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## Visiting Japanese Churches

·創立30周年 (創立30周年) (日本) (日 In August and September I had the opportunity to visit two very special Japanese churches. In August, I was able to spend a few days up in the mountains. While there I was able to visit a church pastored by one of the graduates of the Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School (started by BIMI missionaries many years ago). It was a sweet time of fellowship with Baba-sensei, his wife and daughter, and three of their church members on a Wednesday night. They were getting ready to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church the following Sunday.

It was such a blessing hearing the salvation testimony of each person present. The gentleman at the right first came to church

because friends who were members were getting married at the church. He later began attending the church, and in time trusted Christ as Savior. Following his conversion, he began inviting his hair salon customers to church. The lady in the peach sweater finally began to come, and a few months later, she trusted Christ. Another lady (the one in the dark blue shirt) was lead to the Lord by retired missionary Roland Simeonsson and his wife at their lake-front cabin further up in the mountains, when she visited the lake with her husband who likes to fish. She just went along for the ride, but met someone who was fishing for souls. I had just visited the Simeonssons that day, so meeting this lady they had led to the Lord was an extra blessing.





Then in September I was able to visit the Gamagori Baptist Church, which was started by Bro. Roland Simeonsson. Bro. Simeonsson was speaking at the church's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What a blessing it was to see once again how greatly the Lord has blessed this church over the years! It was also exciting to be there for the sending out of a church planter who was trained for the ministry in the Central Japan Baptist Bible College (a ministry of Gamagori Bapist Church and Toyohashi Baptist Church). I served in Gamagori for a year before coming to Yokosuka (and taught English in their pre-school for several years before that), so it was

wonderful to fellowship with dear friends who became very special to me during the time I lived and served there.

My heart is still very much in Japanese ministry. However, I also thoroughly enjoy serving in a military church, and still believe that the Lord would have me continue serving here at Yokosuka Baptist Church. *Please pray that the Lord would guide us in goals, ideas, and plans for reaching more Japanese souls for Him, along with U.S. military, civilian employees, expatriates, and those of other nationalities as well.* 

## Thank You

Once again I want to say **thank you** to all of you who are part of my financial support team, and **especially** to all of you who pray for me. I mentioned in my last prayer letter than another mass was being checked for cancer. What a thrill it was to read the doctor's report, "no indication of malignancy"! I will go for follow-up checks for my previous cancer and for this new area once again in November. Thank you for continuing to uphold me with your prayers.

In His Service. Sthel.

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