



From the Editor

This month, we would like to share the testimony of one Japanese Christian woman, Mrs. Furuya. She is a member of Kaori Church and has been leading a 'Blue Ribbon' prayer meeting in her home with her husband, who is a non-believer. Other than her husband, the meeting is only composed of Japanese women so far.

Selina Seongjae Yu

News and Prayer Points

Summer is drawing to an end, and with it, our various summer outreach events. Praise the Lord for good attendance and opportunities to share at these events. Please pray for God's working in the lives of all those who were in attendance (especially non-believers).

Please pray for safe travel for the workers who will be returning to Japan after summer trips. Also, for them to be able to smoothly transition back into their routine despite the weather still being rather hot.

After some recent personnel changes, please continue to pray for God's guidance for Kaori church and pray for the members there.

Mrs. Furuya's Testimony

I moved to Shiga prefecture 23 years ago. Initially, I felt comfortable living with my husband and mother-in-law. At that time, my two children were already independent of us. Some years later, my husband faced a serious problem in his company so he had to work very hard. I did not know how to support him. Also, my mother-in-law was getting older and began to act aggressively towards me at times. I had never been under such emotional pressure as I was through these unexpected situations.

One day, I suddenly recalled Sakie Yokoda. She was the mother of Megumi, who disappeared without a trace while on her way home from school on November 15, 1977, when she was 13 years-old. Twenty years later, a newspaper revealed that she had been abducted by North Korea. Sakie became a Christian after her daughter disappeared in their home town, Nigata. I personally knew her and had heard her life story.

I strongly sensed my need for God's guidance and made the decision to go to church. Then Sakie gave me a contact number for the SFDK. I phoned the number and was lead to a WEC missionary couple who were preparing to begin church planting in my area. Together with this couple, we started the bible study. Also, I began to be healed from my stress and anxiety. Four years later, at the age of 60, I was bap-

tized, in September 2003, in Lake Biwa.

"Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62:8, ESV).

The Blue Ribbon Prayer Meeting

My husband was working in the same company as Sakie's husband. We had left Nigata, but when we returned, we had an amazing reunion. When Megumi suddenly went missing and the police investigation did not go well, we could not support with any words and felt a lot of tension and pain.

Twenty years later, the kidnapping issue became crucial; however, the negotiation was not successful between Japan and North Korea until more recently.

Three women from the Tokyo area started the Blue Ribbon prayer meeting in order to support Sakie. They have been holding these prayer meetings in longing to see God's solution to the issue. Now, these Blue Ribbon meetings have spread throughout the whole country of Japan.

Translated and edited by Selina Seongjae Yu