

# Japan Update

Winter 2017 Number 72



*Dr. Christopher Wright (left) delivered powerful keynote lectures at JCE6 with Dr. Atsuyoshi Fujiwara, translator.*

## The Church: Living out the gospel and serving communities in pain

reflecting on Dr. Christopher Wright's keynote lectures at JCE6

In September 2016, the Sixth Japan Congress on Evangelism (JCE6) was held in Kōbe, a city now remarkably restored after being devastated 21 years ago by a gigantic earthquake. During the conference, I couldn't help repeatedly asking myself a few questions:

How much will have been restored in the depopulated disaster-stricken areas of Tōhoku 16 years from now?

What about the areas suffering from the nuclear power plant accidents?

What should churches that have been sent to such communities consider to be their life and work focus?

It has been over five years since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster. The Lord has opened our eyes and taught us much through the support activities we have been involved in throughout the stricken areas.

Evangelical churches in the coastal regions of Tōhoku—the areas most affected by the earthquake and tsunami—had very little contact with each other. However, after the earthquake church relationships changed dramatically. A strong *kizuna* (tie) was established both among local churches and beyond local boundaries

**Masaki  
Sasaki**  
Coordinator,  
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Network  
Pastor,  
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Church



with significant aid from various Christian support groups, and denominational unity and cooperation at the highest levels.

Such a dynamic change in the relationship among the churches in Tōhoku has brought us new perspective in our understanding of the church, mission, and the gospel.

At JCE6, we welcomed Dr. Christopher J. H. Wright as the main speaker. His focus was on how we Christians in Japan should view “mission” on the 170th anniversary of Protestant missions in this country. Reflecting on Dr. Wright's four lectures, I believe he has given historical significance to our disaster relief ministry and networks, as well as a theological basis, which we have been working through since 2011. When considering the “his-

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torical significance” of our relief ministries, I see it as relating to the history of God’s mission itself, rather than only the history of the church.

In his first lecture, Dr. Wright took up the story of Elisha’s young servant, whose eyes were opened by God when the horses and chariots of the



August 2016: Typhoon damage in Tohoku disaster area

Aramean army surrounded the city of Dothan. He had been terrified, but when he saw the multitude of horses and chariots of fire around him, he realized the presence and power of God. Then, rather than killing the Arameans, Elisha had a great feast prepared for them and sent them back unhurt to their master. Dr. Wright explained that it was God’s will to show the works of his mission, which would bring his righteousness and mercy to the whole world through the offspring of Abraham.

For us in the Tōhoku area, the earthquake/tsunami disaster was an eye-opening experience. It was indeed a terrifying event that caused deep sorrow and pain. This experience, however, has changed how we see the lives of both those who are suffering and the people who make a living in those areas. We have been forced to reconsider why churches are planted in that very area and what they should be doing. We Christians tend to see “the world” as something opposed to the church. But we need to see each person in the world as someone God loves and cares about. My eyes were opened and I came to know this truth: the church, even though a minority in Japan, has to serve the world and share in the life of the community to which it has been sent. Its purpose is not limited to “protecting itself” or engaging in evangelism.

When we first established the 3.11 Iwate Church Network after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, we were convinced we should make the gospel central to our operations and any kind of relief activities, as this was to be a ministry of churches. I am quite sure that was what Dr. Wright was referring to when he talked about the centrality of the gospel in his second lecture.

The church must get involved with the world not only in evangelistic matters, but also in reaching out with hands of love—precisely because we live out the gospel in this wounded world and put the gospel at our very center.

As our network members organized and began to reach out to suffering and hurting people, we heard many voices saying, “How could God dare to allow such a disaster as this?” It was not merely the matter of this disaster, nor was it a question of how God sees calamities like this. Rather, it seems to me people were questioning how God

sees a world full of sin and pain and whether he’s really concerned about human beings.

In the third lecture, Dr. Wright’s focus was on the “world.” He shared how the Bible sees the world in two contrasting ways—on one hand, as a good world created by God, but on the other hand, as a sinful world opposed to God. We learned that we always need to keep this in mind. Although painful, undesirable things inevitably happen, we all live in a world over which God reigns, a world God cares about, and a world God deeply loves. Even if our small efforts cannot take away all the pain or meet all the needs people ask for help with, we should keep doing our small part, believing God will continue his saving work for the sake of his love, righteousness, and faithfulness.

In our disaster relief, cooperative relationships previously inconceivable have been built beyond the boundaries of churches, church groups, and denominations. This experience made me appreciate the catholicity of the Christian Church deeper and gave me a great joy of that catholicity. Yet, it is not that easy to maintain the unity and cooperation of churches—which is easy to practice in times of

emergency like the Tōhoku catastrophe—as an ongoing regular ministry. In that sense, “the unity of the church,” the subject of



3.11 Iwate Church Network retreat in 2016

the fourth lecture, was in fact the most challenging. No matter how committed we are to the task, we are merely forgiven sinners. On many occasions we have found it difficult to maintain unity and continue our cooperation with one another. What pierced my heart, however, was the question of how the church and each Christian, entrusted by God with “the gospel of reconciliation,”

can preach the gospel to a world divided by sin if we ourselves do not live by that very gospel—and if we, as the sanctified, do not know the blessing and power of becoming “one.”

As one who has experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and engaged in the subsequent disaster relief activity, through listening to the lectures of Dr. Christopher Wright at JCE6, I came to this conclusion: it is essential that the church live out the gospel in this world, and sustain its life by the gospel. As a church full of hope, let us walk in the grace-filled, real power of the gospel.

(translated by Nobue Tachiki)

## JCE6: "Re-VISION"ing God's mission in Japan

*Kenichi Shinagawa, General Secretary, Japan Evangelical Association*

The 6th Japan Congress on Evangelism (JCE6) took place in Kōbe on September 27th to 30th, 2016. More than 2,100 (60% pastors/missionaries) gathered from all over Japan and also from other parts of the world to engage the theme "Re-VISION Toward Regeneration: The Gospel, the World, and Opportunities" (theme verse 2 Kings 6:17). Through the daily keynote lecture series of Dr. Christopher Wright, 15 projects, and 44 workshops, God encouraged us and gave us a renewed vision of mission in Japan.



A "koinonia" group at JCE6

The first Japan Congress on Evangelism (JCE) was held in Kyoto in 1974 with Dr. John Stott as the keynote speaker. Since then, JCE has served as a milestone event

for the evangelical church community in Japan—where church leaders come together to cast the vision of mission in Japan for the coming decade. JCE6 was the first JCE set up on the basis of seven-year recurring cycle and therefore it was structured differently from previous JCEs in several important ways.

First, it focused on connecting participants to one another and building networks of mission cooperation. In the past, participants sat in auditorium seats, listened to great messages and were inspired but they remained isolated and the impact of the congress didn't last long. This time, participants were assigned to eight-member table groups called "koinonia" and discussed various topics together throughout the whole event. Through this kind of fellowship, they developed meaningful ministry relationships as well as encouraging friendships.

Second, it was a project-based congress, which means that more importance was placed on advancing the Kingdom of God through the continuous ministry of projects rather than on the JCE event itself. The congress is just a launching point where we confirm the shared vision and expand our networks. But the real work happens in between the congresses, through these projects on the ground. Each participant chose to participate in one of the 15 JCE6 projects. The "koinonia" was organized by project selection. So the personal networking in the table groups is meant to be carried over to ministry partnerships that continue after the congress.

### JCE6 Project List

- P1: Pursuing maturity in biblical faith
- P2: Japanese society and mission
- P3: Church and State
- P4: Building sustainable society

- P5: Disaster ministry
- P6: Family ministry
- P7: Diaspora ministry
- P8: Business as mission
- P9: Church planting
- P10: Churches bearing burdens together (Rural Ministry)
- P11: Youth ministry
- P12: Children's ministry (4-14 Window)
- P13: Japan mission 170 to 200 (statistical analysis and strategy)
- P14: Mission infrastructure building ("Re-VISION"ing JEA's role)
- P15: Calling the church back to HIS (humility, integrity, simplicity)

Instead of Congress statements as in previous JCEs, we have the *Guide Book Toward JCE7* that includes the purpose and goals of each project, which will serve as the guide to advance together toward JCE7 (2023 in Nagoya).

Third, the concept of "analogia" commission was introduced to enhance actual mission cooperation in local contexts. In Kōbe, six "analogia" commissions that are analogous to six JEA commissions (mission, theology, social, relief, women, and youth) were formed. These "analogia" commissions hosted local cross-denominational ministry events to strengthen local churches in Kōbe. This "analogia" system aims to connect local churches to JCE6 projects as well as global Evangelical Alliance networks (WEA and AEA) through JEA.

Fourth and most importantly, we incorporated "Re-VISION"ing of JEA itself as one of the projects (P14). JEA has matured as the national alliance of evangelical churches over the years, and now we feel God is calling us to



More than 2,100 gathered for JCE6 in Kōbe

take more missional initiatives in advancing God's Kingdom here in Japan. As a part of that "Re-VISION"ing, we are restructuring the JEA Mission Commission (MC) into three task forces: 1. *Mission Forum*—to lead JCE6 projects and host an annual JEA Mission Forum in various locations, 2. *Mission Research*—to gather and analyze mission data and to provide a network of MCs among JEA members), and 3. *"Glocal" Ministry* (global+local)—to provide a network of Japanese ministries overseas as well as with various ethnic churches in Japan. Through this new structure, JEA seeks to serve as a catalyst of God's mission in connecting wider networks, facilitating greater collaboration and creating new ministry initiatives.



## Comments by JCE6 participants

During and immediately following JCE6, Japan Update interviewed several participants to get their impressions about the event.

**Makihito Kawahara** (local layperson):

“Michael Oh’s message made a dynamic impact on me. I absolutely agree with him that mission work involves both joy and suffering. Evangelism is not a simple task. I just want to be faithful to what God calls me to.”

**Takayoshi Nakao** (pastor in Okinawa)

“Chris Wright inspired me through his lectures to deeply appreciate the power and scope of the gospel.



If Christians truly appreciate the gospel, I believe they can make a transforming impact in their respective social contexts.”

**Masakuni Hotta** (seminary student)

“At the JCE6 Global Japanese Christian Forum, Kenichi Shinagawa spoke about a ‘kingdom mindset.’ This kingdom mindset is a perspective that sees all things as people in God’s narrative, with our citizenship sealed in heaven. I was greatly encouraged to be reminded that all must be viewed through the ultimate reality that the Lord is moving his mission of the gospel forward.”

**Daiki Kishimoto** (local pastor):

“Through God’s mysterious guidance, I came to help in organizing JCE6. I am thankful for the number of friends I have made during the course of my service, and the valuable experience I have gained.

**Eiko Takamizawa** (participant from overseas):

“I was impressed with the level of passion of the participants. The Koinonia (table group system), enabled participants to share with each other what they learned from the speakers on stage, and to have meaningful fellowship. I believe there could have been more diverse styles of praising God. I felt troubled by the fact that the overwhelming majority of the speakers and

presenters on stage were men. I attended the meeting of those who are involved in global Japanese ministries. It was an unprecedented and highly valuable opportunity.”

**Gary Bauman** (missionary in Japan):

“It was exciting to hear the clear and precise presentation by Pastor Hari on church planting and church multiplication during the project explanations in the main session. I was grateful also for the opportunities provided through the Koinonia groups to meet new people and network for future ministry. Conferences like JCE6 play an important part in facilitating connections between people who might not meet otherwise.”

**Sumito Sakai** (member of the local committee in Kōbe):

“While preparing *Kōbe and the Bible* [an e-book], I revisited the history of Christianity in Kōbe (神戸). I realized anew how a door (戸) was opened in Kōbe for God’s (神) blessings to be poured in. I also saw how the Great Hanshin Earthquake [of 1995] triggered interdenominational networking in Kōbe, and solidified networks over the following 20 years. I believe these historical factors contributed to an effective collaborative network among seminaries in the Kōbe area, which provided a strong force of onsite volunteers.”

**Chris Wright** (keynote speaker):

“I am impressed that JCE6 is very well planned and organized. The one thing I want to communicate to my audience is the overall story of the Bible as a whole.”

**Ayami Kohatsu** (administrative staff member):

“A marked difference from JCE5 is a greater use of IT. The administrative office has become largely virtual. I appreciate that the local committee



took the initiative in organizing JCE6. I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of seminary students who worked as volunteers.”

(translated by Atsuko Tateishi)

## The Global Japanese Christian Forum and Diaspora-related gatherings in Kobe

*Toshio Nagai, JCE6 "Glocal" Ministry Committee member*

The Global Japanese Christian Forum (GJCF) was held in Kōbe on September 30 and October 1 as a follow-up program to JCE6. It was organized by JCE6 "Glocal" Ministry Committee. The term "glocal" is a combination of the words "global" and "local" and was intentionally created by the organizing committee to symbolize that the participants were one in Christ. The committee wanted to be sure that everyone from overseas and from within Japan would come to this forum in one accord.

As the approximately 120 participants gathered for this very special session, they accepted each other as uniquely gifted fellow workers whom God had assigned to do his work. Throughout the relaxed opening meal, everyone enjoyed listening to stories of how God had been working in various areas around the world. About 40 of the participants were ministering to Japanese people overseas. They had been invited to the welcome dinner with great appreciation from churches in Japan. Another 30 had been sent by denominations or mission agencies. About 10 were independent pastors and missionaries.

After the meal, the participants were divided into more than 15 small groups. There they shared both their blessings and the difficulties they face as they serve in their varied God-given ministries.

On the second day, five panelists shared their thoughts and experiences. Group sessions followed. Toward the end of the forum, several pastors were assigned as liaisons for different areas of the world to ensure this kind of gathering would continue. Gathering and meeting with one another is the first step toward understanding God's diversity in missions. We think God is rejoicing because these relationships have been formed and will help the participants keep in touch. This was the first step of a new beginning for "glocal ministries" to network in God's way and timing.

One of the projects in the preceding JCE6 program had focused on diasporas, and about 70 people had gathered for that session. Three leaders of the diaspora project read different articles from the booklet *Scattered To Gather* (available in both English and in Japanese). Diaspora mission



Regional liaisons of GJCF

was discussed through a consideration of three different aspects: mission to, mission through, and mission beyond diaspora. Returnees, couples in international marriages, business people working overseas, and people from other countries are all defined as diasporas. At JCE4 (2000),

the first diaspora workshop was held. From JCE5 (2009), diaspora became a project of its own and will continue to be so for JCE7 (2023). Our hope is that churches in Japan will understand more about the diversity and uniqueness of diasporas. We thank God that he has made us aware of people in various diasporas and we want to continue to pray for them.

At JCE6, one session focused on foreigners living in Japan. About 45 came to this session. The president of JCPC (Japan Council of Philippine Churches) shared their present situation in Japan. His talk opened our eyes and helped us realize that diasporas are crying out to churches in Japan. According to 2016 statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, there are over 2.3 million people from about 190 countries living in Japan. This number exceeds that of Japanese people living overseas.



Panel speakers at GJCF in Kōbe

There are several ministries in foreign languages in Japan. Are Japanese local churches aware of their presence? How are we cultivating relationships with these congregations who want our practical help and support? Ethnic congregations are growing and will continue to grow in the future. Their presence and their faith can show us new methods and insights. It's important to reflect on what God wants us to learn from them.

Here is a question: what does God see when viewing people through the word "Japanese"? When we think of "Japanese," we tend to think of Japanese people in Japan. But God views "Japanese" in a different light. Of course, he thinks of Japanese people in Japan. In addition, his heart reaches out to Japanese people overseas. Finally, he cares for people living in Japan who are from other countries. Churches working with these three demographics are facing challenging issues. However, the problems can be transformed into God's blessings if churches will acknowledge each other and humble themselves to learn from each other. By partnering and supporting each other, similar issues that each group faces can be solved together. When we only think of ourselves, we limit God's mission. We need to think globally, and act locally—with God. What kind of partnerships does God want to see among us? How can we glorify him? These are the questions we should be asking as we are called to walk to, through, and beyond our narrow understandings of "Japanese."

### International human rights conventions and municipal laws

The alumni association of the Faculty of Theology of Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU) held an open campus lecture at the Shibuya campus on September 22, 2016. Dr. Hae Bong Shin, faculty in AGU's Department of Public Law and an expert in international human rights law spoke on "Human rights and international society today: the realities and the problems."



(Shin was born and raised in Japan as a South Korean resident of Japan. She went to Aoyama Gakuin High School and University. Her parents told her "mission schools may have a minimum amount of discrimination.")

During her lecture, Shin shared, "After the United Nations was founded in 1945, it defined the standards of human rights and established various conventions." She explained that the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 had a significant impact on Japan: Nationality law changes adopted in 1985 following CEDAW provided that Japan's application of *jus sanguinis* [a legal principle in which the nationality of a child is determined by a parent's nationality rather than by place of birth] would allow children born to female Japanese nationals to possess Japanese nationality, even if the husbands did not.

Since CEDAW also affected the Government Guidelines for Education, Home Economics began to be taught to both male and female students in junior and senior high schools. In the realm of employment, the Equal Employment Opportunity Law was established.

Shin also explained that the Law on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities which was implemented in April 2016 stems from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): "This Act orders society to make reasonable accommodation for the disabled and to give them more opportunities to get out of the house."

Concerning the hate speech problem, Shin said, "In Japan, despite counsel from the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, municipal laws remained without prohibitions against hate speech for 20 years. However, the Act on the Promotion of Efforts to Eliminate Unfair Discriminatory Speech and Behavior against Persons Originating from Outside Japan was adopted in May 2016. This is not enough but we moved one step forward. . . . Education is fundamental to protecting human rights, but

even university students have never learned about this area."

"The right to knowledge is also vital. Although the United Nations counseled the Japanese government in 2001 (10 years before the Fukushima accident) to provide open information regarding both safety and the potential dangers of nuclear power generation to local residents, the advice was ignored and the disaster occurred. This was a serious human rights problem."

(summarized and translated by Tomoko Katō)

### Bringing the gospel to Toda City

The second Toda City Mission Forum was held at Nishikawaguchi Baptist Church (Japan Baptist Convention/Nihon Baputesuto Renmei) on July 31, 2016. Pastors and church members from four churches in Toda City, Saitama Prefecture, gathered in the hope that they can cooperate in evangelizing the city. The focus at this meeting was to build relationships by discussing the strengths and weaknesses of their churches.

Pastor Shinichirō Saitō from Nishikawaguchi Baptist Church spoke from 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, saying: "Jesus' mission method was to understand each person's life setting and share the gospel accordingly. . . . Many times we focus too much on how to bring people into the church so they can listen to the sermons. However, Jesus' command was for us to go out and share the gospel with all people." He also shared about how the book *Radical* by David Platt (President of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, USA) challenged him concerning the amount of money, time, and prayer his church has been dedicating to mission work outside of the church. This spring, Nishikawaguchi Baptist Church started hosting cafés and music concerts during the cherry blossom season, hoping to reach local residents who come to see the church's row of beautiful cherry trees.



Toda Evangelical Free Church (Nihon Fukuin Jiyū Kyōkai) hosts various activities so as to build relationships with the local community: yoga classes, cooking classes, mochi pounding, summer events, and so on. They also schedule special Sundays to focus on domestic and international mission work. Pastor Makoto Yokoyama shared how their number has increased gradually, as they even have welcomed people with overseas backgrounds from areas such as Korea, Taiwan, and Indonesia.



Pastor Tomoko Obara of Toda Christ Church (Japan Holiness/Nihon Hōrinesu Kyōdan) noted, “In the narrow sense, mission is experiencing the presence of Jesus Christ through worship and the sacraments. In the broad sense, it is being encouraged through worship to live as a testimony in all areas of our lives. Mission proceeds from the narrow to the broad sense. First of all, we need to prioritize listening to God’s Word at worship services and obeying what it says.”

With church planting as his vision, Pastor Yoshiya Hari from Keisen Christ Church, Saikyō Hope Chapel (Conservative Baptist Association/Hoshu Baputesto Dōmei), leads services not only in Toda but also Saitama, Gyōda, and Yokohama. Cell groups are a big part of his ministry. Hari stressed the importance of consistency in building up the community.

The forum ended with tea fellowship and an open discussion about “ideal” mission work and the dream of Toda churches working together both to evangelize and help solve some of the issues Toda City struggles with.

(summarized and translated by Hiromi Kiuchi)

### “What The Pastors!!” celebrates its first year of broadcasting

Thirty minutes of laughter, problem-solving, and tears: Casual conversations with pastors

The online talk show “What The Pastors!!” was started in autumn 2015 with the hope that it would “encourage all Christians.” Hosted by Pastor Masaru Asaoka of Tokumarucho Christ Church, (Japan Alliance Christ Church/Dōmei Kirisuto Kyōdan), and Shigenori Ōshima, the general secretary of KGK (Kirisutosha Gakusei Kai), the show is well accepted due to the variety of guests that join the broadcast.

A special public recording of the show took place on September 22, 2016 at Ochanomizu Christian Center to celebrate the completion of one year of broadcasts since its debut.



The live “at home” atmosphere was held in front of an audience of regular listeners, former guests, and family members of the pastors.

Pastor Yōichirō Yamamoto of Tajimi Chūō Christ Church, Japan Alliance Christ Church, was the guest for this special occasion. Yamamoto has been a friend

The pastors spoke in unscripted casual conversations, talked about how they tackle various issues, and answered questions from the audience and listeners. The

of Asaoka since childhood. He spoke about personal issues such as a time when he was distant from God, his childhood, his worries while in Bible college, and struggles he encounters while pastoring. Yamamoto also performed a number of songs he has composed. The public recording was broadcast in three segments, on October 7, 17, and 27, 2016.

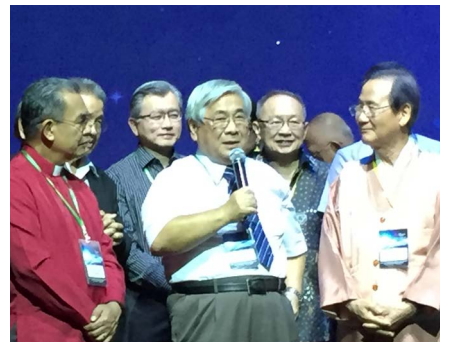
The talk show is uploaded on dates ending in the number 7 and is accessible on the PBA website, iTunes, and Google Play. As of January 17, 2017, the 30-minute show had recorded 50 episodes filled with laughter, problem-solving, and tears. The hosts and guests pour their hearts out as listeners hear about the daily lives of pastors, their personal life experiences, their relationship with God, and their families and churches. Some of the listeners are Japanese Christians living abroad who are seeking fellowship in Japanese.

Access online at: <https://www.pba-net.com/web/wtp>  
(summarized and translated by Grace Koshino)

### Rev. Hideji Paul Ueki of Japan elected as the Chairman of the Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA)

The AEA General Assembly and Asia Mission Forum was held in Bandung, Indonesia from August 29 to September 1, 2016. More than 130 participants from 15 Asian countries gathered under the theme “Ethical Leadership and Authentic Discipleship”.

At this general assembly, Dr. Sang-Bok David Kim of South Korea who served 16 years as the AEA Chairman stepped down and Rev. Hideji Paul Ueki (chair of JEA International Relations Committee, Immanuel Kakogawa Church) was elected as the new Chairman of AEA for the next four years. As Japan has in the past invaded many Asian countries, we receive the chairmanship with a humble heart and seek to serve the AEA.



Despite increasing persecution against Christians in various areas of Asia, Christ’s gospel is advancing in many parts of Asia. Asia now has 60% of the world’s population and is at the frontier of gospel advancement where diverse cultures and many different religions exist. We must recognize that the role of Asia in world mission is increasing and therefore we need to pray that God will anoint Rev. Ueki with the Holy Spirit in order to lead the ministry of the AEA.

(written by Kenichi Shinagawa)

## Please pray for Japan

1. That the impact and enthusiasm of the 6th Japan Congress on Evangelism (JCE6) will continue to spread throughout churches in Japan so that Christians are encouraged and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their communities.
2. That the JCE6 projects and “analogia” commissions in local contexts will be used by God to enhance holistic mission cooperation among churches and mission organizations in order to make a greater gospel impact on Japanese society.
3. That our eyes will be opened to what God is doing among Japanese ministries overseas and various ethnic churches in Japan so that more and more “Kingdom-minded” collaborations will start and bear fruit.
4. That God will raise up the next generation of Christ-centered, gospel-driven leaders among young Christians in Japan.

## JEA related schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Feb. 27-Mar. 1	Disaster Chaplaincy Training	Chiba
April 8	RJC Northwest Conference	Seattle
May 8	JEA Mission Research Consultation	Tōkyō
May 29	JEA Youth Leader Summit	Tōkyō
June 5-7	JEA General Assembly	Hamamatsu
Sept. 25-26	JEA Mission Forum in Kōbe	Kōbe

## Editorial

I was very much encouraged by the enthusiasm and positive spirit of JCE6 as well as the clear and inspiring message of Dr. Christopher Wright. As Rev. Masaki Sasaki wrote in the feature article on this issue, Dr. Wright's message cast light on our 3.11 Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster experience in 2011 and connected it to God's grand narrative in the Bible. It is clear to me now that what we have learned in disaster ministries in Tōhoku (holistic ministries) should be applied to our local everyday ministries in our contexts in order to advance the Kingdom of God here in Japan. Please continue to pray for Japan!



Kenichi Shinagawa, Editor in Chief

<http://jeanet.org/>

## Japan Update

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