



From the Editor

Last month's article featured one of our newer church planting experiments, but here in WEC we are also passionate to see existing churches be used to reach those around them and themselves plant new churches. This month's article proves there is certainly life after 50 years for a church!

Henrietta

News & Prayer Points

Some theological students at one of Kyoto's universities are attending an evangelical Bible study group that one of our workers is involved with. Pray they'd encounter Jesus Christ and might start following him.

A few of our workers are volunteering in the tsunami-affected area from June 11th to 16th; pray for God's protection and blessing for this trip and his blessing. Keep praying for Cat Porter who is up there for at least six months too.

Pray for our short term workers with us at the moment, (including three individuals from Switzerland, Germany and Canada, and one team from Singapore), that they'd bless those they meet and be blessed.

Ms Noh came to faith last autumn and is due to be baptised this month in south Kyoto. Please pray for continued growth and freedom in every area for her.

Life After 50

Ritto City is the third most densely populated area in Shiga Ken, the main area where WEC is working in Japan. Ritto's population at 65 000 is by no means huge, but it does stand out as having only one church to reach the whole city. That church – one of our network - has been without a Pastor for the last year. Julie and I had a desire to see the church not just be helped to survive, but to be a light giving church in its community. Expressing that desire has led to just being appointed as (remote) Pastors.

Within our WEC Japan leadership role, we have been very keen to encourage new church planting initiatives using new church models, but we also are passionate that we want to see existing churches be used to reach those around them and to themselves plant new churches.

What challenges do we face as we become involved with the members of Ritto church? 2013 is the 50th anniversary of Ritto church being started, and whilst there is vision among the membership, many of them are over 70 years old. This contrasts to the

results of a recent city census that shows that the average person living in Ritto is actually under 35 years old. Currently the church building is open and used primarily just on Sundays, so we need to look at ways of connecting with the community around the church.

Oh yes, and one other big challenge, we are still the leaders for Megumi church in Hikone as well! So we hope to use Ritto as a base for growing others. We rejoice that our Japanese co-worker, Miho, shared our vision for involvement with Ritto and that we have other Japanese Christians that we also hope to see developed in their gifting there.

By Martin and Julie Crowhurst

