



## From the Editor

God is working across Japan in small and big ways. This issue highlights three other groups and locations which are seeing spiritual fruit. We are delighted to be part of The Japan Evangelical Missionary Alliance (JEMA), which networks and equips 900 members including 40 mission based agencies. Every two years we send representatives to JEMA's Church Planting Initiative, where we hear of some of these stories first hand, as well as share our own.

Henrietta Cozens

## News and Prayer Points

Thanks for praying for our **Christmas events!** Some 20 students came to the KGK one in Kyoto, including a couple of non-believers. One student shared the Christmas message and another gave a testimony of his recent salvation. The whole meeting was wrapped up with a warm hot-pot (nabe) dinner. Tracts were given out to those who attended. Do pray for the salvation of these students.

Pray for God's leading for making a **field strategy** under our new field vision, that He would give us proper strategy for effective ministry, and might show us future possible church planting areas.

Pray for **Kaori church's** future direction, as Ron & Yoshimi Caseley go on home furlough while Ron experiences severe asthma. Seongjae Yu will return to the field in January, serving Kaori church to cover Caseley's absence initially.

## Wider lens on Japan mission

As a high school English teacher, I greatly benefited from observing other teachers' classrooms. In this spirit, this article will highlight some of the other mission works in Japan.

### *Mission to the World (Presbyterian)*

Working in Chiba and Nagoya, teams of 7-10 missionaries apiece elect a leader, then pool their talents to plant large and thriving churches. A field leader supervises all workers, currently 50. The Chiba church worships about 200 in three locations, and has a wide web of relationships through English classes, a Christian school, gospel choir, and other outreach programs. They have planted several other churches in the area. The Nagoya church is bursting at the seams with 100 in worship, many young people and children, one church plant launching, and another planned soon. In addition, MTW has as its spiritual values a grace-based program called Sonship, which seeks to maintain joy through reminding Christians of their daily acceptance in Christ.

### *Sunrise International (Independent)*

A smaller mission founded by Jim Millard in 1985, and now led primarily by his three sons, in 2000 they started doing house churches. Sunrise missionaries maintain jobs in Japan while discipling small groups of believers in the Tokyo area. At last count they had 8



groups of about 10 each. They attract the marginalized in Japan: construction workers, drug users, ex-convicts, the partially employed. They encourage everyone to share their faith, wherever they are, and their groups multiply in this way. They were one of the first responders to the tsunami of 2011, and still operate a ministry in the disaster zone.

### *International Jesus Lighthouse*

IJL, affiliated with the large Hillsong Church in Australia, represents the mega-church movement. Founded by Kiwis Rod and Viv Plummer, they worship 1,500 per Sunday in 4 services in the heart of Tokyo. They have branch locations in 10 other Japanese cities and 4 countries. Pentecostal in doctrine, their worship is bilingual with a rock-concert atmosphere and feel. Most congregants are young, and find community, ownership, and a place for exuberant worship in the church. They also have over 170 small groups that meet throughout the week for discipleship, and are assisted both by young Japanese leadership and a large lay-missionary team.

*With these examples my aim has been to inform and assist both supporters and missionaries.*

Matthew Cummings