



JCFN Japan & North America

Directors Letter November 2020

✿JCFN Japan Ministry Report✿ (Chihiro Okada, Japan Director)

In Japan, the number of coronavirus cases across the country is on the rise. We pray for protection, guidance and comfort for all those affected in the midst of this uncertainty.

◎Month of Prayer

At JCFN, November is "Prayer Month." As for the theme for this year's Prayer Month, we combined the theme for EC20 Beyond, "Listen... and you will live," with the Global Returnees Conference 21 theme, "In the name of Jesus." The theme became "Listen and pray in the name of Jesus."

Twice a week we sent out prayer emails and posted on SNS to encourage people to be still in the Word, and listen to God's invitation, as well as share our prayer requests for our staff and for the work of JCFN. Once again, we were reminded that the motivation for prayer does not come from ourselves, but from the Word and being in communion with God, the guidance of the Spirit, and in the name of Jesus. Through this Month of Prayer, we hope and pray that more people would join the ministry of JCFN Prayer Warriors.



◎ Homecoming Week – Homecoming Challenge

In November, we fondly remember our experiences on Thanksgiving Day and our life in the United States. Last year, JCFN dedicated one week in November as "Homecoming Week."

When we talk about "Returnee Follow-Up," we tend to focus only on the difficulties of returning home, but during Homecoming Week, we'll be remembering "the steps you took after you returned home and how hard it was..." with gratitude for God's protection! We would like to be remembered as appreciating and celebrating the progress made after returning home. During this period, we are inviting returnees to participate in the "Homecoming Challenge" by sharing photos of their experiences abroad via SNS to celebrate the progress they have made and the fact that their progress has been protected and blessed since they returned home. We pray that the returnees will not only focus on their struggles and difficult times in Japan, but also on God's unchanging presence with them in the midst of difficulties.

◎ Return Home Program @ EC20 Beyond

Preparations for EC20 Beyond, especially in North America, are in full swing. On the Japan side, the returnee program team is prayerfully preparing so that the program would increase awareness and share how to care for returnees. In particular, they have been discussing how to effectively offer a seminar on how to welcome returnees and to host Japan regional meetings online. It is our hope that the program will allow us to walk with the returnees who need support and to encourage others to be more involved in welcoming the returnees.

◎ Winter Special Fundraiser

JCFN Japan will continue to collect special donations for the winter fundraiser. Please pray for us and help us meet our needs.

✿Please pray for JCFN Japan✿

◎Thank God for the blessings we have received during this Month of Prayer. Pray that more people would join the ministry of JCFN Prayer Warriors.

◎Please pray that the returnees will be able to celebrate their walk with God and live a life of faith where they have been sent.

◎Please pray for the preparation of the EC20 Beyond returnee program team.

◎Please pray that the needs of the winter fundraiser will be met.

✿JCFN North America Ministry Report ✿ (Setsu Shimizu, North America Director)

◎Stopping by on Thanksgiving and give thanks

What will you give thanks for this Thanksgiving? For JCFN, we are thankful that even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that seems to have brought many things to a halt, we can still do many things online. We are able to use the Internet as an opportunity for ministry with new angles. There's nothing better than face-to-face time. But as I mentioned last month, God continues to speak to us as well as to the leaders who serve in our ongoing online ministries such as Ippuku in New York, JXJ in Seattle, and APU Fridays in Los Angeles. **Thank God!** And because it's online, we are able to be involved in our own ministries regardless of location. For example, the Seattle ministry has participants and leaders from Tokyo, Los Angeles, Oregon, Osaka, and many other places. This is an online phenomenon. We're also grateful that it's so easy to build ministry collaborators, partnerships, and networks. **Thank God!**

◎How to Enjoy EC20 Beyond!

Last month, we introduced SEEKERS (a program for people who are not yet Christians) and the YOUTH program. We already have about 400 people signed up, but we're ready for 1,000 people to come!



Incredible Workshops!

Because it's online, we've been able to ask many great speakers to help us. A few of them are (tentative titles): "Dating and Marriage Seminar" (Kiyoshi Mizutani), "Faith in the Age of Pandemics" (Kazuhiko Yamazaki), "Burnout" (Miyuki Asada), "Funeral Rituals in Japanese Society" (Shohei Yamato), "Meditative Prayer" (Sachi Nakamura), "Finnish Education" (Kumiko Hiltunen), "Businessman to Clergy" (Katsutoshi Shimizu), "Call to Missions" (Kenichi Shibusawa), and more. We've invited instructors from North America, of course, but also from Japan, Europe, and Oceania!

A joint small group from Japan and North America!

This year's small group is planned to be organized in such a way that those from Japan and outside Japan will mix together. This is a great opportunity for us to connect with our Christian brothers and sisters across the ocean from our respective homes in order to expand a deep and close fellowship. Such a fellowship is one that we hope to keep fanning, creating a ripple effect that will flow even throughout our own churches!

Bible study

This year's theme is LISTEN. You will experience the beauty of the Word of God through learning how to read the Bible. In this Bible study, we will be divided into 5-6 groups and then into smaller groups of 5-6 people. These groups will be randomly split up, so you never know who you'll be with! Here's another opportunity to meet with friends!

RJC program

This program is designed for non-Japanese who are praying and ministering to Japanese. It's a great opportunity to connect with others from different parts of the world. There will be great workshops to learn more about missions inside of Japan and around the world. During the conference, there will be an English Conversation time, an opportunity to mingle with people from the general program and the SEEKERS program! If you are interested in or involved in Japanese missions, please join us.

In addition, there will be a prayer time and a free hangout time (US 27th: "Talking Night" 28th: "Knowing Night" 29th: "Meeting Night" 30th: "Sharing Night"). At the second plenary session, we will celebrate JCFN's 30th Anniversary. We have a great program, too much to write about here. Please join us!

✿Please pray for JCFN North America✿

◎Pray for the preparation of EC20! Pray for guidance for the SEEKERS program and that God will send more people who have not yet believed in Jesus. Also, please pray for the preparation of the tech team.

◎Pray for the preparation of EC20 messengers and workshop speakers. Pray that they will be protected in both spirit and body.

◎Please pray for Daisuke Tsuchida's (candidate) application for a missionary visa in the U.S., which will be submitted this month. I heard that the process is being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please pray that the visa will be granted in the best way and timing. Also, please continue to pray for a partnership development for Mr. Tsuchida and Ms. Furuya.

Contacts: Japanese Christian Fellowship Network www.jcfn.org

North America Office: P.O. Box 17982, Irvine, CA 92623-7982 USA ushq@jcfn.org tel 949-424-7535

Japan Office: OCC Bldg, 2-1 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062 nihon@jcfn.org tel/fax:03-5217-2505

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Account Name: JCFN Daihyo Goto Maki