

JBS NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Rise for the Great Commission

April 2015 Vol.12

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34)

Greetings from Japan Bible Society

We hope that the year 2014 was a blessed year for you. We are delighted to update you on our last year's activities of Japan Bible Society.

We have seen that wars and battles continued in many parts of the world last year. By any reason, killing each other is unfortunate for mankind. The Bible contains a golden rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." It seems to share the same message with "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." It is difficult

to unite the whole world by a one-sided opinions or ideas, but I believe it is possible to relate to one another by respecting others and sharing neighborly love with others. It is a fellowship of mutual respect and a heart of sharing. If a country, an organization or one person can join hands with another, it may lead us to a larger circle of peace. The national flag of Japan has a red round sun drawn in the center of the white background, and it may convey a message that we should live with due respect to one another and cherish



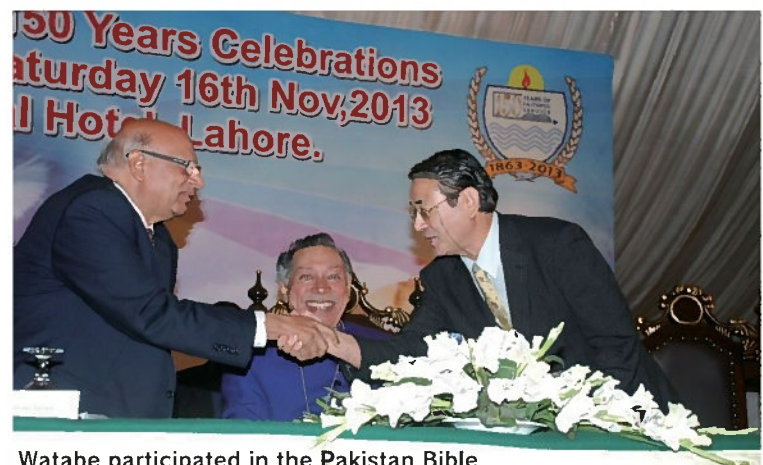
Rev. Makoto Watabe,
JBS General Secretary

the harmony among people in order for 120 million people to live in the same area as the state of California. We pray that many may practice the Golden Rule in the Bible, so that all

The 150th Anniversary of Pakistan Bible Society



General Secretary Watabe attended the Pakistan Bible Society's 150th anniversary ceremony from November 12 to November 18, 2013. Since Pakistani Christianity is facing the



Watabe participated in the Pakistan Bible Society 150th Anniversary ceremony.

threat of terrorism, JBS offered \$ 10,000 as ISP of the fiscal year 2014 for the project of security equipment development, such as, security cameras and metal detectors gates.

The 200th anniversary ceremony of dissemination of Judson Bible at Myanmar Bible Society

Myanmar Bible Society invited General Secretary Watabe and two staff for the ceremony and they visited there from December 5 to 8, 2013. JBS supports Myanmar with \$ 20,000 as a ISP country. American missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Adoniram Judson, went to Myanmar and translated the bible into Burmese and the translation contributed greatly to the advancement of the gospel in the country. The year 2013 is the 200th year of their arrival in Myanmar and the memorial ceremony was

held in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar.

Christians account for about 10% of Myanmar's population. The memorial ceremony was held for four days, and it had a participant of the 50,000 people from home and abroad. I was filled with an air of excitement.



Watabe hands over a commemorative gift to Koy General Secretary of Myanmar Bible Society



The 200th anniversary ceremony of dissemination of Judson Bible

The 14th National Day of Prayer Dinner

The dinner was held at Keio Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, on April 25th under the sponsorship of CBMC (Christian Businessmen's Connection). Chosei Kabira, Professor Emeritus of Showa Women's University, who is also a board member of JBS, delivered

a speech as its main speaker. 330 pastors and laypeople gathered across the denominations from all over the country to the venue, and we had a time of pray for the nation. Watabe and 10 staff members from JBS took part there.



The 14th National Day of Prayer Dinner



Chosei Kabira delivers the speech



Gospel singer, Yuko Ichioka

Encounter with Bible and Music in Matsue

JBS gives mini-concerts by guest musicians every year in different parts of the country. It is entitled "Encounter with Bible and Music", in which JBS shares its history and reports its activities with the latest information. On July 4th, 2014, "Encounter with Bible and Music in Matsue" was held at Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture. We invited a gospel singer, Yuko Ichioka, and the venue was filled with excitement at her powerful singing and testimony of salvation. 180 people attended there. We are grateful that local mission high school students offered praise songs in the concert and that many pastors and lay people in the city helped to make the event successful.

Lausanne Symposium in Tokyo

The Japan Lausanne Committee sponsors the series of symposia "The comprehensive mission in Japan", and one symposium was held in Tokyo on the theme of "Call the Church of Christ back to humility, integrity and simplicity" on November 8th, 2014. Dr. Michael Oh, the Executive Director of

the Lausanne Movement, gave the keynote lecture titled "Integrity in the areas of Theology, Gender and Ministry" and Watabe responded to it as a panelist based on the experiences of meeting many leaders around the world. Attendance was about 50 people.



Watabe speaks at the Lausanne Symposium



Michael Oh, the Executive Director of the Lausanne Movement

Mary Jones World Opening Ceremony, Israel Bible Society, Cambridge University Library

Watabe visited Israel Bible Society and Cambridge University Library and then took part in Mary Jones World Opening Ceremony from September 26 through October 10, 2014.

He obtained a Hebrew reading software in Israel and then visited Cambridge University Library in order to gain some ideas for the scheme of JBS Library. The BFBS

corner of the library holds Bibles from all the world and has one shelf for Japanese bibles.

General Secretary Mr. and Mrs. Watabe were invited to take part in "Mary Jones World Opening Ceremony" in Wales. He was to present a Japanese bible to Leta Jones, aged 102, the great-great-great-granddaughter of Revd Thomas Charles. Leta in her wheelchair was very healthy, and greeted them with smile.



Mary Jones World



Watabe hands a Japanese Bible to Leta Jones at the ceremony



Cambridge University Library



Israel Bible Society staff

The 1st Northeast Asian Leaders Round Table Conference

The 1st Northeast Asian Leaders Roundtable was held over two days in November 24 and 25th, in Tokyo. 12 people from South Korea and 7 from Japan including Watabe and other leaders of churches and organizations attended it. The purpose of this roundtable is to gather Christian leaders of each country, to exchange their missionary visions in Northeast Asia and to coordinate the efforts of mission. The next roundtable will be held in Korea in October, 2015.

19 in total from Japan and South Korea participated.



Takamitsu Muraoka was awarded with Bible Distribution Projects Contributor Award, 2014 and spoke at JBS Christmas Worship Service.

Every year Japan Bible Society recognizes an individual or an organization that contributed to Bible distribution during the JBS Christmas Service held in Tokyo. Takamitsu Muraoka, a world famous Semitic scholar and Leiden University Professor Emeritus in the Netherlands, was awarded on December 11th. Prior to the worship, he gave a memorial lecture entitled "My Via Dolorosa - the to Visit Traces of the Pacific War in Asia." About 300 people were gathered in the venue. Prof. Muraoka was born in

Hiroshima in 1938. He authored "A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew" and "Emphatic Words and Structures in Biblical Hebrew" and others.

This award honors that Muraoka, who retired from the University of Leiden in 2003, visited at his own expense 10 Asian countries, and contributed to the Bible translations of Asia through special lectures free of charge. He showed his willingness by saying, "I'd like to continue this ministry in the Asia Pacific countries as long as it is allowed."



Takamitsu Muraoka at the award ceremony

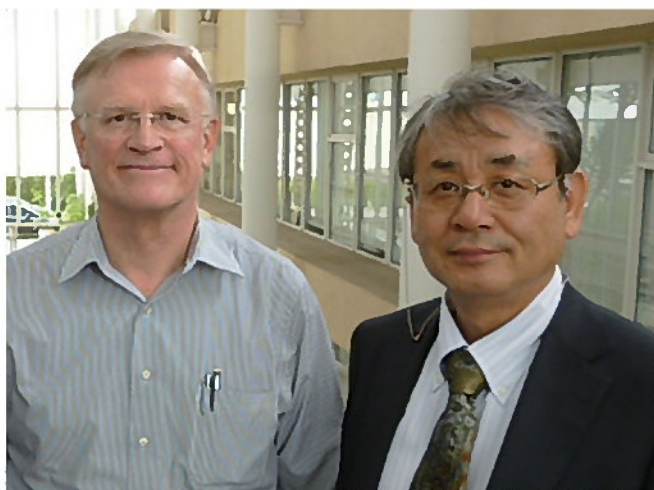


JBS Christmas Worship Service

Brazil Bible Society — Printed Over 8 Million Bible in 2014

In 2014, BBS Printing Factory/Bindery produced and distributed domestically for about 8 million copies of the Bible. In relation to the rapid growth of Pentecostal churches within Brazil, the Portuguese

Bible has been distributed more than anywhere in the world. According to the Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Rudi Zimmer, to meet the needs of the people, the factory is operating 24 hours a day, in 3 shifts.



Rev. Dr. Rudi Zimmer, Executive Director



Bible Bindery

Bible Society of Namibia—Striving for Bible Translation in Indigenous Languages

BSN is located on the main street of the capital city, Windhoek. 17 staff were working under the leadership of the General Secretary/and UBS Global Council member, Rev. Bernie van der Walt. Although the office was partially under renovation, it was a comfortable working environment that bright sunlight reflecting on floor. According to the BSN, number of

the Bible distributed in the 14 years since its beginning of 1986, has increased from 20,000 to 80,000 copies. Currently, BSN is working on the translation to the indigenous language (Khoekhoegowab and Otjiherero), as well as the oral translation project for nomadic Obahinba and San group. As a conclusion BSN is a great team unit working in a harmony towards the common goal, striving to meet expectations of people wanting to interact with the word of God.



Bible Society of Namibia



Bible Society of Namibia Staff

Japan Bible Society Bookshop Spread Nationwide

In 2011, Japan Bible Society opened "Bible House Minami-Aoyama" in Tokyo. In need of corresponding to the changing times, JBS had developed online order system and mail order catalogs as a means of tool that people can have the Bible easier and quicker from the city with no Christian bookshop. Six bookshops are currently operated by JBS, and to ensure smooth distribution sales channels of the Bible and Christian books, the number of the shop will be increased nationwide.

Christians in Japan remain only 1% (roughly 1 million population) out of whole population. Nevertheless, it is said that the Bible sales scores rather high than other countries. This could be explained that Japanese Christians are seeking diligently for the word of God, and non-Christians owning the Bible as spiritual nourishment. Other than the Bible, JBS bookshop will have Christian-related goods such as bookmark with the Bible verse, pass holder, book covers, accessories and decorative elements as new line-ups.



Goods are rich in variation



The first JBS bookstore, Bible House Minami-Aoyama in Tokyo

on line site



Online sale pushing up the income
<http://biblehouse.jp/>

JBS bookshop map



new book

Look and Find Bible

In January 2015, the Japanese version of the popular picture book "Look and Find Bible" in the US and Europe (produced by Copenhagen Publishing House) was released. Children will experience best-loved Bible stories in a world full of colors and details. Different items are shown in boxes and mentioned by its name, as children go through the large spread illustrations searching for each item. It is being both a first word book and a look & find game at the same time.

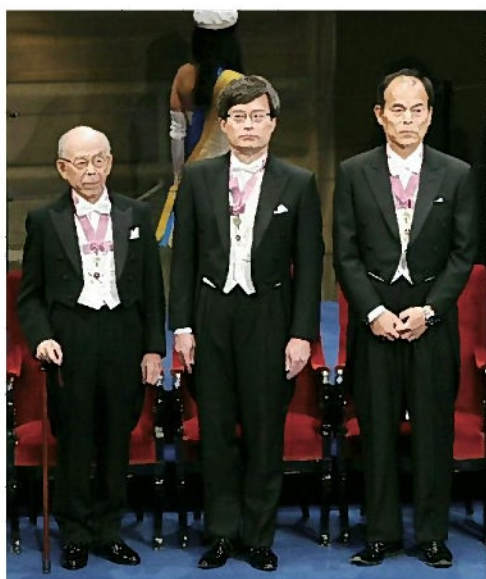


Colorful 20 page-book is for 2 year old and up

topics

3 Japanese Scientists win Nobel in Physics for Blue LEDs

Professors Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura were awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics for "the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources". They were the first to master layering of semi conductor materials needed to create blue-Light emitting diodes. Though red and green diodes had been invented decades earlier, blue was needed to complete the trio and create a light that would be white in color. "Nobody else has been successful in the failed field. 21st century incandescent bulbs that illuminate the 20th century will be illuminated in LED light bulb," Nobel committee said.



Three Japan-born physicists won Nobel Prize in 2014



Blue light-emitting diode