

## Joseph & Yumiko Wu



Hi Everyone

December, 2015

### **We are now in Japan**

We arrived in Japan early October. There were so many packing, cleaning and taking care of the details of the transition before we left L.A. We're so thankful that many of you prayed for us, encouraged us and said good bye to us. After settling down in Kobe, we have been staying in Ishinomaki from early November until mid-December, helping Takamotos and other missionaries from Be One team who've been ministering to people after 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster.

### **Ishinomaki**

Days are getting cold and darker, quite windy and cloudy here in Ishinomaki (about 8 degree C in daytime and 0 C in the morning and at night.) We're learning a lot from Be One team. One of the things we're learning is listening to God and being flexible about daily schedule. Being different from summer mission trips, we don't get a set

task or plan for the day. The team gathers every morning to pray for the city and people, then we scatter for various ministry. It's challenging sometimes when we don't know what to do, but it definitely makes us relying on God's lead. We did various services like painting, prayer walk, inner healing prayer session, visiting people at the hospitals, Bible study, and helping at Nozomi jewelry project. Here are some high lights we experienced in last 5 weeks.

## **K san sisters**

Mrs. K and Ms. A are dear sisters we met in summer 2011. Mrs. K lives next door to one of the Be one leaders who has been helping volunteers and people in community. One Saturday morning, I received a phone call from Ms. A. "Yumiko san, do you want to go to the Onsen (hot spring) this afternoon?" We quickly made an Onsen bag (bath towels, hair brushes and so on) went with them even though I don't care much about going to Onsen (Joseph loves it!) It was a really nice place with beautiful ocean view out of the window. Mrs. K and Ms. A didn't let us pay for the Onsen fee, saying "We're going to visit you in Kobe and you can treat us Onsen there." We're becoming Onsen pals! Ms. A is usually quiet, but after warmed up by the Onsen, she shared more about her health and family. I felt so privileged to be with this sisters.

## **Thanksgiving outreach**

We went to help Thanksgiving dinner outreach in another city. 3 of us from Be One team went to "Koinonia Café" on one night and worked until late, cleaning, preparing for the craft and cooking several dishes. The event took place on the next evening. 18 adults and 5 kids from the community came and enjoyed the Thanksgiving meal. People wowed and took picture of the turkey since we usually don't have turkeys in Japan. (Costco is amazing!) The host couple explained about the history of Thanksgiving, then we took turns sharing what we're thankful for. I was surprised many people were so open to share about their joy, grief (some of them lost their family members by 2011 disaster) and struggles. Again we stayed until late by talking and sharing. I sensed hunger for the authentic community and I prayed that love of Jesus will touch their lives.

## **Mr. and Mrs. T**

We've known Mr. T for 4 years who is an active community leader. He and His wife have been coming to Be One house church and seeking God. Joseph became good friends with Mr. T through various opportunities. Upon their desire to know more about Jesus, Be One leader Chad and we started meeting with them for the informal Bible study weekly. It has been joy to get to know them, share about our lives and pray with them. Their biggest concern is what will happen to the relationship with local temple monks if they become Christians because their ancestors' tombs are

there. Many Japanese Christians are facing this kind of issues. We're praying with them for the wisdom.

## **Christmas concert with Noda family**

We visited Noda family and Robison family in Morioka (3 hours north from Ishinomaki) There was snow in the field and it was cold outside, but the mountains were so beautiful and the rivers running through the city were so clear. Noda family had stayed in L.A in 2010 and became dear friends to us and many people from our mother church, HOPE. This time, we went to a concert at a local church with them where Robisons (another missionaries from JEMS) are working and introduced them. We enjoyed the concert also got to know several people including pastor and his wife from Morioka Minami church. They are family oriented church and really friendly. Though Noda family may not quite ready for attending church regularly, but they are open to have friendship with Robisons that is encouraging. We're praying the love of God will draw them more close to Him as they spend time together.

## **Trainings**

We've had opportunities to attend 2 trainings that are CPI (national church planting conference) and Asian Access Worship and Prayer night for Tohoku region. At CPI we saw many pastors and missionaries throughout Japan. We were able to get together with several missionaries from JEMS (our mission organization) that was really encouraging. We met several people in Kobe area, too, both from JEMS and from other organizations and we're going to visit them when we go back to Kobe. At Worship and Prayer night, we listened to 2 women's testimony who became Christians because of the love churches and many Christians showed when they were hit by 2011 disaster. It was so powerful to listen to them also to the pastors who served the community with their congregation despite the hardships. I was touched that some of Tohoku churches have desire to serve other places in the world who have experienced disasters or difficult situations.

## **Prayer requests**

- We appreciate your prayer that God will lead us with his vision of the ministry in Kobe area in 2016. Both of us sensed at the CPI training that the discipleship is one of the keys we want to focus on next year. We're going to look for the opportunities of the discipleship, starting either one on one Bible study with some ones or start a small group. We also want to seek for people of peace (non believers who are open to the gospel) Please pray for direction, wisdom and the divine encounter with people.
- Salvation for our family members, friends and neighbors.
- Joseph is looking for a part time job. Please pray that the best door will be open. We're grateful that Yumiko got a part time job from January.

Thank you so much for your prayer and support. If you'd like to consider supporting us financially, please visit JEMS (Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society) website as the following link. Please find our name under Japan International Ministry category.

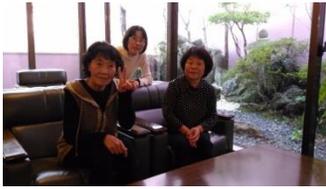
<https://secure-q.net/donations/JEMS/632>

Or you can send your check to

JEMS, 948 East Second Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 with memo:

Joseph & Yumiko Wu

We pray that you'll have Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!



Onsen pals



Thanksgiving outreach



Bible study with Mr. & Mrs T

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**Christmas concert  
with Noda family**

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