

Love Japan

Sendai Mission Trip

6-15 Nov 2015



GOSPEL NIGHT

ゴスペルナイト 11/14(土) 6:00pm

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バンド生演奏
あります!

Prepared for: FCBC Missions Team, FCBC Sendai

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1. Trip Summary

Objective of trip:

- To support Ps Caleb & Christina in current stage of church planting by encouraging their members in outreach
- To intercede and understand God's larger heartbeat and plan for Japan for FCBC Sendai
- To learn from the FCBC Sendai experience and grow in the missions heartbeat

Key Activities:

- i. FCBC services including Gospel Night,
- ii. Prayer walk at Hirose River and Ishinomaki,
- iii. Outreach events including teambuilding session and Sg vs Jpn soccer match, couch surfing meetup, e-circle (kids and adults)

Key Takeaways and Follow up:

- It was a very fruitful trip in terms of learning and fruits. We saw how God directed us to hear from him clearly during the prayer walk. We also experienced the challenges of reaching out cross-culturally but we also saw how God can use the willing. Faith intermingled with faithfulness is truly powerful!
- Trip members learnt much from FCBC Sendai experience. We felt so encouraged by our Pastors' example and the FCBC Sendai members willingness to outreach. The finale event "Gospel Night" saw more than 60 participants including about 20 new-comers. 3 salvations were recorded.
- We discussed a few follow up actions for future teams so as to enhance collaboration. These include passing on knowledge to future teams, leveraging distinct skills sets, using couch surfing.

2. Overall Schedule and Roles

- Zexian: Overall team leader, songs
- Kendice: treasurer and admin, children lesson
- Carolyn and Justin: icebreakers, teambuilding, SG skit
- Cherie: Japanese translator, Testimony collation, Comms planning
- Vivian: logistics, teambuilding

Day	Activity
06 Nov	Travel
07 Nov	Orientation & FCBC Service
08 Nov	Teambuilding Outreach
09 Nov	Rest at Akiu
10 Nov	Prayer Walk @ Hirose River
11 Nov	Outreach: E-circle
12 Nov	Prayer Walk @ Ishinomaki Outreach: SG vs JPN Soccer Match
13 Nov	Outreach: Couch Surfing Meet up
14 Nov	Gospel Night
15 Nov	Travel and Return

3-i. Daily Events: FCBC Service & Orientation

- **Objective:** Observe FCBC Service and share testimony during service. Introduction to FCBC Sendai members of Singapore team.

- **Activity:** In the morning, Pastor Caleb shared with us about his call to Japan. Heard about the Japanese challenges to know Christ. Yet, there was a sense of a divine appt. We believe that this was a preparation for things to come that week. It culminated at the end of the trip with the prophetic act to affirm Pastor's calling.
- During service, Pastor Caleb shared on Luke 18:1-8, on the parable of the persistent widow. The uncaring and possibly unjust judge gave the widow her justice simply because she persistently came to her with her plea. If a judge who doesn't care about people or God can grant the widow's request because of her persistence, what more our God, who cares and loves us more than anything and who gave his life for us.
- **Takeaway:** I am reminded to persist in my prayers towards God, and to trust that He will answer our prayers. We were persistent in praying and inviting people that we met for the Gospel Night and God did indeed answer our prayers. God knows the needs of his people and when He answers, He opens the floodgates to pour out his blessings in abundance; we cannot miss it. Gospel Night and the people we brought were simply the accumulation of the prayers of the intercessors for LJ, and all our prayers before the trip and during.
- Am also reminded of the sharing in our grp, on sowing and reaping of the harvest - we all play the role of sowers and harvesters in this journey. And this is one step closer to the harvest; we are simply vessels of God, brought to do his work because we have been faithful and persistent in seeking God and praying for his people.
- I pray that we will remember the times God has broke through for us, and to continue in our faithfulness and perseverance, to answer the call He has for our lives and to fulfil the purposes He has planned for us.



Orientation at Yuko-san's apartment. Strict rules on volume. Praying that there will be freedom to minister at their home soon.



Pastor preaching, Kishi-san interpreting. FCBC Sendai has a strong worship and translation team!



Justin taking the initiative to pray for Ichiro-san. We see a desire to serve God in the Japanese believers despite their fears of rejection amongst their own people. Depression is widespread as people struggle to conform to societal expectations.



Guys in Japan arise! There is an international flavour in FCBC Sendai. We saw Chinese, Nigerians, Jamaicans, Canadians, Singaporeans and of course Japanese. Many returning Japanese find Christ overseas and return.

3-ii. Daily Events: Teambuilding Session

- **Objective:** Conduct a games/telematch for invitees from FCBC Sendai community. Unfortunately quite a few youths couldn't make it and we had to change a bit of the program last minute.
- **Activity:** Invitees came mainly from the contacts of FCBC Sendai. These included the gospel choir that the church hosts. We had a good time to get to know them. After a meal, we played teambuilding games hosted by Justin, Carolyn and Vivian. Kendice and Ps Christina did a debrief.
- Pastor Christina came in to conduct the debrief for the day by using a piece of paper to fold into a cross. The activity explains that Jesus brings us LIFE
- **Takeaway:** The felt needs of the mums were evident. Japanese mums are amazing. They have to be the perfect housewife, take on all the burden of the home while their husband is most of the time away at work. We thought the games helped to blow some steam. A highlight was to see Footie's husband
- Schools also apply a lot of pressure on the students and bullying at school is rampant, resulting in children who drop out of school. This is supported by the government for fear of rising suicide rates. Footie, who's kids have dropped out of school because of the pressure is a case in point where the parents seem helpless to know what to do for their kids. There may be an opportunity to hold a camp for out of school kids to help with their socialisation.
- Although there was a change in the program, it was still great fun. The youths enjoyed themselves and they subsequently came for the Gospel Night as well.



Enjoying a meal together, prepared by Ps Christina and Kazu-san



Playing "Disentanglement" but did not quite succeed..



Playing teambuilding games "Skipping Rope"

3-iii. Daily Events: Prayer walk @ Hirose River

- **Objective:** To retrace the steps of Christian martyrs who were prosecuted during 17th century.
- **Background:** During the shogunate reign of Tokugawa Ieyasu in the 1600s, he persecuted the Christians. He set a decree to organise communes in groups of 5, and if anyone in this the grp converts, the rest must report him immediately because if they don't and the authorities find out, all 5 of them will be tortured and put to death, perpetuating an atmosphere of fear and paranoia. Sendai was a last haven for Christians partly due to sympathies by the Miyagi daimyo Date Masamune. He later retracted his stand and support persecution.
- The Christian Martyr Monument commemorated the deaths of a Catholic Priest Diego Carvalho and 9 other Japanese believers. 2 died on the way to Sendai, the rest died in Hirose river. The Christians who were put to death were placed in the river to slowly freeze to death. But they did not renounce their faith.
- **Activity:** The Lord prompted us to go beyond the monument to the river bed. When we went there, we saw a cross next to the river, made with rocks. It may have been put there by another grp of Christians who came to prayer walk the city. We added more rocks to make the cross bigger. We felt like God was reminding us that He has never left Japan and the blood of the martyrs were not shed in vain.
- **Reflection:** These martyrs never saw Jesus in their lifetime. It was the period where there was no movement of the Holy Spirit, hence they didn't even hear testimonies of healing or deliverance. In our modern day term, it was a 'spiritually dry' period for the church and the believers. Yet they did not deny Jesus because they made a decision to be faithful to the end. It made me think about my own walk, and I'm thankful that this is the time that I live in, where I can witness the move of the Holy Spirit, all the more, how am I living a life that honors God?



Christian Martyrs Monument



Write up on Monument



Portrait of Date Masamune

3-iii. Daily Events: Prayer walk @ Hirose River



Enlarging a cross we found on the riverbed.

God reminded us that (i) He has not left Japan since the martyrs' death. They shall not die in vain, (ii) We are to continue to build on their work. It is not complete yet. As a prophetic act, we enlarged the cross that we found.



Pastors looking over the river at the cross.

The martyrs died under the bridge. The river formed a moat surrounding the Sendai castle. Date's stronghold



"God is LoveLove Japan"

The kids also formed the words God is Love. Truly he draws near to us even when we are not looking for him. He demonstrates His love in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8



View from the bridge at the enlarged cross.

God was reminding us that our job is to make His glory visible through the laying down of our lives.

Understanding of the Japan's history of the martyrs to uphold their Christianity faith enlarged my understanding of discipleship. It dawned on me that I have so much more to grow in my discipleship. The way I grow my relationship with God is more functional than personal though I have had knowledge of the importance of doing His will. I wonder to myself, how much was the death of the martyrs in freezing waters compared to the "suffering" I face at work where I'm just called upon to be God's mouthpiece to do His work in a peaceful environment which also believes in people developmental work. Where did these people of God (Japanese) get their strength from to die for Christ? It is important that I need to set aside time and space to grow in my relationship with God through:

1. Prayer that really seeks the heart of God
2. Devotion to know His word and character
3. Serve Him in every ways e.g. in daily interaction with others that showcase His presence in my life, doing His will for my life and sharing the gospel with others so that more would come to know the Lord.

While it's clear to me what I need to do, it's another to go against all odds to do. I need to meditate and walk daily on these verses in Matthew 16:24-27 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Sharing by Vivian Lau

3-iv. Daily Events: E-Circle, Kids Brown

- **Objective:** Participate in english lessons so that we can reachout to the kids and their parents. Japanese are keen to learn English and it becomes a useful platform to reach out.
- **Background:** We have heard that while there is interest to learn English, we have not really penetrated to reach out to the parents yet.
- **Activity:** There are three platforms for english learning.
 1. Adult E-circle (Pastor Caleb and Christina provides conversational participation with a group of Japanese keen to learn English)
 2. Kids E-circle which is free (conducted by Yuko-san)
 3. Kids BrownFee paying (conducted by Tai-san, one of FCBC Sendai's church members)
- **Takeaways:** During one of the conversations with the parents, Kendice managed to share why we chose to homeschool. Subsequently, one of the mothers actually came for the Gospel Night. We realise the key target of these classes could be the mums rather than the children. Rose was a great help in engaging the mums.
- We realise that there is a huge need at home. Husbands and wives lead very separate lives resulting many times in breakup of the home. The divorce rate for first year marriage is higher than 1/3. There is an opportunity for discussion topics on parenting or marriage to be a point of conversation.



E-Circle, participating with kids in songs



E-Circle, doing crafts with kids



Keiko-san with kids who came to Gospel night



Kids participating in Kids Brown with Tai-san.

3-v. Daily Events: Prayer walk @ Ishinomaki

- **Objective:** Visit an exhibition in Ishinomaki to learn about the life and voyage of Tsunenaga Hasekura, an envoy sent by Date Masamune to bring Christianity to Japan.

- We felt this was divinely arranged. Justin shared this: “I had a vision of a ship sailing ferociously over big ocean wave when I was praying within a week for the trip. Never did we plan to visit San Juan Bautista ship. It was an hour drive from Sendai. And our pastors had never been there over the past 4 years.”
- We found out that there was an exhibition at the museum “The real reason why Date built the ship”. It suggested that it was because of a tsunami 400 years ago in 1611, exactly where the tsunami hit in 2011. Date, the daimyo over Sendai sent the ship called 'St John the Baptist' to Europe to open the doors of Sendai to missionaries. However, great persecution fell onto Christians in Japan and the mission was considered a failed mission.
- We felt that 400 years of silence is over and where God had willed for the gospel to be open will be open once again. We believe 400yrs is not sheer coincidence because the time lapse between the old and new testament is 400yrs. And it was aft the 400yrs of silence from the old testament that Jesus was born. Indeed, the mission wasn't a failed one but a preparation for the Lord.
- It was the tsunami that opened the hearts of the people to the gospel then, and now God will reopen the hearts again. As a result of the 2011 tsunami, Ps Caleb and Christina came to Japan, along with many believers from across Japan, who stayed put in Sendai.



Date sent out “John the Baptist” to seek help after a tsunami 400 years ago



Team overlooking the replica vessel of “John the Baptist”



The voyage took many years to complete but failed in its mission.



John, named after John the Baptist on “John the Baptist”



The actual ship “John the Baptist”. One of team members saw a vision of a ship prior to the trip.

- **Takeaway:** Our God is a relentless God. Even though Japan was a nation that rejected Him, He continued to send missionaries there. And we felt that God was telling us that this is the time for Japan, that He has never left Japan and He will move in this nation, just like how He sent Jesus after 400yrs of silence.

3-v. Daily Events: Prayer walk @ Ishinomaki

Reflection by FCBC Sendai Team member Yuko-san

- Together with Love Japan mission team, we went to Sant Jaun Bautista Museum in Ishinomaki city. It was very meaningful time and I learned a lot. The ship, Sant Juan Bautista was made for the purpose of sending Keicho Envoy Mission team including Hasekura Tsunenaga. I didn't know the meaning of Sant Juan Bautista since it's in Spanish, but it means John the Baptist, who cried out, 'prepare the way' in the wilderness before Jesus comes.
- On March 2011, we experienced huge earthquake and Tsunami. Exactly 400 years ago in 1611, there was Keicyo Great Earthquake and Tsunami came as same as 2011. 2 years later, Sendai's Lord Date Masamune decided to send 'John the Baptist Ship' towards Mexico and Spain to seek direct trade with Mexico and also to get permission to send Christian missionaries to Japan to spread Christianity. The picture of Japan being helped by overseas missionaries after the disaster is same in 400 years ago. Even now, pastor Caleb and mission team from Singapore came to help Japanese people after the disaster, and I felt it is very meaningful.
- Hasekura Tsunenaga went to Mexico, Spain, which were Christian countries at that time, and believed in Jesus and baptized. He is one of the returnees Christian like as me! But how he went through during the journey was much much harder than me, cannot even be compared. In the ship he had to curl up his body and sleep in the tiny bed which is only 130cm long, to lessen the burden from shaking of the ship. He was heavily stressed; in spite of his hard work, negotiation didn't go well. This journey shorten his life.
- I went to the U.S. and became Christian and spent there for 7 years. (Of course I went through struggles), but compare the to the sufferings he went through, my struggles are like nothing.
- By the time Hasekura Tsunenaga went back to Japan after 7 years journey, Tokugawa started to persecute Christians in Japan. He shared gospel with his younger brother and his brother was converted, but was killed later on. He himself also died because of sickness couple years after his return. Just by hearing that, his had such a sad life. But in the same time, his life is remembered by many people even now, and he was like John the Baptist who prepare the way before Jesus come.
- Kendice shared a verse from Isaiah 66 "or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery? says the Lord. Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery? says the Lord." Revival in Japan would not be brought forth in a moment. But our God is not the one who once started and give up on the way. He who began a good work will carry it on to completion.



Tsunenaga was baptised while on the trip. May of the 180 envoys converted and were later persecuted for their faith



Tsunenaga welcomed in Rome, but did not win the favour of Spain

3-vi. Daily Events: Sg vs Jpn Soccer Match, Couch Surfing

- **Objective:** To provide an outreach platform using (i) Soccer Match, (ii) Couch Surfing for youths or young adults using a cross cultural platform. We also extended invite to several newcomers for the Saturday Gospel night. Couch surfing provided us access to a group of English speaking, culturally open Japanese who were ready to make friends and relatively open to new ideas and relationships.
- **Activity:** FCBC Sendai members and us invited several friends to come and watch the SG vs JPN game at Chillax. These friends included some cold contacts from couch surfing. We conducted some icebreakers and also an game during half time. It was lots of fun and we managed to invite 3 guests to Gospel Night. About 50% of the invitees from Soccer Night came.
- Through Carolyn, who was adept at the couch surfing platform, we managed to meet up with about 8-10 totally random strangers throughout the week, who also brought their friends to the Gospel night. A summary of contacts are provided in the Annex.
- Out of these couch surfing contacts, 6 are from the local university. One of them (Kotaro-san) joined us for impromptu dinner after coffee on Friday and all of Saturday including the gospel night. He will also be coming to SG for 3 months next year.
- **Takeaways:** The mix of a formal and informal platform worked. Felt the Japanese while liking large social platforms as a point of release, connect better in more intimate settings. We should consider such private meetups in future.
- Pastor Caleb shared that this is a breakthrough in the sense that they have not been able to get into the university students even though their own member in the university can't get the jap students as he is not a local. Through couch surfing, we hit a soft spot in terms of reaching a group of open, English speaking contacts. There are plans to engage these contacts in Kensenumma service trips where we need English translators. Pls pray that Pastor and the FCBC Sendai team can connect with them and follow up.



Justin leading icebreakers



Playing the "Guess the Score" Game!

Watching the game. Score was SGP 0- JPN 3



3-vi. Daily Events: Sg vs Jpn Soccer Match, Couch Surfing

Carolyn's perspective of the evolution of Couch Surfing:

- How the idea came about: Over a late night conversation with the ladies from the team, we thought of ways of how we can outreach to the people of Sendai through social media. Being an avid traveler myself, I subscribed to a social networking site called Couchsurfing. Members can travel to different countries and seek for locals to host people in their country or to arrange for a meet up while they are in their country. We immediately thought about searching for the hosts and members who are from Sendai and felt that we should send a message out to the people who live in Sendai to try to meet up with them and to invite them for the soccer match outreach on Thursday. Our end purpose was to invite them for the Gospel Festival Night on Saturday.
- Online Execution: Pastors Caleb & Christina were up for the idea and we began work that evening. We sent a few messages to the 180 members and 450 hosts in Sendai narrowing down to those who have logged in within the last 1-month. This was to ensure that these people are active and current on the site. We reached out to about 40 of them and those who could meet up responded to us. We subsequently created an event on Couch Surfing to woo the Japanese to join us for the soccer match as it was for Singapore vs Japan. 2 of them responded that they would come for the event – Shunsuke and Buchi. 1 of them dropped me a text after seeing the event and told me that he would turn up for the event – T M.
- Physical Engagement: We then began our preparation for the soccer match after our prayer walk at Ishinomaki. Shunsuke first turned up in his Japan soccer jersey and subsequently Buchi came with a friend, Shun. T M also turned up just in time for the Japan stewed soup made by Kishi. It was a night of great fun and we managed to connect with the 4 of them over dinner. Despite T M leaving earlier, we managed to play games with Shunsuke, Buchi and Shun. Indeed, through these amazing connection and the games we had, we managed to persuade the 3 guys to come for our Gospel Festival Night to watch us perform.
- Follow up: We continued our work by corresponding with the others for the event. Those who could not come for the soccer match we redirected them to a meet up on Saturday evening even though we were afraid they might feel awkward if we told them it was a church event. We tried to arrange for meet-ups on Fridays for coffee so that we could build some rapport before inviting them for Saturday Gospel night. Eventually, the group of us separated and met up with 3 new friends - Ryoko at a café, and Kotaro and Tanaka at a Japanese pasta shop. It was quite an amazing day because we managed to connect with Ryoko about traveling in Singapore as well as architecture with Tanaka. Kotaro continued to bring us around Sendai Station and we eventually invited him for a home-cooked dinner in the church where he could meet the rest of our group.
- The warmth and love we showed to Kotaro in the church made him decide to cancel his badminton session and spend Saturday with us. It was definitely a divine appointment made by God so that we are able to reach out to him. Zexian subsequently shared John 3:16 with him alongside Vivian in the church and we managed to deepen his understanding about Christianity.



John playing with Kotaro-san.

3-vi. Daily Events: Gospel Night

- **Objective:** Evangelistic service using the Gospel festival as a backdrop to invite Sendai locals to participate in a church service. Singapore team also provided a cross cultural networking platform.
- **Activity:** Cooked Imoeni, a traditional Miyagi prefecture dish, performed Singapore dance, Lee family did a Japanese worship song (including kids!), with the main gospel performance by the Japanese band. Pastor Caleb gave the altar call.
- Justin shared “We claimed that the gospel night event will have 50 people. The biggest crowd that the church has ever had is much lesser than that but we pray that it will happen. The crowd is easily 60pax. Minus our Singapore team members which is 9, we have at least 51 people at the event. We heard it was the biggest group event the church has ever had at Sendai!” There were also 20 new visitors. Prior to the trip, Justin had a vision of 3 Japanese men that accepted Christ. Indeed, 3 Japanese men accept Jesus Christ! It was an encouragement to the FCBC Sendai church.
- Carolyn shared: “God is timely, accurate and He gave us exactly what we wanted. We thank God for His faithfulness and we knew then God’s presence was always there with us. It reminded me of this verse: Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayers, believe that you have received it and it will be yours. All glory goes to Him.”
- **Takeaway:** Ps Caleb shared that this is a breakthrough trip coz he had not given altar call during any previous team's mission trip activities and it was mainly contact building and social. Altar call is a breakthrough for Japanese as they feel it will be too intimidating. Even during Christmas big churches don't give altar call.



20 new visitors mingling with SG team.



Dinner at Gospel Night. Imoeni and bahzhang were the highlights



Group shot at the end of Gospel Nite



Performing “O Happy Day” with the Lee Band

3-vi. Daily Events: Gospel Night

- Subsequently, we performed a prophetic act for the church members to retrace footsteps of the martyrs to bring the gospel and revival throughout Japan starting with the 12 biggest cities.
- It was also very heartwarming to see the church members sow into the vision and participating in the prophetic act that revival is coming to Japan. So we are very grateful for being part of this process and very grateful we are at a significant moment in this stage of FCBC Sendai growth. Please pray that ps cc's jap members will catch the heartbeat and see that it is possible to reach out.



ZX explaining prophetic act to participants



Reaffirming the mission and call over Pastor to bring revival to Japan



Pastor planting the first pin in the City of Sendai.



Members connecting 12 cities with Sendai with red ribbon symbolising the blood of the martyrs and the Lamb.



Declaring the revival will spread through Sendai to the 12 largest cities of Japan

4. Concluding Reflections

Reflection (1): God is able to use those who trust (rely on, hope confidently and lean on) in Him to be a part of His revival plan for the nations

- We went more unprepared than most other mission trips we have been on because of the short runway. We only had 4 meetings and there wasn't a lot of visibility of what was to come as there were quite a bit of change in plans. However, God showed us that He had a plan. In many ways, our lack of plans forced us to work together as a team, to learn to seek and discern what he was saying and also defer to the team on the ground. We learnt so much from the team and in retrospect, we are glad for the way it evolved.
- Kendice shared “Ptl for His provision, that though we were totally unprepared, He orchestrated everything. Indeed we serve a great God!”.
- Justin shared this: “This is a trip of miracles. I was recharged, refreshed and renewed. I thought I will find myself struggling a lot in contacting with the Japanese as language is my biggest concern, somehow I felt at ease. My greatest takeaway is during the gospel night. Somehow I felt God lead as the Holy Spirit is in me in doing what He wants me to do. I emceed with a Japanese guy, Kishi, who was the translator. I had never conducted a session with having a translator even though I had been on the stage front for years. But as we delivered the session, it just feel naturally and our synergy seems top form. Language isn't my greatest barrier. I am my greatest barrier. With God, I can do all things!



Going in faith despite feeling uncertain about the program at hand, and first time to Japan

- Vivian shared – “I learned more about God's heart for the lost and how as His children, it is also my responsibility to be part of the revival work instead of focusing on leading my own life.”

4. Concluding Reflections

Reflection (2): Cross cultural challenges in outreaching to the Japanese

- While Japan as a mission field has a comfortable standard of living far above most developing nations. There are very real challenges on the ground from an insular, inward looking attitude which finds it hard to relate to a personal God makes it hard to develop deep relationships with the Japanese, explain to them the problem of sin and the prize of salvation. During this trip, I saw how difficult it is to share the gospel in Japan. Ps Caleb shared that because of the Japanese culture, even during church services, many pastors do not give invitation to receive Christ even during Christmas service because it can be perceived as being pushy. Inviting someone to an event, be it Christmas party, English class etc is also considered pushy if u ask for rsvp.
- The only type of missionaries that can survive and thrive are those who are resolved in the following ways: (i) Not afraid to be rejected, (ii) Not afraid to fail, (iii) Not afraid to be humbled.



Enjoying break time with Japanese friends: Yuko-san, Tai-san, at Akiu Falls



Worshipping God in the open in the cleft of His palm along a river.

4. Concluding Reflections

Reflection (3): Thanking God for FCBC, our pastors and the FCBC DNA. We can truly impact the nations!

- I really learn a lot from Ps Caleb and Christina's journey as disciples of Jesus. I believe there is a reason why God chose him here. He's really not afraid and have a dare to do spirit. For our Pastors, they are at an age where they can enjoy their achievements in life, but they still are willing to start from scratch, uprooting themselves from a comfortable home setting to a foreign land that is testing them both physically (pioneering work at their age) and emotionally (learning new culture and language), just so that they fulfil their calling from God in Japan. We saw how hectic their schedule is because there were just so many needs.
- I think that's why FCBC has a lot to offer to the church in Japan. We have the DNA that is needed to strike new ground in Japan. Pastor Christina said that indeed, it is something that she embraced from Ps Khong and she knows that this is a blessing. Ps Christina shared the FCBC DNA is to be fearless when moved by faith, and strategic in positioning. I agree. Without the fearlessness, we would be so easily daunted by the challenges. Without the faith to believe God for the impossible, we would be moving in the natural and be easily encumbered by the weight of the status quo. Without the strategic thinking, we will not see the opportunities in this strategic time and in this strategic place to bring revival to Japan.
- Ultimately we felt we were there to serve the larger church in Japan. To infuse the spiritual labourers on the ground with the FCBC DNA. I realize we had so much to bring as a church and I'm glad that FCBC Sendai is the first church to be called an FCBC church. It's really different when we go to a church planted by our own people. I feel like the whole church is standing behind us. We mustn't fail.



Pastors worshipping during FCBC Sendai service.



Selfies with our heroes, the Pastors.



Looking hip and happening always!

4. Concluding Reflections

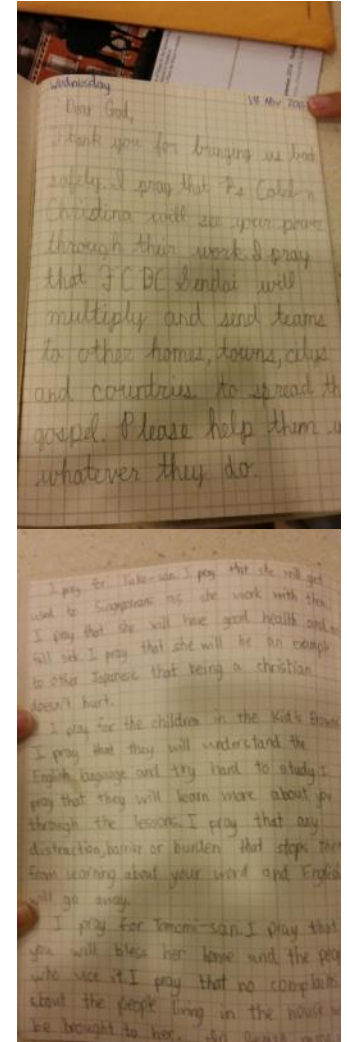
Reflection (4): Children are arrows only if we, as parents release them.

- I struggled a lot to go on the trip, cried at service because I couldn't surrender my fears to the Lord. Fears of radiation on my kids, fears of earthquake and the hindrance of a logical mind (I do not know the language, don't even know the program, ROI is low as compared w Zexian going on his own). Finally I decided to go and I saw how God used my kids. They were like our life savers, in a foreign land. They picked up the language faster than us and Elsbeth and Esther performed solo many times, in Japanese. They were natural icebreakers, encouraging otherwise aloof strangers to open up to us. And God used Elsbeth and Esther to encourage the pastors. They will stay in Ps Caleb n Christina's room to chat with them and telling them about their own 3x3 etc.
- The daily schedule was erratic. Sometimes lunches would be [at 2pm](#), dinners [at 9pm](#) and by the time everyone bathed, we usually go to bed [at 11pm-12am](#). Kids missed their naps or take naps in between car rides. Yet when we explained to them that it was important for them to play with the people we are meeting etc, they all rose up to the occasion, despite being on overdrive. I saw a different side of my kids. I never knew they could adapt so well without sufficient sleep for almost 10days. This was a first for me. I know that all these are not possible if we didn't release them, and if I chose to hold on to my fears.

Reflection (5): There is a spiritual heritage that we pass on to our children in releasing them

- The kids, even John, caught on many things during this trip. They saw how pastors ministered, they went with us for prayer walk and heard stories of these martyrs. They saw firsthand how God orchestrated everything. Esther started writing prayers for her kindergarten friends in notes to pass to them when she goes back to Sg. In each note, she prayed that they will come to know Jesus. Elsbeth told me that she understood why Japan needed Jesus and she told me that God used our 5 loaves and 2 fish.
- Even though they are young, I know that something was deposited in them. I pray that these deposits will see them thru the times if they ever question the reality of God. Our ceiling is the floor that our children will stand on. Let's raise our ceiling so that our children can stand on high ground! It is the best gift that we can give to them.

Prepared by Kendice Chan, Lee Cheh Hsien



Elsbeth's prayer for the Sendai team during Devotion after returning from Japan.

5. Follow Up Actions

Follow Up Ideas

Person to Consider Opportunity

Set up discussion between Pastor and team so that developing a program suited for the team's strengths is possible. We found it to be very effective and enjoyable for us. It is good to connect the LJ team & Ps CC 6 weeks before trip to prep better for the trip.

Ps and FCBC Missions

Possible new platforms to explore for future teams:

- Couch Surfing (CS) as a way to make new friends
- Kesennuma as a service learning point for pre-believers who are English speaking
- Music club? Youth gospel choir?- there are many talented musicians within the community. I believe there is potential to expand this to engage the youth
- Chinese speaking community- Chinese are looking for a group that they can fit in.
- Youth camp during school holidays?
- Parenting discussion groups as a platform to engage Japanese parents whose kids are involved in e-circle?

- LJ team to intro CS to future teams
- Ps to consider engaging contacts
- Ps to consider opportunity. Maybe Sch of Mod Lev can consider a trip
- CH start FB grp w Chinese contacts
- Ps to consider . Team from youth?
- Maybe can leverage 1st 60days community

Develop and add to Contacts Summary trip upon trip so that we can continue to follow up with the contacts even after we have left

LJ team have started a Contact Summary. This can be handed over to build on.

Enhance FCBC Sendai's online presence. Ideas include:

- (i) Each of them to write a blog post to increase the coverage on FCBC Sendai's blog,
- (ii) FCBCSendai to make Facebook page more alive with more reflections / blog posts
- (iii) Events such as the Alpha series can still be made known online

LJ team to explore further people who can assist.

Use previous team to brief subsequent LJ teams so as to cover latest details, esp on individual follow up. Learning points from previous teams can be compiled, e.g.:

- Logistics list for what can be made available in Japan, and what should be brought from SGP can be compiled
- What items have been shared (food or dance) so that it doesn't need to be repeated
- Dos and Don'ts list as well as background to Japanese culture.

FCBC Missions team
We would be happy to volunteer to assist with the next briefing.

To expedite booking of tickets, the booking can be done by the team. Tickets was more than 50% of trip budget, so it is quite significant.

FCBC Missions team

Because we may be conducting large scale events (e.g. Gospel Night), it is good to brief future LJ teams to cater a logistic budget to support such events. (This was done for our team and we think it would be helpful for the FCBC Sendai team in future as well)

FCBC Mission team

Annex II: Japanese Songs Prepared

- Happy Day: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9US1NPte014>
- Hosanna in the highest: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Malh8EhEITY>
- Jesus at the center: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=01f0mWZIKb8>
- Stronger: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ooH7C_Tfy9Y
- Shout to the Lord: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ueEqoupddmc>
- Say to The Lord I Love You: <https://m.youtube.com/results?q=say%20to%20the%20lord%20i%20love%20you&sm=1>
- I Will Follow Him <https://youtu.be/M-43tlrBoRk>
- O Happy Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlzrzpYlVdc>



Lyrics & Chords



Songbk

Annex III: Budget Used

All Japan team meals included Sendai team members expenses.
Children expenses were separately logged and paid for by Lees.

Love Japan 6-15 Nov 2015

Items	Amt per pax (SGD)	No. of pax	Total (SGD)	Total (Yen)
Total amount paid (6 adults)	1,800.00	6	10,800.00	
less: Amt paid for Air Tkts -Sin- Narita -Sin - Group	1,015.00	6	6,090.00	
less: JR Pass	258.00	6	1,548.00	
less: Biscuits, Kueh Lapis, Miscellaneous	360.00	1	360.00	
Balance in SGD			2,802.00	
Convert to Yen at rate: 11.66				240,308.75

Itemised Expenses	Amt per pax (USD)	No. of pax	No. of day	Total (Yen) Forecast
6/11 Food				\$9,000.00
7/11 Food				21,385.00
8/11 Food				16,186.00
9/11 Food				52,392.00
10/11 Food				39,558.00
11/11 Food				44,022.00
12/11 Food				10,764.00
12/11 Tickets to Sant Juan exhibition				6,300.00
13/11 Food				16,406.00
13/11 Daiso items purchase and food for Gospel night				1,078.00
14/11 Food				8,082.00
15/11 Food				15,135.75
Total in Yen				240,308.75
Balance funds in Yen				(0.00)
Equivalent in SGD				-