



From the Editor

The Japanese summer always sees our workers host a number of short-term mission teams from around the world, and this year is no exception. This month's article is by Carol, who came with a team from Singapore last month. If you're interested in coming yourself, either individually or with a team at any time of the year, please email us!

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News & Prayer Points

Thank God that people loved July's Smile Camp and Karate Camp, and let's pray now for good follow-up.

Please pray too for participants at International Family Camp (Aug 4-5), International Friendship Camp (Aug 9-11), and the KGK student camp (Aug 20-23).

Thank God that two people our workers are in contact with came to faith last month. One is a student, and one a young mum. Pray for them on their new faith journeys and for others to join them!

We have short-term mission teams visiting from England, Australia and Korea this month, as well as individuals from other countries. May they be greeted warmly wherever they go and bring hope to people's lives.

Short term mission in Japan

God is amazing. Our 12 days in Japan was truly an incredible & humbling experience.

Konichiwa, my name is Carol and I'm from Singapore. God led our small team of 5 to Japan in July to serve His people and experience His providence. We started knowing little and honestly, what I personally expected, God gave me more than my expectations.

Mission can be a very loosely used or vague term to me - it covers everything and anything. To be a missionary, I realize that this is what it takes - your everything. Back from where I come from, life is truly a breeze. The only times we have to perhaps, lift our fingers, is when we type or make phone calls. Where we visited the missionaries, it's definitely not the case.

To be surrounded by people with a different language and culture can be fun for a while. However, communication barriers can be a powerful weapon to break one down. There were so many things I wanted to communicate but after 5-10 mins of very basic Japanese, we switched to charade mode. Kudos to the missionaries who have fluent Japanese who helped us out in the process.

Through this trip, I was deeply touched and encouraged by the perseverance of the missionaries. I had the idea to bless the people here and the team was constantly trying to think of what we could do and made many plans before the trip. When I reflect upon the experience, God



Four of the Singaporean team who visited in July, trying some Japanese fashion!

reminded me of 1 Corinthians 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (NIV) To be in a rough soil such as Japan, one needs to have these three.

I am definitely thinking of returning to Japan. It is a great encouragement and reminder to me to thank God for the many blessings He has given me. The challenge I have for you is to think of how much God has given you - how much are you willing to give back in response? And are you ready when God calls you? For me, I definitely have to learn the language and train up both spiritually and physically. If you ask me why physically? I would leave that for you to find out in Japan but you have been informed! Above all, we want to thank God for this life changing experience.