



*Yuri Nakano*

MISSIONARY IN JAPAN



MAY 2022

## SIGNS OF LIVING HOPE

### *Praises*

- For a wonderful Easter service that was a joint effort with both Kongo Bible Church and Komyo Christian Church.
- For visible spiritual fruit seen in some of the women I am mentoring.
- The brochure explaining the Ladies Seminars has been distributed to all the churches, and there has been some good feedback.
- The Japan Evangelical Association (JEA) women's committee sponsored topical Zoom events continue to be well attended and are quite informative.

### *Prayer*

- For safety, health, and traveling mercies as our whole team goes to Rome on a Spiritual Retreat planned by the staff of the NAB International Office May 14–24. Travel is much more complicated with vaccine certifications, PCR tests, etc. Also, that it would truly be a spiritually refreshing time for us all.
- For good attendance and good preparation for the Asia Evangelical Alliance sponsored D6 Family Conference June 9–11 via Zoom. This is the first time that Japanese interpreters will cover the sessions so that many Japanese could participate and learn from this conference.
- Preparations for our next Ladies Seminar, which is going to be held on June 25 in the Aichi region involving three churches.
- Good transition and learning as the Ewings prepare for home assignment to leave in July and I take on Interim Field Director duties.

*According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 PETER 1:3 (ESV)

There is much surrounding us that can cause us to get disheartened, but we also have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus. I was reminded of that through the Lent and Easter season. I saw hope during our Easter combined service with Kongo Bible Church and Komyo Christian Church as the two churches did a great job of participating together. It was also great to see the youth get

involved with providing for the children's time and leading in song.

There have also been many signs of living hope in the lives of the women I meet up with on a regular basis. Some women are truly eager to care for others in their circle and reach out to their unbelieving friends. One is trying to minister to the



The Easter story drawn by the youth.

next-door neighbor of the church and his teenage son that is mourning the death of wife and mother. Another woman encouraged others in her church to invite a seeker to watch a Christian-based movie together. One pastor's wife asked me to provide a prayer plan for Lent that she could follow during the Holy Week

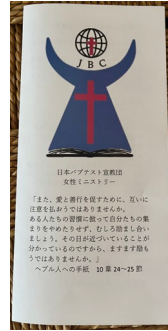
leading up to Easter. She and many others expressed that they were able to have a meaningful devotional time meditating on Jesus' last days leading up to the Cross. I am encouraged by the desire these women have to be more Christ-like.

Shan Reed and I worked on a brochure explaining the Ladies Seminars we are wanting to facilitate in the churches. We are excited to plan for our next seminar in the Aichi region on June 25. Please pray with us that the women would benefit spiritually through this seminar and feel excited for the next.

The Japan Evangelical Association Women's Commission held an online Zoom event on the

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Brochures were given to all the JBC churches.

topic of students who refuse to go to school. There are around 200,000 students in Japan who are in this category. It is a big problem for many schools and families. The speaker is a pastor's wife who also has personal experience with her own children regarding this topic and also works as a teacher/counselor to help these students adapt and go back to school eventually. Many pressures placed on children to do well in school, bullying, and other

various reasons cause children to have so much anxiety they refuse to go to school. I learned Japan is trying to deal with this situation by providing special classrooms and schools for these struggling students. I am not sure I agree with all the methods, but it is good that these kinds of topics are being discussed and drawn attention to in the Christian community.

Lastly, I am grateful to you who pray for God's Kingdom to expand and bring living hope.

Blessings,