



Passion for Japan

Partnership Development in the USA



Between January 2nd and February 20th we enjoyed a time of **Partnership Development** in California and Arizona.

We drove 4,432 miles (7,091 km), and met with 599 people in 54 venues. Meetings ranged from preaching in seven different churches to meeting a special prayer partner who is almost paralyzed with MS.

We praise the Lord that we received **financial clearance** to return to Japan, but will need to continue to pray for our support to be 100%.

Other highlights included meeting members of Karen's **extended family** and spending time with **Mom and Dad Harless**. We were able to visit the Grand Canyon for a day & two nights!



What happens when our biggest fears come true, and we find out that the presence of God isn't found in the absence of suffering and disappointment but in the midst of them? No wonder people are disappointed with God when they've been told that God's job is to keep them safe.

Miguel de Unamuno writes, "Those who believe that they believe in God, but without passion in their hearts, without anguish in mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, without an element of despair even in their consolation, believe in the god idea, not in God himself."

quote from Mike Erre's book:
"Astonished: recapturing the wonder, awe, and mystery of life with God"

God can deal with our doubts and anguish and indeed uses these to draw us closer to Jesus.

May **many Japanese believe** in and **follow** the true, grace-giving, forgiving and loving God!

Ministry in Japan

We will continue to be in "home assignment" mode in Japan to the end of March which will enable us to get some rest and follow up on partnership development opportunities.

However Dale has a number of scheduled **marriage counseling and weddings** to take and Karen is heading up the committee to organize the **Hokkaido Women's Fellowship conference** March 4th. Karen also needs to prepare for Serve Asia **short-term workers'** arrivals.

During our time in the US two **Japanese pastors** left their churches in Sapporo. Please pray for God's grace, guidance and provision for these churches and for the **Hokkaido Bible Institute** (HBI) which faces a number of changes in their lecturing program. HBI is praying for **new students** to enroll for the next school year which starts in April.

We believe that the most important ministry need in Japan is for **intercessory prayer**: please pray!

Japan's role in Asia

We need to keep on praying that the relationship between Japan and the USA will continue to be good and stable.



Both China and North Korea are seen by Japanese to be countries which could affect Japan in many different ways — possibly not in good ways ...



200 by 2020 Prayer Challenge

The **OMF Japan Field prayer goal**: May the Lord give us by 2020 the 150 full-time workers, and 50 Friends and 6 months to 1 year short-termers we seek, and the strength and resources to support and equip them.

We thank the Lord:

- * for safety in travel and excellent connections with people in the USA on our Partnership Development trip.
- * that we were able to spend time with Karen's parents.
- * for all of you who pray for and support us so that we can minister in Japan!!

Please pray:

- * that God will use us for His glory as we minister in Japan — in Central Church, officiating at weddings, leading the yearly Hokkaido Women's retreat...
- * for Karen who is on the Hokkaido Leadership Team, and who has new responsibilities as Serve Asia Coordinator for Hokkaido.
- * that churches in Sapporo who are now pastorless will know God's grace and guidance.
- * for blessing on the Bible College.
- * for God to completely heal David Ferguson who has received stem cell infusion for his rare blood cancers.



Contact info here:

<http://passion4japan.net/info/contact.html>

More prayer & praise info here:

<http://passion4japan.net/info/prayer.html>