



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 the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Kingdom Startups

What do you do when “normal” ministry comes to a halt? You bloom where you are planted! Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, God has pruned our work to produce beautiful blossoms, and by faith, we trust gorgeous kingdom fruit. Let me share about a few re-starts and new startups.

Hokushin Calvary Church Worship services were online through May, and then onsite from June. Everyone wears masks, uses sanitizer, has their temperature taken and sits far apart. We do not sing out loud. From this month, we have gone to two morning services. We have a baptism scheduled for July 26. Eriko and I serve in various ways.

Church Planting Sadly, the Ryozen church plant has closed. We still have outreach to the community through the Shinai Christian kindergarten and some teachers come to the Hokushin worship service. Last week I did a prayer walk in downtown Fukushima with the desire to join God where He is already working. An outreach possibility is to re-start the Kids Cafe as a drive thru event using our multi-purpose court.

One Loaf and Five Masks In May, we received 100 masks from an Asian Access donor, and decided to distribute them to our neighbors in our condo here in Sendai. I baked eight loaves of bread and packaged a loaf with five masks and a beautiful bookmark with the following Bible verse: “*For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.*” Jeremiah 31:25 ESV. I delivered the packages door to door, and people really appreciated them. I sent the rest to Hokushin to pass out to church members and friends, also with the verse card.

Resilience: How Japanese Pastors Can Thrive in Every Season You will notice a title change on my book. I will send the manuscript to the Japanese publisher by the end of



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for *a translator (English to Japanese) for my book, **Resilience: How Japanese Pastors Can Thrive in Every Season.***
2. For wisdom in ministry development in this coronavirus age.
3. For a meeting facility for Saikyo Hope Chapel.
4. For a youth pastor for Hokushin Calvary Church.
5. For our daughter Christine who is expecting her first child any day now. We are thankful that she and Soichi are nearby.

Support needed: \$650/month

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month. Please Pray for final editing and a translator (English to Japanese). The English version should be out by the fall and the Japanese early next year or in the spring.

Mentoring I continue to have a manageable load of pastors and missionaries that I mentor. It is mostly online but I have begun to meet people one on one. I meet monthly with 8-10 individuals.

Japanese Teaching Eriko finished the school year at Tohoku International School on June 12. It was a challenging time as the last three months were all online. I am proud of her for how she developed engaging curriculum for kindergarteners and junior and senior high school students. A big praise is that one of her colleagues in the Sendai choir, Mr. I., came to faith and was baptized on Easter. In his testimony he mentioned that having dinner at our home a few years ago was a first step in his faith journey.



Day of Prayer for Our Supporters Since April, 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 additionally, 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, call or message me. The next time will be on August 1 (July 31 US time).

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

Blessings,

John and Eriko