

## STAFF UPDATE - SUNETTE HUGO

We praise the Lord for the difference that workers of Japan Mission are able to make in the lives of many. We have been blessed with a team of workers who are well-qualified and dedicated to the Lord. These things, combined with the faithful prayers of many, continue to help us to make an impact for the Gospel.

Sunette Hugo joined JM as an office worker and English Evangelism teacher in February 2007, and has spent many years faithfully sowing the seed. **She recently experienced the joy of the birth of twin grandsons in June 2017! Praise the Lord!** Sunette will return to South Africa in August for a short visit with her family, before returning once again to serve in Japan.



Sunette Hugo

Because of Sunette's age and struggles with back pain, the Japanese health services provide her with a care-worker who comes to her house once a week to help with vacuuming and cleaning. Miwa was recently assigned to this duty. As she worked, she shared with Sunette that her grandmother was a Christian, and that she was thinking of becoming a Christian. Sunette encouraged her and told her, "That is the most important decision you could make in your life!"

A short while later, Miwa excitedly shared how she attended church and received Jesus as her Savior! Sunette promptly hugged her and said, "Jesus is our Friend and you can talk to Him and pray to Him anywhere and anytime." She then gave her a hymn book and wrote John 14:6 in it: **Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

We strive to be a reflection of Christ to the unsaved. We praise the Lord that Miwa was able to see Christ in Sunette, and that she was able to encourage Miwa to put her trust in the Savior! **Pray** for Miwa as she begins a new walk with the Lord, and for wisdom for Sunette as they work together each week. May God help Sunette to use her time wisely to truly bless this baby in Christ.

We greatly value your continued prayers for the team of workers at Japan Mission -- many of whom live very far from loved ones and serve the Lord sacrificially. We are keenly aware that your prayers play a vital role in helping us make strides for the Kingdom. **Pray** for our continued health, protection, encouragement and spiritual growth.



July / Aug 2017

## SURRENDERING ALL - PART II

Masasuke (Masa) Nakahara was a real estate agent who was disillusioned with life. One day he befriended Sayoko, who was a Christian, and she invited him to church.

"After attending church and studying the Bible for a few years, I came to realize that I did not need to live a life of uncertainty and desperation anymore," Masa shared. "All I needed to do was to surrender all to Jesus. He would cleanse me from my sin and help me to live a new and meaningful life, which was in accordance with the true purpose for which God had created me.

"After I gave my heart to the Lord in 1965, I told my mother that I had become a Christian and wanted to marry a Christian girl. As my love for Sayoko grew, I realized that she could help me glorify God in my work and family life. I started to wonder if she would consider marrying me.

"As we discussed these matters, Sayoko's parents, who were Christians, were most concerned. The last person they wanted their daughter to marry was a real estate agent, because many of them were involved in shady deals. After much prayer and discussion they eventually gave their consent."

Sayoko later shared, "When we were married, a lot of people were worried because the real estate business could have easily kept us from our walk with the Lord. As I prayed about marrying Masa, the Lord gave me the following



Masasuke (Masa) & Sayoko Nakahara

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Sherwood Park AB T8A 6K1

Bible verses:” ***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland*** (Isaiah 43:19). “I realized that God would do a ‘new thing’ and ‘make a way’ for us to glorify His name, no matter what the circumstance.”

Masa shared, “We decided to take a step of faith and were married in October 1966. We prayed and read the Bible together every morning.

“A number of months after we were married, we started a real estate company called ***Glory Housing*** and my brother came to work with us. Sunday was one of the busiest days for business, but we decided to close on the first Sunday of each month, so that we could attend the morning services. We attended the evening services on the other Sundays.

“The Lord soon showed us that we were not fully trusting Him if we were not willing to stop working every Sunday. As we took this step of faith, my brother was very much against it and decided to leave the business and return to my parent’s house.

“One big problem I faced when becoming a Christian was, as the oldest child, everyone expected me to carry on the family name. Part of this responsibility included visiting the graves of my ancestors and offering up prayers and incense. I used to go with my father to carry on this tradition every year on January 15 without fail.

“After I became a Christian, I prayed about it and sincerely explained to my father that I could no longer continue this tradition. My father was surprised with how my life had so utterly

changed. He said, ‘I can see that this is the true and living God’, and decided to attend a nearby church to find out more about this God who had so radically changed his son.

“After a while, both my father and mother made the decision to follow Jesus. The Lord miraculously transformed their hearts, as they decided to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives. Two years after I was saved, my father, who was 80 years old, and my mother were baptized together!

“My younger brother, who had opposed us when we stopped work on Sundays, started going to the same church as my father and was also saved! He then started to work for our company again.

“Since then, we decided to start our day of work with prayer and Bible reading. At the beginning of each month, we gather all of our employees and ask the minister of our church to join us and lead us in a short Bible teaching and prayer.

“The Lord blessed us as we took small steps of faith to glorify Him through our company. My third youngest brother also came to work with us. After a while, he told us that he could no longer work with us because our place of business was closed on Sundays. Soon after, he attended an evangelistic meeting and made a decision to follow Jesus. He started to read the Bible and seek the Lord, and was baptized in April 1973. He currently serves with me as an elder of our church.”

Sayoko, who was in charge of the finances of Glory Housing recently shared, “There have been various times that I looked at the sales

figures and wondered if we were going to make it, but the Lord has always blessed us.

“I clearly remember one time during EXPO 1970 when many people visited Osaka and we had been heavily involved in evangelistic meetings for about 6 months. Our business was not doing well because we were so busy with outreach 5 days per week. After the series of meetings were over, the houses sold one after another. We sensed that the

Lord had been testing us, and saw how He was blessing us according to His perfect timing!”

Japan Mission has had many dealings with ***Glory Housing***. It has been invaluable to have a trustworthy Christian company represent us during some very complex real estate negotiations over the years.

**Pray** for wisdom, protection and blessing as ***Glory Housing*** continues to sacrificially serve the Christian community. □

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## STAFF UPDATE - MR. CABALLES

Japan Mission continues to sponsor Mr. Caballes, who is a hospital evangelist on the island of Mindanao, in the Southern part of the Philippines. He continues to preach, share the Gospel with patients in local hospitals, and evangelize the people of the mountain tribes.

We recently received reports of uprisings and violence, perpetrated by a Muslim insurgency in neighboring towns. Mr. Caballes recently reported, “We have experienced much trouble due to our political leaders, kidnappings, drugs and war. Yet we have not lost our determination to trust and serve the Lord.”

**Pray** for the protection of Mr. Caballes and his family. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to give Mr. Caballes the courage to boldly preach the Gospel in the midst of very difficult circumstances.



Mr. Caballes

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## NEED FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

Japan Mission is in need of English Conversation Teachers. Many of the unsaved who would not normally attend church, come to learn English Conversation and make friends with a foreigner. Each English class ends with a Bible time and opportunity to forge friendships over a cup of green tea. Many have started to attend church and come to know the Lord through this opportunity. **Pray** that the Lord would provide well-qualified and experienced teachers.

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