

# The Wards . . . Church Planting in Japan



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**Church Plant:** Kato Baptist Church  
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May God bless you for your faithful monetary support and especially prayer support.

## Outreach

We had four fathers come to church on Father's Day, June 16. In addition we had one repeat visitor, a lady named Sajina, who is a Nepalese Christian.

We passed out 10,000 flyers for a Friend Day service on July 28. Pastor Murakami from Grace Kobe Baptist Church came and preached for us. Unfortunately, we did not have any newcomers. However, we had a blessed service.

## Upcoming Events

We will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of our church opening on September 15. Sogoro Ogawa, Pastor Emeritus of Senri Newtown Baptist Church will be our guest speaker.

On September 22, we will have a Missions emphasis, and the Izumi family, missionaries to Thailand, will be in our Sunday School and Morning Service.

Please pray for these events.

## Construction Projects

I went to Aomori in northern Japan again July 28-August 3 to help Missionary Paul Johnson with renovations in the building that his church just purchased. God blessed and we made good progress. We finished some electrical work, as well as installing some drywall. We were able to complete the first coat of mud on the walls and ceiling of the room that will be their next auditorium temporarily.

## Sara, Our Daughter is Helping Us

As I mentioned in the last prayer letter, Sara came to Japan on April 30, and has been helping us in the ministry here in the church work. Because of her, we can now have special music every Sunday. She has been a great help also in passing out literature, and inviting people to church.

She had to go to Korea for a day and come back to Japan in order to renew her tourist visa. We will be applying for a religious work visa for her, so please pray for that to go through.

The relationship between her and Mr. Fukumoto has grown deeper. Please pray for them to know the will of God.

## Blessings in the Ministry

Thanks to your prayers, after at least a year's absence, Mr. Fujiwara started coming to church again! Keep praying for him so that he would agree to a time for personal Bible study. I don't think he really understands the gospel well.

Mr. Roniecson Yamamoto has started coming to church

again. Please pray for him and his wife Vanessa, and their son Yan. They are a Brazilian-Japanese family.

## Crises and Testings

Vanessa Yamamoto, who was coming and bringing her son Yan to our church, became very ill, and actually had intestinal problems for 6 weeks. During that time her husband took her to several doctors, but the condition continued. So finally I went with them to the hospital and she was seen by a doctor who seemed to care and he turned her over to a gastro-intestinal specialist. That doctor looked at her blood test and said he suspected she had ulcerative colitis, an auto-immune disease that affects the large intestine. Her red blood cell count was so low that they had to give her two units of blood.

She was hospitalized for one month and finally got out and was able to attend church August 4 with her husband and son. She has to take special medicine that is expensive, and they have been short on finances because her husband had to take off work so many times to take her to the doctor. It was a great trial for them, but they put their trust in Jesus and He saw them through the trial.

Mr. Taitano, another member of our church whose wife and two sons are unsaved, was going to bring a visitor to friend day, but the day before received word that his brother had passed away. He is having to take care of the funeral arrangements and settlement of his estate.

## Prayer requests for salvation

- 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
- 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
- Mrs. Taitano, the wife of Mr. Taitano, and his two sons
- Mrs. Yamada: to come to church again and be saved

## Other prayer requests

- Mr. Akita 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.