



John and Eriko Houlette

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

Mail: 3-8-1-408 Yaotome, Izumi-ku, Sendai JAPAN 981-3112

Email: jhoulette@asianaccess.org ehoulette@asianaccess.org

Skype: johnhoulette Japan cell: +818096325420

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

Anchors in the Storm

Working in a church 50 miles from the Fukushima Number One Nuclear Power Plant that imploded nine years ago, we serve together with people who have learned how to live with an unseen enemy (radiation). Hokushin Calvary Church worships the God of hope who gives joy and peace to those who believe. We are learning together that there are several anchors in this storm of the coronavirus disease: The triune Lord himself, His Word, the global and local church and you, our supporters. I experienced a few of these anchors when we partook of communion on March 1st. As we lined up to receive the elements, an attendant sprayed our hands with sanitizer. It was a balance of prudence, faith and risk that we navigated in remembrance of Him. Things are changing in Sendai where we live and Fukushima where we serve. As of April 1st, Fukushima has four known cases of COVID-19, Sendai less than ten. The way we do church may change but the anchors keep us deeply rooted.

Day of Prayer for Our Supporters

We arrived back safely to our Sendai home on January 8th after our six-month home assignment, refreshed by wonderful times with many of you. Thank you so much for your love, support and hospitality! Our support status has improved significantly (see below). Thank you to those who responded. In light of the coronavirus, I have made a commitment to take the first day of the month to pray for our support team. I have a regular schedule to intercede for you during the week, but I am taking a good part of the day each month to pray. Would you consider sharing your requests with me? You may email, text or send me a card. The next time will be on May 1st, Friday.

Ministry at Hokushin Calvary Church

Hokushin truly engages its community. Since last fall, the church has conducted a monthly Children's Cafe, to provide food and a place to belong for kids and adults in the community. Our last one in February (see photo) had over 100 in attendance. Eriko helped in the



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Praise that I finished the first draft of my book. Pray for editing, translating and printing.
2. For wisdom in ministry development in this coronavirus age.
3. For a meeting facility for Saikyo Hope Chapel. They had to move out of their current building 1/31.
4. For Eriko as she teaches Japanese on-line to her students.
5. For the development of Eriko's Pastoral Harp Ministry.
6. For the ongoing ministry of Hokushin Calvary Church.

kitchen and I connected with people. Through this two people are now attending church and another is in a Bible study. We hoped to launch another Cafe this month for the learning disabled and their families. It has been put on hold.

Broader Ministry Updates

Due to the virus, I was not able to travel to the Philippines for training events in March, but hope to go in the fall. During those ten days, I was able to finish the first draft of my book, **Seasons of Beauty: Resiliency and Legacy for Pastors**. I plan to send it to the Japanese publisher in May. The English version should be done by this summer.



Eriko completed a two-year pastoral harp training and internship and now is a part of the Pastoral Harp Ministry in Sendai. She hopes to serve in area nursing homes and hospitals. She is pictured above with her teacher.

I continue to provide clergy care and may have an opportunity to facilitate leading well principles on a podcast which would reach many people.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

Blessings,

John and Eriko

Support needed: \$550/month

Send financial gifts to:

SIM USA Donor Care PO BOX 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241

Make checks out to: SIMUSA Houlette acct. #041675. Or simple online giving:

www.simusa.org/give click "support a missionary," on the left side of the screen and use our staff number: #041675