

The Wards . . . Church Planting in Japan



Field address:
Henry & Celeste Ward
Fukui Cho 324-1 Ono Shi, Hyogo Ken
JAPAN 675-1352
phone: +81-90-4493-4004
E-mail Henry: hefowa@yahoo.com
E-mail Celeste: japanquilter@yahoo.com

Church Plant: Kato Baptist Church
Yashiro 1075-1, Kato Shi, Hyogo Ken JAPAN 673-1431



March 26, 2025

We thank God for you and pray for you weekly..

Attendance

In the past three months we have seen four first-time visitors attend. A Mrs. Okamoto came to our Christmas service. She stated that she had no interest in becoming a Christian at all. She had seen my wife and me passing out flyers in her neighborhood. On January 4, Mr. Taitano brought a friend from Trinidad, Joshua Vidath, who works with him teaching English in the schools. He has attended several times. Then on February 15, Miss Sayoko Nagatsu, and Miss Kichiko Hirashita came, but they have not come since then.

Including 4 staff, we averaged 11.5 in our am service during January and February, and 14 in March. Some people are coming to all the services now.

Tract and flyer distribution

We passed out several thousand flyers for our Christmas service. As mentioned above, we had one newcomer. Fourteen attended, and we had a meal afterwards for the first time in a long time.

Starting in February, we passed out 5,000 flyers for a special meeting on March 15, with Pastor Daniel McKittrick, pastor of Yokota Baptist Church which ministers to servicemen at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo. He brought his family, and they sang a "My House is Full" as a special. He preached in English in the morning and evening services and I interpreted.

We did not have any newcomers that day, but we had a good attendance of 16 in the morning and 13 in the evening.

Discipleship

We have continued doing discipleship studies with Mr. Hirose after church on Sundays, but there have been several Sundays we have missed because of schedule conflicts. So his baptism has been delayed, but hopefully it will take place in April.

Repeat visitors

Because of health issues, Mr. and Mrs. Kamo have not come for a few Sundays, and have suspended their request for church membership. They are still keeping in contact with me.

Mr. Shuuzou Fujiwara has attended several times lately, including last Wednesday night.

Mr. Katsuhito Fujiwara first came to church in August of 2022. He came for a while, but got upset at a woman who was attending our church, so he stopped coming in 2023. I kept praying for him, and he started attending again in 2024. Then again, in 2025, he got angry at me and stopped coming. Then surprisingly, he showed up again on February 15 in the morning service. This time, he started listening to the messages, and borrowed a book about background information on Old Testament history. After my message on Sunday, March 1, he told me after the service that he felt very guilty--that is, he was under conviction of sin. After the message on Wednesday, March 18, he said he wanted to talk to me afterwards. He said that when he came to church before this, he would just sleep. He said he was about 70 percent convinced to receive Christ, but was not clear on how to do it after asking several people. I explained how to receive Christ, but he did not make the decision to pray to receive Christ yet. Please pray for his salvation.

Visitor from Down Under

Starting March 13, an Australian young man, Ethan Traveskis, has been staying with us and helping us. He is in Japan for three months and will help in several churches. He can speak conversational Japanese and read some, so he has helped by talking to people who came to church and by giving his testimony on March 22 in church. He also helped pass out around 3,000 flyers with me. Pray for his future plans.

Special events coming up

We are having our Easter service on April 5 so we are passing out 7,000 flyers. Pray for good attendance, first-time visitors, and salvation decisions. We will be having a church picnic on April 29, a holiday here.

Sadness

Sadly, at the beginning of February, we went to the US for a week to attend the funeral of the previous pastor of our home church, Dr. Pat Creed. He was our sending pastor, and married us.

Also, our house landlord, Mr. Kageyama, passed away on March 18. His daughter told me that he said he believed on Christ before he passed, and I hope that was true.

Mr. Kuramae, our church landlord, is sick and cannot come to church right now. I talked to him, and he said he believed Jesus died for his sins on the cross, and rose from the dead, but he did not pray with me to receive Christ. Pray. He is 92.

Praises

- Mr. Hirose's progress.
- Four first-time visitors.
- The return of Katsuhito Fujiwara.
- Repeated attendance of Mr. Shuuzou Fujiwara.

Prayer requests for salvation

- Mrs. Yagi
- Mr. Shuuzoh Fujiwara, Mr. Katsuhito Fujiwara
- Mr. Hiromu Fujii's wife and family.
- Mr. Yoshikawa, who sold us our car.
- Mr. and Mrs. Kuramae, our church landlords: and health
- Mrs. Kageyama, our house landlord
- Mr. and Mrs. Tokimoto, our real estate agent
- Mrs. Tsunemine and Mr. Morimoto
- Mrs. Tanaka and Mrs. Fujimoto and families
- Mr. Manabu Matsumoto
- Mrs. Fujiwara, the grandmother of Mr. Komi
- Mr. Tokuhara, owner of the bike shop where I bought a scooter.
- Mr. Taro Kuramae, the man who did our plumbing
- Mr. Taitano's wife and his sons, Owen and Eric.
- Mrs. Yamada to come to church again and be saved

Other prayer requests

- For first-time visitors to continue attending.
- Baptism and spiritual growth of Mr. Hirose. (Hee-ro-seh)
- For Mr. Hiromu Fujii to understand the gospel, and his wife to be saved.
- Mr. Tomisako to attend church here
- Mr. Akita and Mr. Kasahara to come back to church
- Property and/or building for the future of Kato BC
- God's blessing on Mr. Yuki Fukumoto and Sara.
- Evangelism of Kato, Ono, Kasai, and Nishiwaki City.