

From the Editor

It is 3 years of Seeds of Grace this month! We thank you for your continued prayers and interest in Japan and our workers! We hope you had a blessed Easter and that you enjoy reading about how some of us celebrated Easter in Japan this year. May God continue to touch your heart for Japan and the Japanese people! Blessings,
Jessica

News and Prayer Points

Pray for our field as we hold our annual **missionary conference** in the first week of May. For a refreshing time as we fellowship together, and for God's wisdom as we discuss business items.

Simon, Henrietta and baby Caitlin Cozens (UK) will return to Japan in May after an extended furlough – pray for them to find a house to live in, for their Japanese to come back easily and for a good adjustment especially for Caitlin.

Last month 4 new missionaries arrived in Japan. Please pray for **Peter, Catherine and John and Samantha** as they all study hard at language school in Kyoto and as they settle in to a new life in Japan.

The building of the new **Kusatsu Church** is continuing. They need to start services there soon as the space they were leasing is no longer available. Please pray for wisdom for **the Gaub family** as they watch over all that is happening and for the safety of the workers on site as they work hard to finish off the building.

Please pray for God to bring more **Japanese pastors** to join our group as we have many churches that are currently without leadership.

As always, please keep interceding with us for the saving of many souls in Japan and for God to send more missionaries to work amongst the people.



NORTH BLOCK EASTER FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

This year the North Block Churches of Shiga Ken joined together to put on an Easter Festival. On Easter Sunday afternoon over 100 people from 4 different churches gathered together to celebrate God's love for us.

The children enjoyed an action packed program run by missionaries Jaehyun Choi and Sewon Kang while the adults began the afternoon with some traditional Easter hymns and an Easter message from Pastor Nakazawa.

After a short break we all joined together to listen to the MIX Band from Hikone Church bring us 4 songs in both English and Japanese. We were then able to enjoy a completely contrasting style of music with the Higashi Omi church bringing us traditional Japanese Shigin singing, where they recited from the gospel of John. Our final items came from a Gospel Choir formed especially for the festival from three of our churches. Over 30 people joined together to sing

'Amazing Grace' and 'Oh Happy Day'.

After the official part of the festival finished we enjoyed many delicious cakes prepared by the church ladies, and a great time of fellowship.

Easter Day is widely unrecognized in Japan; in fact most people would not even realize it was Easter as they went about their normal day. So it was an encouraging thing to see the churches put on a festival and also see many non-Christians come along to participate—especially those who sing in the gospel choirs, as they were able to hear about the real meaning of Easter in a fun and energetic way.

Some Prayer Points:

- Pray for those Japanese who heard the Easter message for the first time this Easter, that the message would continue to touch their hearts and that they would seek God.
- Praise God that the churches joined together for this time, please pray for more chances to support each other.