



Seeds of Grace

Reaching people. Planting churches... in Japan

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From the Editor

Recently in the news here conflict between Japan and China has been high profile. Violent protests and calls for boycotts of Japanese products broke out across China in mid-September. The disputed ownership of the Senkaku / Diaoyu islands has been the cause. So this month we chose to feature our newest missionary family from Hong Kong. We asked them to tell us of their early challenges of life in Japan, and their hope in being here.

News and Prayer Points

Mrs Yamada from Yamashina will be baptized at the end of this month or early next month, and several others soon in Kusatsu. Pray for them!

The Lees in Izumi Christian House, Yamashina, also have their first wedding to conduct in December. Please pray as they start a Bible-based marriage course with the couple, and pray too for the couple's salvation.

Kusatsu church will hold an Autumn festival at the end of October. Please pray for ongoing preparations, enough parking space and God's presence and work in the heart of those who participate.

Jill Carey Smith flies to New Zealand on October 17th for 6 months; she says, 'Should be interesting as only have hand luggage allowance this time!' Pray for Jill to be a blessing and know God's provision in NZ. She just found out in time that she also has to vacate her house in Japan as the land is being sold, and so on her return next year will live in WEC headquarters.

Pray for peace with China.



Starting Missionary Life

By the grace of God, my wife Celia, my son Marco and I came to Japan from Hong Kong for missionary work six months ago. God led us step by step. As a child I liked Japanese cartoons. Twelve years ago, I came to study Japanese for one year. I met my wife in the Japanese church in Nagoya. After we returned to Hong Kong, both of us worked in a Japanese firm in Hong Kong. As God continued to place a burden for sharing the gospel to Japanese in our heart, after a few years preparation, we are now in Japan to serve Him!

When we first arrived my son, Marco had a difficult time. He did not understand the language or customs in his Japanese primary school and so was scared of everything. For example, Japanese students change into 'indoor shoes' when they go inside school, but Marco was worried about whether he needed to put on socks. But thanks to God, the school has a special class for foreigners to learn Japanese, and after one term (4 months) of study, Marco can communicate in Japanese. He still, however, sometimes misses his friends and relatives in Hong Kong. The biggest challenge is to help my son to grow. Sometimes, my wife and I do not know what to do, and the

only thing that we can do is to pray, to seek God's help. We have experienced that the grace of God is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12:6).

Another challenge is transport! Where we are working has no subway and the bus departs every two hours! So, we need to walk, ride bicycles or drive. But I have not yet got a driving license. Riding a bike on a rainy or windy day is a hard job!

Many friends have asked us if the current Japan-China relations over the disputed island territories affect our life. In Nagahama where we are working, we still feel the harmony between Chinese and Japanese. Japanese like to keep harmony. So, if foreigners can respect the culture of Japan, Japanese also respect them. There are many Japanese men here with Chinese wives. I know a couple of them, and I have seen the men treat their wives very well.

We are doing a two-year internship in a Japanese church, which is wonderful. Please pray that we can know the heart of the Lord about what kind of ministry we should do after this internship, and where. Please also pray for the growth of us in Christ.

- By Choy Kin Fai