



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.



Rev. Makoto Watabe
General Secretary

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.



Over 4,000 people attended

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.



The U.S. Capitol Building

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.

Display at the UBS Book Fair



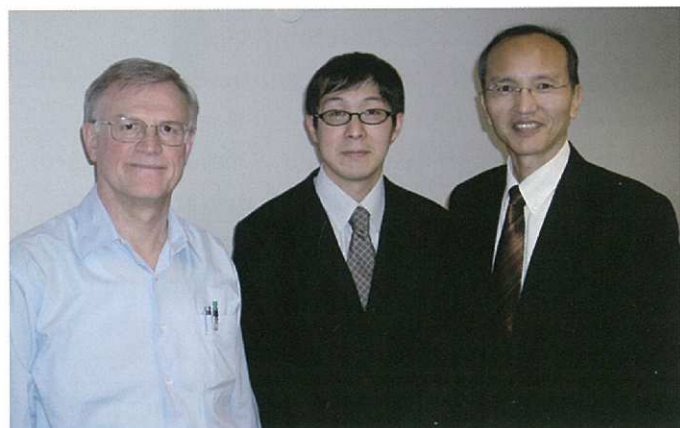
With the Board Chair of BS of Spain and Director of Nueva Luz

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.



Translation officers with the GS, Dr. Rudi Zimmer

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.



Seminar Attendants listen fervently

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.

History of Christianity in Japan

A.D.1500		Era of Evangelism
	1549	Francisco Xavier arrives in Kagoshima. Sowing of the first seed.
	1582	Tensho Delegates to Europe sets off from Nagasaki
		Era of Persecution and Martyrdom
	1587	The Issuance of the Edict to Expel Christian Missionaries by Hideyoshi Toyotomi
	1597	The Martyrdom of 26 Christians on the hill of Nishizaka, Nagasaki
A.D.1600		
	1614	The Issuance of the Ban on Christianity by Ieyasu Tokugawa
A.D.1700		
A.D.1800		Era of Revival
	1858	Signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce. The End of Isolation Period. Permission to Build Churches for Foreigners.
	1868	Meiji Restoration
	1873	The Lift of the Ban on Christianity
	1887	The Completion of the Old & New Testament Translation
A.D.1900		
A.D.2000		
	2009	The 150th Anniversary of the Protestant Missions in Japan



26 martyrs monuments



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.



Over 30 children attended



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.

Charity Concert

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.

The Donation Package



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.



Over 500 people attended

[New Publication] Bible Photo Collection

The Bible Photo Collection is scheduled to be published in autumn 2010. The book comprises of photos collected by pro and amateur photographers from all over Japan. The photos will accompany Biblical verses of the photographer's choice. It will be a prime example of the way Japan Bible Society strives to deliver the Word of God to the present generation in a real and dynamic way.



Sample page
Galatians 5:22-23

Distribution Figures

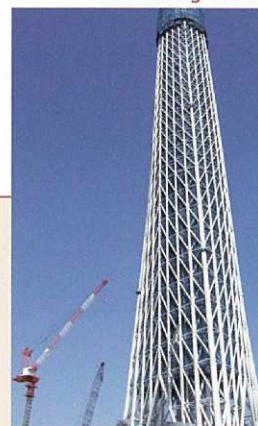
More than 420,000 New Testaments and Bibles are being distributed annually in Japan.

The Scripture Distribution Report

Nov. 2008 - Oct. 2009 (From JBS Annual Report 2009)

Translation / languages	Bibles	Old Testaments	New Testaments	Portions	Brail	Audio	Selections	Others	Total
New Interconfessional Translation	98,264	1,436	298,814	6,366	2,138	418	388,497	3,316	799,249
Colloquial Japanese version	8,612	0	1,830	0	169	0	0	0	10,611
The Classical Japanese version	6,735	0	1,574	23	0	0	0	0	8,332
Subtotal	113,611	1,436	302,218	6,389	2,307	418	388,497	3,316	818,192
Non-Japanese languages	3,401	108	582	2	0	0	0	32	4,125
Grand total	117,012	1,544	302,800	6,391	2,307	418	388,497	3,348	822,317

The World's Tallest
Free-Standing
Broadcasting Tower



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.