

CJM REPORTER

Fall 2013 Published by the CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES

HIDDEN GEMS ... Growing Brighter every year *A report from the CJM Sunnyside Family Camp 2013*

By Dr. David Tano

A few years ago I wrote an update article regarding a hidden gem in the heart of Alberta. The gem I referred to was affectionately called by many as Sunnyside Camp. Nestled in lake country on the shores of Sylvan Lake is a gathering of about 200 people from all walks of life, ranging from ages 6 months to 90+ years, all with some connections with Japanese in Canada. We gather from Saskatchewan, B.C. and all over Alberta every August for one week to interact, relax, pray and learn what the Christian faith is all about. We are a nondenominational Christian summer family camp designed to allow all ages to come together in a great environment and learn about Jesus Christ. Sunnyside Camp 2013 was our 61st consecutive year of family camping. CJM Sunnyside Family Camp is unique in camping circles. It combines children's, youth and family camping in a fully integrated bilingual programs and activities. The children have a great time in their own cabins making lifelong friends and creating bonds like no other while families have their own rooms and develop lasting memories together.

Led by the incredible skills of Robert Hasegawa and co-assistant directors, David Tano and Pastor Brian Lavender, Camp 2013 was again a resounding success. Four campers were baptized, with many others reconfirming their lives to Christ. Congratulations

to Jennifer and Alison Konno, Mie Ishii, and Yoko Yamamoto who shared their testimonies, as well as the powerful affirmation of faith by Vanessa Koo. Our guest speakers this year were Setsu Shimizu of JCFN in Los Angeles, who spoke daily to the Japanese speaking group and to our delight, we were blessed by

one of our own, Shion Kuriyama, who serves with YWAM ministries. Shion challenged many youth to be passionate for Christ.

A special thanks to the many volunteers whose effort made Camp 2013 another very rewarding experience. For many of you who have never experienced Sunnyside Camp, our invitation is extended to you to come join us in 2014! The dates are July 27 - August 2, 2014. □



Witnessing baptism at the waterfront on a bright and beautiful day

Northeast Nikkei 2013 Christian Conference

By Pastor Haruo Sato, Chair of the NENCC Planning Committee

The North East Japanese Christian Conference (NENCC) was held for many years at the Crieff Hills Conference & Retreat Centre near the city of Guelph, Ontario. This location is approx. 60 kms. west of Toronto and held on the Civic long weekend in August. This year, the conference relocated to the city of Toronto and was held at Scarboro Mission, a Catholic facility in Scarborough, on April 26-27, 2013. The conference location change was made due to the fact that most attendees were from the city of Toronto. There were a total of 69 people who attended during the conference days this year.

The guest speaker at the conference was Setsu (Kuroda) Shimizu, the International Director of Japanese Christian Fellowship Network (JCFN) and also a missionary with Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF). Her husband, Mao, accompanied her and translated the message into English. Setsu sensei centered her messages on the question: "How satisfied are you in your life?" She explained, when we meet Jesus, He will give us satisfaction and new purpose because we will experience a "180 degree transformation" in our lives. It was a fitting conclusion to the conference as she shared the concept of the SHAPE seminar. She further explained that God has created, shaped and gifted us uniquely to serve Him, His church and the people we touch in our community.

Setsu sensei will be the guest speaker again next year. The location of the conference will be the Scarboro Mission at approx.



Part of the conferees during a speaker session

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CO-EDITORS:

Nori Kanashiro 56 Wakefield Cres., Toronto, ON M1W 2C2 Tel: 416-321-5831 Email: nbkan11@gmail.com

Rev. Edward Yoshida 3650 Kingston Rd. PH-09, Toronto, ON M4C 2C4 Tel: 416-261-4302 Email: esyoshida@sympatico.ca

JAPANESE TRANSLATION: Miki Nakano, Yumi Ijichi, Marie Fuki

YOUTH IN ACTION Editor: Naomi Ishiguro Email: naomi87@gmail.com

CJM Website: www.CJMin.com

Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at First Baptist Church,
1614 - 5th Ave. South, Lethbridge, AB
Sunday Worship service - 2:00 pm.
Pastor Satoshi Akiyama Tel: 403-317-1987
Email: sakiyama@telus.net



Pastor Satoshi & Mari Akiyama,
Joshua (15) & Amy (13)

By Pastor Satoshi Akiyama
Thank you for continued prayers and faithfully supporting us.

This past May, the CJM AGM/Conf. was held in Lethbridge. I was able to attend together with my wife for the first time in

many years. We were encouraged by many people through prayer and fellowship during this time. I am grateful that despite my health condition, the members of our Fellowship served well to host this AGM/Conf. weekend. We are thankful to Pastor Naomi Yoshikawa, pastor of my home church in Tokyo, for coming to meet our church and to participate in the conference



Attentive audience during Fellowship service at conference.

At the beginning of our new church year, March 1, the Lord gave me the following verse, *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work”* (II Corinthians 9:8). At this time, we are seeking God to see what He wants our church to do. With the theme of ‘Alive in God’s Grace’, there are 3 things that we are particularly focused on. 1) Knowing God’s grace through scripture 2) Being thankful for God’s grace, and 3) Testifying God’s grace to others.

Last November, Mineko Ohno was baptized at our church! She is a regular member at our prayer meetings and is continuing to serve with joy. Mineko’s children joined our church’s ‘Joy Kids’ and have been regulars since then. Four years ago they heard the Gospel for the first time at the Christmas program and since that time they regularly attend church. They ordered a Bible from Japan and while learning His Word, they were moved by God’s love and Mineko was led to salvation. Her two children attend the Youth services and my prayer is for this family’s salvation.

I would like to thank you for your continuous prayer for my health. In August, the specialist allowed for reduction in drugs/medicine usage. It is stressful for me because I’m not able to move my body the way I would like to and everything takes more time. It is also stressful because the things that I want to do and need to do are not done, as I would hope to. While this is my circumstance every day, I know it is important for me to feel charged and energized mentally, physically, and spiritually before my energy level declines. I am grateful for guest speakers who come to our service. Recently, Yutaka Ishiguro and his wife, Miho, came to minister to our congregation.

In the process of being led to accept this illness, there have been many people who have prayed for me and have accepted my current limited circumstances. I am truly supported by the love and encouragement by many people and am led to the presence of God. Every morning, God continues to encourage me through the scripture found in 2 Corinthians 12:9, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me”*. This scripture gives me strength every time I read it. Further, I identify with Paul’s confession which he states in verses 9b and 10: *“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong!”* □

Words from the General Director



Blanche & Nori Kanashiro,

CJM has roots that reaches back to the dark days of the Japanese Canadian evacuation from the west coast shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. Margaret Ridgway, 26 years of age, followed her Sunday School children and their families into the ghost towns and makeshift camps of interior BC. She sought to support the Japanese families by providing activities and clubs for children, youth groups and crafts for the youth and the adults. As time went on and other Japanese leaders and local Caucasian Christians took over, she moved on to other locations providing similar activities. In time, the Nisei Christian Fellowships were formed in several locations including Southern Alberta. Out of these, churches were formed in Kelowna, BC and Lethbridge, AB.

Seventy years has passed since the beginning of those days. While the activities of the above were going on, the Canadian Japanese Mission (CJM) was formally organized in 1946. Its mandate was to establish evangelical Japanese Christian churches throughout Canada. God has blessed. Today, with 18 evangelical churches and fellowships throughout the land in affiliation with CJM, the original mandate of the organization is being reviewed.

Pray with us as the Board of CJM is in the process of reviewing the relevance, purposes, vision, financial base and succession planning. God has been good! □

DONATIONS:

For support of the
AKIYAMA'S
and/or the
CJM GENERAL FUND,
may be sent to:

Canadian Japanese Ministries
2900 Warden Ave.,
PO. Box 92124
Scarborough, ON M1W 2S0

CJM Treasurer:
Larry Iwamoto
Tel: 905-471-2184
Email: kiwamoto@rogers.com

VICTORIA JAPANESE CHURCH



Pastor Tsuguru & Ryoko Okamoto
with sons Dendo (6) & Mamoru (4)

Meeting at First Baptist Church
877 North Park St., Victoria, BC
Sunday Worship service - 1:30 pm.
Pastor Tsuguru Okamoto
Email: hope078@hotmail.co.jp
<http://vjc2012.blog.fr2.com/blog-entry-3.html>



by Pastor Tsuguru Okamoto

Greetings to all the Japanese Canadian Church families! I am thankful that I can introduce myself, my family and our church to you.

My family, which includes my wife Ryoko, sons Dendo and Mamoru, came to Victoria from Japan in March of 2012. Our sons are now enrolled in the local school in grade one and kindergarten. My wife is unable to work because of our visa restrictions so she is volunteering at the school and helping in the ministry of the church.

The Victoria Japanese Church was founded by a long time missionary in Japan, Rev. Ronald Patterson. After his passing, there were two Japanese ministers, a year without a minister, and now I am the fourth pastor to serve here. Our average attendance is about twenty, which includes students who are studying here and those who are on working holiday visas. They join us in worship and participate in the ESL class that follows the service. There has been an increase of families who have moved to Victoria, after the March 11th disaster in Japan and we have been able to build some friendships with these families. We are praying that through these ministries more people will be led to the Lord and join our church family.

On the 29th of September, we rejoiced as we welcomed our sister in the Lord into church membership. In the midst of many people moving away or returning to Japan, we are so grateful to the Lord for this addition.

We plan to host evangelist Yoshihiro Kishi's saxophone concert on Fri. October 18, at 7 pm. Through this ministry we are especially praying for those who have never had the opportunity to enter our church; that they will hear of the hope that is offered to them through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Warm greetings in Christ to all from our family and the Victoria Japanese Church. □



Church congregation and friends

New Secretary



Marie (Mari) Fuki

Marie (Mari) Fuki became our new secretary at the last AGM. Marie has been a Christian since high school days and daughter of Rev. Kanji Fuki, who is currently the pastor of Detroit Japanese Christian Fellowship. Marie lives in Toronto and attends the Japanese Gospel Church. Her excellent bilingual abilities, love for the Lord and dedication to ministry will be of great assistance to CJM.

Marie says that her desire is to grow in the Lord and serve the Nikkei community with the gifts God has given her. "It is my privilege to be given this opportunity to learn and work with CJM, spreading the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ". □

Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary

Meeting at Westview Baptist Church
1313 Ranchlands Way NW, Calgary, AB
Sunday Worship: 2:00 pm.
Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi Tel: 403-455-0074
Email: ymtaniguchi@telus.net
Website: www.crossoverjapanesechurch.com



Pastor Yoichu & Miyuki Taniguchi with
daughters Agasa and Mana

By Pastor Yoichi Taniguchi

These are the highlights of the year 2012-2013.

During the year, our vision has been for the growth of our younger generation, our children's and youth ministry. We have started the kids' ministry, making our vision statement and naming it "Popo Kids".

Popo in the Japanese language is a child's word for doves. We made our handmade curriculum and booklets for our kids program.

The youth group also started a new program.

We are very grateful that our Lord has given some passionate youth leaders to our group. Throughout this entire year, God has blessed our young generation very much.

We had a total of 7 adults and 4 children baptized during the year. This was a great blessing to us. The ministries with youth and kids will take energy and time to see the fruits, but we believe they will be a good foundation for the future of Crossover Japanese Church. □



Participants in Youth Ministries

Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church

Meeting at Trinity Baptist Church
549 Gertrude Ave. W., Winnipeg, MB R2L 0M9

Sunday Worship Service: 2:00 pm.
c/o Mr. Cory Geisbrecht Tel: 204-779-6279
Email: corygie@hotmail.com
Website: www.wjac.weebly.com



by Bruce Yarrow

It is exciting to see how the Lord has enabled us to continue and to expand our visitation ministry to the Personal Care Home where our late brother, Takao Nakazato spent his last years. Several of us from the church visited our brother regularly while he was with us and it had

evolved into a two-fold ministry of senior's fellowship and visitation. Following the visitation, we would not only debrief concerning Bro Tak, but, over lunch, we would often have deep discussions concerning Asian history, which the seniors have lived through, and which I have studied as a history major.

by Rev. Reimer Clausen
Even without a regular pastor, and in spite of a very small membership, the Winnipeg Japanese Alliance Church has been carrying on, meeting and worshipping together. The two main summer events are (1) church picnic and (2) summer family camp.

On Sunday, July 7, we gathered at Assiniboine Park for our annual picnic. In spite of the lack of normal amenities for picnic ground, spirits were not dampened as 50 or more had gathered by late morning. Many friends from the Japanese Culture Center, most of them young families - "Newcomers" came to enjoy the day with us. We started with a worship service, and I was privileged to bring a brief bilingual message. From Isaiah chapter 1, I stressing that God is not interested in religious ritual, but how we treat our fellow human being, displaying "Justice and Righteousness". After a scrumptious lunch, an exciting soccer game drew a big crowd of children and youth, while, we older adults were content to sit around on our lawn chairs chatting and enjoying the fellowship with each other. It was a very satisfying day, having spent it in the greenery of God's wonderful creation.

On the weekend of Aug. 9 - 11, we gathered again, together with a few more "Newcomers", at the Bird's Hill Provincial Park, for our annual family camp. By late Friday evening there were at least a dozen tents. With all the excitement with kids running around and some arriving and setting up tents, it was little difficult to gather everybody for the Fri evening story time Again I was privileged to bring the messages, which consisted of a children's story on Fri and Sat evenings around the campfire, and a Sunday AM worship service. My theme was, "God can use one person to impact the world and make a change. A Japanese style "Undokai" (sports competition) on Saturday morning, and going to the beach in the afternoons, provided lots of excitement, and of course our Sunday lunch was as usual "Nagashi Somen", where everybody picked cold noodles with chopsticks, as they were floated down a bamboo channel. By Sunday evening we had dismantled our tents and headed for home thoroughly tired and worn out but thankful for another successful camp. □

Over the summer months, the Lord enlarged our visitation team to the Care Home and it has also become a Young People's Fellowship. Our first regular young person to join our team was Joyce Shibata from Japan, here to study at the U



Joyce Shibata and Moe Adachi visiting with a senior resident at the Care Home.

of M. She is the daughter of Joshua Shibata sensei, who studied in Winnipeg in the late '80s, preparing for missionary service. He and his wife attended the WJAC and spoke often at our church. Joyce is a gifted pianist, who has taken over that office from Tatsue Okamoto, who has blessed us in that capacity since the founding of the church.

During our visit to the Home, we would have a hymn sing time. Other residents happily come to enjoy the time with us. It was a delight to both us and the seniors when Moe Adachi joined us and later, Dong-In Won with his guitar. These are delightful times, as the hymn sing touches the hearts of the seniors by bring happy memories to many of them. Not only do they want to shake our hands after the singspiration is over but many want to hug us too. We have now been visiting the Care Home as our ministry from the church for a few years and they have deeply appreciated it. We are all known by the staff and they acknowledge us by their smiles and kind comments. To us who are involved in this visitation ministry, it is a special blessing that can only come from God Himself. □



Annual church picnic at Assiniboine Park—Sunday, July 7, 2013

JAPANESE GOSPEL Church of Toronto

301 Silver Star Blvd., Scarborough, ON M1V 0B6
 Tel: 416-335-5428 Fax: 416-335-5932
 Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am. (E & J)
 Pastor Haruo Sato (J) 416-495-1534
 Pastor Kevin Ueta (Y) 647-298-6422
 Website: www.jgct.com



Pastor Kevin & Michelle Ueta with daughter Kiyomi (1 year)

By Pastor Kevin Ueta

The Student Ministries at JGCT has taken a bit of a turn this year with the re-introduction of a Youth Counselling team. We are glad to bring back a model of leadership that works to help in the process of leadership and discipleship development within our ministries. As a leadership team we have started going through Henry and Richard

Blackaby's book, *Spiritual Leadership*. They define spiritual leadership as "moving people on to God's agenda." Our goal, is to keep God's agenda above our own. How do we accomplish this?

1. Being accountable to God first. As Blackaby states, "Because God's agenda drives spiritual leaders, it is God, and not the leader, who determines when his will is being accomplished."
2. Relying on spiritual means to accomplish God's mandate. This means that we practice total and complete reliance on God, allowing his Spirit to produce change in people. Our task is to create an environment within which we can allow God's Spirit to work effectively.
3. Knowing and living out the word of God. It's God's agenda that we are concerned with, so it would make sense for us to know God himself. What better way to do this than to get to know the word of God?
4. Being aware of our ministry culture. Culture is a prevailing force that can powerfully impact the environment that we seek to create for our ministries. We need to evaluate. Pray for us. □

By Pastor Haruo Sato

JGCT camp 2014 in August was privileged to have 10 high school students from the earthquake/tsunami disaster areas. Four volunteers and one group leader accompanied them.

These students were invited by the New Japanese Businessmen's Assoc. (Shinkikai) with coordination through NGO in Japan.



Pastor Haruo and Yoko Sato

During the first week of their 2 week stay, they attended English conversation classes, sight seeing in the city, and went to see a Blue Jays game at the Rogers Centre. In the second week, they attended JGCT summer camp. The camp week

was a new experience for them. They attended worship services, learned praise songs, enjoyed delicious meals, and eagerly participated in the sports events. These were activities they would not have had opportunities to enjoy in Japan

They also attended the VBS study sessions which were held from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm. These students and volunteers never heard the Gospel message before. They learned what the Bible is, who God is, and the gospel of Jesus Christ through John 3:16. They learned how to become a Christian through the four spiritual laws of Campus Crusade. Some of them expressed interested in attending church when they returned home. We suggested some churches and pray that they may attend and be saved.

On the final day of their visit, they went to see Niagara Falls and enjoyed the awesome creation of our God.

God is good and amazing. He gave us a unique opportunity to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the youth of Japan. Only He could have designed this to happen.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. (I Corinthians 3:6, NIV) □

New Westminster Evangelical Free Church

Japanese Section

c/o 7895 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC
 Sunday Worship service - 9:30 am
 c/o Mr. Mitsugi Sugita 604-531-0021 or
 Mr. Roy Uyeda 604-324-8952
 www.nwefc.org



Pastor Shigenori & Moea Sugimoto and son Kaziki (1)

By Roy Ueno

We praise God for a very special blessing we have received since our last report. Now, we are enjoying the warm fellowship of Pastor and Mrs Shigenori Sugimoto and their infant son, Kazuki-kun. Pastor Sugimoto is presently pursuing his Master of Divinity program at Regent College in Vancouver. Hokkaido-born, after graduating from Chiba University's department of technology, he worked for 7 years as a systems engi-

neer, during which time he had received a calling for full-time ministry. Thus, he resigned from work and entered the Central Bible Seminary at Komagome, Tokyo. After graduating from 3 years of studies, he was attested as assistant pastor by the Nippon Assembly of God Church. He is now on leave of absence for his studies here. As part of his master's program, he is endeavoring to gain practical experience in every way possible at our church.

Pastor Sugimoto has already ministered to us a few times with clear messages and will do so more frequently. He will also minister in the English services as well. He has begun attending monthly elders and board meetings and will officiate at communion services. Pastor & Mrs Sugimoto contribute richly at our after-service bible study and message review time. We pray that God abundantly blesses all their ministries. □

CJM Board of Directors 2013-2014

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Edmonton Japanese Christian Church

Meeting at
Zion Baptist Community Church
9802 - 76th Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB
Sunday bilingual Worship Service - 2:00 pm.
Pastor Toshihiro Tamura Tel: 587-986-8161
Email: toshihiro@yahoo.com
Website: www.ejcc.ca



Pastor Toshihiro & Hiromi Tamura
with daughter, Hinata (5)

By Pastor Toshihiro Tamura
It is now 11 years since I first encountered God at Sunnyside Camp in 2002 and accepted Christ. Through God's mysterious ways and the prayers of his people, He led me back to my second home (Edmonton) in order to become their pastor. I'm sure nobody imagined that a person like me would become a Christian, let

alone the pastor of the Japanese church in Edmonton. Life is full of unexpected twists and turns. Just the other day, a husband and wife told me that neither of them would have thought to choose the other as a spouse (I think they meant it was a nice surprise). What unexpected twists and turns have you experienced in your lives? More than 2000 years ago, the people of Israel never even dreamed that Jesus could be the Christ, and they crucified him. However, who could have imagined that their misunderstanding of Jesus would bring us salvation and many great blessings. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was beyond their ability to even comprehend. Surely, that is the most unexpected of all unexpected twists and turns. I'm also sure that nobody imagined that Edmonton Japanese Church would go six years without a pastor, but from this challenging experience, we have learned that God's blessings never run out. Recently, our beloved sister in Christ, Sue was hired by a Canadian school in Bangladesh. She had been looking for a job for a while, and suddenly the door opened but who could have imagined that it would be in Bangladesh. I trust that God, in his abundant grace, will guide her too. There will be plenty of unexpected twists and turns waiting for us, but we know there is also the limitless grace of God and we would like to keep walking in faith. Finally, I would like to thank the members of CJM and all brothers and sisters in Christ who prayed for EJCC and its pastoral search committee for the past years. May the blessings and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. □

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

Church location:
425 - 11th St., New Westminster, BC V3M 4G1
Sunday Worship service - 11:00 am.
Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku Tel: 604-517-4578
Email: vjgc@telus.net.
Pastor Tony Schmidt Tel: 604-420-2335
Email: tony.schmidt@omfmail.com
Website: www.japanesegospelchurch.com



Pastor Tetsuya (Ted) & Mari Fukusaku
Matthew (15), Mark (13), Luke (11) & Joy (9)

By Pastor Ted Fukusaku
Praise the name of our Lord! I am thankful for the fellowship of CJM, and we pray for the churches and ministries that the Lord will bless them continually. Each year there are a number of church events held in Aug. and Sept. Each of them have been greatly

blessed of God. In Aug. we had Summer BBQ, Kids Day Camp for a week, Church Family Camp, and on Sept. 8th, a Gospel Night. There were over 90 people participated in the Family Camp, and there were about 350 people who came to the Gospel Night. For the Gospel Night this year we had more non-Christian Japanese than ever before, for which we give praise to the Lord! Some of them have started coming to our services. Currently there are about 130 people in the 1st service and about 40 people in the 2nd service. Please pray for more people to be evangelized and that non-Christians will come to know the Lord. Our church theme for this year is "Fellowship and Growth". For the rest of this year we wish to expand and deepen our fellowship as God's Family and Christ's body. We pray for your ministry as well. □



Children, youth and adults participate in the Gospel Night concert

Calgary Japanese Gospel Church

2203 - 15A St. S.E., Calgary, AB
Sunday Worship service - 10:30 am.
Pastor Brian Lavender (E) Tel: 403-275-7132
Pastor Tomoyuki Horiuchi (J) Tel: 587-352-2233
Website: www.calgarygospel.com



By Pastor (Tom) Horiuchi The 21st century's massive flooding occurred over a wide area of Calgary on June 21st, 2013. About 100,000 people were evacuated, but fortunately no deaths were reported in Calgary. Our church was located in the evacuation zone so that weekend, our scheduled retreat was held at the pastor's home. Our guest speaker was Rev. Tsukasa Sugimura. People came from Edmonton and Lethbridge to join our weekend retreat. We prayed



Pastor Tom & Takako Horiuchi
with daughter Marie

and interceded for the people of Calgary and southern Alberta, for God's help to know His salvation in midst of the surrounding disaster. We appreciate your prayers and thank God that the flood waters did not reach our church building. We received comfort and blessings too from the Lord through the weekend Retreat messages, which were built on the theme "One thing I do: straining forward what is ahead..." (Philippians 3:12). We praise the Lord. □

Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship

Meeting at: Living Hope Christian Fellowship
12246—100th Ave., Surrey, BC V3V 2X1
Sunday Worship Services at 3:00 pm.
Pastor Gerald Neufeld, Tel: 604-596-7928
Email: grneufeld5@yahoo.ca



Pastor Gerald & Rie Neufeld with daughters, Rena (12), Irene (7) and son Jay (11)

By Pastor Gerald Neufeld
Earlier this past year, it was exciting to celebrate together the baptism of Akira Ebisawa. More than a year earlier, he had first come to MJCF, invited by a friend who had seen our church info in a magazine. Unfortunately, Mr. Ebisawa had

to return to Japan soon after the baptism, but we were happy to be able to send him off with a blessing. We pray that God will continue to work in his life, that other people in Japan may be drawn to Christ through his testimony.

In August we had our annual BC Day hike. We had from age 1 to mid 60's participating. Tasting each other's Obento around picnic tables was fun.

More recently we were involved in a Mennonite Central

Committee (MCC) festival where all the money raised goes for relief, development and peace work around the world. It was a huge event with 1180 volunteers from 75 different churches participating. This years sale brought in over 600,000 dollars.

In the past, most of the food vendors sold traditional ethnic "Mennonite" food such as perogies, borscht, sausage on a bun, and fruit pies.

Recently, more variety has come in with people selling African samosas. We introduced sushi, which we've been selling there for the past three years. In the picture Mrs. Yokouchi sells sushi among signs made by MJCF children. The centre of the festival was a quilt auction which included quilts brought from Japan. It was special to see the quilts, as well as crafts made by survivors of the 2011 Tsunami.

It has been exciting to have a number of new people attending church regularly. We pray that God will lead more and more people to sense Christ at work in them, that they may give their lives to him. □



MCC fund-raising festival

Wesley Chapel Japanese Church

Meeting at: Wesley Chapel
2385 Warden Ave., Scarborough, ON
Sunday Worship: 1:00 pm
Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa
Tel: 647-347-3167
Email: mmh1123@hotmail.com
Website: www.wcjc.wordpress.com



Pastor "Toshi" & Mika Hatsusegawa with sons, Ayanari (7) & Yoshisone (4)

By Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa
Our vision for 2013 is "To experience together the restoration and the rebuilding of our walls" by learning from the book of Nehemiah once a month. God is giving us encouragement and hope as well as challenges in faith as we have been through difficulties and trials. It has been a blessing to see that through such hardship God is forming us into one and strengthening us as the body of Christ. New members and worship attendees have also brought

more joy to us.

New recipes have been added for our special events this year! Yakitori BBQ became the main dish after many years of

Yakiniku dominance at the summer outdoor service. The sizzling sound and aroma of the Yakitori made us hungry and cheerful. In 'Back to School & Kakigori (shaved ice)' event, we tried 'Japa-Dog' for the first time. 'Japa-

Dog' is a Japanese-style hotdog, loved among New Yorkers. Choose whatever you like for toppings, okonomi sauce, tenkasu, aonori, katsuobushi, wasabi-mayo, and you'll love it!

The idea of Yakitori and Japa-Dog was brought up by ladies in the church. I appreciate it because I think it shows that brothers and sisters in the church care about the church and want to make up something good in the Lord. It is actually one of the signs for 'rebuilding of our walls.'

In October, I am going to be ordained as a pastor of the Free Methodist Church in Canada. Preparing for the ceremony, I remember how God sent me to this church and has led me through as a pastor for the last four years. I find God is unique and has been faithful in His guidance, which leads me to trust that He will continue to guide and use me for the Japanese people in Canada. Please continue to pray for our church, and also for my family. □



Congregation and friends enjoying delicious meal together following a summer outdoor service