

# The Wards . . . Church Planting in Japan



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**New Church Plant:** Kato Baptist Church  
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May God bless you for all your prayers and sacrifices on our behalf.

## Church Events

We experienced some blessings on Father's Day, with a pretty good attendance. We had passed out 10,000 flyers and had two visitors: Mr. Mori, a Japanese man who lives in the area, and a young lady from Nepal, Sajina. Mr. Mori has attended most Sundays since then, except during August. Sajina normally works on Sundays and wants to come but cannot get off work. She said she got saved about two years ago in Nepal, and came to Japan about a year ago.

## Our Daughters' Visit

Teresa and Sara arrived safely on June 17 and we had a great time with them. While they were with us, Teresa played a couple cello specials and played the cello every Sunday during the congregational hymns. Sara and Teresa did a duet one Sunday, and Sara sang several solos for us during the Sunday services. They passed out flyers with us and visited homes with us.

Since Sara has been approved to be a missionary to Japan with BIMI, she wanted to go to several other churches here to participate in their services. She and Teresa sang duets at the church I started in Kobe, and Sara gave a testimony in Japanese there. Also, at a church in Shirakawa City in Fukushima Prefecture they sang the same duet. The pastor there, Pastor Wakimasu, used to attend our church in Kobe. At Shirakawa Baptist Church, she also did a duet with the pastor's wife. Sara played the recorder, and Mrs. Wakimasu played the Ocarina. Sara also sang a solo and gave a testimony in Japanese.

On Sunday, July 16, Teresa did a chalk art and I preached on "The Love of the Cross." We passed out 3,000 flyers and had a good attendance, but no new people showed up, unfortunately. Teresa went back to the US on July 20, but Sara stayed until August 18.

While Sara was still in Japan, we visited Midorigaoka Baptist Church on Wednesday night with Sara and Pastor Yoshimoto had her sing a solo and give her testimony in Japanese. Her Japanese is very good and she is already equipped to serve here in Japan. We took Sara to Okinawa with us during the first week of August. While there, a typhoon went through the island that lasted four days. We had two full days without electricity. We were going to visit Maranatha Baptist Church with Sara, but because of the typhoon, the Wednesday night services were canceled, so Sara sent them a video testimony. instead.

## August Attendance at Kato BC

During June and July, we had pretty good attendance. However, during August we had low attendance. It has been very discouraging. We have had some Sundays in August with only two or three attending.

## Outreach efforts

Japan is slowly recovering from Covid. Many people still wear masks. So we have been slow getting back to door-to-door visitation. However we have resumed that even though it has been extremely hot here. We have been knocking on doors in an area called

Kaminaka. Pray for fruit for our labors.

We are in the middle of passing out 8,000 flyers for the 4th anniversary service for Kato Baptist Church. Pray that those who receive them will read the gospel message on the back, and that many people will come on Sunday, July 17, especially unsaved people.

## Church Summer Camp

August 11-12 our church participated in a summer camp with three other like-minded Baptist churches. It was a great time of fellowship, worship, and learning the scriptures. The pastor of each church brought a message from each chapter of Philippians. I preached from chapter three.

## Answers to prayer

Mrs. Tokimoto came to Sunday School, and the morning service on Sunday, August 20. So my assistant, Yuki Fukukimoto switched his Sunday School lesson to the subject of salvation and taught the gospel clearly. In the morning service I preached on "Showing Your Faith." She did not make a decision, so please keep praying for her and her husband.

## Upcoming Events

- ✓ 4th anniversary service on Sunday, September 17
- ✓ Furlough from December 11 to February 12. Call or email if you want us to stop by. We are already scheduled on Jan. 14

## Prayer requests for salvation

- NEW: Mr. Yoshikawa, who sold us our car.
- Mr. Ueno (wife Jennifer, a Filipino, is saved): move to Osaka
- Mr. and Mrs. Kuramae, our church landlords: salvation and health
- Mr. and Mrs. Kageyama, our house landlords
- Mrs. and Mrs. Tokimoto, our real estate agent
- Mrs. Tsunemine
- Mr. Morimoto
- For Mrs. Tanaka and Mrs. Fujimoto, who came to the Christmas Concert in 2019
- Mr. Manabu Matsumoto, the cousin of Hiroko Matsumoto, a Japanese missionary in Senegal.
- Mrs. Fujiwara, the grandmother of Mr. Komi, a member of another Baptist church.
- Mr. Tokuhara, owner of the bike shop where I bought a scooter.
- Mr. Taro Kuramae, the man who did our plumbing
- Mrs. Taitano, the wife of Mr. Taitano
- Mr. Shikata
- Mrs. Yamada: to come to church again and be saved

## Other prayer requests

- Spiritual growth of Mr. Fujiwara
- Mr. Akita: to come to church regularly
- Property and/or building for the future of Kato BC
- God's blessing on Mr. Yuki Fukukimoto, our Japanese co-worker. Pray that he gets a wife.
- Evangelism of the cities of Kato, Ono, Kasai, and Nishiwaki.