



John Houlette

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

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You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

Finishing the Race, Passing the Baton

We have completed 42 years (kilometers) and have two months (200 meters) until our official retirement; we can see the marathon ministry finish line. We were feted by our sending agency, SIM, our home church, Church on the Hill, San Jose, CA, and many individuals and churches during the second half of our Tour de Thanks.



Retirement is not the end of witness and influence in a missionary career. It is a time of moving from running a marathon to that of a relay race, passing on the ministry baton to faithful men and women who can carry on the work. As I finish this season, I am thankful for two devoted individuals I have had the privilege to mentor—Pastor **Tomonori Kitsunai** at Hokushin Calvary Church and **Junpei Akiyama** at Saikyo Hope Chapel.



In 2023, **Mr. T** started attending Hokushin and we began to study the Bible together. Later Pastor Kitsunai



took over, and recently led him to Christ. He will be baptized in December!

You have been praying for **Harumi**. He has not made a decision yet, but he appreciates 89-year-old Mr. Akiyama, joining a Zoom call every Sunday to witness and encourage him.

PRAYER

1. For Harumi's salvation.
2. For our transition into retirement.
3. For my investment into Next Generation leaders.
4. For future steps for Pastor Ken Nishiono.

PRAISE

1. For Mr. T's decision to be a Christ follower and to be baptized in December!
2. For two new mentees.
3. For the birth of our seventh grandchild, Lisa Ann, to Jasmine and Takuro.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We retire in two months. You may be wondering about what to do with your support from January. Here are some helpful facts:

•By the grace of God, ***we are well positioned financially to enter into retirement in Japan*** with Social Security, 403B Roth retirement funds and personal investments. **We do not need any support after December 2025.** We are eternally grateful for your faithful giving for over four decades!

•Any gifts to us from January onward would be used to further the ministry of soul care for pastors, missionaries and leaders which I will continue to provide going forward.

•Are you interested in supporting other ministries reaching Japanese for Christ after we retire? Here are some suggestions:

For individual supporters:

1. **Kevin and Kaori Laverman** are seasoned church planters ministering in Kawasaki, Tokyo. He is one of my mentees. <https://give.worldventure.com/#/explore> Laverman 4000-381.

For churches and individuals:

2. **Eric and Sue Takamoto**, doing Japanese evangelism locally and missionary soul care globally with A3/SIM. <https://a3leaders.org/takamoto>. Eric and I have mentored each other over the years.

3. **Tommy and Yumi Ikeda Morse** doing soul care and coffee house evangelism with JEMS and Second Level Ministry. I have worked with Yumi the last few years in counseling referrals and retreat ministries. <https://www.jems.org/missionaries/tommy-and-yumi-morse>.

From 2026 I will send out **Houlette Happenings** once a year. Thank you for your steadfast prayer and support!

Blessings,

John and Eriko

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.