

# News from Japan

## Doris Goertz

### Back in Japan

I arrived back in Japan on September 5 after 4.5 months in North America. Three days later, I jumped right back into my teaching schedule. It was good to see my students again and catch up on what they had done over the summer.

### Good News

Shortly after I returned, Fujiko, one of my students, contacted the pastor to talk about getting baptized. She and her husband and daughter have been attending church fairly regularly over the past number of months. Another one of their daughters is a Christian and has been praying for her family. I believe her testimony has made a deep impact on her parents. In addition, one of my English class helpers has studied the Bible with Fujiko and has developed a close relationship with her. Fujiko wants to be baptized together with her husband. Praise God for the way he is working in Fujiko's life and the life of her family.

Ryoko, my former student, is now studying English in Vancouver. She seems to be enjoying her time in Canada and making lots of new friends. Pray that God will bring Christian friends into her life. Pray that she will not forget what she learned while she studied the Bible in Japan and that she will continue to sense that God is knocking on the door of her heart.

### Home Group Ministry

Since I returned to Japan, I have been attending a home group from the church. We meet at the home of one couple and have a potluck supper together followed by sharing and prayer. It is our desire that this can be a place where we can invite non-Christian friends who are interested in Christianity. Last Sunday one of my English students with whom we have had many discussions about God and Christianity, attended the group and seemed to enjoy it.



*Home group gathering on October 4, 2015*

### Follow-up

Thank you for praying for the three women who were baptized at Easter. Two of them, Ako and Michiyo, continue to attend church services regularly and also the home group. Ako is growing in her faith and it's wonderful to see the joy that she expresses. Michiyo went through a Bible study course that the pastor taught over the spring and summer, but her spiritual roots aren't very deep yet. Pray that she will grow in her understand and knowledge of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Satsuki seems to be drifting away from God and making choices that are not good for her spiritual health. She had stopped going to the small group, but last Sunday at the invitation of Ako, Satsuki came. Pray that God will continue to draw her to himself and that she will have a desire to follow him completely.

### Thanksgiving

Each week at our home group gathering we share what we are thankful for from the previous week. It's a wonderful exercise to think back over my week and remember the good things that God has done. Canadian Thanksgiving is this weekend, so I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support. I'm so grateful that you are a part of what God is doing in Amagasaki church.

I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

***“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”***

***1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18***

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