

## Japan

**Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise, his greatness no one can fathom.**

Psalm 146:3

One vision of our church is to intentionally and boldly witness to family members of believers in our church. Today I will introduce you to my aunt who was baptized two years ago at the age of 81.



**Rie Miura**

My aunt lost both her husband and her only son many years ago. Since then she has lived alone. From the beginning of our church plant, we encouraged her to attend worship services. She came every week, but showed little interest in the Word. After time, however, she began saying “Amen” when a phrase touched her heart. This gave us hope that she was understanding the truths of Scripture, hope that one day she would believe in Jesus.

Soon after, her physical condition deteriorated and she couldn’t attend services. I visited her home for Bible study and prayer. My aunt has been blind in one eye since childhood, and now vision in her seeing eye was impaired. Nevertheless, she devoted herself to reading Scripture and Christian literature by using thick lenses and a magnifying glass.



As we prayed, she often would fold her hands together, saying “Amen” multiple times. On one occasion, I invited her to accept Jesus into her heart as Savior. Her answer was NO, and the reason was that the cremated remains of both her husband and son were buried at the Buddhist temple. Being separated from them in death was a major obstacle for her. This problem is not uncommon among Japanese who have lost family members before coming to Christ.

My aunt’s condition deteriorated still further, requiring multiple surgeries. Afraid that she might soon be unable to make a conscious decision to accept Christ as Lord and Savior, I again asked her if she would trust Jesus and leave everything in His hands. Her answer was YES!

Very clearly she professed Christ. Right there, in her hospital bed, I baptized her. I strongly felt the working of the Holy Spirit that day! Although my aunt is still hospitalized, she’s living a life of faith in Christ.

Thank you for your prayer and support for the people in Awara! May many come to know and accept Christ. 

**Rie Miura** lives in Awara, Fukui Prefecture, about five hours by train from Tokyo. While praying that a church planter would be sent to her rural hometown, God called Rie to do that very task! For the past several years, she and her co-worker, Kazue Tanaka, have been in Awara building His Church.

Winter 2018



Fixing our eyes on  
JESUS,  
the author and perfecter  
of FAITH...

Hebrews 12:3 NASB

Beloved, praying friends of LCM,

The above picture is a favorite of mine. It’s a replica of the famous Japanese woodblock print by Hokusai. As the storm rages, the men in the boats (appearing so tiny, you have to look carefully to find them) valiantly continue their rowing. Sighting Mount Fuji in the distance gives these exhausted and fearful mariners strength to continue. The courage gained by looking at Mount Fuji far outweighs the discouragement from the huge waves. So it is with Jesus! One glimpse, one recognition of Jesus in the difficult storms of life, can give us the boost we need to continue. Praise the Lord for the numerous times He reveals Himself to us!

God has been graciously and miraculously using our missionaries and the believers there to minister to those in need who know not Jesus. Read their stories in this issue of BRIDGES. Thank you for being part of these miracles through your prayer and support! And do pray on! *They cannot build His Kingdom THERE without our being faithful HERE!*

We hope you enjoy our one-page LCM calendar. Please use it as a prayer reminder and pray for our missionaries in Taiwan and Japan by name. Let me know if you have not received it, and we’ll send you one soon.

O dear friends, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus! Storms arise all around us, or even from within. The task of winning souls is monumental, both at home and abroad. Only as we keep our eyes focused on Jesus can we both weather the storms and safely reach the shore!

In Christ and for Christ,

*Sister Maria*

Sister Maria Baha  
Director, LCM USA [www.LCMissionUSA.com](http://www.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. All receipts for 2018 will be sent out in early 2019! See our website for Online Giving.

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**Bridges**



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Return Service Requested

**Bridges**

Liberty Corner Mission

Building Bridges between God and Man

## Japan



**Fran Ueda**

**“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot deny himself.”**  
2 Timothy 2:13

How wonderful to meet old and new friends at **CROSSroads 2018!** I'm filled with gratitude for all of you who support and fervently pray for the salvation of Japanese souls. Thank you!

Just two days before departing Tokyo for America, I woke up in the morning intensely reminded of my two unsaved brothers. For over 30 years I have been praying for them, but that morning was like no other. It was as if the truth had suddenly hit me: *“They don't know Jesus!”* I was so shocked. My heart felt like it was wrapped in sorrow and pain. So right there I knelt down before God and pleaded with Him. I confessed my unfaithfulness toward them and asked for forgiveness. I sought their salvation with tears from the depth of my heart.

I returned from the USA and Canada on October 18th. Throughout the trip, my brothers were always in my heart and mind. I shared my burden with Sister Maria. Some other friends asked me about my brothers, as they were also praying for them.

Just two days after my arrival in Tokyo, still overwhelmed by jet lag, the phone rang. It was my older brother. *He told me that he had started attending church!*

I was speechless. I was captured by God's power and filled with an overflowing joy. He told me that one month ago he had joined a Bible study. *One month ago!* That was about the same time God had met me on that special morning!

My older brother said, “I still do not know much about Christianity, but I will read and study the Bible the rest of my life.” Praise God!

Last month I had the opportunity to attend his Bible study group with him. We studied the same passage and shared the Word together. Hearing from my brother's own lips his thoughts about God and His Word was such a miracle! Our God is so faithful and so merciful.

Please pray for my two brothers' complete salvation, and for their families. Thank you so much! 🙏

**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.



*Left to Right: Younger brother, older brother, sister-in-law, and Fran*

## Taiwan

A few months ago, we had the great joy of commissioning our first missionary, Bonnie, who was sent to a “creative access country” in Asia to practice her medical specialty while reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This day had been a long time in coming, so I'd like to briefly share with you some of the details.

Bonnie came to faith at our church and was baptized several years ago. Since then, she has faithfully taught Sunday School and served in other ministries as well. Some years later, she sensed a definite call from the Lord to “go the extra mile” and reach out to a certain people group in a different Asian country. The Lord opened doors, led the right people into her life, and she made preparation to work at a local hospital within that people group. In order to be able to communicate with them, she is actively involved in learning their language.

Of course, funding was a critical issue. Our church is by no means a wealthy church and we are not even close to buying our own facility for worship. We knew, however, that we had to support our missionary. As we discussed our 2018 budget last year in December, we had no consensus. I asked the people present to quietly pray and ask the Lord what He wanted us to do. I keenly sensed the Holy Spirit saying, “there will be extra!” By faith, I asked for unity to earmark about USD 600 each month toward Bonnie's support, with fervent prayer that the rest of her funding would come from other sources. They agreed, and by the end of June, the still outstanding support had been promised! Our church giving has been up as well. The Lord is faithful!

Bonnie has already left Taiwan to begin pre-field training in Thailand. Later she will fly directly to the country of her calling. May the Spirit continue to lead her as He has thus far, and may we witness a rich harvest of souls!

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Our thanks to each of you seems inadequate, as you support and pray for us. May Jesus bless and reward you! 🙏

**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 (married to Yvonne) and David.



**Karl and Kathy Schulz**



## Japan

Thank you for your prayer and gifts for our missionary work in the city of Sendai, the area of the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami. I especially thank God for leading us to begin worship services here last March. So many attended our opening worship service, including many local friends who had suffered through that disaster. It was a blessed beginning! And the blessings continue!

Our monthly “Kid's Club” is gaining momentum, as we gather children from our area and from the local YMCA kindergarden where I work part-time. In July, a short-term missionary team from Rutgers Christian Community Church in New Jersey joined our VBS activities. Our children had a great time singing, performing, and doing “sign language” together as a creative way of overcoming cross-cultural communication problems. Twenty--eight children and twelve parents came and heard the Bible message. Our meeting room was so full that we couldn't close the front door! May God's Word take hold of their hearts! The Rutgers' Team also met with other local young adults and had a wonderful time of singing, sharing, and enjoying a meal together.

God is also providing helpers from our local area. A Christian family in our neighborhood contacted us saying that the leader of their Sunday School program was actually the assistant principal of a nearby elementary school. I met with him, and he gave us permission to distribute flyers for our children's meetings directly in front of his school. Praise the Lord who showers us with His grace and favor!

Pray for one woman, a teacher at the kindergarden, who has attended our services since we opened our doors in March. She knew nothing about the Lord until her employment at the YMCA. Now, she has great desire to learn about Christ. She began one-on-one Bible study with me in April. Please pray fervently with us for her salvation!

Again, thank you so much for remembering us before the Throne of Grace! May God bless you and build His Church through your prayer and support! 🙏

**Michiyo Fujita**, with her husband Shinya, left the comfort of their Tokyo home to live among the tsunami survivors of Sendai. As a tent-maker, Shinya not only supports his wife's ministry, but has made it his own. The Fujitas are the parents of two adult daughters who have remained in Tokyo.



**Shinya and Michiyo Fujita**