

**“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.”**

Psalm 46:1

We'll never forget the night of February 6, 2018! Shortly before midnight, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 hit Hualien. When I awoke, everything in my apartment was rattling, moving, and falling down. My first thought was, “Lord, please protect our children!” As quickly as possible, we got all 125 residents out of our two buildings to an open space outside. With elevators unusable, we carried many children and their wheelchairs down the stairways, starting from the 7th floor. I thank the Lord that just at that time, Bethesda was hosting an LCM missionary conference, and the participants all helped evacuate the residents. We were relieved when everyone was outside. Reports soon came in that several large buildings in the city had collapsed, roads and bridges were damaged, and many people had been displaced. Water and power were out. Hospitals were overcrowded. Seventeen people lost their lives.



**Sister Monika
Gotschild**

Standing outside and observing all our children, I could sense great peace in the middle of this cold and terrifying night. No one screamed or cried. We sang, praised and thanked God for His faithfulness to us. Some children joined hands with a teacher or fellow resident and prayed together. We spent the entire night outside, while the aftershocks, some very strong, continued. I sensed our residents felt safe and secure, knowing God was with us.



One little boy followed me wherever I went. When I told him to find a place to rest and cuddle up in the blanket we had given him, he said, “No, I am going to stay with you, because if we die I want to die with you and then we will see Jesus together.” Later, another child asked me, “Did you think about how many angels God must have sent around Bethesda that night to protect us?” What faith! That same faith was needed the week after the earthquake, when over 300 aftershocks shook our buildings.



Thank you, dear mission friends, for your prayer and encouragement! Our lives can change in a few seconds. It's only what we have in our hearts that will last. I believe this earthquake was a wake-up call for many people to think about life, values, and faith. Help us pray to this end. 🙏

Sister Monika Gottschild, senior missionary of 29 years, serves the residents and Staff of “Bethesda”- Home for Challenged Children and Adults, in Hualien, Taiwan. Sister Monika's heart beats for those who have no voice in society.



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Quarterly newsletter of

Liberty Corner Mission

P.O. Box 204

Liberty Corner, NJ 07938-0204 USA

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Bridges

Liberty Corner Mission

Building Bridges between God and Man



**“Should I not have
compassion...?”**

Beloved, praying friends of LCM,

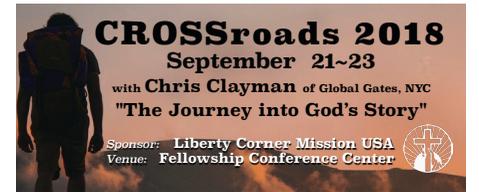
Perhaps you recognize the above question that God posed to Jonah centuries ago in chapter four. When God asked questions of various people in the Bible, He was not trying to gain information, but rather to motivate them to pause and think, and if necessary, to repent. Jonah was furious because his own need for comfort was not being fulfilled, and because God was pouring His mercy out on Israel's enemies. How could God do something so senseless? *Because He is a merciful God!* The king of Nineveh and all his countrymen had repented of their evil ways and turned from them. And God had compassion on them, giving Jonah the message loud and clear that He graciously forgives those who repent from the heart.

Should God not also have compassion today on people in our ungodly world who repent from their sins? Yes, He does! That is why *Liberty Corner Mission* is in Taiwan and Japan, why our missionaries speak God's Word and show His love to all, young and old, rich and poor, in great cities and in the countryside. You have a part in making it possible for our missionaries to go, to preach the Gospel, and to minister to those who desperately need to know and love our gracious and compassionate Lord and Savior. We are deeply grateful for your participation with us in this great endeavor!

In Christ and for Christ,

Sister Maria

Sister Maria Baha
Director, LCM USA
LCMissionUSA.com



Liberty Corner Mission, established in 1935, is the foreign mission arm of Fellowship Deaconry Ministries, Liberty Corner, New Jersey. Serving in Taiwan and Japan since 1951, we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hold high the Cross, make disciples and plant churches, that God might be worshipped and glorified.

All gifts are tax-deductible. Receipts will be sent in early 2019. See our website for Online Giving.

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Japan



Kazue Tanaka

Japan, especially our rural city of Awara, has been known for its strong religious and cultural heritage. Ignorance of and prejudice toward Christianity reign, while Buddhism rules. When we started our missionary work here and placed a cross on the gable roof, I overheard two middle school students riding their bikes past our church, saying, “Hey, this is a Christian church!” “Really?” “Scary, huh?” They not only didn’t know what a Christian church was, but they also thought it was a frightful place!

In order to be an effective missionary worker, we have to take time getting acquainted with people. To accomplish this, God opened to us a new avenue of service. We have begun a reading circle dedicated to the novels of Ayako Miura, a famous Christian novelist who is now with the Lord. Her novels are all Bible-based and evangelistic in nature. All her works are very popular, even among non-believers, and each time we read we share our impressions.

Currently two women attend. They are both non-believers, but it’s a joy to see their attitudes slowly changing! Initially their sharing was focused on rumors and local gossip. Later their conversations expanded to opinions, past experiences, and the meaning of life. One woman had been strongly opposed to Christianity, and she verbally expressed it. Lately, it seems her perspective is changing. Emotional wounds seem to be healing. She’d rather purchase books than expensive food, proving her need to satisfy her heart more than her body. All we can do is listen, entreating the Holy Spirit to continue working in her heart, showing her the Redeemer’s love and forgiveness.

God is at work! Both visibly and invisibly, He is revealing Himself to the people of Japan. And for this we need your fervent and faithful prayer! Thank you for your intercession and support, as you join us in this battle.



“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:13-14

After graduating from seminary in 2013, **Kazue Tanaka** joined Pastor Rie Miura in January 2014 at this young church plant in Awara, Fukui. Tradition and religious customs prevail in this provincial area, making Christianity unpopular and unwelcome here. Please pray!



Taiwan

Pastoring a church is best done in fellowship with others who have the same passion. Sharing with like-minded servants helps to stoke the fire, gain perspective from pastors with different gifts, and find friends. For four years, we have been privileged to be a part of a group of full-time ministers who meet weekly. Most of what we do is not directly “spiritual”. We have lunch together, rotating among members’ churches. We occasionally visit local points of interest. Sometimes guest speakers share about personal or ministerial topics of interest to us. Our fellowship times help us to get to know one other, discover how other churches function, hear about victories and defeats, and to be reassured that we are not alone. According to statistics compiled by reputable organizations, pastors are some of the most highly stressed people, and some of the loneliest as well. Being a part of a group like this goes a long way in helping to gain perspective.

Pastor Park (the second man to my left in black) is from Korea and has been in Taiwan nearly as long as we have. His church differs from ours in that nearly all the members are younger than 25. He and his wife are like the mom and dad to this group of mostly young people who have come to know Jesus there. We have developed a friendship, and last year some of our church people went on a short-term missions trip to Cambodia sponsored by his church. This summer, Pastor Park and I plan to take a team to northern Thailand. I not only look forward to being with our people as we observe another church in action, but also to participate in bringing the Gospel to souls in another part of the world. Ministering in cooperation and friendship with other churches is far better than doing this alone. It’s the essence of what it means to be a part of God’s worldwide church!

As always, thank you for your prayers and support. May you stand firm, and may we all stand together!



Karl and Kathy Schulz

Karl and Kathy Schulz, in Taiwan since 1993, serve in Taoyuan, near Taipei. Karl is a church planter and Field Leader of LCM Taiwan. Karl and Kathy have three children, Aurora, Ben and David.



Japan

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

The official opening of Nagamachi Minami Church in **Sendai**, the location of the 2011 Tsunami, was held on March 11, the seventh anniversary of that devastation. During this first worship service, **Mrs. Michyo Fujita** was installed as the church-planter. We also remembered the many who had died in that tsunami. We entreated our Lord to cover this land with His grace as we proclaim His Word, so that by His love He can restore, heal and transform lives.

Twenty-three people attended this celebration. The Lord blessed, not only in choosing to launch this new ministry on the Tsunami Memorial Day, but also in preparing people. When Shinya and Michiyo Fujita moved to this area, they discovered a local YMCA preschool. The Lord led Michiyo to visit the school and introduce herself. At the conclusion of their conversation, the Director asked if she would consider part-time employment at their school. What an opportunity! Michiyo was also asked if she would be available to give practical advice to young mothers. In addition, the Director told her she could share the Gospel with the children and distribute flyers for church meetings! How thoroughly God prepares people!

The fledgling church was in dire need of parking spaces, so they were praying for the provision of a parking lot. One day Shinya and Michiyo went to a neighborhood dry cleaning establishment. Imagine, the proprietor is a Christian! They asked where they might find a local parking lot. He heartily offered them the use of his parking area, as he attends church on Sundays and his store is closed. How amazingly the Lord provides!

The Christian dry cleaner also introduced them to another Christian family in the neighborhood. The husband is a chiropractor. He gladly welcomed the new church-plant and even posted church information and flyers in his clinic. How gracious God is in opening doors!

Dear praying friends, please entreat the Lord for *open hearts!* Some seekers are attending, and one woman has begun a one-on-one Bible study. Pray that she would open her heart to the Savior! Thank you so much for your interest, prayer and support!



Fran Ueda has served under LCM in Tokyo since 1981. She is Senior Pastor of Kotake Mukaihara Christian Church and Director of LCM Japan, overseeing the young church-plants.



Fran Ueda