

LoveJapan Mission Trip Report

10-19 June 2016

Reported by: Ng Syh Leong



Day 1

At 6am, the team met at Terminal 1 of Changi Airport all raring to go and serve the nation of Japan. It was the first time that an all youth team signed up for a LoveJapan (LJ) trip. The members comprised of (from left) Sook San, Mirabel, Wei Ling, Jie Han, Denise and Syh Leong from Pastor Roland and Pastor Lai Fun's team. It was our first time going for a LJ trip, except for Denise who went on a Tsunami Crisis Relief trip in 2011.



From the plane ride to the Shinkansen (bullet train), we travelled from morning till night and finally reached Sendai at about 9pm. It was a relief to our exhausted bodies to see Pastor Caleb and Pastor Christina at the station receiving us with open arms. We were warmly welcomed by the Pastors into their home and settled for the night.

Day 2

We woke up ready and refreshed by the cool yet sunny weather. We had a wonderful lunch at Ippudo ramen and went to FCBC Sendai. Pastor Caleb and Christina updated us on the programme of the trip and introduced us to the different people in his cell group. After which, we had some time of preparation for an English lesson for adults. Sook San anchored the lesson

and taught English to some Japanese ladies through games and activities.



FCBC Sendai holds its service on Saturdays and on this day, our team became the church choir. We had some time to rehearse our

dance for the worship songs and Joshua, a Nigerian, led the worship. One of the challenges we faced was to learn Japanese worship songs but we practised it in nearly all of our teambuilding sessions, therefore we were well prepared during service.



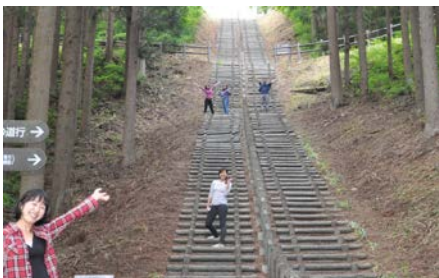
It was a fruitful night hearing from Pastor Caleb through his sermon, reminding us of the faithfulness of God. Many of us stayed behind after the service to process through the sermon points, pray and minister to one another and build relationships with the Japanese.

Day 3

It was an early start to the day for all of us. We bought breakfast from the convenience store and drove towards Kesenuma to attend Kesenuma First Bible Baptist Church, pastored by Pastor Minegishi. Five years ago in 2011, the tsunami washed this church away but Pastor Minegishi and the members persevered with meeting as a church in a printing shop. In April 2015, the Lord provided a brand new building for them. Through these years, Pastor Caleb and Christina has been ministering to the church on many occasions and is continuing to do that without strings attached. Because of this, Pastor Minegishi and the church members regard them with great respect and honour. For our time at the church, Denise led the church congregation through a time of worship while Pastor Caleb and Christina prayed and ministered to them. Sook San shared her testimony of how her great-grandparents and grandparents came to know Jesus, hence titled her testimony "The God of Generations". Little did we know that Pastor Minegishi's message that week was on praying for salvation for family members. We could see that Pastor Minegishi was visibly touched by God as he preached because the testimony shared by Sook San affirmed his sermon message from God.



We then went trekking up a hill that overlooks Sendai to pray and intercede over the city. We also visited another historical site where we remembered the pioneers and martyrs of Japan who were believers. The team enjoyed the scenic views and the breath of fresh air as we trekked and prayed that afternoon. As we prayed, we were blessed with the presence of God leading us to pray for open hearts and many to receive salvation. We declared the Lord's goodness, grace and mercy and a powerful revelation of who He is upon the land of Japan.



Day 4

We woke up to a rainy day but looked forward to a day of fun and rest. After picking up some of Pastors' cell members and some elderly seniors, we then drove for about two hours to a cherry farm. It was a fun time cherry picking and interacting with the elderly and cell members.



We ended the day by going to an onsen and had a good dinner while sharing our learnings and thanksgivings so far into the trip.

Day 5

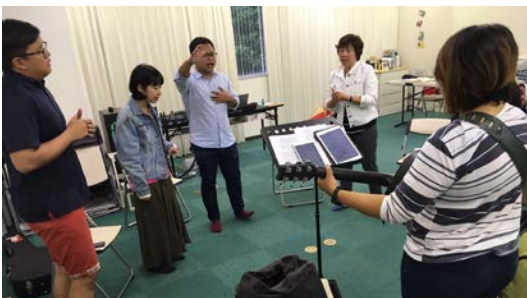
On this day, we went out into the streets for a prayer walk and outreach to distribute flyers and invite visitors to our outreach event on Saturday. Our first stop was the café where we had our lunch. We introduced ourselves with our limited Japanese and with the help of the information on the flyer, we pointed out that FCBC Sendai is just opposite the café and there would be Singaporean and Nigerian food as well as fun and games during the event. We went on to the neighbourhood area to reach out to more people.



There were many shops and outlets such as bakeries, bag shops, salons and tuition centres that were very near our church and we focused on the owners of these shops since they are so near to FCBC Sendai. We distributed the flyers and shared about the outreach event to them and also to others on the streets. We were also praying as we outreached and

walked to a small park. There was an empty land that was quite large and one of our team members had a vision that many people as large as that empty land would fill FCBC Sendai as pastors and many others continue to plow and intercede for Japan. We prayed and affirmed that vision together!

After that, we went back to church. Pastor Caleb shared about the condition of his cell group and wanted some of us to share at cell group the next day on our journey of inviting our friends for services and cell group and how we consolidated these friends and guests. We then spent some time praying and interceding intensely for Pastor's cell group, the ministry and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Japan.



As we prayed, Pastor Caleb shared about the difference between revival and transformation. Revival is to return to its former glory, whereas transformation is a total change in the heart, form and attitude. Historically, Japan has the

lowest rate of Christians, so it is not a revival that Japan needs, it is a total transformation that Japan needs to experience. Now is the time for the Japanese to rise up and come to acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Many of us also sense this word for our own cell back in Singapore – that transformation needs to take place in our members' belief and attitude so that together we can go forth to reach out to all our friends and family members. It was indeed a powerful time of prayer and intercession where we could feel a strong presence of God refreshing and renewing our passion for the lost.

At night, we had the chance to observe and join the gospel choir. We were all divided into soprano, alto or tenor parts. It was a fun experience learning to sing in harmony as a professional gospel choir. We especially enjoyed the song, "Pray Without Ceasing". For the next few days, we would catch ourselves humming: "Pray without ceasing; pray every day; pray without ceasing; for Christ is the way; pray; earnestly pray." It became the song of our trip.

Day 6

Wednesday was cell group day and we were tasked to cook and provide dinner for the cell group. Jie Han was our chef for the day and the rest of us helped with the chopping and preparation of the food. In the afternoon, Denise, Syh Leong and Wei Ling went to the community centre to conduct an English lesson for the community kids. We taught the children about family through a game and took some time to make a card for their father because that weekend was Father's Day. We were glad that the children had fun and managed to learn some vocabulary about family.



During cell group, Mirabel, Jie Han and Wei Ling had the opportunity to share their testimony of outreach and consolidation of new believers with the cell group to encourage them to continue to sow and reach out to their friends and family.



Day 7

On Thursday, we went to two sites to pray and intercede for the nation of Japan. One of the sites was the University of Tohoku where we prayed that prayer points would be established by Godly Christians in the school so that students will have a safe community to go and share their struggles and to receive help and prayers for their needs, especially when the suicide rate of Japanese youth is one of the highest in the world. Another site was a Martyr site, a river where Christians were drowned because of their faith. We prayed that these martyrs' death were not in vain and that the gospel will be widely evangelised because of their sacrifice and the work they had done.



At night, Wei Ling and Jie Han taught English to some children who are coming to Singapore for a homestay programme. It was a fun time and the children enjoyed themselves immensely while learning some simple conversational English. At the end of the lesson, Wei Ling and Jie Han prayed and shared the gospel with them.



Day 8

In this trip, we had a unique constitution of the team. The guys are the ones who cooked and prepared the food instead of the ladies in the team. The ladies were more involved in the teaching, conducting of games and programme. The guys really enjoyed the planning and cooking for the cell and our outreach event. Our theme for the food was family, which coincided with our outreach event that was to be held on Saturday night. It was a Father's Day celebration and God the Father in His Sovereignty had already planned to use the guys to prepare the food to celebrate this wonderful day. So on this day, we woke up early to prepare the food for Saturday night's event. This time, Syh Leong was our chef and we were his assistants. We also spent the day making and packing door gifts for our invited guests for the outreach event.



On this day we also heard a testimony of a father who came to look for Pastor Caleb and Pastor Christina to register their son for the homestay in Singapore. He came to know about our programme through a friend of another friend's son, and they would be coming for our outreach event too. How amazing it is that God connects us with one another through the celebration of Father's Day.

Day 9

We woke up with great anticipation to a new day because we would be having our outreach event on this day. Throughout the past week, we had been very intentional to invite guests and people on the street, even when we were doing our grocery shopping and during one of our lunches outside. We were excited about the turnout of guests and people to our event.



After breakfast and a time of devotion committing the day into the Lord's hands, we started the final preparation of the food for tonight's dinner, catering to 50 people. Our outreach event was called Singapore night where we would play some games and present some Singapore food for our guests. It was a way for us to attract people to come for the event as well as to engage them with different activities and food. The theme was Father's Day and the menu for the night was, "lor ba", steamed chicken and "chap chye". One of Pastor's cell member, Joshua from Nigeria also cooked one of his national dish. Everyone enjoyed the food immensely and went for many second helpings.

We also had a concert by Christian singers who added hype to our event. Denise and Mirabel were the anchors for the night's event and they got the whole crowd very much engaged in the games and activities. There were at least 10 to 15 visitors for that night and everyone participated in the games enthusiastically.



After dinner and some games, Jie Han and Joshua both sang the song, "Good Good Father" to minister to the people. It was a song about testifying that God is our good Father in Heaven. Pastor shared a short message about the Father heart of God and gave an altar call thereafter. We rejoiced for a raised hand to receive Jesus while others were open to come back and know more about Jesus. There were probably about 40 to 50 people that night and all of us enjoyed each others' company massively.



We thank God for a great night of sharing about how great our Father in Heaven is and also said our goodbyes to the different Japanese friends we met there because it was our last night at FCBC Sendai.

After packing up and clearing the place, we drove back home and washed up while looking forward to gather back at Pastor's place in a while. We had decided that the night was still young and we should spend some time together to share about our experience in Japan being our last night there. We had a blessed time sharing our reflections and thoughts, and affirming one another in the team. We were especially blessed by Pastor Caleb and Christina's act of hospitality and warmth towards us. Throughout the trip we had the privilege to see Pastor Christina release prophetic words and visions and Pastor Caleb pray with a heart of a pastor and father over his disciples. Pastor Caleb shared his vision for Japan to establish 12 churches all over this nation, starting from Sendai (12th largest city in Japan) all the

way to Tokyo (the largest city in Japan). Encouraged by his heart and spirit, we returned home with a renewed heart to ask God for a vision for our own life to serve Him more.



In Closing...

Everything in Japan is beautiful. The roadside is covered with flowers of all colours. The houses are uniquely built, clean and neat. The food is nicely packed and everything tastes good. The people are polite and helpful. However, the family in Japan is suffering. Most families have an absent father at home, whether physically or emotionally. There was a small girl in the English class who drew a picture of her dad holding a glass of beer. Her mother confirmed that her husband drinks beer when he comes home. We sense that we need to stand in the gap for the children who are crying out to God for the love of their father. Their voices will not be silent and the day is coming when the Heavenly Father will draw His children to Himself. The hearts of the children will be turned to their fathers and the heart of the fathers will be turned to their children. Let us pray for Japan to be beautiful not just on the outside, but inside too. In their home, there will be the love of their father, mother and children. In Ecclesiastes 3:11 it says God has made everything beautiful in its time, He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. The time has come for this verse to come to pass in Japan. The Japanese shall know our Heavenly Father and know that He has great plans for them to live in eternity with Him. Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of the Japanese.

Dear God, now is the time for Japan. Come Holy Spirit, transform the hearts of the people and let their ears and hearts be opened to hear and acknowledge You. Father pour out Your love all over Japan and let them come to You in repentance. Pack Your church every week with pre-believers and let Your power of healing and deliverance be upon all who needs to be set free. In Jesus' name we pray in agreement, Amen.

We hope you are blessed reading our journey in Sendai as we were blessed by God throughout this trip. Do set aside some time, sign up for a LJ trip and take a flight to Sendai to serve God's community. God bless you.