

Matsudo Church of Christ

The Japanese Lantern

Inside this issue:

Debbie's "New" Bible	2
Tentative Furlough Itinerary	2-3
Exodus, Mark, 1 Corinthians	3
Yokosuka Trip	3
Family and Other News	3-4
Neighborhood Scenes	4

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

[Japanese Lantern Photos](#)

[Matsudo Church Photos](#)

Click on These Links for Japan Homepages

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

Visitors at the "Carrell Family Hotel"

Dear Friends,

It has amazed us how long the "cold spells" have lasted this year, but we've finally been able to put away our stoves and bring out our fans as summer approaches!

Our home almost seemed like "the Carrell Hotel" as relatives and friends have come to stay from late March and into May.

Marcia and Friends

Our daughter, Marcia, arrived on March 25th in Japan, bringing



Marcia, Conrad, and Allie came to visit us in Matsudo

with her two friends from Spokane. Her purpose was to be their guide and to help them experience as much of the culture and life in Japan as possible.

Our Matsudo friends helped them by dressing the girls in kimonos. Then they spent many days sightseeing all around Tokyo. They visited lots of interesting places, ate many kinds of Japanese foods, and did lots of shopping. We think they enjoyed their visit at the "Carrell Hotel."

Larry Pendergrass Visit

The son of Sis. Edna Pendergrass, former missionary to Japan, came to visit Japan, visit friends here and to talk about a Japanese magazine for children—the Mabune (Manger) Magazine which his mother began many years ago. Larry and I had not seen each other for many nearly 22 years, so it was a pleasure to meet again.



Steve, Larry, and Nao at Tachikawa Church

Kenva Higgs Visit

A friend of ours was looking for an apartment to possibly relocate. So she came by to discuss her options, ate a meal with us and joined our Bible study.



Kenva joined our Bible class

Second LST Program To Begin In June



We mentioned in our last newsletter that our son and friends would not be able to come for the "Let's Start Talking" (LST) Program this year. So this year, Debbie and I will be teaching classes during the summer to readers

in our neighborhood.

Although it will be necessary to follow a pretty strict schedule to try to stay up with the teaching as well as our regular work, we want to follow up readers we had from last year.

We hope to reach many of those we initially contacted last

summer and add a few more. Most readers from last year already have books, and several are already our students. It will still be quite a challenge, so we ask for your prayers and we step out in faith to teach our neighbors and friends.

Debbie's "New" Bible Class in Ochanomizu



Some of the Ladies in Debbie's new Bible Class in Ochanomizu

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalms 118:24)

Last November, Debbie and I had the opportunity to meet some ladies at Ochanomizu Church of Christ when the new building was dedicated. We found out that they were former students of several of the missionary ladies who have been in Japan over the years.

At least 2 of the 7 ladies Debbie is now teaching were former students of my mother, Norma Carrell, as well as Edna Pendergrass, Geneva Prout, Ruth Betts, Liz Lancaster, Joan Gurganus, and Linda McCay, to mention a few.

Debbie has decided on the book of James as her text. Many of these ladies are highly

educated and have been influenced by many of these missionary wives or American Christians, but only one or two are Christians. So it seemed to be a good opportunity for Debbie to try to encourage them to follow Christ, since they have heard his teaching for so many years.

Please pray for wisdom for Debbie to take advantage of this opportunity and for those in the class to have the courage to obey the gospel.



Same Ladies with Steve's mother and Joan Gurganus in the 1960's



Shibazakura flowers sent from Bro. Shiro Obata in Haruna

Tentative Furlough Itinerary



Celebrating our 34th Wedding Anniversary on May 8th

After our LST program this summer, on August 30th, we are planning to take a trip to the States to report on our work in Japan. It has been three years since our arrival in Matsudo and we believe it is very important to contact current supporters as well as meet some of those who have been newly added as contributors to our Japanese mission efforts since our last furlough.

We plan to spend our first week in Indiana with our sponsor and to visit church members there and Debbie's mother. From September 7th, we plan to head over to Ohio,

where we plan to spend the next week reporting to churches and visiting relatives there. Next we will drive down to Nashville, Tennessee around September 16th spending a couple of weeks there. From October 1st we plan to head over to Texas, traveling to Dallas and spending about 2 weeks in the Abilene area. From October 14th, our next visits will be in Oklahoma meeting several new supporters. Around October 21st we hope to travel up through Missouri to visit relatives and potential supporters, finally heading back to Indiana, to spend the

final couple of weeks with our sponsor and to finish up any other visits before our departure back to Japan on November 11th. Some relatives, supporters, and friends have been contacted, but we hope to be contacting many more in the next few months before our furlough starts. Please pray for us.



Exodus, Mark, 1 Corinthians and Christian Growth



Saturday morning English Bible study

Our Thursday evening Japanese Bible study currently in Exodus has been pleasure to teach, since we often are able to cover not only Bible topics, but how they apply to each student. Learning about God's deliverance through many troubles, the meaning of the Passover in connection with our salvation and the Lord's Supper, and how God provided so abundantly for His people for 40 years has been a rich study.

On Saturday mornings, a middle school principal has been added to the class and the discussions from Mark in both English and Japanese have helped both Christians and non-Christians to focus on the power of Jesus, His miracles, and how our lives can be changed by His power.

On Wednesday nights at Yokota church, the classes are in English, but have been designed to encourage unity and maturity in the body of Christ as we study the struggles of the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians.

Every 2nd Sunday, for those not able to attend other classes we have been working through a text in Japanese prepared by Bro. Masa Nonogaki of the Yokota congregation, especially for helping Japanese Christians grow in their faith. Please pray these will continue to bless lives.

"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

Our last trip to visit the brothers and sisters in Yokosuka was last January 17th. This military congregation has been a long time supporter of our work, but we

have become aware recently that most of the families we once knew have moved away and a whole new group of Christians are currently worshipping regularly.

Since we don't know many of the members, we realized that we

Yokosuka Trip

need to get acquainted with the congregation to help them understand the work of the Lord in Matsudo.

So we took a trip just last weekend (May 29-30) to stay with Bro. Randy Crist and to preach there on Sunday. I chose 1 Timothy 4 as my text since it is very encouraging about how we should conduct our Christian lives.

We also had opportunity to have a Bible class where I could listen to the members Bible questions and try to

give them answers from the Bible, while also sharing about our current work in Matsudo and how we are trying to reach out in mission efforts. This helped the congregation to get a better idea of how their financial support is really helping us to carry on our mission efforts in Matsudo and around Japan.

Debbie and I had never "driven" to Yokosuka from our Matsudo location (we had been going by train), but after several trials and errors we made it there and back. We hope that some of the members might come and stay with us at the "Carrell Hotel" to see what we are doing here in Matsudo.

Your prayers for the Yokosuka church, the spiritual growth of the members, and our continued good relationship with them would be greatly appreciated.



Visiting with Randy Crist in Yokosuka

Family and Other News

Using "Publisher" Software: We are happy to see good progress in making the weekly church bulletin with Publisher. Bro. Horii assembled and printed it throughout May. Also I made a new "Meishi" or name card in both Japanese and English with it. We hope next to print up some flyers for LST and

perhaps some tracts for outreach.

All Japan Preacher's Meeting: The joint preachers' meeting or "ZenDenKen" held each summer is on June 1-3 This time it will be held in Ibaraki. Bro. Rich Little, preacher at the Naperville Church of Christ in Chicago, IL is the featured speaker this



Steve with the Herringtons, Larry Pendergrass and Amano san at Ibaraki Joint Worship Fellowship, April 29th



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)

Scenes From our Neighborhood

Prayer Requests

- For the upcoming 2010 LST Program
- For God’s wisdom as we plan for our 2010 furlough.
- 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 more men at our Matsudo church as spiritual leaders.
- For Matsudo ladies to be shining lights in our community.

Matsudo Church of Christ

Minami Hanashima 3-48-5
 Matsudo, Japan 271-0065
 Phone: 047-362-8858
 Fax: 047-368-7822
 Email: matsudochurch@gmail.com

Homepage: <http://sites.google.com/site/matsudococ/>



“Tea time” after cleaning up at the Matsudo building



Selling Tofu from house to house



Neighbors hang out futons and clothes - natural drying



Steve doing his part to “give blood” at CAJ Blood Drive

Family and Other News (Continued)

Contact Information

Steve & Debbie Carrell
Dai 2 Marukame Haitsu 201
Minami Hanashima 3-44-6
Matsudo, Japan 271-0065

Home phone: 047-368-7822
(Japan country code 81)
Steve’s e-mail:
fujikid76@yahoo.com
Debbie’s e-mail:
crossstitcher24@yahoo.com



Bro. Randy Voss spoke about “The Church of Christ” at the Gohdoh Reihai

Randy Voss was the featured speaker this year at Ibaraki Christian College. It also gave Larry Pendergrass an opportunity to speak about the Mabune Magazine as well.

time on the topic of “Becoming Disciples”

Upgraded Digital Camera: I dropped my camera, shattering the LCD and needed to get another one, so went shopping for one. When I found a reasonable one, it had been a floor model and one day the lens didn’t open. I noticed a dent on it and took it back to the store. Amazingly the manager allowed me to have a better camera for the same price, so this will be a wonderful tool to use for our work and travels. Praise the Lord!

CAJ Thriftshop: Debbie and I worked the registers at CAJ Thriftshop (April 23-25) and got a chance to meet lots of friends there. Even had a chance to “give blood.”

Ibaraki Gohdoh Reihai (Joint Worship) - April 29th: Bro.

May God’s rich blessings be with you all throughout the year!
 In His love and service,
 Steve & Debbie Carrell