

LoveJapan Mission Trip Report  
(18 – 24 April 2016)

Leader: Pastor Kathleen Tan  
Members: Chloe, Boon Ngee, Judy and Tracy

**18 April 2016, Monday**

4am – Met at Changi Airport Terminal 1 with nine luggages to check-in.



Esther and Yong Wee sent the team off with a prayer of blessing.

1.15pm – Arrived at Tokyo. Boon Ngee, Judy and Tracy looked after the luggages, while Pastor Kathleen and Chloe went to buy prepaid phone cards and metro five-day passes.



8pm – Reached Sendai Station. Praise the Lord for His journey mercy and blessing the team with strength to push and drag all our luggages. Pastors Caleb and Christina, and Yuko were there to pick us up for dinner.



After having a sushi dinner, we went to a supermarket to get groceries for Kid's Door.

12mn – Reached Grand Park. Chloe, Judy and Tracy stayed at Unit 511 with Yuko, whilst Pastor Kathleen and Boon Ngee stayed at Unit 610 with Pastors Caleb and Christina.

**19 April 2016, Tuesday**

9am – Enjoyed breakfast prepared by Yuko.



10.40am – Morning Devotion. Pastor Kathleen led worship and Pastor Caleb shared from Habakkuk 2:1-3. He shared about how God impressed upon His heart to serve in Japan.



4.30pm – Prepared dinner for Kid's Door students and teachers. The menu was fried chicken cutlet, sweet and sour pork and rice. Judy was the supervisor, Boon Ngee cut vegetables, Chloe cut the meat, Pastor Kathleen did the frying and Tracy did all the washing.



7pm – Boon Ngee, Tracy, Judy, and Pastor Kathleen served the food on paper plate, and Pastor Christina, Chloe and Yuko distributed them to the students and teachers.



Kid's Door started in Tokyo about 5 years ago to help children from low income family receive free tuition from volunteer university students or working adults. After the tsunami two years ago, they started a branch in Sendai. Pastors Caleb and Christina came to know Kid's Door through an article in the newspaper. They called Yoshimi who is in-charge of Sendai's branch to offer free dinners to the students once or twice a month.

The students in Kid's Door enjoyed the food and Pastors Caleb and Christina had the chance to meet the one who's in-charge for the first time. After a successful food distribution, we headed to a ramen restaurant for dinner before getting groceries for the next day.



**20 April 2016, Wednesday**

9.45am – Devotion after breakfast. Yuko joined us. Tracy led worship in Hokkien. Everyone took the chance to give thanks.



After having a homecooked lunch, Yuko, Chloe and Pastor Kathleen prepared for eKids programme. eKids teach simple English to about 10 young children from 3 to 9 years old in a community hall, where there would be opportunity to mingle with their mothers.

2.30pm – Yuko, Chloe and Pastor Kathleen prepared the community hall to receive the children.

3pm – Yuko led the children in singing English songs. Chloe and Pastor Kathleen played games with the children and did an act on the story of David defending his sheep from wild animals with Yuko interpreting. After the class, the children enjoyed jackfruit chips and dried mango brought from Singapore as refreshments.



Meanwhile, Boon Ngee, Judy and Tracy stayed home to prepare dinner for the cell group. They cooked ayam ponteh, ngoh hiang and chap chye.



When the team reached FCBC Sendai, we were excited to see such a great place of worship. The cell members had a Peranakan dinner before starting the cell meeting.



7.30pm – The cell started with praise and worship. Many of the cell members are talented and true worshippers. God's presence was strong; some knelt and even prostrated. We had

a heavenly experience. Pastor Kathleen led the group to pray in the spirit for Japan in closing.



As we sat down to share at around 8pm, we sensed some shakings. We sat calmly till the shakes stopped. The team was not afraid. Pastor Kathleen was thankful to experience an earthquake in the midst of praying for God's Kingdom with God's people. News was later released that there was an earthquake in the ocean at the north-east of Sendai. All was safe. The meeting ended at 10.30pm after the team's first earthquake experience.

## 21 April 2016, Thursday



10am – Judy conducted a cooking class at church, assisted by Tracy. 6 ladies attended. Pastor Christina helped to explain the steps in English, while Rose did the interpretation. The students were attentive and keen learners.



Meanwhile, Boon Ngee and Pastor Kathleen were in a small pantry. Boon Ngee cooked another similar pot of cabbage rice behind the scene to ensure there's enough for the group, while Pastor Kathleen helped to pass ingredients and clean the utensils.



Everyone praised the food and many had an additional serving. Some students brought home the soya sauce to try out the recipe themselves.

After a satisfying lunch, Chloe shared her testimony.



2pm – Some of the ladies stayed back to learn beads handicraft conducted by Tracy. Tracy used her limited English to teach them how to make a cross with beads.



The ladies had great patience and concentration to thread an almost invisible string through the tiny hole of the beads. The session ended at 5pm. The ladies wanted to come back the next day to learn more creations with beads.

The team had dinner at a soba restaurant situated in the same building as FCBC Sendai. The owner is the church's landlord. Pastor Christina shared how they chanced upon such a perfect venue to set up FCBC Sendai.

## 22 April 2016, Friday

10am – We went to a restaurant for an English breakfast. It was Pastor Christina's mum's birthday. We helped Pastors Caleb and Christina record a birthday greeting and also joined in to wish Ah Ma "happy birthday and good health".

1pm – Tracy continued to teach her keen and fast learning students to make a ring and a bracelet with the beads at church.

After helping for awhile, four of us left to prayer walk one of the biggest shrines at the south of Sendai. Pastor Christina prayed for us before we set off.



On our way up a rugged path to the shrine, Judy shared that she had a vision days ago of people dressed in white running up this very path to get to the shrine. She was excited that God had revealed to her that this was the right place to pray.

The shrine was on a hill top overlooking the city of Sendai. Tai-san explained that there were hundreds of gods in the shrine. The gods were indicated in writing only. Away from the shrine attendants, we sang and prayed. Judy shared that when she looked up to the trees, she saw Jesus in white in the sky.

4.30pm – When the prayer walk group came back to church, the beads session was still in progress. Every student was engrossed with their creation.



Not wasting any time, Yuko brought Chloe, Judy and Pastor Kathleen to the streets to give out pamphlets to invite people to our Singapore Night on Saturday, while Boon Ngee stayed back to rest.

On the streets, when we met Japanese who could not speak English, Yuko would interpret. We also met some Japanese and Asian foreigners who could understand English. The group returned to church after distributing almost all the pamphlets we brought.

Back at church, we saw happy owners of new rings and bracelets made with their own skilful hands and under the guidance of dedicated Tracy.



That evening, we had a sumptuous yakitori dinner.

Back at the apartment, Pastor Kathleen helped Tracy read through her testimony in English and guided her in the pronunciation till late in the night. Tracy could not speak English well but was willing to testify of God's goodness in her life to the Japanese in English on Singapore Night.

### **23 April 2016, Saturday**

The team woke up early to prepare food for Singapore Night's dinner: curry chicken, sweet and sour prawn, fried egg noodle and bobo-chacha for dessert. It was our biggest cooking project.



3pm – We brought all the food we had prepared to church and started practising our song items.



5pm – Service started. Pastor introduced us to the church worshippers and we presented two Hokkien worship songs. That Saturday, FCBC Sendai collected a special offering for the Kyushu earthquake's crisis relief work. Pastors were to bring a team to Kumamoto the following weekend. Pastor Caleb was the preacher for that day's service.



When service ended at 6.30pm, the team quickly changed into our cheongsam dresses for the Singapore Night event and started to lay out our food to serve the guests.

7pm – Singapore Night



During dinner, a cell member revealed that he found Pastor Christina's wedding ring in a bush in front of the building on his way to Singapore Night. Pastor Christina had lost her wedding ring for a month and shared with us and her cell members to pray for her ring to be found. It was amazing how her wedding ring laid in the bush for a month and was not seen or picked up by any passer-by, except her fellow church member. We gathered that it was God's own timely way of displaying His greatness and wanted Pastor Christina to testify of His goodness to the pre-believing guests at the event. There was prophetic significance too. The diamond ring nestled in the soil represented FCBC Sendai as God's shining light in Sendai.

After such an exhilarating testimony, a Japanese sister did a song performance. Thereafter, the time was handed over to the Singapore Team. Pastor Kathleen played a game with about 40 persons. The team sang Hokkien praise songs and everyone followed to do the actions. Tracy shared her testimony well and everyone enjoyed the evening. Some pre-believing guests stayed on to mingle with the team even after the event was over.



When we packed up, it was around 10.30pm. Once we reached the apartment, Judy started to cook mushroom chicken for the next day.

**24 April 2016, Sunday**

7.30am – We loaded our things into Pastor's car and set off for Kesenuma.

10.30am – We attended a church service there. The church was rebuilt after the tsunami.



The team sang praise songs to the congregation and Pastor Kathleen translated Boon Ngee's testimony from Chinese to English.



Pastor Caleb was the preacher that day. He shared from Genesis 16:1-15.



We joined the church members for a simple yet delicious lunch at the church premise before we proceeded to visit tsunami survivors.

1.30pm – We arrived at a building, which housed many elderly tsunami survivors. We were impressed by the facilities of the community hall and its kitchen. The residents slowly made their way to the hall.

2pm – Pastor Kathleen played games and sang songs with the residents, while the rest of the team prepared a meal for them.



After a worthwhile wait, the residents were served mushroom chicken, fried mee siam, bobo-chacha and even bak-kwa.



After the meal, Pastor Caleb led the residents to sing karaoke while Pastor Kathleen helped pack gift bags to give to the residents. The rest cleaned up the kitchen.



We were thankful that we could be a blessing to the survivors of the tsunami disaster that happened on 11 March 2011. We were happy that they could now stay in a permanent housing after living in a temporary housing unit for 5 years. After serving the residents, we visited Hope Centre where Pastors Caleb and Christina initially stayed for a few months when they were first sent to Japan.

We also drove through the disaster area, which was still not cleaned up and rebuilt.

Before leaving Kesenuma, we got off the car to take a picturesque shot with the church up on a hill across the water.



When we reached Sendai, we had tempura and udon for dinner. This brought our mission trip to a beautiful closure. We stayed on in Sendai for a day of rest and relaxation before bidding FCBC Sendai goodbye on 26 April, Tuesday morning.

The team was thankful that:

1. We were given the opportunity to serve Singapore's homecooked food to many groups of Japanese people. Thus far, our team cooked the most number of meals.
2. The weather in Sendai was just right. There was no rain.
3. There was unity and good team spirit within the team. Every member had a can-do spirit. There was supernatural strength even when we were down with flu or physically tired.
4. God gave us wisdom to organise ourselves in a new place within a short time so we can face any assignment.
5. We could visit FCBC Sendai and be a blessing to Pastors Caleb and Christina, and the church. Praise God!