



Nippon News

July 2015

The Wilkins Family in Japan

NIPPON NEWS

Hi Friends and Family,

Greetings from Japan. We arrived in Hitachi two weeks ago. In that time we bought furniture, a car, appliances, applied for my visa, opened a bank account, started wifi at the parsonage, and were able to get the boys involved in a Christian afternoon playschool. All of this has been a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors. One fellow, Nelson, is from Kerala, India. He walks past our church everyday so I stepped out and put my hand and smile in his way. Hopefully this will graduate to tea time together in the future, and then...

In addition to the preaching schedule we have a Church Administrative Committee once a month. On Sunday our eleven ministry proposals for Hitachi were accepted. These include starting various levels of English lessons to encourage neighbors to come to church. Also, the list includes having a message at the Christian School worship, a church bazaar, street guitar evangelism, and something like Life Tree (*which is very expensive for a small group-plus it is in Japanese*). This latter will take a bit of work but we need extreme measures to jump start the dying church in Japan.

Chris and Yuko will be doing these as joint ministry. Yuko is the pastor and major speaker. As for Chris, he will be

sharing at the Katsuta Church and the Taira Church. He may also be involved with the Brazilian Japanese FMC and the Fukushima (*Contaminated area*) ministry. We will have a meeting with the lead pastors in the area next week and work up a rotation schedule together. One church had the pastor dismissed and the other had a scandal and had to leave. All of this happened after we had decided the Lord was leading us to Japan. It seems God knows what He is doing. Pardon me for stating the obvious.

The church family has been very helpful. It is a very senior group. We need to get some young blood in the family. We had a first time attender yesterday. Some of his family are believers and members. We also had a violinist who used to play here but had a bout with depression and left the area. I had a chance to sit with both of them. The Church Family eats lunch together at the Church every Sunday. Some folks have to get back home immediately after the service and prepare lunch for non-believing families.



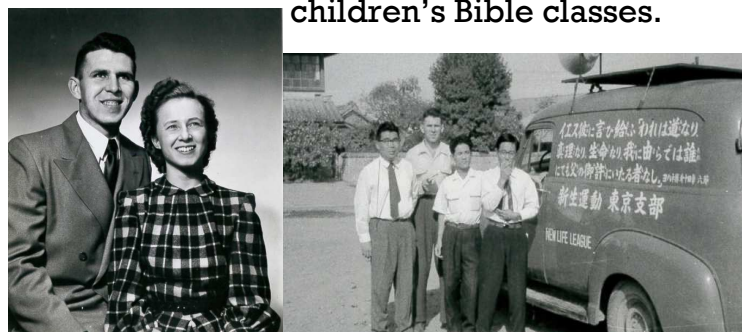
Farewell at the Phnom Penh Church, Cambodia-
Pastors Lum & Nop Sohka praying

Yuko is preaching on Sunday and Thursday mornings; I share at the Sunday evening service. Yuko has preached the last two weeks. I was so moved by her messages. She is a good preacher. I am blessed to have a partner who can rightly divide the Word of Truth. She came through her own baptism of fire being the first Christian in her family. Since then she has been instrumental in two deathbed conversions in her family and her father's coming to Christ. All glory to the Lord who can do, and does do, the impossible!

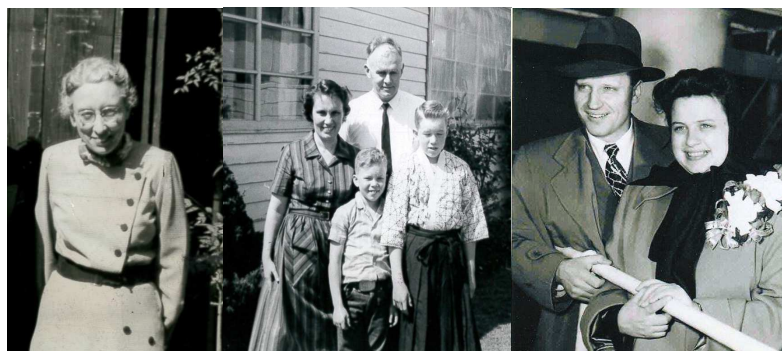
As for the boys they are learning more Japanese everyday- Dad too. I'm working on Acts 17, Paul at the Acropolis, for our street witnessing time. It would make a great mini-drama and only needs a cast of one. We'll see what the old noggin is up to. **Corey** was praying the other day that the Lord help stop his hiccups. When he got to the word "hiccup," he... you know the rest. A couple of nights ago we were thanking Mommy for a good dinner n' stuff, and **Caleb** said, "Thank you for anything!" Walking in his Dad's footsteps, incoherent in three languages (or two in this case). Life is good. I must quote Grandma at this point: "All this and Heaven too, Christopher."

We have some challenges ahead of us but God is up to it, and we'll stick with Him. The Church here is hoping we will stay for years and years. We don't know how the boys will do in the future. Our decision after two years will depend on how they are adapting/thriving. Yuko and I would like to stay longer. Please pray for direction in this matter. The need here is great.

I have to tell you that this church was begun by Ed and Lorraine Skuddler in 1955 They borrowed a tent and had meetings and children's Bible classes.



In the years from 1959-1969 Alice Fensom, The Overlands, and The De Shazer families served here also.



Years later, after a health leave, the Skuddlers returned to Japan with VISA. In 1992 I replaced them at Machida, Tokyo FMC.

You may have heard of Jake De Shazer, he was in the Jimmy Doolittle raid on Tokyo in 1942. He was imprisoned in a Japanese prison in China and became a Christian after receiving a Bible. Later he returned to Japan as a missionary and met Fuchida, Mitsuo the air force leader for the Japanese squadron that attacked Pearl Harbor. Fuchida san became a Christian, and these two former enemies did evangelistic cru-

sades together. Is that amazing or what?!?!



De Shazer
and
Japanese
youth 1954

**We appreciate your joining us
these many years on our journey.**



Photo of Yuko's Invocation

Thanks for staying close in prayer. Thanks
for who you are and all you do.

Love and prayers,

Chris, Yuko, Caleb and Corey

"His name is like perfume poured out."
Song of Solomon 1:2



Overflow from Saturday afternoon
youth meeting. Held outside for them

I had the chance to spend a day with Jake
about eighteen years ago. I was his guide
to take him to one of the churches he'd
started fifty years earlier. He was so hum-
ble and full of faith, as were Ed and
Lorraine. They just don't make 'em like that
anymore. Anyway, they are a constant en-
couragement to me. Their pictures are in
the foyer of the church to bear witness to
what God is able to do.

**I pray with Paul his words in
Ephesians 6:19,**

*"Pray also for me that whenever I open my
mouth, words will be given me so that I will
fearlessly make known the mystery of the
Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in
chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly,
as I should."*

The "chains" here would be cultural norms.
Japanese are so polite that it impedes
speaking directly regarding people's
spiritual estate. Again, God is able.