Acts 1:8
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

(CEV)

Warm Greetings from Japan Bible Society

We thank God that we can deliver to you this newsletter from Japan Bible Society. Japan is a monolingual country. This communiqué in English is the only medium to convey information to our overseas supporters and so we decided to issue our English newsletter twice a year starting this year.

By bringing to you various news that JBS faces, my expectation is that the Bible Work will transcend borders and expand to enrich the work of the fellowship. I pray that the Word of God will be delivered to as many people as possible despite the economic downturn we face today.

The USA National Prayer Breakfast

On February 4th, 2010, National Prayer Breakfast was held in Washington DC. Rev. Omiya, JBS Chairperson, and Rev. Watabe were invited to the Breakfast and attended the event with 4000 other guests from over 140 countries. The US President, Barak Obama was present to give a greeting and the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton stood as the main messenger. The attendees prayed together for love and reconciliation in the world and to intercede for God’s will to be accomplished.

The Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, has been attending the Prayer Breakfast since 1993. In her testimony, she mentioned about a gift she received from a bipartisan group of women. Among many that she received in the White House, she said that their gift, a book containing Scriptures, had been the most encouraging and had been a guide and sustenance throughout her career. She grew up in a Methodist church where her parents belonged and by quoting from the story of Elijah, she reminded the audience about the importance of discerning God’s still small voice in all circumstances even in the world of politics.

President Obama’s address touched on the fact that democratic politics finds no solution in trying to debate who is right and who’s wrong. There is a need for faith and prayer to love one another. A person of faith has no enemy. By making references to Dr. Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln, he stated that only through honest dialogue and love can one change his counterpart to achieve the intended goal.

Both President Obama and Clinton, with deep understanding of faith, gave a speech worthy of a world leader.
Donation of Spanish Bible Talk

On November 6th, 2009, Rev. Watabe visited the Bible Society in Spain. Japan Bible Society donated 200 units of Bible Talk to a mission organization for the visually-impaired called Nueva Luz through the Bible Society in Spain. The Bible Talk units are even being distributed to Prisons in Cuba.

UBS Book Fair

The UBS Book Fair was held in Cape Town, South Africa from November 11th to 13th, 2009. Rev. Watabe and 2 staff members attended and JBS set up a booth to demonstrate our products such as the Manga Bible, Children’s Picture Bible, Bible Man (audio), etc.

The Visit to the Bible Society of Brazil

On November 17th, 2009, our Translations Manager, Dr. Katsuomi Shimasaki and the translation officer, Mr. Katsuhiko Iijima, visited the Bible Society of Brazil to learn about the Bible Work in Brazil. In the massive growth of Christianity in Brazil, the distribution of the Bible has increased dramatically also. It was impressive to see that they not only provide Women’s Bible, Family Bible, Children’s Bible among many other products, but they are also involved in social and volunteer works in the areas of literacy education, public health promotion, etc.

Society of Biblical Literature

The annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature was held from November 21st to 24th in New Orleans, USA. Rev. Watabe and two staff members from the Translations Department attended. The meeting introduced the latest in Bibliology and Translation policies in the sessions and seminars provided (some conducted by the Nida Institute). There were also presentations by companies that develop Bible Software as well as iPhone applications and it was a great opportunity to be exposed to the cutting-edge technology.
Pilgrimage Tour in Nagasaki (by CBS Korea)

"Japan-Korea Mission Convention" was held on March 8-9, in Nagasaki, (sponsored and organized by CBS, Christian Broadcasting System Korea). Over 700 people gathered from both Korean and Japan. Japan Bible Society participated in this event as one of the sponsors and our General Secretary, Rev. Watabe gave a congratulatory address.

Following the convention, both Korean and Japanese participants joined a 3-day Pilgrimage tour to visit the sites in Northern Kyushu where an extensive Christian persecution was carried out in the 17th century. The tour included a visit to the 26 Martyrs Museum, St. Francis Xavier Church in Hirado, the Head Burial Mound in Omura and other pilgrimage sites around Nagasaki. Reflecting on the history of the forefather’s in risking their lives for faith, the Japanese and Korean Christians reaffirmed their wish to cooperate in future ministry and to strengthen their fellowship.

Bible Friends Meeting

– Family Christmas Celebration with Children

Bible Friends Meeting, a fellowship gathering through lecture and/or concert, is held every year to promote widely the works of Japan Bible Society to gain understanding and support from the donors. On December 22nd, the meeting was held entitled “Family Christmas with Ms. Sayuri Kume” and both adults and children together enjoyed a time of celebration with the JBS goodwill ambassador, Ms. Sayuri Kume (renowned Christian singer).

A heart-warming program started out with Ms. Kume’s mini concert and storytelling, drawing for presents, Christmas hymn sing, etc. It was a beautiful time of fellowship attended by 110 people.

JBS sponsored Charity Concert

– J. S. Bach, Matthäus Passion

On March 27th, 2010, a charity concert was held in Tokyo by “Schola Cantorum Tokyo” with Japan Bible Society as its sponsor. Part of the proceeds was donated for literacy projects in Asia and Africa.
JBS to donate Children’s Bible to Foster Homes

In October 2009, Japan Bible Society donated various Children’s Bibles to 120 Christian Foster Homes for children in Japan. The recently published 17 products that target the young generation were delivered to each home. Many thank you letters were received to date. We pray that these Bibles will help the children who are separated by their families for various reasons to get to know the love of God and to be able to live in hope even in times of difficulty.

National Prayer Dinner

On March 5th, 2010, the National Prayer Dinner was held in a Tokyo hotel and Rev. Watabe along with 10 staff members attended. The Dinner which is held every year in Tokyo celebrated its 10th Anniversary and more than 500 guests including National Diet members were present. The participants prayed together for God’s blessings on politics, economy, society, education, etc. in Japan and worldwide.

Distribution Figures

More than 420,000 New Testaments and Bibles are being distributed annually in Japan.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Translation / languages</th>
<th>Bibles</th>
<th>Old Testaments</th>
<th>New Testaments</th>
<th>Portions</th>
<th>Brail</th>
<th>Audio</th>
<th>Selections</th>
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<td>418</td>
<td>388,497</td>
<td>3,348</td>
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Tokyo Sky Tree soon to appear

Tokyo Sky Tree is a new digital broadcasting tower being built in the heart of Tokyo near the famous tourist site, Asakusa. The tower, when completed, will reach the height of 634 meters which is double the height of Tokyo Tower and will be one of the world’s tallest. Tokyo Sky Tree is scheduled to open in the spring of 2012.