

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



April 30, 2026

May the Lord bless you all for your prayers and financial support.

Tract and flyer distribution

Starting in March, we passed out 5,000 flyers for our Easter service on April 6. We had a good attendance, but no newcomers.

Discipleship

We were able to complete more discipleship studies with Mr. Sakyou Hirose. A very interesting thing happened one Sunday afternoon while we were studying together at church. His mother stopped by the church in a providential coincidence. She and her husband were on their way to a town farther south to return their other son's uniform to a restaurant he used to work at. Her stomach hurt a little, so she stopped to look for a rest room at a nearby store and happened to see our church sign. She knew her son was attending, and she was walking back and forth in front of the church, so I went out to meet her. I did not know she was Mr. Hirose's mother. I thought she was someone who was interested in the church, but too shy to come in.

Anyway, Sakyou came out and I found out it was his mother! I invited her to come in, and I was able to talk to her and present the gospel for over an hour. Please pray for Mr. and Mrs. Hirose, Sakyou's parents.

Mr. Hirose still has a few more lessons to finish, but we decided to go ahead and baptize him. We held his baptism at my first church plant, Bread of Life Baptist Church in North Kobe on April 19, 2026.



Evangelism

I have a list of people I am working on that I go around and visit every week or so. Some are in the prayer list for salvation. One of these people is a lady named Mrs. Yamahide (Yah-mah-He-deh). She is a widow who runs a hardware store near our home. She lives in our neighborhood. I have been taking tracts, Bible verses, and invitation flyers to her for at least two years. Usually there is someone in the store, or in the office with her so there is not much time to talk, but Saturday April 25 I stopped by with Celeste and she was alone in the store. I spent at least 45 minutes explaining the gospel and went over it at least twice and then asked her if she wanted to receive Christ as her Savior and she said, "Yes." I wanted to make sure she understood, so I explained more about the gospel and forsaking the worship of other things and asked her again. She said "Yes," again, so I led her in the sinner's prayer and she prayed with me. I took some other literature to her to help her after that. Please pray that she really understood all that it means to believe on Christ and pray that she comes to church and grows in her faith.

Repeat visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Kamo attended church again in April.

Mrs. Murakami attended the church again on April 26. Please pray that she will come more often.

Mr. Katsuhito Fujiwara has continued attending church, often even the Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services. He still has not made the decision to receive Christ. He has said several times, "I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, but I can believe in you." I told him that if he believes in me, he should believe in Christ because I do, but he does not listen. He still

insists that his sins are too great to be forgiven.
Fujiwara Shuuzou did not attend during April.



Special events

We had a wonderful cookout picnic with five other area churches on April 29. Six people came from our church. Mrs. Yagi came with us, so that was a blessing. More than seventy people attended.

We are having our Mother's Day service on May 10 and our Father's Day service on June 21.

The Church Landlord

Mr. Kuramae, our church landlord, had been ill and could not attend church during March, but he has started coming again. Please pray for his health, and the salvation of him and his wife. I think family pressures are holding him back from making the decision to be saved. He is 92 years old.

Praises

- Mr. Hirose's baptism.
- Witnessing to his mother.
- Mrs. Yamahide's decision for Christ.
- Continued good attendance
- Mrs. Yagi attending the picnic.

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.
- Church attendance and growth of Mrs. Yamahide.
- Regular attendance of the Kamo family.
- For 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.



Baptism video