



From the Editor

The social stigma of becoming a Christian in a Buddhist/Shinto culture means many Japanese who *do* hear the gospel hesitate to follow Christ themselves. And yet our churches are not empty, praise God! This month we hear the testimony of how one of our church's members came to faith while far from home.

Henrietta

News & Prayer Points

Chung Kyu and UnMee Lee have been commissioned for an initial pioneer and research period in **Yamashina**, with a view to furthering church planting work there. Pray for God to grow a vision for this work among the whole field.

Simon and Henrietta Cozens have returned to Japan after an extended furlough (including getting married and having a baby!) and have just been commissioned for a 6 month period of research and pioneering in **Fushimi**, south of Kyoto, which they'll start properly in September. Pray for good opportunities and for building a future team.

Pray for the development of a **'think tank'** of ways to run internships and other training for Japanese interested in becoming mission workers here or overseas.

Thank you all for your prayers!

Finding Jesus

Emi Matsumoto is a member of Higashi-Omi church. She also often helps the missionaries (including the field leader!) with their Japanese. Here she shares how she came to faith in Jesus.

'When I was 18 I went to Okinawa [Japan's southernmost island] to go to university, and I ended up staying there for five years. After university I made a good friend in my workplace - the department for tourists. Soon after, I came back to Kobe [in the west of the Japanese mainland] but I kept in touch with my friend in Okinawa.

One day about four years later she sent me a letter; she told me she had become a single mother and also that she had since been baptised. So I went to Okinawa for one week to see her baby boy.

During that week she told me a lot about Jesus, and how God had changed her life and her mind. I was amazed how she had changed, and how God had changed her life.

She invited me to church and I said 'OK'. I was impressed with the sermon - that God was a god of weak hearts (1 Corinthians 1 and 2). I knew that I was weak and I was a sinner, and if God could



Emi, one of our church members

change my life I thought he was the only one who could do that, (because when I was in Okinawa I did all the wrong things).

I returned home and looked for a church and found one in Osaka. I asked the pastor 'Can I be a Christian?'

Sometimes it's difficult being a Christian in Japan, but on the other hand, because there are not so many Christian people I feel so blessed to know Jesus.

One of the differences God makes in my life is that my earthly father says 'you are ugly' (that's why I left home and went to Okinawa, I wanted to go as far away as possible!), but my heavenly father says 'you are beautiful'.