

(P. Ron's updates on his first week of the visit to Japan.)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. I believe God has blessed the Chicago Easter programs that are wrapping up this weekend. We saw the picture of Sammy Shin's baptism with tears. It was really heart-moving. Praise God for his great work among young people in Chicago!

God blessed our visit to Japan. We attended the New Generation Disciples Conference from March 22-24. There were 40 precious young servants of God who attended, mostly second-generation children of Korean missionaries. This included almost every one of the second gens in Japan. Contrary to what is happening in some other places in the UBF world, in Japan, the second generation is united and following the good example of their parents. I believe one reason for this is the beautiful coworking and unity of the Japan UBF ministry. It began with M. John and Sarah Kim and M. Daniel and Maria Jeong. These two families both came from Kwangjoo UBF over 30 years ago. They have been coworking gracefully without fighting at all during that time. Together with other senior missionaries in Tokyo, they have formed a beautiful spiritual vessel. M. John Kim was the director in the past. Since 2002, M. Daniel Jeong has been the director with the full support of M. John Kim. M. Daniel's son Dr. Samuel married M. John's daughter, Sarah. Dr. Samuel and Sarah Jeong were the leaders of the NGDC. Samuel gave prayer topics and announcements throughout the conference. Sarah supported him and also led praise and worship. It was really graceful.

The programs were very blessed. M. Daniel Jeong gave a very positive and encouraging review of the history of Japan UBF to help the next generation remember their roots and give thanks to God for his grace through the first generation. M. David Kim from HQ shared a heart-moving and powerful lecture on Dr. Samuel Lee's spiritual legacy--which was very well received. Sh. Johan Park (son of Abraham and Hannah Park) shared a very heartfelt main lecture from Ecclesiasties with the key verse of the conference, "Remember you Creator while you are young." He was renewed through the preparation of his message, and many received grace through his personal testimony. I shared the final message on Acts 2:1-21, "Your Young People Will See Visions." Many shared orally that they want to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance to have God's vision for their lives.

Both before and after the NGDC, our journey team--David and Joy Kim, Dervilla and I--enjoyed fellowship with the coworkers in Tokyo. We visited Waseda University and Tokyo University and prayed for each campus. Dr. Ezra Park is a professor at Tokyo University. His wife, Esther, serves Japanese students with great compassion. Together, they have found a way to engage with Japanese students, bring them to Bible study, and raise them as Jesus' disciples.

After Sunday worship and fellowship in Tokyo, we traveled to some of the local chapters. We visited M. Moses and Rebekah Hong in Kanazawa, Dr. Paul and Maria Kwon in Gifu, Sh. Abraham and Sarah Noji in Osaka, Dr. Barnubab and Anna King in Suita, and M. Abraham and Hannah Park/M. Steban and Monika Choi/M. Mark and Ludia Kim in Tokai. M. David and Joy Kim led group Bible studies in Korean on Isaiah 40 which brought comfort and encouragement to the missionaries. Dervilla and I led a study on Luke 24 in Osaka. We all shared words of encouragement with Japanese coworkers and listened to their testimonies. We learned how powerfully the Holy Spirit is working in Japan through faithful men and women of God. We also visited the main universities in each city and had times of sincere prayer for students. We believe seeds of prayer were planted on each campus.

I will share about the second week in Japan soon. [...] I will open a Google Doc for your reference and continue to post news to that Google Doc. I will write more soon.

In Christ, P. Ron