



## From the Editor

As Japanese pastors get fewer, we rejoice that one man has been led by God to start an internship as a pastor with our network from April. Here we share his testimony. Do pray for him!

*Henrietta*

## News and Prayer Points

The WEC house (lived in by Jill Smith) needed to be demolished. Altogether 21 different people helped (missionaries and volunteers); praise God that all went well and it was finished a few days ago!

Pray for a special event on February 12 for those in Kusatsu with a loose connection with the church— a Valentine event for ladies, with a message by Sewon Kang on 'real love'.

In April Peter Chu goes back to Hongkong for some months; pray for God to continue to meet with those in his current outreach karate classes.

Richard Owens (in the UK), former WEC field leader here, recently communicated with us that his wife Edna's time is probably very short due to cancer. He says, 'her radiant personality will be sorely missed, but we don't grieve as those who have no hope.' Pray for the family at this time.

The Lees are in Korea for three months; pray for strength and joy for the Hallams to lead ICH while they are away.

Pray for the Lims as they expect a baby this month.

Pray for Nick Mason (Canada), preparing to come to the field.

## The Irrevocable Call of God

My album begins with an old, faded photograph of my dedication ceremony: my parents overwhelmed by emotion and giving thanks to God. It is God, who has led me up until today, that I want to testify about.

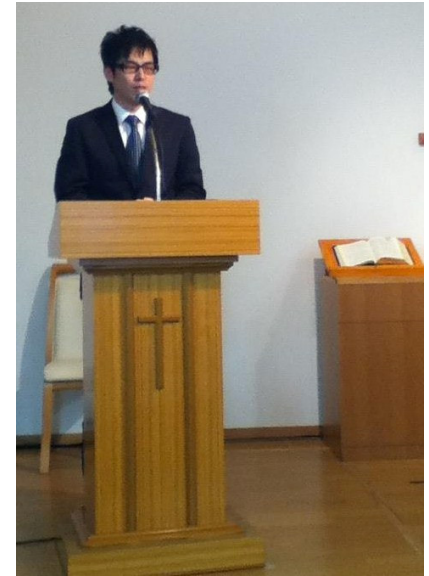
I was born in Osaka in 1978. My father was led to Christ by a Swedish missionary, and I no more doubted the existence of God than I doubted the existence of the invisible air I breathed. When I was at junior school, I already believed in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

But in my second year of middle school, a dark shadow was cast across my church experience; the church split as a result of the pastor's family breakdown. I felt like I had been slain, but my parents and I started to go to a different church, and it was at this new church that I was led to baptism.

Although I had faith, without a clear plan for my future, I fell into a care-less lifestyle by the age of 19. I attended a church celebration and, accepting the invitation of the visiting preacher to give my whole life over to Christ, I felt like I was being pulled out to the front to be prayed for. The following day, I was led to read Jeremiah 1:7-8:

The LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' But go to whom-ever I send you and say whatever I tell you. Do not be afraid of those to whom I send you, for I will be with you to protect you," says the LORD.

But after graduating from theological college, while I was working as a church evangelist in 2008, my pastor was discovered to have problems with women and money. The church



was plunged into confusion. The Gospel had been twisted. I became deeply ashamed of the foolishness of continuing to serve in such a church, and poured out my heart to God in repentance.

I sought the help of Pastor Okumura from Rakusei church [planted by WEC], where I received wonderful fellowship, and I began to attend Sunday services. In his sermon on the March 4 2012, Pastor Okumura taught on the importance of living your calling, (John 15:16): "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you." That verse gripped my heart, and God led me to re-dedicate myself to Him. From [April] 2013 I will begin a period as an intern in order to prepare myself as a communicator of the Gospel.

By Shintaro Christopher Andrew Kawasaki  
- married to Kawasaki Rieko, with two children, son Akiyoshi (8) and daughter Yukine (2).