



The Japanese Lantern

Matsudo Church of Christ

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May-June

Sponsoring Church:

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Photo Albums (Click on this link for photos for this issue) [Japanese Lantern Photos](#)

[Click here for Japan Earthquake Information at Park Ave. Church](#)

New Additions to the Lord's Family at Matsudo

In our last newsletter, we told you about Nahoko Kiyooka being baptized into Jesus on April 10th. That day, she immediately left for the U.S. to visit the home of her fiancée, Kyle Story, who had taught her the gospel. They returned to Japan where they were married and are now living in Shin Matsudo, while attending the Matsudo church.

Another lady, Junko Hisamura, was introduced to us by her friend, Sis. Suzuki. After coming to Bible classes each week for several months, Junko decided that it was time for her to obey the gospel of Jesus and had scheduled with us to be im-



Junko Hisamura is baptized into Christ on April 17th

mersed into Christ on April 17th. She has shown a desire to continue her spiritual growth and regularly attends our Bible classes whenever she can.

Both of these ladies being baptized in the same month, have given our Matsudo church a "boost" like it has not had for quite awhile. The congregation decided to purchase Haley's Bible Handbook in Japanese for them, as well as for Sis. Eria Sanpei, who had been baptized in 2008, and Bro. Yoshida, who started coming to Matsudo from December, 2010. It was a sign that there is a little more interest in learning Bible information for themselves on a deeper level than before.

Kyle and Nahoko Story also started attending the Saturday morning Bible class. Bro. Nakahara who had not been able to come due to his illness in the hospital for awhile has now returned and is enjoying the class once again.

Sis. Nakama, who had switched



Saturday Bible Class is Growing

to the Saturday classes while we were gone on furlough last year, is greatly enjoying the additional people in our classes, because it provides a much different "dimension" to our discussions, and makes everyone happy that they can gain good spiritual nurturing every week.. Currently we are studying the book of Acts, about the beginning of Paul's Second Missionary Journey.

Please pray that God will richly bless each member with better insight and ability to apply what they have learned to their lives.

Earthquake Relief Efforts Continuing

The Park Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis, TN have a site giving in detail the relief efforts which have been made and which are continuing in the present. The Mito Church of Christ

[Click here for Japan Earthquake Information at Park Ave. Church](#)

in Ibaraki has served as the collector of funds for distributing to the needs in Tohoku, Ibaraki, Fukushima, and other places. Teams of workers are being sent weekly for cleanup, distribution, and other help.

Japanese Churches of Christ throughout Japan have been taking trips to help on a regular basis. Those who may not be able to go directly are sending

funds or goods as they can. Matsudo church has also sent funds to help. We appreciate many of you, our supporters who have sent funds to help to Park Ave. which have in turn been forwarded to those in need. Please check out thoroughly the site in this article to see what has been done and what can be done now. It will be a long recovery process. May God bless you. Thank you!

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

I hope to update some of these homepages during the summer.

Debbie's Chemotherapy Treatments

First we thank all of you who have shown us your special love during this trial in our family through your prayers, communications, and financial support. It is very encouraging to Debbie and me to know that our cares and concerns are being lifted to the Father so often.

Good news today from a CT scan last week is that the lymphoma tumors are much smaller in size. So even though the treatments may linger on into the fall, we have great hope that it will result in her healing from the disease in the long run.



CT Scan Machine

The first noticeable changes were in



Dr. Kashimura explains the chemotherapy process

fects so far.

Since Debbie has diabetes, another aspect which she must deal with daily is shooting insulin into her body before every meal. We bought a kit for her to carry when we travel, so when she's at church, out in public, or when visiting friends, she'll have what she needs to take her insulin before meals. Since the chemotherapy raises her blood sugar, as a diabetic, her

Debbie's hair loss and in less pain since the chemotherapy seemed to be working.

There don't seem to be any adverse side ef-

blood sugar would normally be raised anyway. So the insulin brings it down, so that a balance can be maintained. Without the insulin, her food consumption combined with the chemotherapy could be deadly.

She must also check her temperature so it doesn't go too high. During the hot summer, this has been a challenge, but even without air conditioning, Debbie has done well, sometimes taking cold showers to make sure it doesn't rise too high. Perhaps this has given you a taste of what is involved. It has helped us feel more sympathetic to cancer and diabetes sufferers too.

In our photo section (see top of page 1), we tried to show you the progression of the hair loss, what the chemotherapy treatments involve, and how Debbie has learned to cope with these changes.

All-Japan Preacher's Meeting near Mt. Fuji

The theme for this year's All-Japan Preacher's Meeting was the Lord's Supper. The topic was discussed from many aspects including Biblical, historical, and practical considerations. Three discussion groups meeting daily following the talks of the featured speakers allowed everyone an opportunity to contribute. Practical ideas on how to make the Lord's Supper more meaningful and central to our worship were offered by many so that our overall fellowship was deepened and an appreciation for the viewpoints of one another was fostered.

While there, I had the pleasure of seeing Bro. Steve Hasbrouck whom I had not

seen for over 20 years. Since he, Marlin Ray, and I shared the same room, we were able to catch up on a lot of history and news about our families and our mutually shared mission work.

I spoke at the morning devotional on the 2nd day about "Unity and Maturity in regard to the Lord's Supper," presenting the same message later on at Matsudo church.

Bro. Tadayoshi Aikawa used slides as he gave a historical perspective of the Lord's Supper in relation to the Restoration Movement. Overall we were all encouraged by the desire to make our worship services more meaningful and less superfi-

cial. It was good to have been there.



2011 All-Japan Preacher's Meeting at Hakoneland Hotel

Continuing Sermons and Bible Classes

Throughout May and June, we studied about each of the aspects of worship in the Sunday sermons. The Thursday p.m. classes are on the gospel of John, in which we are trying to understand more about being "spiritual" people and looking at the images of Jesus presented in the book. The Wednesday p.m. Yokota classes have been on the same study, but in English, trying to adjust it to children as well as adults in the class.

Saturday morning in our "English" Bible class, which half the time turns out

to be explained a lot in Japanese, we are studying the book of Acts. Seeing what the activities of the early church were, how they carried God's message with them as they traveled, and understanding the problems the early church faced has been a blessing. The class members are thinking about how we can apply these things to our Matsudo church situation, seeing the value of remaining true to the Scriptures, and why such topics as the "Circumcision Conference" in Jerusalem was so crucial to current worldwide evangelism.

Sis. Sanpei is teaching the children using

"kamishibai" or poster-board stories. Debbie has assisted, but is not doing most of the teaching due to her illness. Then for JSE (Japan School of Evangelism), I have been teaching since April a class on Marriage Counseling by Skype to Bro. Sato in Okinawa. That class should conclude in July. Please pray that God will continue to bless us in all these classes to help each and every member to grow and mature in the Lord.

Herrington Family Welcomes Titus

Our dear friends, Paul and Stacey Herrington welcomed a new addition to their family in June - Titus James Kosuke Herrington. Please go to their homepage to hear all about where and how he was born. ([Click here](#))

The Herringtons had planned to have Titus born in Takasaki, near their home until the earthquake changed their plans, so that they traveled south to Kurashiki to stay with Les and Sarah Taylor, missionaries much further south. Sarah Taylor had also recently given birth to a baby, so they were quite well acquainted with a facility that the Herringtons could use. It is pretty amazing how the Lord works all these things out for us, isn't it?

Think of all the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus, so that He

would be born during the time of the Roman empire, born in Bethlehem, even though his family lived in Nazareth in Galilee, in the family line of King David, in the tribe of Judah, and fulfilling all the prophecies in regard to being born from a virgin. If God can work all those details out over many centuries, surely He can take care of our families in regard to birth arrangements for our children!

With other legal paperwork and medical procedures to attend to, we were happy that the Herringtons found time to drop by Matsudo for a visit to allow me and Debbie to see their baby boy. They both seem very happy now and are beginning to find out what all is involved in taking care of a newborn in their family.

Another bit of news is that Bro. Obata had to recently have prostate cancer surgery. It was successful, but laid him up for awhile. So Paul asked for my help in translating a couple of sermons he preached at Haruna. That was an extra challenge, along with the classes I normally teach, but it has been good for both of us. Please pray for the Herrington family.



**Stacey Herrington with
new baby, Titus**

Announcements from our Children

We are delighted to be able to announce that our son, Matt and wife, Shi, are due to have a baby on December 2nd! This also means that we will become grandparents for the first time! Debbie and I are very excited for Matt and Shi, as they are expecting this new addition to their family. As you might have guessed, just as soon as Debbie heard the news, she immediately started making gifts which she hopes to give the grandbaby. Shi asked Debbie to make some booties and a blanket and those have already been completed. She investigated how to make them on the Internet, and after several tries, finally got the procedure for making them memo-

rized, so she can make them fairly quickly. It is not certain at this time whether Debbie will be well enough to travel to see the baby when it is born, but we'll just have to wait and see about that. Please pray that Schivon will be healthy throughout her pregnancy and that the Lord will also allow the baby to be born healthy as well.

Matt is continuing to look for new employment since the end of May, having several applications out to hopeful prospects. Please pray that he can find something soon for his family.

Our daughter, Marcia, and her husband Mark recently moved to another place, which is better for their needs. It saves them some money on their rent, includes a parking spot and is only two miles from their previous home.

**Children's children are a crown
to the aged, and parents are the
pride of their children.**

(Proverbs 17:6)

Changes at Matsudo Church



Bro. and Sis. Gamou

Recently the Gamou family from Ishioka officially asked to be recognized by the Matsudo Church of Christ as new members.

Bro. Gamou has from time to time been a speaker at the Matsudo church, when I have needed to be away. He was baptized

at that congregation many years ago and has visited us off an on for the past year or so with his wife, whenever they can come. He also cares for an aged parent, so is not able to come every Sunday at this time, since they hold worship services with his mother a couple times per month. They should be an added strength to the congregation. In July when we visit Yokosuka, Bro. Gamou has agreed to preach for me on that Sunday. Please pray that this will be a smooth transition for us.

A sign which has been used for over 50 years to announce our services has recently been replaced by a new one. Mrs. Nozawa, an LST reader from 2010 mentioned that her husband was a good handyman. He helped us get a new door for our bathroom at church. So I asked him to help us make a sign as well. He did an excellent job for a very reasonable price. We're thankful for these changes at our church.



**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)

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Highlights - May-June, 2011 (see more in the Photo Album)



New Church Sign



**Bowling with Matsudo
Church Members**

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**Draper family at Yokota
church fellowship**



Debbie Cooking Healthy Meals

We're on the Web!
<http://sites.google.com/site/matsudococ>

Family and Other News

Prayer Requests

- For Eastern Japan earthquake relief efforts, care, and support
- Thanks to God for growing faith of Matsudo church members
- Thanks to God for Christian men sent our way to help in leadership.
- For God's healing hand to help Debbie with her lymphoma sickness.
- For continued spiritual leadership and insight for Japanese Christians.
- For Shi's pregnancy and delivery

Steve's sister's car accident : My sister, Joyce, had an accident while going to work, but fortunately there were no injuries, even though the car was totaled. She was able to get another car through her insurance.

New Family Comes to Yokota: Command Chief Ron Draper, his wife and daughter recently came to Yokota church from Okinawa. They should be at Yokota church for the next 2 years.

2nd Bowling Event: Matsudo members had another enjoyable time bowling after church on Sunday, June 26th.

Thanking God: This summer as we celebrate our nation and the freedoms we now enjoy, let us remember that God is the One who gives us true freedom from sin and freedom to be servants for Him. May we never take these for granted, but

be faithful in all we do for Him.

Your prayers, support, and encouragement are wonderful blessings. We hope those of you who use Facebook will continue to stay tuned to the "updates" we give out from time to time. If you would like to contact us by Skype, please send me and e-mail so we can make arrangements to talk with each other.

May God bless and keep you in His care.

In His service,
 Steve & Debbie Carrell