



Sponsoring Church:

Center Rd. Church of Christ
899 W 300 S
Kokomo, Indiana 46902
765-453-1448
<http://www.centerandpark.org/>

Let's Start Talking 2010 in Matsudo



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

- [Japanese Lantern Photos](#)
- [Matsudo Church Photos](#)



Matsudo Church of Christ hosted their 2nd LST Program this year. Teachers who were scheduled to come could not make it, so Debbie and I decided to teach the classes ourselves for the first time since we have been connected with LST. Besides the normal advertising in our community, this time we personally handed out

150 flyers in the immediate vicinity of the church building. Unlike past years when our main work was to supervise the teams, this time Debbie and I carried our regular schedules along with teaching. God blessed us with 9 readers, but with my preaching and teaching, it felt like a "full load" of 30 readers for the two of us.

Debbie focused on the parties each week and both of us got well acquainted with each reader. We had an Independence Day party and a Bowling Party, along with weekly games and fun.

Six of the readers were new

this year. Four of those have indicated an interest in continuing study with us upon our return from our furlough in the Fall. Please pray that God will allow the seeds planted from these efforts to produce fruit for His glory in the future.

You should be able to see the Information meeting along with some of our classes and parties in the **PHOTO** section of this newsletter.



Carrells 2010 Furlough Schedule and Route

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](#)

We have now confirmed most of our places to stay on our Furlough to the States this Fall. We leave August 30th to spend a week in Indiana with our sponsor and visiting Debbie's mother. We plan to go to Columbus, Ohio Sept.7-8. Byesville, Ohio Sept. 9-12 and Hamilton, Ohio Sept 13-15. We next plan to be in Nash-

ville Sept. 16-28, and spend a night in Memphis with Steve's sister the 29th. Then it's on to Dallas, TX to visit Mark Franklin Sept. 30th and Oct. 1, who came to Matsudo once. We will stay in Clyde, TX outside of Abilene while we visit family and friends there from Oct 2-13. From Oct. 14-20, we will be in Oklahoma visiting new

supporters and friends. From Oct.21-26 we will be in Blue Springs, MO at my cousin Ben Church's home while also seeking support. From Oct. 27 -Nov.9, we plan to spend our final days in Kokomo, before heading to Indianapolis on the 10th for departure on Nov. 11th. We should be back in Japan on November 12th.

Christian Counseling for our Neighbors



*Carry each other's burdens,
and in this way you will
fulfill the law of Christ
(Galatians 6:2)*

Some of our LST sessions actually turned into some counseling opportunities to apply some lessons to what the readers needed. We felt free this year to use some of our own resources to help in marriage counseling and/or family counseling as time permitted.

We hope and pray that our readers from this year and last year will keep lines of communication open with us over the year, so we can continue to

help them when they are feeling they need friends they can count on to help them in their crises.

Since some of these readers we see around our neighborhood regularly, we believe keeping good relationships with them in these ways will help build bridges of trust with them and their families.

Showing acts of kindness from time to time, sharing meals, staying involved in ac-

tivities of the community, and just being friendly helps keep these doors of opportunity available for future workers who may labor in here in God's vineyard. Please pray for our success in these endeavors as well.



A Woman with a Pen pal for 50 Years



"And do not forget to do good and to share with other, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

(Hebrews 13:16)

One reader from last year only came for the Information meeting, but was too afraid to actually take classes with the two girls who came last year. We had not forgotten Mrs. Hoshino, but imagine our surprise one day when she paid Debbie a visit

with a letter in English to translate for her from a pen pal she had met 50 years ago. After Debbie helped her figure out the letter, she came later with a reply in Japanese which she also needed translating to send back to her pen pal. So this time it was my (Steve's) job to translate from Japanese to English. She came over and I confirmed the translation for her satisfaction and then she

could mail her gifts and letter back. In the meantime, I was able to locate her friend on Facebook, contacted her, and she was delighted to have us as helpers in her communications with Hoshino san. An added bonus is that now Mrs. Hoshino shows some interest in learning about our church as well. Please pray for her and her family.

The Nephew of a CAJ Classmate visits Matsudo



Sydney did voluntary work to help special needs people in Japan

About 45 years ago I left CAJ (Christian Academy in Japan) to go to high school in the States. Raised as the son of missionary parents for the first 15 years of my life, CAJ is where I made some lifelong friendships.

The brother of one of my classmates has a son who is in

volunteer work to help counsel "hikikomori" people (a phenomenon of those who don't leave home to take on adult responsibilities). Along with trying to help them, Sydney is also visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki for participation in peace projects. He needed a place to stay, so we were happy

to have him come for 5 days to use our home as a base for his travels in Chiba prefecture. Again we were able to have the "Carrell Hotel" in business once more. Sydney also went to Yokota church with us on Wednesday night. We wish him well.

Dr. Rich Little Speaks at All Japan Preacher's Meeting



Bro. Atsushi Tsuneki translates for Dr. Rich Little

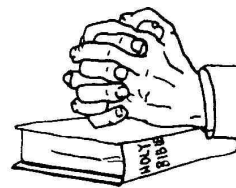
It was a special treat to me to be able to enjoy lectures in English from Dr. Rich Little, preacher of the Naperville Church of Christ in Chicago.

He had been a roommate of Atsushi Tsuneki at Harding University many years before. He had seen Atsushi baptized and now Bro. Atsushi who serves as full time preacher at the Mito Church of Christ in Ibaraki was his translator!

Rich shared with all the preachers the importance of developing daily spiritual disciplines in our lives as preachers and teachers of God's message. To make disciples, it is vitally

important that we ourselves be good examples to model the message and help members to become equipped to face spiritual battles in society.

We were all blessed to have been there and be challenged to grow in our personal Bible study and prayers.



Dr. Rich Little addresses Japanese preachers and missionaries on Spiritual Disciplines

Haruna Church of Christ - 7th Year Anniversary Celebration

Seven years ago, Bro. Shiro Obata and his wife moved from Ochanomizu Church of Christ to his hometown area of Haruna. With retirement funds from his family, Bro. Obata invested in building a new church building and a home for himself and his wife, so that they could continue to evangelize and reach out to the

Haruna community in Gunma. Last year, Paul and Stacey Herrington came as HIM (Helpers in Missions) workers to assist the Obatas in outreach. It has been a good year for both families. The Herringtons are about to return for a month-long furlough to report to their home church in Kansas and the Obata's son and his

wife are currently studying in California for a doctorate degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. It was a joy to be able to join in celebrating seven years of Haruna evangelism. Please continue to pray for the Obatas and the Herringtons.



Further Furlough Information - Raising Funds

The Lord has sustained us through a number of trials in Matsudo this term. Changes in funds have made our income decrease. Some is due to the exchange rate. Priority changes in church planning is another contributing factor. We are very thankful for those individuals and churches who have

stepped in when the need arose to help us financially. Thank you all so very much!

But during our furlough, we will be seeking about \$500 per month additional support to help us try to make up for the losses incurred over the past three years. Please feel free to

contact us directly or contact our sponsoring congregation, Center Rd. Church of Christ in Kokomo, Indiana for further details of how you can help us.

(SEE PAGE 1)



Proclaiming the Gospel Message in Central Japan



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)

Summer of 2010 in Matsudo

Matsudo Church of Christ

Minami Hanashima 3-48-5
Matsudo, Japan 271-0065
Phone: 047-362-8858
Fax: 047-368-7822

We're on the Web!

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



Teaching English Bible to neighbors
Through LST (Let's Start Talking)



New “accordion door” for toilet

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)



Matsudo Church Bowling Party
All of us between 55 and 80



July 4th Independence Day Party
LST Fun, Food, and Fellowship

Prayer Requests

- For the upcoming 2010 Furlough travels
- For God's wisdom as we try to raise funds for Japan Missions.
- For the continued spiritual growth of Matsudo church members, especially during our furlough
- For effective follow up of the LST readers and their families.
- For more men at our Matsudo church as spiritual leaders.

Family and Other News

ACU Alumni Party: Debbie and I were invited to an ACU party for alumni held at Ochanomizu Church of Christ. Bro. Daniel Garcia is the new coordinator. He and his Japanese wife seem well able to recruit for ACU. It was a pleasure to meet them.

Ochanomizu Ladies' Class: The ladies' class Debbie started in April at Ochanomizu gave me a chance to meet them once. Some of them remember when my mother taught them in the 1960's. It was great to share memories.

Debbie's Crossstitch Gifts: Debbie really enjoys using her

talent of cross-stitching to make gifts for visitors, church members, and neighbors in our community. She made book markers for all the men on Father's Day. Also a cute “Precious Moments” cross stitch is now in the lobby of our local dentist's office.

Helping a Homeless Man: Bro. Masa Nonogaki tried to help a homeless man get a place to stay in Matsudo. He came a few weeks to church, but recently he left the homeless shelter again. But we did what we could to help him.

Facebook and Skype Contacts: Trying to make the most of

our contacts on Facebook and Skype, we are finding this is a wonderful way for friends and family to keep up with us throughout the year. Please contact us if you'd like to become a Facebook friend or communicate on Skype.

Thank you all for your prayers. Many of the prayer requests to the left of this page have been answered and we praise God! May God's rich blessings be with you all throughout the year!

In His love and service,
Steve & Debbie Carrell