



THE JAPANESE LANTERN

Matsudo Church of Christ

Volume 1, Issue 2

February— March 2010

New Year's Joint Worship and Yokosuka Visit

Dear Friends,

With the cold winter's last winds and rain (and some snow) making us keep bundled in our coats for awhile longer, it is with joy and anticipation that we look forward, Lord willing, to Springtime right around the corner. Your prayers and continuing support of our work in Japan have helped keep us encouraged.

Starting off the New Year with a joint worship time on January 11th in Mito with the theme, "Making Disciples" helped set the tone for what we hope will be spiritual growth in God's kingdom.

Brother Makoto Noguchi was the featured speaker. He



Bro. Makoto Noguchi
teaches about James

pointed out from the book of James how all of us should be in the business of "making disciples" for the Lord's kingdom. This annual meeting also allows us to "touch base" with many brothers and sisters we might not normally see from week to week. Singing, praying, studying, and eating together is a great way to get a spiritual boost at the beginning of the new year.

The following week, Debbie and I took a trip to the Yokosuka Church of Christ to help renew some of our ties with this supporting military congregation. We made new friends with several who have recently arrived there. On Sunday morning I preached, then met with the men of the congregation afterward, while Debbie met with the women of the church. The Yokosuka church has been a long time supporter of our work and we were glad that our bond could be strengthened once again. We also hope to



Joint Worship Meeting at Mito Church of Christ, January, 11, 2010

keep in touch via Facebook and e-mail. We have invited the members to visit us in Matsudo in the future.



Fellowship meal with Yokosuka Church of Christ members

Updating Matsudo Church Bulletin

We are making this newsletter with the Microsoft Publisher software we received from Paul and Stacey Herrington last November. We thought it might be good to find some more uses for it at our church in Matsudo. So Sis. Shiho Hori, who has been helping in the children's Bible

class hour with Debbie and Sis. Sanpei, was willing to work with me in trying to update our church bulletin. She and I both tried several different formats found in Publisher. The first week of March, we finally had a "trial run" on a new style. It was well received. However, after

church, all members were invited to give their input on improving the initial style. They each eagerly gave their ideas, so we could "tweak" the bulletin and try to come up with a product which is both useful and meaningful for all.

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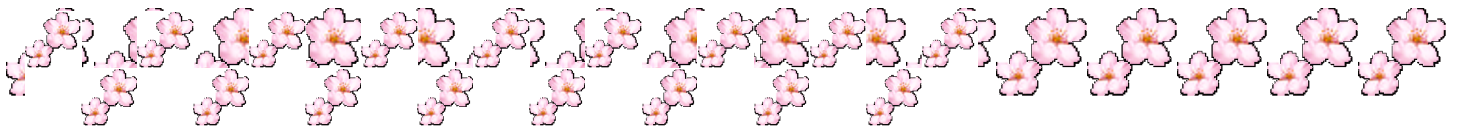
Click on Links Below for Homepages about Japan

- [Matsudo Church of Christ](#)
- [Carrell Family News](#)
- [Japanese Lantern \(past issues\)](#)
- [Japan School of Evangelism](#)
- [Ibaraki Area Churches](#)
- [Paul & Stacey Herrington](#)

Photo Albums (Click on these links for photos for this issue)

[Japanese Lantern Photos](#)

[Matsudo Church Photos](#)



Meetings and Fellowship - Keeping "In Touch"

An important part of my work as a missionary involves attending monthly preacher-missionary meetings. Over the years these meetings have helped to keep a "bond" between fellow workers by sharing with each other what happens in our various congregations from month to month.

Basically there are the Tokyo area and Ibaraki area preachers' meetings, with various congregations taking turns as to

meeting location. Currently, I attend the Tokyo area meetings (which usually includes the Shizuoka area) since Matsudo is closest to To-

kyo. When we lived in Ibaraki during 1991-92, I attended the Ibaraki area

meetings. Each November, there is a joint meeting, normally held at the building in Ochanomizu or Tachikawa for both Ibaraki and Tokyo missionaries and preachers.

We are try to keep "in touch" now, via e-mail and Internet communications as well, so that we can quickly share information, help each other when necessary, and try to keep each other spiritually encouraged.

Debbie and I also like to keep in touch with the Yokota military congregation, not only for personal edification, but to help whenever we can with some teaching of either adult or children's classes. Every week, we have an opportunity to go on base with church members after Bible study, for a meal together. Whenever we can, we try to join with the members in various "fun" activities such as bowling parties and game nights. On the second Wednesday night of each month, instead of the Bible study, the time is dedicated to a "singing fellowship." This allows all the males in the congregation who would like to participate, to lead songs, share a favorite Bible passage, and to pray. By keeping "in touch" this way, Debbie and I believe we are helping to contribute to training for leadership at Yokota. Your prayers for all of these endeavors are greatly appreciated.



January 2010 Preacher's Meeting at the new Yokota Church building



Preachers eating together in Numazu

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" (Psalms 133:1)



With Yokota members on base at Burger King



Matsudo Church Progress

Thanks to all of you for your prayers in behalf of the Matsudo work. Bro. Keita Hori has joined our regular rotation as another man to help in our worship services. This will help too when we take our furlough later this year. Bro. Tamura also continues to do well in his health. By helping him find a newer used computer, I was able to help him upgrade to Windows XP. Sis. Shiho Hori also purchased another computer when hers broke down.

She and Sis. Nakama are both helping with our updated church bulletin, and Shiho also helps Sis. Sanpei and Debbie with our monthly children's Bible class.



Sis. Shiho Hori shows Bible "Kamishibai" (Storyboard) for Children's Bible class

Our Thursday p.m. Bible class completed a Genesis

study and we are now continuing into Exodus. My sermons have gone through Matthew on Sundays and that series will soon be coming to an end, emphasizing the life of Christ. Saturday morning classes are currently focused on the book of Mark in simple English. Every 2nd Sunday after our fellowship meal and monthly business meeting, we've been studying Christian growth from Bro.

(Continued on page 3)



Debbie's Cooking Class

Since not too many were interested in the craft classes Debbie had been teaching, she decided to narrow it down to just cooking classes. Although not as many ladies have been able to attend the cooking classes either recently, Debbie still has them scheduled for the rest of the year.

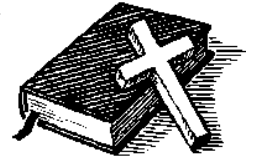


After that, there may be some adjustments made for future classes.



(Continued from page 2)

Nonogaki's prepared material. Discussions, such as recently on prayer seem to be very encouraging to everyone. Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of all of our members. The children's Bible class each month is going through Bible stories beginning in Genesis. Every class seems to be well attended and interest is remaining high.



"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

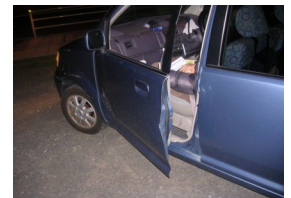
(1 Timothy 3:16-17)

A Frightening Traffic Accident

Returning from a preacher's meeting in Shizuoka, Bro. Nonogaki planned to drop me off at Shibuya train station and then be on his way home. When the traffic appeared to be stopped at a red light, it seemed like a good opportunity to quickly grab my travel bag in the back seat and get to the side curb before the light changed. Unfortunately, when I cracked the door slightly to step out, I failed to look back to see if anything was coming since all the traffic seemed stopped. A motorcycle slammed the door, and ricocheted to 4 other cars before stopping and turning over. The

only injury was to the man on the motorcycle. Bro. Nonogaki and I immediately tried to help the injured man, and an ambulance and the police were called. It was about 4:30 p.m. and we had to go to for questioning to the local police station, making our statements until 8:30 p.m. We prayed for God's strength at the scene of the accident, for the injured man, and for wisdom to know what to do. I felt "sick" from my lack of caution, not checking more carefully when exiting the car. I did not think that a motorcycle would be speeding through there and such a frightening thing would happen. Both Bro. Nonogaki and I were greatly relieved later to

learn that his insurance would cover the total accident, both for bodily injury and property damage. The injured man must have surgery on 2 broken fingers, but sustained no permanent damage. We are so thankful to the Lord that the accident was not worse than it was. Your prayers would certainly be greatly appreciated.



Passenger door that the motorcycle hit

Visitors, Family and Other News



Shima san with his wife and friends

Visitors in February and March: The Ishii family brought their daughter by for a visit in February and the Shima family brought their friends for a visit in March.

Marcia and friends coming soon: On March 25th through April 6th, Marcia, plans to bring 2 friends to Japan, serving as a their guide and translator. It just happens to coincide with my 60th birthday on March 29th! Her artwork is currently being used in the Japanese Fukuinshi (Gospel) magazine

Matt unable to come for LST: It was disappointing that Matt and Shi could not come for the summer LST program due to scheduling. Perhaps they can do so in the future.

Used motor scooter: After riding my scooter about 7 years, it came time for an upgrade. Despite my frightening accident (see story), it is still handy to get around town. I realize I must be much more careful!



Steve on his 50cc Scooter, great on saving gas



Shining the Light of the Gospel in Japan

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalms 119:105)

Prayer Requests

- For the spiritual growth of each member at Matsudo church
- For those thinking to become a Christian soon to have courage to obey the gospel
- For God’s wisdom as we plan for our 2010 furlough.
- For more men at our Matsudo church as spiritual leaders.
- For Matsudo ladies to be shining lights in our community.

Scenes Around Matsudo



Our Home with a snowy field next door



Weekly Thursday night Bible study



Matsudo Ladies teaching our children’s Bible class



Teaching our Neighbors English, Bible, and Computer



Matsudo Church of Christ

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Visitors, Family and Other News (Continued)

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Debbie organizing and labeling VHS/DVD’s at home computer, now moved to our living room.

Organizing our Home: Debbie has been using her computer to organize our movie collection, to take care of our monthly fi-

nances, and to print many lessons for teaching children’s Bible and English classes. By keeping “on top of things,” she has made our home more useful overall. We hope to use our “Carrell Hotel” as place of hospitality every year.

Dates to Remember:

- CAJ Thriftshop: April 23-25
- Larry Pendergrass Visit to Japan: April 27-May 3
- Gohdoh Reihai (Joint Worship Meeting) in Ibaraki: April 29th
- Carrell’s Furlough to U.S.: (Approximate) August 24 – November 4

May God richly bless you all with His love and grace in 2010.
 In His love and service,
 Steve & Debbie Carrell