



Matthew 28: 19 - 20

Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world. (CEV)

Warm Greetings from Japan Bible Society

This year we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Protestant Missions in Japan in Yokohama. This Anniversary was jointly organized by various Christian groups (Mainline, Evangelical and Pentecostal), symbolizing the unity of Japanese Christians for the Great Commission in Japan. JBS played a main role in this celebration to unite every church for this cause. We praise the Lord for His mighty plan for our nation and we are ready to commit ourselves for the Mission to share the Gospel among the Japanese people. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen us for the Mission. We also pray for you that the Gospel will be spread in each of your country. God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Makoto Watabe
General Secretary

150th Anniversary of the Protestant Missions in Japan

The 150th Anniversary of the Protestant Missions in Japan, under the leadership of Rev. Makoto Watabe who acted as the Director General, was held in Yokohama on July 8th and 9th, 2009.

Since April 2008 we had several meetings to discuss the contents of this event among the leaders of various Protestant denominations. Japan Bible Society was actively involved in the preparation of this historical event. An Executive Committee was organized and elected 3 chairpersons from 3 Protestant groups (Mainline,

Evangelical and Protestant/Charismatic) and decided that this event would be composed of 3 main services over two days. We contacted many churches across denominations and a total of 16,000 people attended to celebrate this event together under the slogan "One in Christ – as witnesses of the Lord Jesus." The night before the main event, a high profile reception was held at the banquet hall of Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka Tokyo. A special performance by an orchestra entertained the 900 guests who attended.

Congregation of 5,000



150th Anniversary of the Protestant Missions in Japan

At the Festival on the 1st day, we praised the Lord with dance, performances, drama, etc. An encouraging video message from Pastor Rick Warren, Saddleback Church in U.S.A., was shown as well. Pastor Rick Warren is famous for his book "Purpose Driven Life" and he is also known as the Pastor who prayed at the inauguration of the President of the U.S.A., Barack Obama. His book was translated into Japanese and it influenced many Japanese Christians. He served in Nagasaki as an intern long time ago.

Performance at the Festival



Orchestra & Choir

The Overseas Guests

Rev. Dr. Margaretha Hendriks Ririmasse
Vice Moderator, The World Council of Churches

Dr. Obed Alvarez
Chair, Third World Missions Association

Dr. Richard Howell
General Secretary, Asia Evangelical Alliance

Rev. Shin Hyeong Eom
Representative President,
The Christian Council of Korea

Rev. Dr. In Shik Rim
President, Japan Mission Partnership

Rev. David Holden
Director of International Purpose Driven Training,
Saddleback Church, California

Rev. Woon Tai Kim
Executive Secretary, The Christian Council of Korea

Mr. Frank Te-I Hsu
General Manager, New Eyes Television, Taiwan

Elder Tej Bahadur Jirel
General Secretary, Nepal Bible Society

Rev. Dr. David Lai
General Secretary, Bible Society in Taiwan

Rev. James Halder
General Secretary, Bangladesh Bible Society

Rev. Dr. Jen-Li Tsai
Former General Secretary of Asia Pacific Region,
United Bible Societies

Rev. Dr. David Sang Bok Kim
Chair, World Evangelical Alliance

Dr. Yong Joong Cho
International Director, Global Partners

Rev. Oh Sung Kwon
General Secretary,
The National Council of Churches in Korea

Rev. Dr. Myung Hyuk Kim
Chair, Korea Evangelical Fellowship

Rev. Yong Jo Ha
Senior Pastor, Onmuri Church, Korea

Rev. David Seung Gwan Yoo
Director of World Mission Department,
Sarang Community Church, Korea

Elder Kyung Chul Kam
President, Christian Television System, Korea

Ms. Young Mi Kim
Soprano Singer

Rev. Henry Holley
Asia Director,
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Mr. Lim K. Tham
General Secretary, Bible Society of Singapore

Mr. H. Duta Pranowo
General Secretary, Indonesian Bible Society

Pastor Rick Warren's
Video MessagePastor Rick Warren and
General Secretary Rev. Makoto Watabe

Reformed Church in America respectively. These 3 mission boards sent their first missionaries to Japan in 1859 and for their contribution to the evangelization in Japan, a plaque of appreciation was presented to the three representatives. Furthermore, all participants declared the Statement of faith and commitment led by the 3 Executive Committee Chairs.

In the afternoon, 10 seminars were held such as "Evangelism through Music Ministry," "Faith and Education," "Social Welfare and Evangelism," "Politics and Christian" and "Evangelism through Media." The seminars were conducted by experts in the field and provided abundant information for those who are involved in such ministry. At the same time, Asia Mission Forum for overseas guests and missionaries in Japan was held. Approximately 50 people attended. The presentations and discussions were highly stimulating and useful for all the participants. Simultaneously, the key note addresses about future of Japanese churches by Rev. Tsuneaki Kato (President, School of Preaching) and Christian influence on school education in Japan by Rev. Akiko Minato (President, Tokyo Woman's Christian University) were presented and a panel discussion was held among the prominent Christian leaders.



Reception of 900 people

Rev. Watabe and the 3 chairs
of the Executive Committee

On the 2nd day, the Anniversary ceremony was conducted in solemn atmosphere with many overseas guests including the guests of honor Dr. Christopher L. Ringwalt, Rev. Lardner C. Moore and Dr. James Seawood, the representatives of Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, Presbyterian Church in America and

The Send-off service marked the last of the commemoration and it stirred all participants to execute the Great Commission in Japan. We re-acknowledged the importance of passing the baton of evangelism to the coming generations.

Visit to China

From 13th August, 2009, the General Secretary, Rev Makoto Watabe, as the Chair of the China Committee of the National Christian Council in Japan, visited the office of the China Christian Council (CCC) and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) in Shanghai, China to meet with the leaders to discuss future cooperation between the 2 nations. The relationship between NCCJ and CCC/TSPM started in 1983. During this visit, the two parties confirmed the needs for personnel exchanges in the near future. Furthermore, the delegates visited Harbin, Qingdao and Xiamen and learned about the current situation of the churches in China. The recent statistics show that the Chinese churches are growing at the rate of 5% annually.

With Elder Fu
Chairperson of TSPM



The Church in Harbin



Democratic Republic of the Congo: Distributing Bibles in Remote Areas

In 1997, Republic of Zaire changed its name to Democratic Republic of the Congo. Until now the conflicts prevail and Eastern part of the country is still lawless. The capital, Kinshasa, was peaceful but we saw many UN Forces at the airport, towns and other areas. The Bibles distributed in this country are all printed overseas and transported on surface from the port of western coast of Africa to Kinshasa. The roads from the capital to remote areas are disconnected and also dangerous. Therefore the Bibles are transported from Kinshasa to remote areas by air. As a result, the transport costs are high hence making it difficult to distribute at an affordable price. The General Secretary of the Bible Society in DR Congo, Rev. Kote, said "We are able to purchase the Land Cruiser to transport the Bibles with the donation from Japan. We are sincerely thankful to JBS and the Japanese people."



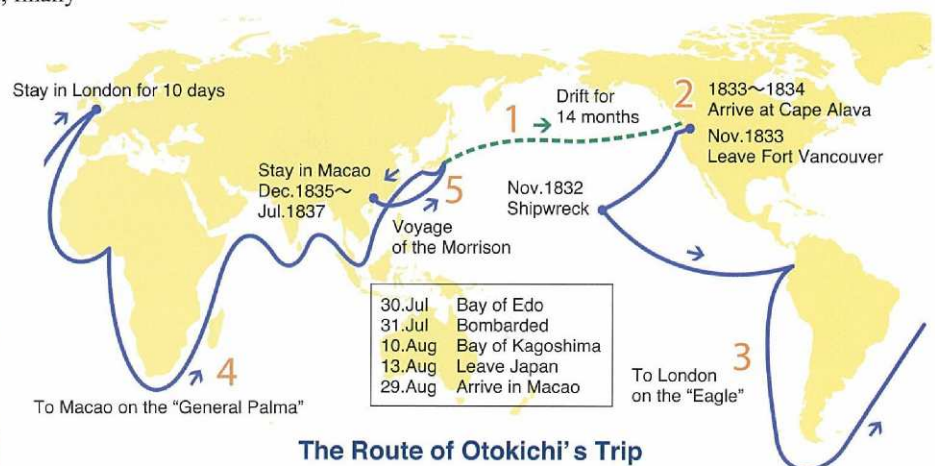
Pastor Rev. Kote the General Secretary of BS in DRC
and Ms. Shoko Takahashi in front of the Land Cruiser donated

The Tale of the first Japanese Bible Translator

Over 170 years ago, 3 sailors from Japan reached the shore of Cape Alava, near Seattle Washington, USA. The sailors were delivering rice to Tokyo, then known as Edo, when a vicious storm destroyed their ship. They drifted across the Pacific Ocean for 14 months. Upon making landfall on Cape Alava, they were captured by the Makah people then rescued by a British merchant. Otokichi and his friends then traveled to Hawaii, London, and Singapore, finally arriving in Macao where they met a Prussian (German) missionary, Karl Gutzlaff. Gutzlaff asked them to help translate the Bible into Japanese. With the sailors help, the Gospel of John and the Letter of John were completed and published by ABS in Singapore in 1837. These 3 sailors were the first to travel around the world, and the first Japanese to visit the USA, England, and Singapore. Otokichi married an English woman and became the first Japanese to acquire British nationality.



At Cape Alava near Seattle



National Prayer Dinner Meeting 2009 in Japan

The National Prayer Dinner Meeting in Japan has been held since 2000, mainly among the Christian members of the Parliament, business leaders, Church leaders and academic leaders. This year the 9th Meeting was held and approximately 360 people participated to pray for national leaders, peace in Japan and worldwide, economic reconstruction and the establishment of the sense of justice among the leaders.

The Christian population in Japan is not large but recently they are actively communicating with each other across denominations and Christian leaders are supporting such movements. JBS also plays an active role in organizing and supporting this event.

Luke 2:14

"Praise God in heaven!
Peace on earth to
everyone who pleases
God."



National Prayer
Dinner Meeting

Advisory Council on the next Japanese Bible Translation

In the history of Bible translation in Japan, Meiji (Classical) translation in 1887, Taisho (revised) translation in 1917, Colloquial translation in 1955 and New Interconfessional Translation in 1987 were conducted respectively. When we recall the history, the Bible has been revised approximately every 30 years and in this context, we are now in the stage of preparing a new translation more adapted to the current society and people.

When we do a new translation, we ideally aim to provide a common translation for all churches in Japan. To achieve that goal, we established an advisory council, inviting representatives from many denominations to discuss the "Translation Policy." After the Board confirms the policy, we will begin translating the Bible step by step based on the policy.

Next year, JBS will start working on the "Translation Policy" and we estimate that the translation will take approximately 6 years to complete.



Discussion for
"Translation Policy"

Manga Bible Series

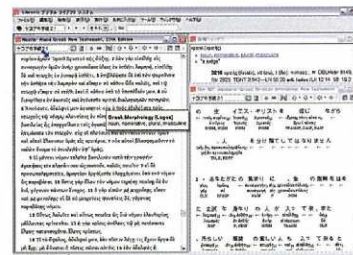
Since 2008, we have been publishing the Manga Bibles and this year vol.4 of the series of 5 "The Kingdom Builders" was launched. The Mangas can convey the message of the Bible to children and youth in the way they can easily understand. It is also attractive to the adults who love them. Please enjoy the art of Japanese Manga.

Kingdom
Builders



The First Audible Greek Bible Software

Last year we launched the Greek software for those who want to read the New Testament in the original Greek language. Approximately 600 units were sold in one year. It is not only useful for seminary students, pastors/priests and researchers but also for those who want to search a particular verse in Japanese. One Japanese Christian user said hearing the Greek Bible before the prayer will "calm their mind" even though they do not understand the Greek language. Interesting? We will also produce an audible Hebrew Bible dictionary.



The Karaoke function screen

The Bible Plus

The Bible Plus is a Bible specially designed for students in junior high and high schools where Bible is taught as part of the curriculum. With the cooperation of Italian Bible Society, it provides abundant information such as historical backgrounds, arts and architectures depicted in the Bible. The Bible Plus, with its colorful reference, is highly convincing in teaching the Bible.



Many pictures and diagrams

The Nobel Prize in Physics for 3 Japanese Scientists

In 2008, 3 Nobel prize-winning scientists in physics were dominated by Japanese, accumulating 15 Japanese Nobel prize-winners in Japanese history. The recipients were Dr. Yoichiro Nambu (Japan-born American) for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous broken symmetry in subatomic physics, Dr. Makoto Kobayashi and Dr. Toshihide Masakawa for the discovery of the origin of the broken symmetry which predicts the existence of at least three families of quarks in nature. This achievement shows that Japanese technology is one of the most advanced in the world.