



## John and Eriko Houlette

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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*

## Sharing Hope in Shaky Times

**I**t was 11:30 pm on March 16. I was asleep and Eriko was still awake. My iPhone suddenly started screaming with a loud, automated message: EARTHQUAKE! EARTHQUAKE! Sure enough in a few seconds, things started shaking, books fell and a few cups broke. It was a 7.4 temblor, centered off the coast of Fukushima. We have experienced many aftershocks since then. It was around the date of the 11th anniversary of our 2011 disaster, so people were already experiencing stress. We are fine, including Eriko's mom and our daughter and her family, as well as people in our church. Parts of the Fukushima coast near the damaged nuclear reactor were without water for a long time.

**G**od has given us opportunities to share the hope of Jesus during these shaky times. Harumi was not able to attend Bible study for a while, but we are meeting again. He is currently undergoing dialysis so our study will be via LINE. Please pray for his health, salvation and that he can learn how to use this technology.



Over the weekend of 4/9-10, we held a Kid's Kitchen Easter event and a harp concert. We had 65 kids from 33 families participate in an Easter egg hunt and receive food packages. Many lingered and talked with church members. It was a beautiful warm day for this outdoor event on our sports-court, which included cherry blossoms!



**O**n Sunday afternoon, Catherine Porter, a professional harpist and missionary, gave a beautiful concert at our Orange (memory care) Cafe gathering. Roughly 60 people attended this event and heard a powerful Christ-centered presentation in song and testimony. Church members invited many of their friends who expressed their thanks for the privilege of hearing such uplifting and healing music.

## PRAISE

1. That Mr. Kitsunai is settling into seminary studies and church ministry.
2. For an excellent vision retreat for the elders at Hokushin on 3/21.

## PRAYER

3. For Eriko's mom, Kyoko, and her health needs.
4. For John's ongoing counseling studies.
5. For fractures in John's left arm to fully heal from a running accident in January.
6. For both John and Eriko to have stamina for various teaching, music, counseling and training roles.
7. For Harumi to be saved.

## DAY OF PRAYER

May 2 will be our next Day of Prayer. Please send me any requests you may have!

# Integrity 2025 Update

♦ **Resiliency-Based Leadership Training** Retreats, mentoring, coaching and seminars for pastors and missionaries. **Finished the second batch of *Staying Resilient* in February.**

♦ **Finishing-Well Consulting** Working with pastors and church boards to help pastors thrive in ministry and transition into retirement. **Launching a monthly blog in Japanese for pastors from May.**

♦ **Fukushima Church Planting** Asian Access is spearheading an effort to partner with three other missions, OMF, SEND International and OM, to discern God's leading on partnering with Japanese churches to reach Fukushima Prefecture for Christ. **We continue to have bi-monthly prayer meetings and vision trips.**

♦ **Leadership Development at Hokushin Calvary Church** Mentor church leaders and train members. **Joyful Christian Life Training starts on May 1.** The focus is on being a Christ-follower, a pain-bearing church and a vibrant witness.

♦ **Marriage and Family Counseling** Encourage couples and families through the hope of the gospel. **I have completed one course from the Christian Counseling Education Foundation (CCEF).** I started my second class earlier this month.



Eriko and I continue to give thanks to the Lord for your faithful prayers and support.

He is risen!

*John and Eriko*

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