



# JCFN Japan & North America

## Directors Letter February 2021

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

In Tokyo, the state of emergency that was declared in January has been extended until March 7th. We continue to pray for those who have been affected in various ways by the corona disaster and for those involved in medical care.

### ◎BBWIT20 Follow-up Mentoring Seminar - Being Involved in Growth

On Saturday, January 30, we had an online mentoring seminar. This seminar was a follow-up event for the participants of BBWIT20 Leadership Camp held in July last year. Last July, we reduced the number of sessions because we changed it to a 2 day online program. To make up for this, we had time for free conversations over meals during the lunch break. One of the topics that came up during the conversation was "mentoring" and "accountability partners," which led to the idea of holding a "mentoring seminar" as a follow-up project in January, six months after the online camp.



When people hear the word "mentoring," they tend to think that the word is self-explanatory, and for those who have no experience in mentoring, they tend to think that it is not appropriate for them. The theme of this seminar was "Recognizing the mentoring relationships that exist around us and taking the first step toward creating those relationships." We began the seminar by sharing our own experiences of being involved with others to be equipped as Christians, and of being involved with others to be equipped as Christians. After that, those who had mentoring experience as mentees and mentors stood as panelists to share their experiences and thoughts on what they were aware of in their mentoring relationships.

JCFN is praying and hoping that returnees and those who work with them will become "equipped Christians". Through this study, we hope that even more people will pray and take concrete steps to consciously engage with those around them, even if it is not officially called a "mentoring relationship". Pray for the future steps of the participants.

### ◎Report from a Regional Meeting, ANRK (All Nations Returnees in Kansai)

The month of February has seen a lot of activity in online regional returnee ministries. On February 13, I had the privilege of participating in an online meeting of ANRK (All Nations Returnees in Kansai). After praise and games, Mr. and Mrs. Shimizu from the US gave a talk as lecturers, followed by small groups. In the small group I joined, there were two women living in the Kansai area who came into contact with the gospel through their experiences overseas and were led to baptism after returning to Japan. I learned that one of them was someone I had communicated with via email when she first returned to Japan, so it was a great opportunity for us to talk face-to-face for the first time, even though it was online. This month, there will be online meetings in other regions, and we are praying that the work in the regions will continue to be strengthened and used.

### ◎Preparation for GRC21...

Preparations for the GRC21 (Global Returnees Conference), which will be held online, are underway and it has been decided that it will be held from May 2-4 (3 days). Please continue to pray for the preparations and for the planning committee. We will begin accepting applications in February.

### ✿Please pray for JCFN Japan ✿

- ◎Pray that returnees and those who minister to them will seek to be involved in their personal growth.
- ◎Pray for the work of receiving returnees and workers in various parts of Japan.
- ◎Pray for the preparation for GRC21.

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

Since the beginning of this year, I have been trying to go to OCC, a nearby campus, for a prayer walk. The campus, which used to be full of students and lively atmosphere with laughter before Corona, is now closed and looks like a ghost town.

Praying and walking around the campus gives me a lot to think about. I wondered if the students who graduated last year were able to adjust to the next step in their lives after being forced to return home halfway through the school year and not being able to have a proper closure. Are the new students getting the support they need?

The international student ministry at this university has moved personnel and the campus ministry is now all online. There are challenges on every campus.

### ◎Ongoing (online) evangelism ministry

In spite of this situation, the students who used to lead the Bible Study at OCC before Corona (but have now returned home or transferred to other universities), and leaders of another ministry called "Friday" at Azusa University which JCFN helps, have a joint online evangelistic meeting this semester.

The leaders of OCC have graduated and are now back in Japan, but we have begun to pray that we can somehow continue to evangelize our scattered friends. "Friday" was also struggling with a lack of next leaders and staff, as the new students we were expecting did not arrive last September and the leaders graduated or moved on in the last semester. It was decided that if these two ministries worked together, they could hold an online evangelistic meeting, and the meeting will continue this spring semester in a style that is only possible online.

The same is true for JxJ in Seattle. The two leaders are not in Seattle at this time, but are hosting JxJ from Oregon and Japan. Both Ippuku in New York and the newly started Worship Night are held possible only because they are done online. People are gathered from all over the U.S., Canada, and Japan from different time zones, and leaders working together to make the ministry happen.

It is our hope that this ministry will produce souls who will encounter Jesus, and that the returnees will be equipped and connected after they return home.

If you're interested, please join us! It's online, so you can join from anywhere, even with the time difference! Worst case scenario, you'll just lose a lot of sleep! LOL.

### ◎JCFN 30th Anniversary

The 30th Anniversary of the JCFN is moving forward. While we can't do a big celebration for the 30th anniversary, we are doing a few things.

- The "Who's Who" video series: We will be introducing people who have returned to their home countries once upon a time and where they are now! This is sure to be an encouragement to those who are returning home!
- Renewal of resources: We'll be upgrading some of the resources that we've been printing ourselves, such as "Understanding Returnees." In particular, "Understanding Returnees" is being prepared to be presented to churches that are cooperating with our returnee follow-up.
- Campaign to recruit 300 Supporting Members for the 30th Anniversary: Thanks to the promotion of Pinapo (a character only those who have seen it will understand) in EC20, we have about 90 at the moment! 210 more to go! We're waiting for you! (<https://bit.ly/ijikaiin>)
- Playlist for Encouraging Returnees: Every month we introduce a playlist to encourage returnees, and this is the one for February. <http://bit.ly/Febplaylist>



### ✿Please pray for JCFN North America✿

◎Not only for North America, but next month, in March, we will have a Joint Staff Meeting. We also need to seek direction for our ministry in the context of the Corona disaster. Please pray for the preparation for the meeting.

◎The visa application for the candidate, Mr. Tsuchida, has started, but it seems to take a long time due to the Corona. Please pray that the process will proceed quickly. Please pray that all the support will be met and that he will be able to start the ministry.

◎Pray that each of the ministries mentioned in this article will be blessed, that the leaders will be supported, and that souls will be saved.

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