



JBS News International

Rise for the Great Commission

Vol.8
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Acts 2:32 "All of us can tell you that God has raised Jesus to life!" (CEV)

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from Japan Bible Society! I am delighted to be able to send you this newsletter once again to let you know of our work here in Japan.

Right before submitting the final data of this newsletter for printing, Japan was hit by the biggest earthquake in the nation's history and I decided to rewrite this message to you.

When the earthquake of Magnitude 9.0 hit, I was in a meeting in downtown Tokyo. There was an incredible



shake and we all evacuated from the building. The ground shook for about 5 minutes and within 2 hours, we experienced intense aftershocks at least 5 times. Ever since then, we have been experiencing big and small tremors along the Pacific coasts as a result of the collision of the North American and Pacific plates.

By God's grace, the buildings in Tokyo have been spared but the disasters caused by tsunami and the subsequent fires, along with the damages of the nuclear power plants in the affected areas are beyond measures.

As we read in Hebrews we must be thankful that we are given the unshakable Word of God. Your continued prayers and support for the victimized people will be very much appreciated.

Cars piled up as a result of tsunami



Rev. Makoto Watabe
General Secretary

BIBLE HOUSE Minami Aoyama Opened!

On February 18, 2011, Japan Bible Society opened a new bookstore in the heart of Tokyo (Aoyama area) – BIBLE HOUSE Minami Aoyama. The BIBLE HOUSE holds all Japanese translation Bibles as well as Foreign Language Bibles and other Christian books and goods. It will cater to the residents in Tokyo and the surrounding cities. We hope it will be a good point of contact in terms of carrying out effective Bible Work and evangelism. Please pray for the new BIBLE HOUSE.



Newly opened Bible House Minami Aoyama

Welcome Dinner for the CCC/TSPM Delegates



Elder Fu Xianwei with Rev. Hiroshi Omiya

In November 2010, we received the visit of 5 delegates from the China Christian Council/Three-Self Patriotic Movement. The invitation was extended by the National Christian Council China Committee of which Rev. Watabe, our General Secretary, is the Chair. The last visit was made in 2007 but this was the first since the current leadership took office. It was a great opportunity to fellowship and to deepen the relationship between Chinese churches and Japanese Churches.

During the visit, JBS and CCC/TSPM discussed about the publication of the Chinese version of the Japanese Manga (comic book) Bible as well as the possibility of carrying out a staff exchange program. JBS hosted a welcome dinner to honor the visit of TSPM Chair Elder Fu Xianwei and the 4 delegates.

UBS Global Board held in Tokyo

The UBS Global Board was held in Tokyo from October 25 to 30. The last time the meeting was held in Japan was 42 years ago, in 1968. During the Global Board, JBS hosted the members and guests to a welcome dinner with the JBS Board members. Some members stayed after the meeting to join the one-day tour to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan.



Violinist Machiko Ozawa at the welcome cruise dinner



Devotion on the first day



In front of the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto

Lausanne III, Cape Town 2010



In October 2010, Lausanne III, Cape Town 2010 – International Congress on World Evangelization was held in South Africa. Rev. Watabe attended as one of the 35 delegates from Japan. Close to 4,200 mission and church leaders from 198 nations gathered together to address challenges and opportunities in terms of world evangelization. Under the slogan “Whole Gospel, Whole Church, Whole World,” discussions were carried out which centered around the problems the world is facing, as well as the mission of the gospel of reconciliation rooted in Christ’s love and peace.



Lausanne Convention venue



African praise

National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC

National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC is held every year on the first Thursday of February. Our Chairperson, Rev. Hiroshi Omiya and our General Secretary, Rev. Makoto Watabe were invited to attend the Breakfast. This year's special guest was Mr. Jose Henriquez, the Chilean minor. He testified his experience of being trapped underground for 70 days and how they encouraged each other emotionally and spiritually. Astronaut Mark Kelly, husband of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords who was severely wounded from a gunshot, delivered the closing prayer and said he received a lot of encouragement from the prayers of the people.



Rev. Jose Henriquez, testifying his experience in the mine

Visiting the Sites of Paul's Missionary Journeys



The Library of Celsus, Ephesus

In August 2010, JBS organized a tour to visit the sites where the Apostle Paul set foot on his missionary journeys. Rev. Watabe led the 31 participants and led devotions in each places they visited including the island of Malta, Turkey, Greece and Rome, Italy. In Malta the group visited the Bible Society in Malta and heard about their activities.



With Ms. Grace Celia, the General Secretary of the BS in Malta

UBS World Assembly

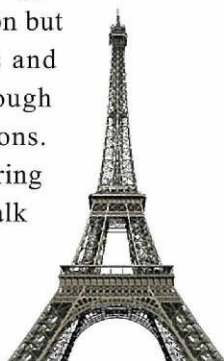
From September 20 to 24, 2010, the UBS World Assembly was held in Seoul Korea at the COEX Convention Center. JBS Board Chair, Rev. Hiroshi Omiya, General Secretary, Rev. Makoto Watabe and Assistant to the General Secretary/Manager of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Emi Beland (in her role as the Asia Pacific Area Board) attended the Assembly. It had been 6 years since the last World Assembly in Newport, Wales. Under the theme "God's Word, Life for the World," keynote speeches and discussions were carried out on how the Bible Societies as a fellowship could serve in the context of globalization and population growth, how we could reach out to the youth, expats, etc., as well as the effective use of modern technology.



The new UBS General Secretary, Michael Perreau, speaking at the World Assembly

Visit to the French Bible Society

On February 10, Rev. Watabe visited the French Bible Society located in the suburb of Paris where around 20 staff members serve. The French Bible Society supplies French Bible, not only in its own nation but in all Francophone countries and promotes the Bible Work through events such as Bible Exhibitions. Japan Bible Society is considering to produce the French Bible Talk and Manga Bible.



Mr. Christian Megrelis, Rev. Watabe and Mr. Bernard Coyault

Christmas Service 2010

In December, JBS hosted the annual Christmas Service in a nearby church in Tokyo. Close to 300 people came to thank and give glory to the Lord for the blessings bestowed throughout the year.

Every year, we award a person who contributed to the Bible Work and this year, the award went to a violinist, Mr. Jung Chanwoo. Mr. Jung supports our work by playing the violin at our promotional meetings. His music along with his testimony of how he became a Christian touched the hearts of many participants



The award winner violinist, Mr. Jung Chanwoo



Topics

Linear Motor Car – JR Maglev

Test track for LMC

Japan Railway has announced the launch of the Linear Motor Car, the magnetic levitation train, in 2017. This super-high speed transport system is able to connect Tokyo and Nagoya (400km) in 1 hour at a speed of 500km/hr, a distance which takes 2 hours now by the Bullet train (Shinkansen).