



Moshi Moshi!

A Prayer Letter from the Ellricks

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and Karen Ellrick

February 2011

Dear Friends,

May the Lord be with you! We are doing fine here in Osaka, although suffering from colds at the moment. This past year has been a busy marathon, but we are finally getting a break to catch up on things - starting with this long overdue prayer letter.

A high point of 2010 was the chance to participate with the Franklin Graham Festival held here last October. The festival lasted only three days, but it was preceded by months of preparations, and followup is still continuing. The response was good; the five main meetings had a total attendance of over 31,000, and more than 1,700 decisions to trust Jesus were recorded. But, perhaps the most important fruit of the festival will be a renewed emphasis on outreach at hundreds of Japanese churches. This will bring new fruit for the Kingdom for years to come.

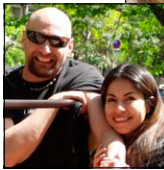
An emotional low point for the year came last August when we felt the time had come to close Sekime Chapel and refocus most of the time and resources that were going to the cell church on other efforts. Over the past seven years, a lot of good ministry was done through the cell church, but the OIC ministry has been much more effective overall. Three small groups from the cell church continue to meet at various locations, including a thriving Deaf Bible study group that is now meeting at OIC.

At OIC, a major praise report is that Dan now has a part-time assistant pastor to share the load. Pastor Joseph Totsis and his wife Amy joined the OIC staff in July. They are missionaries from Calvary Chapel of Montebello, California, and their long-term vision is to see a Calvary Chapel of Osaka established, but they will be working with OIC for now, while studying Japanese language and culture.

With Joseph at OIC, we have seized the opportunity to take a four month sabbatical from the day-to-day church ministry. February will be spent on catching up on things that are behind - including updates to proverbs2525.org and our other websites. Then, in March, we plan to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary scuba diving in Guam. After that, our sabbatical focus will be on prayer, study, and preparing new resources for further ministry.

By the Lord's grace we have had fifteen years of fruitful ministry in Japan so far, please pray that He will give us clear vision and refreshed hearts to sustain us for many more years. Thank you always and God bless you!

In Jesus' love, Dan and Karen



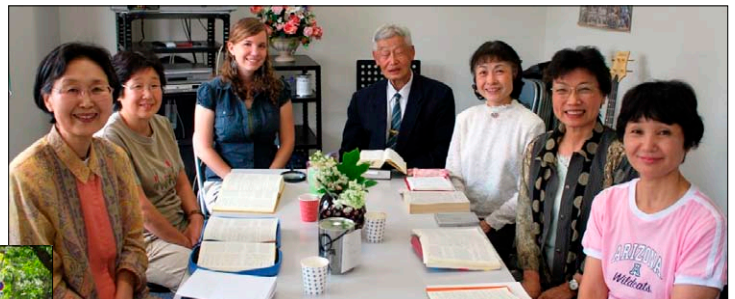
Joseph & Amy

Small Group Bible Studies Touch Hearts

The small group ministry continues to have a big impact. Many new decisions for Christ happen in the small groups, perhaps because it is easy to ask questions and make friends. Currently, 13 OIC small groups are meeting, plus three cell church small groups - add in three worship services and two prayer meetings, and there are 21 groups meeting at eight locations. This gives even busy people a chance to find something that fits their schedule. Praise the Lord!



Studying Acts in a home on Wednesdays



Reading/discussing the Pauline epistles at OIC on Thursdays



OIC Youth Group

MUP is Changing

You may have heard that our mission agency, Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP), has been undergoing a variety of changes over the past two years. The offices have been moved from Seattle to Plano, Texas (the new address is below). The top leadership and most of the Board members have changed. With new leadership, many new ideas and plans have come. So far, these changes have had minimal impact on us, as we are considered "grandfathered" and are allowed to continue in the ministry the Lord has led us to. Nonetheless, change is always difficult, so please join with us in praying for the Lord to provide wisdom, unity, and grace for all concerned.



Missionary Quotable Quotes

"God is a God of missions. He wills missions. He commands missions. He demands missions. He made missions possible through His Son. He made missions actual in sending the Holy Spirit." - George W. Peters

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Personal letters can be sent to us in Japan, but financial support should be sent to the **new MUP address**

Mission to Unreached Peoples
P.O. Box 860548, Plano, TX 75086-0548
888-847-6950 or (469)814-8222
E-mail: info@mup.org
The Mission Exchange, ECFA

Shutterbug News Collection



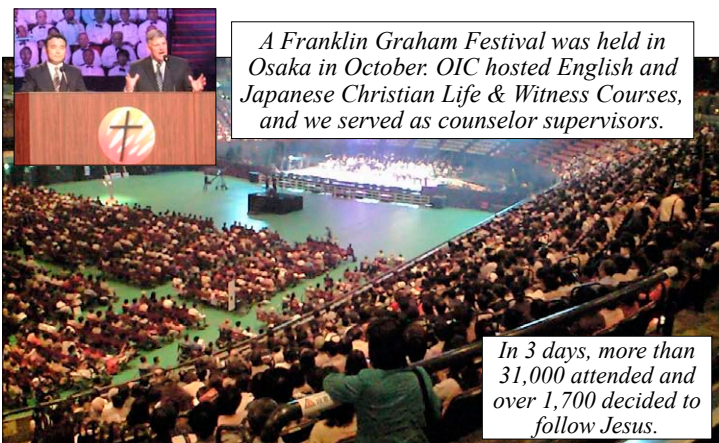
At OIC, Dan is the only full-time staff, but we also have part time staff: Yuko, Joseph, and Noelle. And, of course, little Minori loves to help too!



Jesus loves kids! It is a joy and a privilege to share Jesus with children through the OIC Sunday School, the Rainbow Club for kids, and through our annual Christmas party for kids in the building where we live. Please pray for these little ones and their families!



Japanese and English Alpha Courses continue to produce fruit in new decisions and spiritual growth of believers.



A Franklin Graham Festival was held in Osaka in October. OIC hosted English and Japanese Christian Life & Witness Courses, and we served as counselor supervisors.

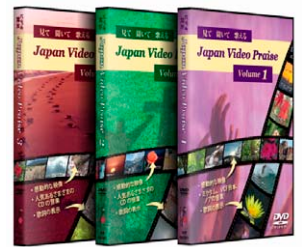
In 3 days, more than 31,000 attended and over 1,700 decided to follow Jesus.

"Japan Video Praise" series done!



With Dan's encouragement, six years ago Karen started a project to produce DVDs for Japanese Christians to use for sing-along praise and worship in a wide variety of settings, including at home, in small group Bible studies, in churches, or for special events. We are very happy to announce that the third DVD in this series is finished and has been sent to the replicator service to have 1,000 copies pressed and packaged. This completes the initial goal of producing a series of three DVDs with 12 songs each, for a total of 36 high-quality Japanese praise and worship songs that can be used anywhere a DVD player and screen are available. This was a huge project, but by the grace of the Lord, Karen has produced an excellent resource that will be used for years to come.

You can enjoy samples of the songs at L4JP.com, the website of Karen's new ministry for developing Kingdom resources, Light For Japan Productions. These DVDs are great tools for ministering to Japanese speakers and excellent gifts for Japanese Christians and Japanese who are learning about Jesus. In North America, DVDs can be ordered from Amazon.com - just search for "Japan Video Praise".



We are giving thanks to the Lord for making it possible to produce these DVDs and for the positive response we have had to this project. Join with us in praying that these worship tools will be widely used. Also, pray for the Lord to lead and give us wisdom as we think about future projects that use Karen's technical and artistic talents and Dan's gift of teaching.

Prayer Points



1. Pray that our sabbatical time will be refreshing and productive, and that the Lord would lead in all things during this four month break from OIC.
2. Pray for the Lord to give Pastor Joseph wisdom as he covers for Dan during our sabbatical.
3. Praise the Lord! Dan's back has been much better after making two lifestyle changes - buying a bed and a bicycle. Walking miles on concrete and sleeping on the floor are apparently not good for old backs. Pray for our health so that we might continue to serve the Lord in Japan for many more years.
4. Pray for all of those who attended the cell church and for the three cell church Bible studies that are continuing.
5. Praise the Lord for blessing OIC and leading young and old Japanese and foreigners alike to faith in Jesus!
6. Pray for all who made decisions at the Festival to continue in their faith and to get established in good churches.
7. As always, pray for all the people of Japan, that they would know the truth and know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

A Final Word from the Word

"But in the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath of rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards."