

# TOKYO TIMES

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MISSIONARIES TO JAPAN

## A God of Reconciliation

God is a God of second chances. He is a God of reconciliation. And to see that work first hand is a wonderful thing.

Recently at our church, Tokyo City Church, a lady who we will call "D" had returned after a number of years away from the church. She had come to Christ a few years back, quickly grew seemingly strong in the Lord and willingly offered up her gifts in ministry. Because of her precociousness she was placed in a position of leadership under one of our lay pastors. Unbeknownst to the Japanese senior pastor and myself this lay leader was a wolf in sheep's clothing. The lay leader drew "D" to herself and spoke many lies into her heart. Before too long the two of them left the church to start their own "ministry" that God had "called" them to.

Only the leadership of the church knew the details of the situation and we often prayed for the safe return and reconciliation of these two. That was in 2008. Now, at the beginning of 2013 we are seeing our prayers answered as "D" has returned to the church, repenting of her past mistakes and recommitting herself to membership within this local body of Christ.

Her husband is not a believer but is interested in church and often attends with her. Her one son, who will be starting second grade, really enjoys attending children's church and learning about Jesus. Please

AND BE YE *kind* TO ONE ANOTHER,  
*tenderhearted,* FORGIVING ONE *another,*  
EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE  
HATH *forgiven* YOU.  
EPHESIANS 4:32

pray for "D" to continue growing stronger in Christ, and pray for the salvation of her husband and son.

Finally, I should mention that her son has been diagnosed as ADHD. Here in Japan the medical community and the society in general is still learning how to deal with this issue. Schools are just starting to grapple with the problem of incorporating special needs children of different varieties into the classroom. Sadly, the church is even farther behind. So far "D's" son has made a decent transition into the church but there is definitely a need for training the children's church workers regarding how to teach a Bible lesson while working with him. Please pray that as he grows older he will continue to find stability and friendship at Tokyo City Church!

## Great Tohoku Earthquake, 2 year memorial

It is hard to believe that more than two years has passed since the Great Tohoku earthquake which occurred on March 11, 2011. If I take a moment to stop and force myself to think back I can remember vividly what the earthquake felt like as I sat in the office at our church. The clattering of the glass doors in the nearby bookshelf, the rattling of the coat hangars on the coat rack in the next room, the screams of the lady who works in the office one floor below our church; it is all still there. But for those of us in Tokyo, life rather quickly returned to normal and the terrifying memories slowly faded away.

This is not so for the people living in the Tohoku (northeast) region of Japan. They were the most directly and severely impacted by the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Many are still living in temporary housing units since they have lost their homes, others are still unemployed since their workplace, company, factory etc. was completely washed off the face of the earth. Children are orphans, parents are childless, spouses are now widowed. These wounds do not quickly heal. (continued on reverse)

BUT, God is still active, still working and most importantly still present. As local Christians daily live out their faith the presence of the Creator God is made real. Many of these Christians are still daily involved in different forms of outreach and evangelism most of which are focused on bringing emotional healing and recovery to the victims of the disaster. It is also great when someone from outside the disaster area comes and ministers but it is a truly wonderful witness of God's grace and compassion when a Christian who suffered through the disaster reaches out and touches the heart of a fellow victim.

The Japanese Assemblies of God is currently supporting and staffing the Higashi Matsushima Amazing Grace Support Center in the hard hit city of Higashi Matsushima. The staff of the center are daily working to provide clothing, household items, food staples and most importantly one on one care and interaction. All of this is clearly and unashamedly done in the truth and love of Jesus Christ. **For current news and prayer requests please read their blog, in English, at <http://blog.goo.ne.jp/saigaihonbu>**

### We truly appreciate all of your support!

But recently our offerings have been down so please pray with us that our finances will be fully provided for.

Also, if you are a supporting church, would you please take a moment to check and make sure that the designated offering is being directed appropriately.

*Thank You!!*

### Current Prayer Needs

"D's" continued spiritual growth and restoration. The salvation of her son and husband.

The youth of the Tokyo area.

The Lord's guidance for the new missionaries that have arrived.

More people to be called into the ministry in Japan

Isabella starts Japanese preschool in April

## Japan or BUST!

As a missionary to Japan one of my biggest prayers is that the Lord of the harvest would send MORE missionaries to this needy land. Recently, God has been answering those prayers.

At the beginning of March the Lord led Sarah Blackstone, a missionary that had previously served in Japan back to this nation to continue evangelizing! He also led a couple, Rocky and Gina Rocoma, to come and serve as pastors of an International Assembly church near the USAF Yokota Airbase. Both missionary units have great backgrounds of service and ministry and we are all excited to see what God will do through them.

As I mentioned, Sarah has previously served in Japan and was living in Kobe back in 1995 when the devastating Kobe earthquake struck. After meeting her she shared an amazing testimony of a miracle that occurred at that time. A few days after the earthquake she evacuated by car from Kobe to Kyoto (another missionaries residence). Normally it was an hour and a half trip but with all of the devastation it took close to 18 hours! So what is the miracle? She made the whole trip ON AN 1/8 OF A TANK OF GAS!! Praise God!

Wonderful time of worship at the district youth camp.



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Field committee members with Sarah Blackstone and the Racomas.



No she's not robbing a bank. Its just pollen allergies.



 ASSEMBLIES of GOD  
WORLD MISSIONS