



a missional partnership for Japan

John Houlette

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

Mail: 3-3-11 Katsura, Izumi-ku, Sendai JAPAN 981-3134

Email: threestreamministries@gmail.com

Web site: www.threestreamministries.com

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

Passing the Sash to the Next Generation

The Hakone Ekiden is a famous road relay race in Japan. In an Ekiden, passing the sash to the next harrier with a lead or reducing a gap, is the goal. Ministry is often compared to a marathon; a linear event. We run the course of our career and retire. End of story. Yet a servant leader develops and multiplies leaders in an ongoing cycle, passing on the legacy sash to mentees.



During advent season, we see this beautiful dynamic in the kingdom-delivering, leader-equipping earthly life of Jesus. He dwelt among us, taught, did miracles and raised up leaders prior to his death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. With God's help, it is a great honor to invest in leaders. Here are a few of my mentees:

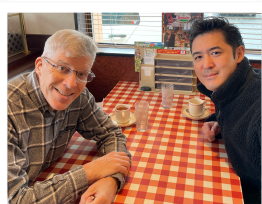
MAKITO MATSUDA

He is the lead pastor at Oasis Chapel, Rifu Town, near Sendai. He revitalized this struggling church and is passionate about encouraging pastors and assisting churches to be healthy.



TOMONARI KITSUNAI

He is the new youth pastor at Hokushin Calvary Church Fukushima, and is growing in his preaching and ministry skills.



KEN NISHIONO

He pastors the Koriyama Bible Baptist Church, Fukushima and has a burden for reaching youth.



HIDEYOSHI (DEDE) KASHIWAGURA

Dede was saved in the US, and has pastoral experience in Japan and Australia. He is planting a Japanese church in San Diego, CA.

Special Giving Opportunity for Integrity 2025

PRAYER

1. For Harumi and Naoki at Hokushin to believe in Christ.
2. For youth pastor Tomonori Kitsunai, to thrive in ministry.
3. For wisdom as I mentor pastors.
4. For strength as we move into our new home 12/27! (See address in masthead).
5. That I would get the most out of my CCEF class.

PRAISE

1. For five counseling clients at the Renown Conference, for nine pastors at the O-60 Retreat, teaching two sessions at the A3 Fall training and networking at the A2 Japan conference.

As we come to the end of 2024, Eriko and I are so thankful for your faithfulness in supporting us these 41 years! We have two giving opportunities this Christmas season:

Three years ago, Word of Life Press published the Japanese version of my book, ***Resilience, How Japanese Pastors Can Thrive in Every Season***, garnering an award for excellence in Christian counseling literature. The book recently sold out! The re-print will come out next month. My desire is to make it available to those entering seminary and Bible school in April (the beginning of the academic year) at cost. The only way I can re-publish it is to purchase 250 copies.

Amount needed: \$2000

Integrity 2025 enters its ultimate year. You have prayed for the five initiatives: **Resiliency-Based Leadership Development, Finishing Well Consulting, Church Planting, Hokushin Leadership Development, and Marriage Counseling**, and God has given much fruit!

The next step for Integrity 2025 and beyond, is to provide short sabbaticals for Japanese pastors. Clergy are under much stress and have limited finances. Many face isolation and burnout. This new initiative would allow three pastors to take a three-week sabbatical a year. I would preach in their absence and provide individual support for the pastor or seminars for the church on the pastor's return at no cost. This project would cover transportation and expenses.

Amount needed: \$2000

Please prayerfully consider these giving opportunities. Designate your extra gifts to **Houlette Ministry Account**. Thank you!

Immanuel,

John

Send financial gifts to:

SIM USA Donor Care 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273

Make checks out to: "SIM USA Houlette acct. 041675" **Or for simple online giving:** www.simusa.org/give locate "Give to an SIM worker," and type in Houlette.