



JCFN Japan & North America

Directors Letter August 2021

Praise the name of the Lord! I am writing this letter a week before the Olympics, and I wonder if the Olympics will have been held or finished by the time you receive this letter. There have been torrential rains in many parts of Japan, mudslides in Atami, wildfires on the west coast of the U.S., and various disasters around the world. We pray for God's mercy and guidance. In addition, the state of emergency has resumed in the metropolitan area of Japan, and the delta strain is spreading in the United States. We continue to pray for strength and guidance for those who are involved in the response in various places and for those in the medical field.

✿JCFN Ministry Report✿

◎Our board meeting went successfully online in June!

We are very grateful for the wonderful board members who are willing to serve JCFN with wisdom, experience, prayer, and passion to advance this ministry. We have Rev. Manabu Nishikori as the chairperson, along with Dr. Sachi Nakamura, Mr. Doug Whittet, Mr. Rick Chuman, and Mr. Yoshio Shibazaki. Also, we have welcomed three new board members: Dr. Naoto Kamano, Dr. Eiko Takamizawa, and Mr. Ryuichi Yamazaki.

Also, Ms. Erika Mine and Mr. Toshitaka Hamamura have fulfilled their respective ministries and have completed their terms as Associate Staffs in Japan. We appreciate their wonderful work. We are grateful that we can continue to be available to the Lord together, although the form of our work will change. And in North America, Mrs. Makiko Nakao was newly appointed as an associate staff. We look forward to the Lord's guidance!

◎WIT21 is online again this year.

Thank you for praying for the WIT Leadership Camp. It was once again held online. This year's theme was "Come Unity ~Close Together~" and we were able to learn from each other as leaders to build a community of unity in the Lord. Testimonies of the participants will be shared on JCFN blog.

In this letter, we are sharing the blessings of GRC21. Please check out the [JCFN blog](https://blog.jcfn.org/) for more testimonies and articles. <https://blog.jcfn.org/>

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In Jesus' Name...A Prayer to Extend His Kingdom

Etsuko Hotta (JCFN Member in Tottori Prefecture)

Hallelujah! Praise the name of the Lord! My name is Etsuko Hotta and I live in Tottori Prefecture, which is the least populated prefecture in Japan. I'm grateful for the opportunity to testify about what the Lord has done through GRC21, and I want to give glory to the Lord.

A few years ago, I was given the vision to evangelize students through study abroad by utilizing my position at the International Exchange Center where I'm responsible for students from English-speaking countries in charge of the university where I work. I attended GRC18 when I was praying to the Lord about how to support students who had just returned home with an interest in the Gospel.

Before attending GRC18, I was afraid to evangelize students because of my position as a university employee. However, through GRC18, the Lord prepared my heart, led me to repentance, and gave me a calling to evangelize students through study abroad. After receiving this call, I was able to find local families of God, communities, and educational institutions in North America, Europe, Oceania, and Asia that agreed, prayed, and cooperated with this work through God's grand plan. Students who had never even heard the name of Jesus Christ were given the opportunity to experience the love of the Lord during their study abroad, from short-term study abroad for four weeks to long-term study abroad for one year, and some were saved during their study abroad, while others were



not yet saved but returned home with an interest in the Bible. In order to support these students, we started our ministry by starting small groups and worshipping with students unconnected to the church.

After GRC18, my daily prayer to the Lord was to attend the next GRC21 with the saved students who were the fruit of this study abroad mission started by the Lord. However, the students connected to our small group were so busy with part-time jobs, coursework, and assignments that they were unable to commit to study and worship, which was our biggest prayer challenge. However, as Isaiah 55:10-11 says, when rain or snow falls from heaven, it does not return unchanged, but it always moistens the earth and brings life to it, just as the wilderness becomes green and beautiful flowers bloom, so the word of God never returns in vain, and the hearts of those who hear it will be filled with joy. No matter how dry and barren the hearts of those who hear it may be, the word of God will be sown into their hearts, and they will be transformed into a lush heart. I continued to pray, believing that the Word of God would be transformed into an abundant heart of love for God in God's time, and that this was what the Lord wanted.

It was also a challenge to encourage students who were unable to attend small groups and worship services regularly to participate in GRC21, but the Lord answered the prayers that had been pouring in since GRC18. The Lord answered our prayers, and we were able to participate in GRC21 together with the returnees from New Zealand who had just graduated and the returnee students from Canada who started supporting us right after GRC18.

The theme of GRC21 was "In Jesus' Name..." The Lord spoke abundantly to both of their hearts in Jesus' name, and they were able to connect with new returnee Christians and see their faith grow through this GRC21. After GRC21, it was difficult for them to get together, but now they are willing to fellowship and study together. This is a great joy and a sign that we have been praying for each person's spiritual growth in Jesus' name. It is also a testimony of our prayers to expand the Kingdom in Jesus' name, that we received the call at GRC18, and three years later at GRC21, we are able to join with the souls of the fruit of the Lord's work and see the growth of the Spirit!

I pray from the bottom of my heart that the precious work of JCFN will continue to be protected and used to support returnee Christians in connecting with God and His family, being transformed into Christ's likeness, being equipped, and being sent so that their faith will not be isolated after they return home.

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✿JAPAN: Summer Fundraiser✿

JCFN Japan is holding a **Summer Fundraiser** until August 31, 2012. It is our hope that through this opportunity, we can support the building of the JCFN Japan structure. For more information, please click here -> <https://bit.ly/2021fundraiseJP>.

✿30th Anniversary Campaign for 300 Supporting Members✿

©We're over 100 members into our 30th Anniversary 300 Sustaining Members Campaign in July, but we still need your help! Please sign up!

✿1 MILLION HOURS OF PRAYER for Japan During Olympic Season✿

© During this Olympics season, will you join us to give the gift of 1 million hours of prayer to the church in Japan? If you sign up, you will get daily prayer points with this ministry! Let's join them! <https://ja.japan1million.com/>



✿Prayer Requests✿

©Please pray that the Summer Fundraiser will go smoothly and God will provide and meet all the needs.

©Please pray for the ministry that started after GRC21 and for the work of receiving returnees in the Japan area.

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Ways to GIVE: A. Online credit card: (US\$) <https://jcfn.org/donation> (JPNyen) <https://jcfn.org/donationJP>
B. In USA: By check: Make it payable to JCFN and mail it to the address above, P.O. Box.
C. In Japan: **Postal Account:** Account Name: JCFN Account No. 00100-8-565348
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