

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future . . .' (Jer. 29:11).

This verse continues to inspire Melanie and Tsuguto as they commit their future to serving Him. After being married, Melanie continues working with JM and Tsuguto is continuing to work for a Japanese company. **Pray** that the Lord would use them to inspire many to follow the Lord.

It was truly a joyous occasion for us at JM as we were able to celebrate this wedding -- which was the culmination of many answered prayers over the past 5 years. Your faithful prayers have played an important role in the salvation of Tsuguto and many others who have come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior! Thank you for your faithful prayers!

JAPANORAMA - MARRIAGE IN JAPAN

As recently as 1970, more than 40 percent of Japanese marriages were arranged. Today, less than 10 percent of marriages are arranged, and those are more likely the result of computer matching services.

Although less than 1% of Japanese are Christian, a vast number of couples prefer a Christian wedding because it is thought to be more romantic, glamorous and modern. In one survey, 61.2 percent of couples who responded were married in a Christian-style ceremony, 20.1 percent opted for a Shinto wedding, 16 percent had a non-religious wedding and 0.9 percent selected a Buddhist ceremony.

PRAISE & PRAYER

1. Thank you for your prayers for David and Sue while they took meetings in the Cape Provinces of SA. The Lord blessed and protected them as they drove about 10,000 km to visit with many during January to March.
2. JM is in search of a dedicated and well-qualified English teacher and a 5th & 6th grade school teacher to serve in Japan. **Pray** for the provision of well-qualified teachers of His choice.
3. JM regularly hosts meetings for the church leaders of the churches where our workers serve and teach English. We plan to gather again in July to pray, share and plan future outreach opportunities. **Pray** that the Lord would grant wisdom and lead as we plan and participate in this important event.

INFORMATION & INQUIRIES

Website: www.japanmission.org
E-mail: jm@japanmission.org

JAPAN

Japan Mission
7-40 Monzen Cho
Ikoma, Nara, 630-0266
Tel: +(81) 743-73-1754
Fax: +(81) 743-73-1681

AUSTRALIA

For Gifts:
Payable to: 'Japan Mission'
23 Carbine Court,
Drouin VIC 3818
Tel: (03) 5625 4703



May / June 2015

SURRENDERING TO GOD - Part 2

After Melanie Peter submitted to the calling of the Holy Spirit and surrendered her life and future to the Lord, she was accepted to work with Japan Mission (JM) as an English teacher and missionary.

"After my acceptance, I faced many uncertainties, but my mind was made up because I had the assurance that I was in the center of God's will.

"On the day I left for Japan, I was confronted by a security guard at the airport in Canada who searched through all of my bags. She came across a lovely plaque that my parents had given me with Jer. 29:11 on it:

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...'

"What is this?" the security lady asked. I explained that it was from the Bible. She then pulled a tattered piece of paper out of her pocket. She told me that someone had put this tract on her windshield and she had kept it for the past two years! It contained the simple and clear message of salvation. I encouraged her and explained the Good News to her right then and there, and her face began to soften as she started to smile.

"I was so encouraged! I realized that rather than succumbing to impatience, I had obeyed the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be patient and not worry about catching my plane. Even before I arrived in Japan, I sensed the Lord teaching me of the joy and rewards of waiting on Him.



Melanie Peter

UK - For Gifts / Gift Aid:

Payable to: 'Japan Mission'
"Pebyll-Y-Brig", 1 Y-Graig
Llantrisant, Pontyclun,
Rhondda Cynon Taff CF72 8FB
Tel: 01443-224757

USA

For Tax Deductible Donations:
Clearly mark for 'Japan Mission'
Payable to: 'DM Stearns Missionary
Fund Inc' and send to:
PO Box 1578, North Wales, PA 19454

CANADA

For Tax Deductible Donations:
Payable to: 'Society of Japan Mission of
Canada for Evangelism' and send to:
#30, 1601 Cloverbar Road,
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5Y8

“My first month in Japan was very challenging. I found it difficult to know what to buy because much of the food was strange and everything was written in Japanese.

I realized that I had taken my loving mother for granted and now I had to learn how to do everything for myself. I was no longer surrounded by my supportive family. I found myself dying to self as God became more real to me. I learned to rely on Him instead of my family and friends for advice.”

Two months after Melanie’s arrival in Sept. 2009, the Lord led Tsuguto Nishioka to one of the churches where she was teaching. He enjoyed learning English, so she invited him to attend church with her. Tsuguto liked the bilingual service and was delighted to find such a friendly place where he could practice his English.

He soon developed an appetite to study the Word of God, and made a decision to accept the Lord as Savior on Jan. 24, 2010 -- just four months after Melanie arrived in Japan.

However, being from a non-Christian society, it took Tsuguto a long time to understand the Scriptures and truly know what it meant to make Christ Lord of his life. He grew in his relationship with the Lord as he spent many hours studying the Bible with various Christian friends.

Melanie and Tsuguto became good friends while they regularly attended the same youth group and started to develop feelings for each other.

It slowly dawned on Melanie that Tsuguto may be the person she might one day marry. She was determined to honor the Lord in their relationship, so they spent time together with their Christian friends while their relationship grew. She prayed and asked God to clearly guide and protect them.

Melanie recently shared, “Since coming to Japan, the Lord has helped me to grow from being a person who sought the approval of man to a person who desired to honor Him.”

She reflected on one occasion of how the Lord had called her to serve Him selflessly: “It was just after the triple disaster of March 2011, when the Lord showed me that I should go as a volunteer to help share God’s love with the disaster stricken people of northeast Japan.

“A number of people close to me tried to discourage me from going by saying, ‘There is radiation in the area and you are a young woman who could be affected in many ways. Leave it to the older people!’

“I prayed seriously and the Lord showed me that it was His will for me to go. I went and the Lord undertook for me in every respect.”

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom. 7:25).

During 2014, the Lord guided Melanie to further her education by completing a master’s degree via correspondence, while continuing her work with JM. She was excited about the prospect of serving the

Lord more effectively through this added professional qualification. The churches, where she has been serving and teaching English, have been grateful for her additional training because she has become a more effective teacher and better communicator.

“I know that without God and the faithful prayers of many, much of what I do today would not be possible. God has blessed Japan Mission and through them I am very blessed. They are my family away from home. I know I am cared for and loved. God has answered so many

of my prayers. He is so good!

“One of my favorite songs is, **Lord, I Need You** by Matt Maher. This is what I want my heart to cry out every day. JM has given me such amazing opportunities to witness to others of Christ’s love. **Pray** that I would continue to be a blessing to the people I come in contact with and that I will give God all the glory. My life is His.”

Read the next issue to find out how the Lord wonderfully transformed the life of Tsuguto Nishioka.

A JOYOUS CELEBRATION

After the Lord led Melanie Peter to work with Japan Mission in 2009, He led Tsuguto Nishioka to one of the churches where she was teaching English and he was wonderfully saved.

Their relationship slowly developed over the next five years as they grew in the Lord and He faithfully guided and protected them.

Tsuguto was finishing up his education when he proposed to Melanie with a bouquet of roses on Nov 24, 2014.

Melanie and Tsuguto were married in Japan on May 2, 2015 and many of us participated in this joyous wedding celebration.

Melanie’s family came from Canada and Tsuguto’s non-Christian family and friends were present. It was a joyous occasion for them and a unique opportunity to share their testimonies with friends and relatives.

Pray for the many non-Christians who were moved as they heard the message and listened to Melanie and Tsuguto’s life experiences.



Melanie & Tsuguto