



John and Eriko Houlette

*Leader Care and Church Development
in Japan and Greater Asia*

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Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Family Update



Our daughter Christine (third from the right) performed the lead role in the Sendai Opera Society production of Puccini's, *Suor Angelica*, on September 2nd. She and her husband Soichi live in Iwate, north of us.



John Dad, Richard Houlette, went to be with Jesus on December 9th. He was 95. John, Eriko and

Yutaka attended his memorial in Redding on December 28th.

Yutaka works in web development in San Francisco and he and his wife Amy are busy raising their twin boys. Jasmine is a lead teacher at a pre-school in Tokyo, while Jeweliann and Mel are working in tourism and videography in Nara-Kyoto.

God Provides Strategic Facilities for Ministries

Thanks to the prayers and gifts of many, Hokushin Calvary Church in Fukushima city completed a multi-purpose sports court late in December adjacent to its parking lot. The court will be used for basketball and futsal. The church hopes to reach out to the community. The church of sixty has plans to call a youth pastor next year. With the Tokyo Olympics coming up in 2020, sports evangelism will be an important theme for the church in Japan. Fukushima city will host some baseball and softball games for the Olympics and Paralympics.



On April 14th, Denen Grace Chapel in Kawasaki, will dedicate its first church building. We helped start this work in 1996. Kevin and Kaori Laverman have lead Denen for 18 years. The first floor is a ministry center, and the upper floors a parsonage.



Prayer Corner

- For John to make good progress on writing his book on ministry transitions and complete the English text by the end of 2019.
- For God to provide a youth pastor for Hokushin Calvary Church by April of 2020.
- For our home assignment in the US from June 25th 2019 to January 6th 2020.
- For a reliable car to use while in the US. Please contact us if you can help.
- For the cell group ministry at Hokushin Calvary Church to grow.
- For seekers to be added to the Ryozen church plant.
- For funding for Integrity 2025. We are about half way towards our goal of \$8000.
- For Eriko's community outreach through teaching Japanese, and her music activities.
- For Japan as it enters an era change with a new emperor being enthroned May 1st. The new era will be called Reiwa, or beautiful harmony.
- John does a prayer bike ride to Ryozen once or twice a month.



Leader Training in Fukushima and Manila!

This month is the last session of our monthly cell leader training at Hokushin Calvary. It has been a blessing to work with six to ten leaders each month. The times were filled with formational reading of scripture, short lectures, breakout groups and intercessory prayer as we looked at God's relational love, telling and listening to stories and living out the gospel. My hope is that the group will continue to meet and encourage each other. The Japanese church year starts in April, so we are inviting people to join cell groups next month.

I had the privilege to travel to Manila, the Philippines, February 4-12 for the last session of the first batch of the Asian Access International leadership training cohort and graduation. It was joy to share two devotionals. I hope to travel there again next year and possibly to Nepal.

Home Assignment Plans

We will be traveling to Northern California on June 25th for a six-month home assignment to visit supporters. We hope to see you then. Please contact us about visiting your church or if you would like to host us for a home meeting. See our contact information at the top.

John and Eriko Houlette

Support needed: \$400/month

Send gifts to:

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Make checks out to: SIMUSA Houlette acct. #041675.

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