

## Dear Friends,

Are you having a good summer? We are, although it does seem that we might have gotten busier than we should be, and have trouble keeping up with all that is going on.

The ministry at Osaka International Church (OIC) continues to go well, although with more people comes more responsibility for Dan as pastor - counseling, leadership decisions, etc. The church changed its ministry leadership structure this year in order to respond better to needs, and we also added two things to help with administration: an additional part-time office person (there are now two people with different and complimentary skill sets whose hours add up to one full-time person), and an additional office room in the building - the room that was previously divided into office and meeting room is now dedicated to meetings, with more space. We mentioned in our last letter that OIC was making our own gift book of scriptures and photos. Called "A Walk with God", it turned out very nice, and we are using it both to give to visitors to the church and as an outreach resource - it is very well received.

At Grapevine Cell Church (GCC), several big changes happened this year, which are described on the back page. Please pray that the Lord would be glorified in everything we do!

We are heavily involved as board members of two other ministries: Deaf Ministries International (DMI) and Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) in Japan. For GDOP, we were perhaps the primary motivators for getting the movement going in Japan, coordinating the translation of materials into Japanese, preparing and distributing the materials, dynamic website management, handling donations nationwide, doing PR to other cities, and planning of the event in Osaka. This year's Osaka event had about 100 people, and you can read about it and the other three inter-church events in Japan at <http://gdopjapan.com> - select Reports on the English menu.

Dan also coordinates outreach partnerships with other missionaries, provides local leadership for MUP missionaries in this area of Japan, and various other things. Karen continues to study Japanese sign language in addition to her more typical techie projects like website management (she handles six domains now), video (still trying to get time to do the Japanese worship videos she promised to a recording company last year!), desktop publishing, and the like.

We are still thoroughly enjoying living and ministering in our new pad. If you didn't note our change of address from our last letter, please note it now.

May the Lord bless you abundantly!

In Jesus' love,

*Dan and Karen*

## Summer Outreach - Making Friends

Although we have not officially recruited short-term missionaries in the last couple years because we have felt that we don't have the time to train, guide, and design outreach programs for them, this summer we ended up with two of them anyway, and they have been doing wonderful ministry.

Katie, a college student who came to Japan for the summer to work with Southern Baptist missionaries that we have partnered with on some outreach projects, was just "loaned" to us for two weeks, but she helped us with the outreach we were doing and also strengthened the partnership between us and the missionaries whose program she is working with the rest of the summer.

Jacqui, on the other hand, came through MUP, and is getting a wide experience in ministry here as preparation for an even bigger vision that she has. She wanted to taste both rural



Masao (another short-term helper), Katie, and Jacqui distribute "A Walk With God" books at a concert

and urban ministry, so for three months she worked with another MUP missionary who is doing rural church planting, and then after a short visit to Taiwan she came to work with us for six weeks. She previously studied in Israel for a year, and her future ministry is likely to include connecting Israel with the rest of the world in some way, perhaps mobilizing Messianic Jews as missionaries to the nations.

Both Katie and Jacqui have been very effective at "friendship evangelism", in spite of the fact that neither of them speak Japanese. Either with organized outreach programs or on their own, they manage to find Japanese who have enough English to strike up a conversation with, give them a copy of "A Walk with God", and invite them to church or special events. In a few cases, they exchanged contact information and continue to get together with those they have met. OIC has Alpha Courses starting in September and GCC might also, so a goal is for the new contacts to become sufficiently interested that they decide to attend Alpha.

In one case, one young gal named Kumiko, whom we first met at a grocery store, started coming to OIC's English class, which Jacqui has been helping to teach while she's here. Then she and Jacqui started getting together one on one just to talk, but the topic quickly turned to Bible truths, and she has been eager to learn more and more. Japanese don't normally become this interested this quickly, but the Holy Spirit is working!

On another occasion, Jacqui and Jose went to the area near

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## Making Friends (continued from front page)

the Filipino consulate, hoping that Jose could meet some Filipinos who live in Osaka. Not only did the Lord bring a variety of both Filipino and Japanese for them to connect with, but one non-Christian Filipino lady invited Jose to begin a Bible study in her home!

## Changes at the Cell Church

We are in the midst of a change of workers for Grapevine Cell Church (GCC). Will and Aukje have served with us for several years, but they have decided to go home to Canada in September. We will miss them!

But not long after we heard of their plans, Dan met Joselito, a Filipino missionary who had served in another city in Japan, but the opening there had gone away - he wanted to stay in Japan, but needed a place to minister, a reference for his visa renewal, and a bit of financial assistance. We decided the timing was providential, and he is now staying at the cell church facility, doing various types of outreach, and trying to get a new source of income - he will be able to take over a few of Aukje's English classes, but he'll also need to find new students, as many of Aukje's old students only want a female teacher.

Soon after meeting Jose and agreeing to work with him, we met yet another man who will probably also be able to stay and help us. Song is a Korean whose parents have been missionaries in Japan, so he spent his teenage years here and is fluent in Japanese. After that he has lived in New Jersey for 20 years and has a wife and two kids. His parents, here in Osaka, are elderly and hospitalized, so he came back to take care of them. If his visa is approved, he will bring his family over and settle here, living in his parents' house.

Song and Jose are very different in personality and cultural background, but they both have served as assistant pastors in the past, and love to do ministry wherever they are. Jose's Japanese is not that strong yet, so he is currently focusing on English and Tagalog (Filipino language) outreach, and seems to have a knack for finding all the Filipinos in town. In September he will start an Alpha Course and a new worship cell, both bilingual English/Tagalog. Meanwhile, Song just started a Bible study in Japanese at OIC and an "English Bible Cafe" outreach meeting at GCC. Please pray for these brothers, that they would develop the means to stay in Japan, and that many people would come to Jesus through them!

One other change since our last letter is that one of the cell church's two full-time rented facilities, the Abeno Room, was not getting people at its events, in spite of concerted efforts at advertising, so in the interest of stewardship, we closed it in March, utilizing its furniture and other equipment at our remaining facility, Sekime Chapel, and at OIC, which at the same time began renting a second room for office and meetings. We will now focus on events at Sekime Chapel, where Jose is living and ministering, and also hope to have meetings in homes, restaurants, etc. when there is interest.



## More Baptisms!

The Lord is really moving the hearts of the young people at OIC. At our spring retreat in May, five people (two Japanese ladies, one Korean man, and two American-Malaysian teenagers) were baptized in a river full of waterfalls - a scenic location for remembering that we have the Holy Spirit like a spring overflowing with life. Look at the joy on the faces of these people as each came up from the water! This fall there is another baptism event planned, with two people in the lineup so far.

The new believers are often the ones most eager to share their faith. This summer we held an evangelism class, and the first people to sign up for it were some of these recent baptismees!



## Prayer Points

1. Keep praying for our ability to cope with over-busyness. The way that the ministry demands our energy is different for Dan and Karen, and we attempt to relieve stress in different ways, but we are both feeling the physical and emotional effects of a year or two of feeling that we are losing ground. And of course the things we can't get done affect the people to whom we are trying to minister, and you, who don't hear from us.

2. Continue also to pray for Dan's lower back. It hasn't totally debilitated him this year like it did last summer, but it has had more minor episodes, and the threat of worse problems is always there.

3. Pray for Joselito and Song, as they find their niche of ministry with us and the cell church, that they would sense the Lord's leading and have effective ministries.

4. As always, pray for the people of Japan, that they would know the truth so that the Truth would set them free! And also lift up the new believers, that the Lord would establish them firmly in their faith in this challenging society.



Dan married another OIC couple in January, after baptizing the groom in our bathtub last fall!

**A Final Word from the Word**  
*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

Isaiah 12:3 (NIV)