



From the Editor

While rural Japan is beautiful, it is also challenging. Gaining people's trust and finding the right path to present the gospel is important. This month Elaine Kitamura shares how God has opened up such a path to her and her husbands, in schools.

Henrietta Cozens

News and Prayer Points

On November 24th we will hold a World Mission Day for our network of churches. Please pray Japanese Christians are open to God's call to serve Him overseas. Pray too churches and pastors are convinced of God's heart for the nations, and their part in praying, giving and sending.

We have started monthly prayer meetings for missionaries, to pray for God to work through us here.

Some among us, particularly the Cummings family, the Caseleys, and Nick Mason are praying about their future direction. Pray God would show them where to serve Him best.

Jaehyun and Sewon Chois and Jaenbaeg Lim are in Thailand at a WEC leaders training conference. Pray for them to be refreshed and ready to share and practice what they've learnt when they return.

Pray for Christmas event planning and God to prepare the ears and hearts of people to accept God's good news.

Giving Christian Testimonies - to Schools

Our rural area of about 30,000, is ultra-conservative. Traditions have been held almost unchanged for many generations. Soon after coming here, God gave us access to schools. This was remarkable because no amount of planned strategy could do that, especially with the intention of gospel input. You have to have "trust", and that means personal acquaintance, or introductions from mutual friends. Then you have to have "an acceptable presentation", something that is already understood and appreciated.

Just at the time we came here, my husband Shuichi's old university friends were becoming principals of local schools, so there was our "trust"! Soon afterwards, I was invited to teach English in several local primary schools, spreading the contact base further.

So how about the "acceptable presentation"? Again we were astonished at God's timing. There are two celebrity handicapped Christians that are well-known and respected throughout Japan, though their testimony is usually not known. One of these is a poet/artist who writes and draws by mouth. The other man is a blind singer, who holds concerts nationwide. Both of these men have been featured in school textbooks over several years. So there was our "acceptable presentation". But how were we to use this for the gospel?

We could do nothing more without God's intervention, which happened, all unplanned, as follows. The blind singer was featured on Christian TV, giving his testimony (so we got the DVD). And the artist produced another book of poems, this time including his testimony. So

Tomohiro Yoshino created his paintings by holding a brush in his mouth. His testimony has been given out in schools.



Shuichi has been regularly visiting the 22 local schools, presenting the DVD, and later the book to principals. He has received a very warm welcome, and the material is being read and used.

Recently we have another opportunity. Mrs Yokota is the Christian mother of a young girl who was kidnapped to North Korea. She has a high profile, and is sometimes invited to speak in schools. Recently she has written a book which includes her testimony. Shuichi is about to start a round of the local schools, presenting them to headmasters.

We have not yet come to the harvest. But such a hearing for the gospel is close to a miracle in an area like this! Please pray with us.

by Elaine Kitamura