arrived and began pastoral ministry in this community. It is always a joy to see God at work in lives of people.

Our theme this year is, to “Devote ourselves to Scripture”. James 1:25 says, “but the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom... **he will be blessed in what he does**”, we accept this challenge to “do” his word and not “hear” it only.

A lady in our church who accepted this challenge found God beginning to change her heart and soon forgiveness developed within her. For years she struggled with this but God worked a miracle that only He can do. Also in the realm of business and finance, we have seen clearly God’s blessings when we trust Him through faithful tithing in our businesses too. I want to encourage everyone to live out His word, so that you will bear much fruit in your life. □



your friends who have returned to Japan recently or long time ago. This will be a time to encourage others but also to be equipped to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Please invite your friends, especially those who have returned to Japan to this conference. Please come and join us at this exciting opportunity at GRC15. Please pray for this conference to serve those returnees and churches and to glorify God! □

## Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Church location:

425 - 11th St., New Westminster, BC V3M 4G1

Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am.

Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku Tel: 604-517-4578

Email: vjgc@telus.net

Pastor Tony Schmidt Tel: 604-420-2335

Email: tony.schmidt@omfmail.com

Chris Collins Youth Ministries Intern

ccolli222@gmail.com

Website: www.jpgospelchurch.com



## 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: toshihiro@yahoo.com

Website: www.ejcc.ca



### Earnestly Praying by Pastor Ted Fukusaku - Senior Pastor

We had our church AGM on March 1<sup>st</sup> and started a new church year. This year's theme is "Earnestly Praying" from Acts 12:5. The early church prayed earnestly for Peter who was captured and put in prison. The believers prayed and the Almighty God rescued Peter miraculously. Likewise, we want to pray earnestly in each situation for the church, for others, and for ourselves, so that we will experience God's mighty work this year. We will continue to pray for you and your church as a part of CJM family. May the Almighty God bless, lead and help each of you so that you will experience His mighty works.



Staff of the Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church  
(Front L-R) Mari Fukusaku, Tetsuya Fukusaku & Mayumi Mizutani  
(Back L-R) Chris Collins, Pat Schmidt & Tony Schmidt

Here are some of the main events we have planned for this year. Please keep them in your prayers.

• April 10<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Celebration:

We cooperate with other 9 Japanese churches in this

region to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Korean churches are helping us by letting us use their facility and also providing dinner for us.

• May 11<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Iwate Mission Trip. Our church will send 6 members to Morioka and Miyako. Their main ministry will be to serve those who are still in temporary housing.

• August 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> will be our Church Family Camp. The Japanese speaker will be Rev. Sunao Shimada and English speaker, Rev. Setsu Shimizu.

• October 3<sup>rd</sup> is our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Gospel Night. God has blessed this event tremendously over the years. Many people have been saved, and have grown spiritually. This event will again be held at the Michael J. Fox Theatre.

• On November 25<sup>th</sup> we will have a Church Building Dedication Ceremony. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year since we have had our own church building in New Westminster. We plan to add another wash room. Please pray that we will get the permission from City Hall and that the construction will go smoothly. □

To see CJM history, ministries, churches affiliated with CJM, former newsletters and many other info and updates, please go to our website at [www.CJMin.com](http://www.CJMin.com)



Pastor Toshihiro & Hiromi Tamura  
with daughter, Hinata (5)

by Pastor Toshihiro Tamura  
Spring is finally approaching after a long winter. We praise our Lord for his grace.

Our Theme for 2015 is "Living together with Christ" from 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10. As for Church events we enjoyed Night Skating in February and Cross-

country skiing in March. We praised the Lord for the beautiful nature that surrounds us. We were also blessed through Break Forth Conference that was held in Edmonton in February. In April, Yuri Nakano will again be commissioned to serve in Japan as a NAB (North American Baptist) missionary. Please continue to pray for her ministry so that the blessings of God will touch the lives of many Japanese people.



An enjoyable day of cross-country skiing

We are also planning an EJCC Family Camp in July. Though we had not had one for a number of years, we look forward to one this coming summer.

We lost our beloved pet dog last year and this filled our hearts with pain. But after much support through heart-warming encouragement and prayer, we welcomed a new puppy. She is now an essential member of our family. Some people may not appreciate the loss we felt, dismissing the grief we experienced for "a mere dog". Some might even consider it inappropriate for a pastor. But here we would like to express our thanks to all brothers and sisters in Christ who wept with us at the time. "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." Roman 12:15.

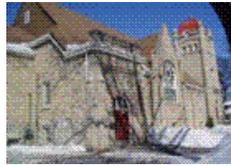
We would like to thank all brothers and sisters in Christ who are praying for our church. Grace and blessings to all CJM churches and members for we are one body in Christ with whom we rejoice together, weep together, and are bound together by the love of Christ.

God bless you. □

## 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 Rev, Bruce Yarrow - Leader  
Email: faith43@shaw.ca  
Website: www.wjac.weebly.com



by Rev Bruce I. Yarrow

**P**raise the Lord! We were blessed with a less severe winter this year, however, the downside of the warmer weather with less snow pack, resulted in very slippery walking and driving conditions.

We have had good reports from the Giesbrechts who are now getting organized and settled in Japan. They are in the Osaka area and are excited about having their dream come true - to become missionaries in Japan. We, at the Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church, as small as we are, are proud that the Lord chose a family from our midst to serve in Japan.

We have also received good re-

ports from the Adachis who moved from Winnipeg to Vancouver Island last fall. We miss them and the Giesbrechts but keep them in prayers and stay in touch via Facebook and email. Between the two families we "lost" 11 people plus 2 Adachi employees who left with them. Though we are saddened by their departure, in the nearly 50 years I have been attending here, I have seen the Lord providing all our needs, including leaders, such as Tomo and Miyako, who have taken over the key leadership positions. They are both working faithfully in the church and are diligent in maintaining an active social involvement in the Japanese Cultural Centre. They have made many friends

within the wider Japanese community here in Winnipeg.

When we have special services, a picnic or summer camp, our numbers always swell.

Finally, we are thankful that the Lord has kept our beloved seniors, mostly widows, healthy and strong. Rev Reimer & Nobuko Claussen, who will soon leave for a short vacation, continues to take messages twice monthly, preaching bilingually, as well as fulfilling so many other duties for his own church.



Farewell Service for the Giesbrechts at the WJAC

□

## New Westminster Evangelical Free Church

### Japanese Section

c/o 7895 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC  
Sunday Worship service - 9:30 am  
c/o Pastor Shigenori Sugimoto  
Email: shige@joy-sheep.com  
Website: www.nwefc.org



Pastor Shigenori & Moea Sugimoto  
with son Kazuki (2.5 years)

By Pastor Shigenori Sugimoto

**A**lthough it is only early April, the cherry blossoms have already started falling this year because of slightly drier and warmer weather in Vancouver. Our church has different services in Japanese, English and Korean at different hours. Therefore, we are using variety of methods to let the worshipers be

aware of the church's unity despite different languages involved. For example, we have the Holy Communion all together as one church every second Sundays. Also, Pastor Tim who is the lead pastor, preaches at the Japanese service every fifth Sundays. We also have joint services at Christmas and Easter and sing together in our own languages while the bible is read in three languages as well. Furthermore, to promote fellowship, we have men's, women's, youth's and neighbor's meetings during the week. We aspire to build a church of Christ in unity. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it (1Co12:27)". □

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amount of the same medication I was taking before.

I believe, this visit to Japan was a confirmation to us to continue as God's servants by being reminded from where we were saved, how we were called and how we were led to this day. Our group at LJCF is small and the church has burdens. But it is a body that rejoices in worship, with our eyes fixed upon the Lord and not at the visible nor circumstantial situations around us. We cling to the Lord, and wait upon Him to work, praying together for mutual strength, encouraging and support. We will continue to do the best we can edifying each other and reaching out to those who need the Lord.

We received much encouragement from Ms. Tomoko Sakamoto, who visited us several weeks ago. Her message subject was: *Our Best Chance*. It is found in Romans 12:12 "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Presently, we are praying that we can firmly deepen our roots. We are trusting our omnipotent God to do His work in our midst.

We thank our praying and giving partners, wholeheartedly, for your faithful love and support. □

(Continued from page 2)

remembered as a man with a ready smile and warmth of character. These are qualities not readily found today. God is good to have given us Kaz as our peer in ministry for many years but we wish it could have carried on. Thank you Kaz, for demonstrating the love of God and living out your life as His servant.

I wish to conclude with these encouraging words from 1 Corinthians 2:9 "As it is written, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him"

Thank you. □

# Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

2203 - 15A St. S.E., Calgary, AB  
Sunday Worship service - 10:30 am.  
Pastor Brian Lavender (E) Tel: 403-275-7132  
Pastor Tomoyuki Horiuchi (J) Tel: 587-352-2233  
Website: www.calgaryjapanesegospel.com



# 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 Haruo Sato (J) 416-495-1534  
Pastor Kevin Ueta (E) 647-298-6422  
Website: www.jgct.com



Pastor Tom & Takako Horiuchi with daughter Marie

by Pastor Tomoyuki (Tom) Horiuchi  
**M**y heart is full of joy as I write this report of our ministry here in Calgary. We are blessed to have Rev. & Mrs. Iwao Ikenouye who have been a great supporters to intercede for all of us in our

ministry. The Lord has blessed Calgary Japanese Gospel Church and the Gracepoint Fellowship (English department) this year. I am thankful for God's presence, His guidance and His leadership here in our ministry.

Our Youth group has started to have fellowship and Bible studies since last December. Children have come to AWANA with joy every week.

Two ladies were baptism last year. They confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who died on the Cross for their sins and rose from the dead gaining victory over sin and death. They testified of their confidence in Jesus Christ who has given them eternal life through faith in His Son. What a blessing they have been to us all!

My focus on teaching and preaching is to share how we can know Jesus better and how we can grow closer to Him. We need to allow Him to touch our lives so that His transforming power can produce the miracles that can only come from Him. I praise the Lord who was and is and is to come! □



Congregation of the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church and Gracepoint Fellowship (English congregation)



Pastor Haruo & Yoko Sato

by Pastor Haruo Sato  
**R**ecently, we had a baptism service for a sister who was returning to Japan. She first came to the weekly pre-school children's program "Aratama" as a non-Christian mother, and shortly thereafter attended our Bible study. It was not long before she placed her faith in Jesus

Christ and was saved. We also have another pre-school program for even younger children called "Kohitsuji Hiroba" with a weekly average of 13 mothers and 15 children. This is a drop-in, minimal structured program. These programs have been in operation for 3-5 years and at the beginning did not affect the attendance in our Sunday service, however, in a very steady fashion and by continual effort of staff and volunteers members, we are noting gradually increases in attendance and some are coming to know the Lord.

In the Japanese congregation, it is encouraging to see some members suggesting ministry ideas to the pastor. When this is received and the pastor believe it can be to the glory of God, he seeks the elders approval and then encourages the proposal to proceed. A number of our ministries have started with the vision from members of the congregation. One such ministry is a regular after-service study group called the "Seed" for young, non-Christian Japanese students. It is meant as an introductory study of the Christian faith. A follow-up study group to "Seed" which began several months ago, is called "Aqua". This follow-up study to "Seed" to strengthen the faith of those who have committed their hearts to Christ



"Seed" study group, an introduction to the Christian faith for seekers

A week before Easter Sunday, a special puppet show for the purpose of outreach was held on Sunday afternoon. It required a number of volunteers who dedicated their time and effort. As a result, we believe God was glorified and the message of Easter was clearly presented.

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph. 2:10, NIV)*

The JGCT English department led by Pastor Kevin Ueta

(Continued on page 7)



## GRACEPOINT FELLOWSHIP

English department of the

Calgary Japanese Gospel Church



Pastor Brian & Cindy Lavender  
with sons Noah (14) & Ethan (12)

by Pastor Brian Lavender

**T**he coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." Luke 17:20, 21.

Perhaps one of the greatest flaws in the Christian worldview that is often

presented to us in message and song, is the thought that the Kingdom of God is something far away in another realm or dimension - It has little or nothing to do with this life, but is a reward that we only receive in the next. Jesus taught something much different. The Kingdom of God is found wherever the King resides. Jesus resides in us, so the Kingdom of God goes wherever we do. It's in

the midst of us when we meet for worship. We take it with us when we minister to the lost and needy.

Even our end reward is not so 'up there' in the heavenly realm as we sometimes think. In Revelation 21 we see this clearly as the New Jerusalem comes down to us on the new earth, and there, God's dwelling is made with man. This should affect the way we do ministry. We are bringing the Kingdom of God with us, wherever we go and meet people who need the Lord.

We are trying to make this a focus of our ministry at **Gracepoint Fellowship**. Recognizing that we are all ambassadors and caretakers of God's Kingdom affects how we treat our environment, communities, and the people within them.

We at CJGC and Gracepoint Fellowship are now fundraising for a new building with the intention of being more of a Kingdom presence in the community, with a greater emphasis on serving the community where we are, and addressing the physical, social and spiritual needs of the people, whom we hope to show a glimpse of the promise and hope of the Kingdom of God. With that in mind, if any of you happen to have an extra million dollars that God is leading you to give - let me know! If not, I know God will provide - please pray for us as we will pray for you and your ministries! □

## VICTORIA JAPANESE CHURCH

Meeting at First Baptist Church  
877 North Park St., Victoria, BC  
Sunday Worship service - 1:30 pm.  
Pastor Tsuguru Okamoto  
Email: hope078@hotmail.co.jp  
http://vjc2012.blog.fc2.com



Pastor Tsuguru & Ryoko Okamoto  
with sons Dendo (7) & Mamoru (5)

by Pastor Tsuguru Okamoto

God's Blessings in 2014.

**A**t the end of October there is a Japanese Cultural Festival held here in Victoria. It is an opportune time to let the community know of our church and its activities.

As a result one lady now comes regularly.

Over the past year, approx. 100 new people visited our church. As they hear the Good News of the Gospel we pray that the seeds sown will result in new life and attendance to the church.

At our Christmas service, brother K, was baptised. He is now having a Bible study with the pastor and hopes to become a strong Christian before returning to Japan.

Last April, we started a house meeting in Nanaimo, BC. We pray that this will be a place from which we can reach out to our community there. □



(Continued from page 6)

*Missio Dei* is a latin term coined by Karl Hartenstein which means the "mission of God." David J. Bosch, writer of *Transforming Mission*, says this about the mission of God: "mission is not primarily an activity of the church, but an attribute of God. God is a missionary God."

This year, God has given us an opportunity to send a short-term missions team consisting of 4 students and 4 counselors to help Martin and Ruth Ghent (OMF Canada missionaries) in their church plant ministry in Aomori prefecture, Japan. The team has spent time praying over their participation in this opportunity and we feel that this would be an exciting way to rediscover God's own heart for world missions. We will be heading over there for three weeks starting in mid-July this summer. We are all excited to see how this mission trip can complement our endeavor to grow as disciples of Christ. □



Front row:(L-R) Kaylin, Charlotte, Adam, Josh and Carolyn.  
Rear row: (L-R) Pastor Kevin, Sharon, Ruth,& Martin Ghent, Brett.