

TOKYO TIMES

ALEX, KATHRYN, ISABELLA & GABRIELLA HUMPHREYS

MISSIONARIES TO JAPAN

“Seasons” in Japan

One of the many things that I love about living in Japan is that you truly feel the seasons as they change. The Japanese love the changing of the seasons as well. Their most cherished seasons are the Spring when cherry blossoms bloom and again in the Fall when the “koyo” or Fall colors begin to appear. The Japanese view these two natural phenomenon as reflections of the human experience: “You suddenly appear, have a brief but beautiful existence and then quickly fade away never to be seen again.”

This sad philosophy is only encouraged by the Shinto and Buddhist beliefs that they hold to. They have no comprehension of the eternal nature of humans and they sadly do not know that life is not merely a brief flash-in-the-pan but is instead meant to be an eternity of joy and worship in Christ. (cont. on page2)



FROM CHERRY BLOSSOMS TO FALL COLORS!
The same trees as seen from our balcony.

Thanks to you...

Thanks to everyone who has given so generously to the disaster relief work in the disaster stricken northeast part of Japan. With your financial sacrifice the missionary fellowship has been able to provide: **800** bicycles, **300** electric fans (summer), **100** kerosene heaters (fall/winter), as well **50** handmade quilts that were made by church members in America.

Please continue to give as the Lord enables you. Direct offerings to AG World Missions designated: AGMF Japan Relief.

Alex was asked to translate the Japan AG relief blog into English. It is updated every week so please check out the blog at: <http://blog.goo.ne.jp/saigaihonbu>



LUNCH! On the way to our church's fall seminar this was part of my lunch that I purchased at a roadside stop. It is a whole, battered and deep-fried fish. Does a body good!



FALL RETREAT Our church had a fall retreat and we stayed at a nice hot springs resort. Everyone walks around in these bright pajamas and relaxes. Here we are having dinner.



MT. FUJI Here is a great shot of Mt. Fuji as seen from the retreat location. Fuji is one of God's most beautiful mountains.

(cont. from page 1) It is our prayer and hope that many Japanese will come to know that life is not a "grind" that you have to scrape as much fun and happiness out of as possible, but instead that they will know that God created them for His pleasure and for a truly fulfilling relationship with Him. It is evident with the staggeringly high rate of suicide and with chronic depression running rampant that these are hurting, needy people.

Please pray with me that the Japanese will have a spiritual change of seasons: from the bitter cold of Winter to the warm rebirth of Spring!

A great new video!

I know that many churches like to have powerful, well crafted videos to share during Missions focused Sunday services, banquets and conventions. Well, we have a great recommendation for you! AG World Missions (AGWM) creates monthly DVDs which do a great job of highlighting ministries around the world and our ministry was highlighted in the September 2011 release! There is another great video of a fellow Japanese missionary in the August release. Please take a look at both of them.

They were filmed in December of 2010 and were slated for release in the Spring of this year but after the disaster in Japan, the relief efforts took precedence.

For security reasons only AGWM can distribute the DVDs, so if you are interested in getting the "Newsbreak" DVDs please contact AGWM directly and I am sure that they will be glad to help you.

JAG PASTORS RETREAT



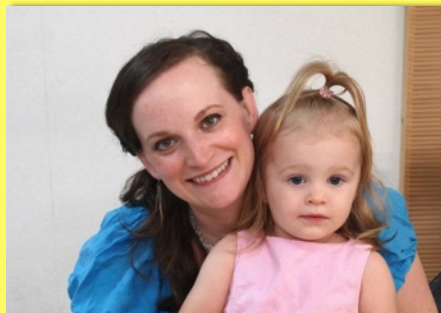
A view from our hotel room at the retreat.

This year I (Alex) attended the Tokyo district pastors retreat alone. I shared a room with 5 other Japanese pastors. We had a great time getting to know each other and learning in the retreat sessions. When not in sessions we ate delicious food and took relaxing "hot springs baths"... together... naked. (Don't worry men and women are separated)

Isabella helping to clean the sanctuary.



Mommy and "Bella"



Our second child's due date is Feb. 23rd and we have named her Gabriella "Brie" Alexandra

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Prayer Requests

Kathryn and our girls

Tokyo City Church Finances

More "harvesters" to be drawn to serve in Japan

The comfort and safety of disaster victims as winter starts