



John and Eriko Houlette

Leader Care Through the Local Church in Japan and Asia

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

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

Skype: johnhoulette **Web site:** www.asianaccess.org/houlette

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.

TSM at a Glance

- Eriko and I facilitated a Relax Camp December 30th to January 2nd at C-On Kinshuko where more than 20 people reflected on 2016, prepared hand-made soba noodles, played in the snow and ate noodles in an igloo on New Year's eve!
- John and two Japanese pastors traveled to South Asia to serve local churches and facilitate a Pastors Retreat for 23 leaders January 24th to February 2nd.
- Kazumichi was baptized at Hokushin Calvary Church on February 19th!
- The Disaster Response Chaplaincy held its third training conference for 40 leaders February 27th to March 1st in Chiba. John led a session on the Cycle of Grace.
- John led an active listening seminar in Kumamoto, Kyushu, and debriefed the Kyushu Christ Disaster Relief Center staff, March 6th to 10th.

Blossoming lives

Greetings from Sendai, Japan, where we eagerly await the arrival of our stunningly beautiful and delicate cherry blossoms! Eriko and I have experienced many 'blossoms' these past four months in our family and ministry. Our daughter Christine, and Soichi Tada, exchanged marriage vows on January 21st in Tokyo. He is a lawyer, and they have settled into the coastal town of Kamaishi in Iwate Prefecture, where Soichi is practicing law.



Blossoms can appear in dusty, developing countries where persecution is ripe and the church is growing rapidly. The South Asia retreat was a time of discovery for many pastors who are over worked and in need of rest, reflection and a spiritual friend. One pastor came thinking that there was no one he could trust with his ministry struggles, but at the retreat he found a confidant to help carry his burdens.

Hokushin Calvary Church is a blossoming church. This past year as I served as a transitional pastor while Pastor Masanori Kuba was on sabbatical,



the church has had consistent attendance and two baptisms. Pastor Kuba resumes preaching once a month on Easter.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For ministry balance in preaching, seminars, retreats, teaching and individual mentoring and counseling responsibilities.
- Praise that much of our support need has been met.
- For our home assignment 7/13-9/18. For safety in travel and for the provision of a car.
- For Pastor Masanori Kuba as he gradually resumes his ministry at Hokushin Calvary Church.
- For strength and balance for Eriko as she teaches, cares for her mother and does research.

We are anticipating more blossoms in 2017!

- We will be visiting supporters in California from July 13th to September 18th.
- John plans to start research on the topic of ministry transitions in Japan that will become a book in Japanese.
- Discussions are just beginning on a spiritual formation and self-care network for leaders in Japan.
- Asian Access celebrates its 50th anniversary April 24th to 29th in Jakarta, Indonesia. Eriko and I will attend.
- John is in training for his third Sendai Half-Marathon in mid-May.

Blessings,

John and Eriko

Would you like to receive our monthly Houlette Happenings via email? Would you like to stop receiving our prayer letters? For either request, please send us an email at: jhoulette@asianaccess.org Thank you!

Support Needed: \$200/month

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