

## From the Editor

In the summer Sophia (one of our Australian-Hong Kong new workers) attended a local seminar about human trafficking. We asked her to find out more about this issue for this month's article. Do pray for the church planting work our missionaries are involved in using the prayer points below too!

Henrietta Cozens

## News and Prayer Points

Language school autumn term has started. Pray for our new workers Kaki, Sophia, Rosa and Moon all studying Japanese. Kaki will be at Ritto church as a 2nd year intern. Pray for her to learn and bless there.

Ron and Yoshimi praise the Lord for a wonderful funeral for Yoshimi's mother who died suddenly. They thank those who prayed for them as it really sustained them.

Matt and Annette Cummings ask for prayer for the salvation of Mr. Kitanaka (Hikone), K. (young man in Ritto), and many children who attend J-Kids (Ritto) and hear about Jesus often

Five of our missionaries are participating in WEC's Asia Conference in Thailand starting today. Pray that they are refreshed there, hear from God, and build relationships with other leaders.

We welcome Moon from Hong Kong here as a long term missionary. Pray for her new life here with Christ.

## Human Trafficking in Japan

Human trafficking has gained increased exposure in recent years. Unfortunately Japan is one of the countries where women and teenagers are suffering especially in the sex industry. It has been called modern day slavery. What does this mean?

Women from abroad are forced to work in clubs and brothels. Girls, especially from SE Asia (e.g. Philippines) are lured to Japan with promises of employment or marriage, but when they arrive they are quickly introduced only to night-clubs, 'love hotels', and massage parlours. Unless they participate they face threats of violence, deportation, confiscation of their passports by their 'employers', confinement, or are simply forced to repay "transportation fees" through prostitution.

It is not only foreigners coming into the country that are duped though. Japanese girls, in particular runaway teens from dysfunctional homes, are being deceived by young men who pretend to care. The girls might be offered money to accompany men on walks, in cafes, or to hotels. It starts seemingly 'innocent', but easily leads to their sexual exploitation.

What should the government do about this?

- Human trafficking is a crime – both under Japanese law and international law. However, Japan is the only G8 country that has not ratified the UN Trafficking Protocol.



- Japan is facing international pressure to provide victim protection and assistance services.

What can YOU do?

First of all, anyone can PRAY against this work of Satan in Japan. God hears and moves when His people earnestly petition for His justice and love to penetrate the darkness. Pray for stricter laws, better enforcement, perpetrators to repent, better education so girls become aware and are no longer deceived, and for victims to find total healing for their hearts and souls through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Second, learn more and tell others. The more who know about this evil, the more we can be used of God to take action. We may be able to teach or preach about the issue, intercede for those affected, give money or volunteer with groups who are actively fighting trafficking in Japan or around the world.

*Information for this article was compiled by Bonnie Jinmon, volunteer staff with Not For Sale Japan, and edited by Henrietta Cozens.*