



From the Editor

HOP - sending over 100 Japanese on short term mission teams in 2013 - has started already ! This month you will find out from Japanese leader Miho about her team's time in the Philippines. Keep praying for other HOP trips too, scheduled for this summer.

Eunjeong Son

News and Prayer Points

1. Kusatsu church-there were 4 people baptized recently so pray for their faith to grow steadily. Also pray for the Gaubs leading the church.
2. For Cozens' baby due July 2, so if early, may arrive before, pray for all go smoothly.
3. For preparations for Camps and Summer mission teams in July and August.
4. Pray for Madi, for her resettlement in Kyoto and especially with South Kyoto Team. She got engaged a few weeks ago to Tristan ! Pray for her wedding this autumn.
5. For John and Samantha as they keep learning Japanese and culture and exploring ministry opportunities from the WEC base in a town, Notogawa.



Philippines Mission Trip Report (HOP)

In May I took a team of three Japanese church members to the Philippines for five days. We had a mission of feeding children and leading children and youth, including teaching some Japanese culture.

On the first day we had planned to sightsee, but at the last minute we decided to visit missionary couple instead, who have been in the Philippines for 33 years! It was really helpful to understand the country from them. The Japanese army in the Philippines did really terrible things to Filipinos. Young people think this is just history, but some older people still have bitterness and pain.

Our highlight was the day we led a meeting for 200 children. We taught games, Japanese children's Christian songs, Japanese greetings, dancing to the Sakura song, and singing with a miniature Koto. Then we wrote 'love, faith and hope' in Japanese calligraphy, and shared a Bible story. Afterwards we cooked Japanese curry for 300 lunchboxes, and put them in the public park so the children could take them home. There were some children who seemed to have no parents, and the area was really poor, so the church was helping them. Because we didn't have experience

of feeding 300 people, especially abroad, we didn't know in advance if we could do it or not. It was a really good experience for us.

In all, we visited three churches – a youth church, (very active, the youth lead the meeting even the preaching, the pastor just came in at the end; it was really good to see); then the second church was where we did the feeding program; and the last church was our host's church. The Philippines has more young people and children than the Japanese church; it is very active and alive.

Though one of us had a bad stomach and sometimes we didn't know what to do, we followed God's leading. Although we were only four ladies plus Filipino helpers, everyone used their gifts and talents very well. For example there was a cotton tree in our host's house, and our 64 yr old team member brought some of the cotton back to Japan so she can make cotton handicrafts with it, sell them, and send the profits back to the Philippines. She can continue the mission using her skills and talents!

By Pastor Miho Komori