

# TOKYO TIMES

ALEX, KATHRYN, ISABELLA &amp; GABRIELLA HUMPHREYS

MISSIONARIES TO JAPAN

## 2013 Tokyo area youth camp

From March the 27th to the 29th we held the 2013 Tokyo area Japan Assemblies of God youth camp. Starting at the end of 2010 I have been a part of the Tokyo area district's youth committee. I am honored to be a non-Japanese missionary and yet be included on the committee. Last year we held a really great youth camp but this year we were doubly blessed by increased attendance and a real sense of unity among the committee members and the attending youth. There were a number of churches from the district represented with over 100 youth in attendance.

I was chosen by the committee to give the opening message! It was an honor but also a real test of my faith. It is hard to be the "opening act" for any youth event but to do it in a language that you are not native to is extra tough.

The main speaker was actually our district's superintendent who himself grew up in a Christian family. His insight to the struggles of being a young Christian in Japan greatly helped him in his message. It is a set theme for these youth events to focus on 1) salvation, 2) baptism in the Spirit and 3) a call to full-time ministry. These seem like simple themes but they are so vital for the growth of the church in Japan.

I was really pleased that our church, Tokyo City Church (TCC), was one of the most strongly represented churches. Each of the three main



services' worship was led by different youth groups and our church led the third and final day's worship. The youth worship leader was our senior pastor's son. TCC's senior pastor, Kazuo, is a greatly anointed worship leader as well as preacher. His son also seems to have the same gifting.

Watching him lead the Spirit filled worship was truly a miracle. For a couple of years this young man had been in rebellion towards his parents and in turn towards God. About two years ago God really got a hold of his life and turned him around. Since then he has been making steady progress by growing in the Word and his relationship with the Lord, correcting his educational mistakes by properly completing his High School education and by humbly serving his parents. Seeing him lead worship was a sweet reminder of God's abiding grace and mercy.

Another great experience from the youth camp was one of our breakout sessions. As a committee we chose a number of topics for breakout sessions and allowed the youth to choose which one they would like to attend. I was not leading a session so I attended the one on "dating and romance". I personally have very strong convictions regarding this subject but have been at a loss to know how to communicate it to Japanese young people. The pastor and his wife that led the session did a great job of boldly and clearly communicating the dangers of not allowing God to guide our romantic decisions. They also explained a very holistic, Bible based need for a Godly marriage. This is a message that these youth will NOT hear from the world and sadly will probably not hear in their home church.

Please pray that the young people of Japan will come to know Christ, that they will be set free from the lies of Satan that confuse them and also pray that young Japanese Christians will be empowered by the Spirit to declare the gospel to their friends and family!

## 2013 JAG Bible School entrance ceremony

On Tuesday April the 2nd I was honored to be able to attend the entrance ceremony for the new class of Bible students this year (Unlike America, the Japanese school system starts in early April). As a missionary I am very proud of the Bible school in Japan. It is one of the lasting contributions that American missionaries have made to the growth of the Japanese Assemblies of God (JAG) churches. All of the land that both the Bible school and the JAG headquarters sit on were purchased decades ago by the missionaries and subsequently turned over to the JAG. Even now there are missionaries helping to teach in the Bible school.

Sadly, the enrollment of the school has steadily been dropping. This recent entrance ceremony in April was the smallest in the school's history. There are various reasons for this problem but regardless the proper training of ministers is vital to revival in Japan. Please pray that more people will be called into ministry and that the Bible school will move forward as a place of Spirit filled training.

### 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

Strength for Christian young people in Japan

Salvation for the lost youth

The comfort and salvation of "J's" grieving family (see below)

Tokyo City Church's finances

Increase in people called to ministry and Bible school

## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES...

On Thursday the 6th of June one of our church members suffered a tragedy (for her privacy I will refer to her as "J"). She is one of our Filipina members and her younger sister, age 28, who also moved from the Philippines to Japan, took her own life.

Of course as her pastor I wanted to do everything possible to help "J" and comfort her through this crisis. The younger sister who passed away left her Japanese husband and two sons, age 11 and 5.

It was truly a miracle but the Japanese husband, even though he had not connection to me, asked ME to deliver the funeral address for his late wife. I will share more about this story in a later newsletter. Please keep the family in prayer.

The two Bible school scholarship recipients for 2013 with three missionaries (Alex on right)



Entrance ceremony for the Japanese Bible school in Tokyo



All decked out in kimono



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