

LCM USA UPDATE

Our most heartfelt thanks go to **Pastor Norman Dietsch**, who has stepped down from the position of Chairman of the Board of Trustees of LCM USA after serving since 2015. Though he and his wife have retired to Missouri, he remains an active Trustee via conference calls and emails.

We welcome **Michael Chen** as our new Chairman, who comes to us with a passion and fervor for world missions. He has already been a Trustee for three years, and has led a number of short-term mission trips to Japan.

SPECIAL PROJECT: TOKYO BUILDING FUND! LCMJapan's headquarters is in Tokyo at Kotake Mukaihara Christian Church. This small building has been greatly compromised over the years through earthquakes. Contractors have declared it unstable, and therefore 2020 is the year anticipated for reconstruction and expansion. As the home base for present and future church plants, the congregation hears God's challenge from Isaiah 54:2-3,

*Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back;
lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.
For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left.
And your descendants will possess nations
and will resettle the desolate cities.*

Thank you for your fervent prayer for the Tokyo congregation, and for any financial help you may offer for this costly but necessary undertaking. May it culminate in more church plants and more souls being saved.

Thank you for your prayer for our **SHORT-TERMERS! Dorothy Lam** joined **Jessica Wang** in October. Together they have been teaching English, making contacts, and serving whenever they can at the home base in Tokyo, as well as taking ministry trips to Awara, Sendai, and Kobe. Pray for Jessica as she returns to the States in January. Pray also that the Lord would call the next person to take Dorothy's place when she leaves Japan in May 2020.



Olga was a Russian refugee in Austria where I was serving as a member of a team of missionaries. Olga asked me for a Russian Bible to send to her mother. When Olga called her about the Bible she had sent, her mother said, "Yes! Thank you for the lovely Bible. But I have a big problem: I have tried to read it, but I do not understand it." "Aah," her daughter answered, "what you need, Mama, is a 'Connie'." "A 'Connie'? What in the world is a 'Connie'?" Olga laughed, "A 'Connie' is someone who comes to you and explains the Bible to you and tells you about Jesus."

In this edition of BRIDGES, you will read about "a Karl and a Kathy", "an Andy and a Shoko", and "a Fran", all of whom the Lord sent to minister in Taiwan and Japan. Like the "Connie" who is writing this article, they are humans with both gifts and flaws, but they are nonetheless willing, precious servants who minister to people who desperately need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to study the Word of God. Like the Apostle Paul and Apollos in 1 Corinthians 3:6, sometimes they plant the Seed, sometimes they water it, but it is ultimately God who causes growth in the lives of individuals like Olga in Austria, or Mrs. J in Taiwan, or Naomi or Yoshihiro in Japan.

Like you, I now live on this side of the Atlantic in a country where the Gospel is very accessible. Yet we must never ever forget that there are people all around us (What names come to your mind?) who, like Olga's mother, need a "_____" (fill in your name), to come to them and share the Gospel and the Word of God.

As a former active missionary for more than forty years, I know how important it is to be supported by churches and individuals who love me, pray for me regularly, and who provide the necessary finances to do the Lord's work. On behalf of all our LCM missionaries and our staff here in Liberty Corner, I thank you for every expression of your love and support.

By His grace alone,
Connie Hartman
Connie Hartman
Secretary, LCM USA Board of Trustees
www.LCMissionUSA.com



Liberty Corner Mission, established in 1935, is the foreign mission arm of Fellowship Deaconry Ministries, Liberty Corner, New Jersey. Serving in Taiwan and Japan since 1951, we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hold high the Cross, make disciples and plant churches, that God might be worshipped and glorified.

*Please make tax-deductible donations payable to LIBERTY CORNER MISSION.
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Bridges
Quarterly newsletter of
Liberty Corner Mission
P.O. Box 204
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938-0204 USA
Return Service Requested

Bridges
Liberty Corner Mission
Building Bridges between God and Man

Fall-Winter 2019

Japan



Andy and Shoko Pfeiffer

For almost two decades, Naomi was in a psychiatric ward in a nearby hospital because of her severe anxieties. Family and friends were not allowed to visit her in her room, but instead had to meet with her in the hospital reception hall. It was there that Naomi and her visitors brought her great burdens to the Lord in prayer. She was raised in a loving Christian family and had many relatives who also were committed Christians. She remembered the prayers of her grandparents and encouraging words of her aunts to look upon Jesus in times of trials and despair (Psalm 121).

Throughout all these years of living in isolation from her beloved family, Naomi did not forget to cling to the Lord. She kept reading her Bible and praying for healing and a return to a normal life. The Lord answered her requests. He healed her mother's

heart condition! And as Naomi's discharge from the hospital neared, members of our church renewed her mother's flower garden with new pathways and flowerbeds.

Since the Fall of 2018, Naomi has come regularly to our services and also attended the monthly Bible study group in her home. She has received great care and sincere love from members and friends of our congregation. In May of this year, Naomi confirmed her faith in the Lord Jesus and became a member of our church family. In her testimony, she expressed her deep gratitude to our Lord and her family for the fact that she had never felt alone in all those years of living in confinement. We praise Jesus for His divine intervention and ask you to lift up Naomi in your prayers. Thank you very much for supporting our ministry in Kobe. 

Andy and Shoko Pfeiffer have been serving at Yamanomachi Christian Church in northern Kobe since April 2009. Let us pray with them for a great harvest of souls!

Taiwan

It is with gratitude that I tell you about the faith journey of Mrs. J, a member of our church since she came to faith a few years ago. When she was about forty years old, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, and was introduced to the Gospel through another woman she met at a support group. She had been a follower of a branch of Buddhism that originated from Japan, but that religion did not satisfy her. Around the time she became a born-again Christian, she was willing to destroy the altar she had in her house, and we were privileged to be a part of that ceremony. She recovered from her cancer, became a regular attender of our church services, and received one-on-one discipleship training from our assistant, Mrs. Loh.



Mrs. J's life has not been easy. Her husband of more than 15 years had been abusive since almost the beginning of their marriage, but she felt she had no other option than to stay with him and their young son. Not too long ago, after discovering that her husband had been

having a long-term affair with another woman, the marriage finally came to an unhappy end. Perhaps this difficult situation has led her to cling more tightly to Jesus, as evidenced by her regular attendance at our Friday night prayer meetings, her joining one of our praise and worship teams, and most recently, her participation in a two-year training course for cell group leadership. Mrs. J began her training in September, attends the classes every other Saturday, and uses what she learns in the cell group that she and our assistant co-lead.

Some people get saved and seem to show very little commitment to the things of the Kingdom of God. Mrs. J is one of the people who gives encouragement to church leaders by words and actions; she "gets it", and she wants more. May Mrs. J continue to grow as a person and as a servant of the Most High. Thank you for all the ways you support and encourage us in our ministry for Him. 

Karl and Kathy Schulz, in Taiwan since 1993, serve in Taoyuan, near Taipei. Karl is a church planter and Field Leader of LCM Taiwan. Karl and Kathy have three children, Aurora, Ben (married to Yvonne) and David.



Karl and Kathy Schulz

Japan

But I trust in you, Lord. You are my God. My times are in your hands.

Psalm 31:14~15

On September 3, I received some shocking news in a phone call from the Christian mother of Yoshihiro, one of our church attendees. I was speechless as she told me that her son had died suddenly the previous week from a massive stroke. In my last conversation with Yoshihiro, he talked about his summer vacation with his mother who lives quite far away. With a big smile he related how they had gone to her church together and enjoyed such precious fellowship. "Perhaps the next time she comes to Tokyo, it will be for your baptismal service?" I hinted. He smiled broadly in agreement. As a new believer, Yoshihiro was to begin baptism instruction classes the following week. He was so happy, and I was as well. I had wondered why he didn't come to church that following Sunday, but now heard from his mother that he had gone Home to be with the Lord that very day.

When Yoshihiro's mother arrived from her hometown for his funeral in Tokyo, she walked into our church and went straight to the open coffin. Seeing her beloved son lying there, she collapsed on her knees, calling out his name again and again. She held his cold cheeks in her warm hands and wailed. After a while, she stood erect and said, "He is not here; he is there with Jesus! Isn't it so, Pastor?" I assured her that it was, and she immediately stopped crying.



The message the Lord laid on my heart to share at his funeral was from Psalm 23. After the ceremony, Yoshihiro's mother told me that she had just written him a letter the week after his visit with her, and in that letter she quoted verses from Psalm 23. She said, "That's God. Only God can do such things. He comforted my son and me beforehand with these very same words!"

We do not know why this has happened. But God's ways are always higher than ours. I trust Him that even in this sorrow, He has a good plan. Because He is good. Please join us in praying for Yoshihiro's mother.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and support. May God bless you. 

Fran Ueda has served under LCM in Tokyo since 1981. She is the Pastor of Kotake Mukaihara Christian Church and Director of LCM Japan.



Fran Ueda