

The Wards . . . Church Planting in Japan



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Church Plant: Kato Baptist Church
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March 31, 2024

We really appreciate your prayers and sacrifices for our ministry. May God abundantly bless you all.

Special Easter services

We will be holding Easter services on April 20. We will have a kids activity at 10:00 and our regular Easter service at 11:00. Our Easter service message is, "Why do Christians Believe in the Resurrection?" We will be passing out 8,000 flyers to invite folks. Please pray for these services and especially for the children's activity, that we have many visitors come to hear the gospel.

Visitors

We had one first-time visitor during the month of March, a Mrs. Yagi. After the service, she said that she was moved by the songs and the content of the sermon. She plans to come again next week.

Last week I wrote about two visitors who were coming from an hour away. Mr. Hirose and Nitopo (a Burmese lady). After church



on March 16 I asked Mr. Hirose if he would like to believe on Christ, and he said yes. I led him through the plan of salvation and he prayed to receive Christ. They have continued to come. Nitopo says that she is already a Christian.

Tract and flyer distribution

We have distributed about 2,000 of the 10,000 tracts entitled "Are you Ready?" that were produced here in Japan. We are including these 8,000 remaining tracts as we distribute the 8,000 Easter invitations.

Special events coming up

Special services coming up on Mother's Day and Father's Day. A church picnic with some other churches on April 29. Young singles retreat on May 5-6.

Bible College

Our annual Bible conference took place on March 14 and 15. Pastor Mark Carpenter of Heritage Baptist Church in Virginia preached twice. We held the graduation ceremony on Friday, March 14. Three men and two women graduated. Pastor Omote of Nishi Maiko Baptist Church preached the message.

Our new school term starts April 8. I will be teaching Bible



English I and Major Prophets once again. We have two new students this year. Please pray for more men and women in Japan to be called into full-time service.

Property and Building for the Church

In my last letter, I mentioned that we were looking at property for the church. I mentioned four options: 1) to buy the present building and the building next door and join them together; 2) to buy a property shown to us of about 1/4 acre and build (in a good location); 3) to buy another better property very close to the present church and build; or 4) to buy an existing three story building in a



good location. Please pray for God's direction. Right now it looks like the quarter acre option seems best.

Praises

- ☒ The salvation of Mr. Hirose
- ☒ Mrs. Yagi visiting.

Prayer requests for salvation

- ☐ Mrs. Yagi
- ☐ Mr. Hiromu Fujii's wife and family.
- ☐ Mr. Yoshikawa, who sold us our car.
- ☐ Mr. and Mrs. Kuramae, our church landlords: salvation and health
- ☐ Mr. and Mrs. Kageyama, our house landlords
- ☐ Mr. and Mrs. Tokimoto, our real estate agent
- ☐ Mrs. Tsunemine and Mr. Morimoto
- ☐ Mrs. Tanaka and Mrs. Fujimoto and families
- ☐ Mr. Manabu Matsumoto, the cousin of Miss Hiroko Matsumoto, a Japanese missionary in Senegal.
- ☐ Mrs. Fujiwara, the grandmother of Mr. Komi
- ☐ Mr. Tokuhara, owner of the bike shop where I bought a scooter.
- ☐ Mr. Taro Kuramae, the man who did our plumbing
- ☐ Mr. Taitano's wife and his sons, Owen and Eric.
- ☐ Mrs. Yamada: to come to church again and be saved

Other prayer requests

- ☐ Baptism and spiritual growth of Mr. Hirose.
- ☐ The Kamo family and Mr. Tomisako to return visit
- ☐ Mr. Akita and Mr. Kasahara to come back to church
- ☐ Property and/or building for the future of Kato BC
- ☐ God's blessing on Mr. Yuki Fukumoto, our co-worker.
- ☐ Evangelism of Kato, Ono, Kasai, and Nishiwaki City.