

Hitachinaka Happenings

June 2021

Greetings to all of our faithful prayer and financial supporters.

We want to start by expressing our *thanks*. Despite a continuing Ontario Covid-19 lockdown that has prevented most of you from meeting regularly as churches, we have sensed an increased interest in praying for Japan. While many churches and mission groups are struggling financially, we praise God for his steady provision. A few have had to cut back, but others have filled that gap. So, we are so thankful for God's good care of us!

*And God is able to make
every grace overflow to
you so that in every way,
always having everything
you need, you may excel
in every good work.*
2Corinthians 9:8

We are learning, after 27 years in Japan, that it is best to encourage Japanese to discover Jesus through Bible studies as active participants. A Discovery Bible Study (DBS) emphasis is really taking over our days recently. In the past 6 months, Kathryn has cooperated with 3 believers and started 4 DBS with 7 unbelievers involved. There have also been 3 attempted DBS that have stopped but the people in those groups still get prayed for regularly. Rob has encouraged churches in nearby Mito city and Tochigi prefecture through preaching regularly. 3 small churches of 25 believers each are in the midst of starting 4 DBS within the church, with a goal of having church folks

multiplying these groups with unbelieving friends/family in the next year. Pray as they begin this disciple-making journey. So many live their lives as "secret believers" and we believe DBS can help change this lonely trend.



Hitachi Seaside Park May 2021

Kathryn has some fine news! Kathryn and Miss Y have been meeting weekly for Discovery Bible Study for half a year. She is reading her Bible more and more by herself and is surprised to be understanding it in a new way. She said recently she is receiving the Word like "good soil", then the following week said she believes and that she "SEES". We usually meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday so if you are up at midnight on Tuesday, please pray for Miss Y.

A few churches have asked for some sort of video update. We are attaching a short video that you might want to show in an online service. We still have freedom to meet as church groups here, but wonder how Japan, still at less than 5% vaccinated, will make it through the summer with 1000s of athletes converging on Tokyo for the Olympics. Gratefully,
Rob and Kathryn