



John and Eriko Houlette

Leader Care Through the Local Church in Japan and 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 the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19.

Walking and Waiting

Strategic Retreats

In addition to one-on-one connections, Three Stream Ministries (TSM) is also about facilitating retreats.

- In August, over 40 clergy and their families gathered at a seaside resort in Amakusa, Kyushu, three months after devastating earthquakes hit. Families enjoyed time together and time with God. We helped them develop self-care rhythms around rest and ministry. John will lead another retreat for long term relief workers there November 13-15.
- TSM facilitated an intimate retreat on October 21-22, for laity and clergy at C-On Kinshuko in Iwate Prefecture, north of us. The overnight event included biblical reflection, a hike and a trip to a hot spring.
- A team of Japanese pastors will travel to South Asia to facilitate a clergy retreat on January 24th to February 2nd, 2017.

Greetings from Sendai, Japan, where the weather is crisp and leaves are changing color. Eriko and I are learning that walking with God and waiting for him (Isaiah 26:7-8) is at the core of clergy care. This rhythm is essential for ourselves and those we serve. By God's grace this year, TSM has invested in 28 leaders from 13 churches, of which eight are either church planters or church renewal catalysts. This is through one-on-one connections and seminary classes. Currently between the



Sendai Baptist Seminary campus and the Hokushin Calvary Church extension location, we have 18 students learning about self-care, spiritual formation and leadership. They are

practicing what they learn in their local church.

HOKUSHIN UPDATE

I continue to serve part-time in a transitional pastor role at Hokushin Calvary Church in Fukushima city while Pastor Kuba is on sabbatical. It is a joy to work with the elder board. I will baptize Mrs. K., a woman in her 70s, on November 6th. Last month the church had its annual memorial worship service to remember the saints who had graduated to glory.

Over 90 people attended the celebration including many family members, who heard the gospel.

Prayer Requests

- For ministry balance in preaching, seminars, retreats, teaching and individual mentoring and counseling responsibilities.
- For our financial support needs to be met.
- For the equipping of disaster care chaplains.
- For my ministry at Hokushin Calvary Church while its pastor is on Sabbatical.
- For Eriko's ongoing research.

Ministry Video

For those of you who have not seen our ministry video, please check it out: <https://vimeo.com/159910392>



Financial Update

The disaster response chaplaincy is moving forward. With the help of the Salvation Army, we have funding for the next three years to equip and unleash 50 chaplains who can train others.



September is the end of the Asian Access/SIM fiscal year and our support finished in the black. We returned to Japan in the summer of 2014 and re-launched Three Stream Ministries (TSM) from scratch without any start-up funds. We have seen God grow TSM to be nearly self-funded.

The US dollar has weakened by over 20% this past year and costs for Japanese health insurance and national taxes have increased. Due to these factors, we will need to discover an additional \$650 a month of personal support. We are carrying over a cushion of over-support from last year and Eriko and I will reduce our salary to keep the above figure under \$1000 a month. We ask that you might pray and give towards our support in the new fiscal year. We are thankful for those who have already made increases. Perhaps some of you are able to start supporting us with either a one-time gift or a more regular contribution. Others may be able to increase their giving. The gospel is bearing fruit in Japan. Your prayers and gifts are being used to equip pastors and lay persons to be whole, holy and missional.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and financial support. You are an invaluable part of the ministry team!

Blessings,

John and Eriko

Support Needed: \$650/month

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