



# Tokyo Central City Ministry

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< News Letter Vol.11 >

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

=Feb.2023=

*“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7)*

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your faithful prayers and support for the Tokyo Central City Ministry. In the latter half of last year, we faced many challenges with the absence of our pastor, but through the ordeal, we saw the Lord move and the church grow!

## 3rd Anniversary & Baptism



On November 20th, 2022 we held TCC's 3th anniversary service and a baptism ceremony for Ms. Shiho Sannomiya. About 20 years ago, Sannomiya-San heard the gospel from an OMF missionary, in Sendai, and was led on the journey to confess her faith. However, she wasn't able to be baptized due to various circumstances at the time.

Around the middle of last year, she began going through a baptism class with Pastor Shimomura. But again, more challenging circumstances arose when Pastor Shimomura was hospitalized in the middle of study. Despite these new challenges, Sannomiya-San completed her class and was ready to be baptized!

The Lord, who is good in all things, even brought six non-Christians on this particular Sunday and were able to hear her testimony. God has heard the cry of this sister's

heart since she was young and has been watching over her. "The family I always wanted was given to me in the form of TCC brothers and sisters." All the attendees praised the Lord for His unchanging love that has been with Sannomiya-San for the last 20 years.

We also celebrated the church's 3rd anniversary with fresh popcorn. The children were mesmerized by the mysterious and fragrant scent that popped out with each kernel of the popcorn machine, and the dads chatted excitedly and lively with so many festivities.



## Holy Night!



Christmas service was held on December 25th. During the service, the children sang “Wonderful Holy Night”. The Kids ministry was started so that parents could attend worship without the distraction of their children. It was a year of trial and error, but it was a blessing to see God's provision for our young families represented in the children's song. The service was filled with warmth and joy, and the song even brought tears to the eyes of the first time attendees. The children were like shepherds who heard the good news of Christ's birth and brought it to the people!

## New members & Family Ministry



This year we welcomed 4 new church members. The number of volunteers has increased significantly with both the kids ministry and reception benefiting from the extra hands. We are excited to see the Lord use each person's unique gifts in the coming year.

Also, for the first time, November was designated to be Children's Blessing Month. We welcomed the families with young children to come forward and be celebrated,

and committed as a church to support them in raising their children to walk with the Lord!



## Out of Church!

For the past 5 years, we have been teaching Aikido and more recently, kanji, to local elementary school students. We are grateful that our relationships with the families are gradually deepening, and some families even occasionally attend worship service. God has given us a very unique opportunity to reach young families in central Tokyo.

"Teacher, have you seen God?" "Why do you always say amen?" These are just some of the questions I have been asked, and without these opportunities, these children may never get the opportunity to hear about the one true God. We ask for your continued prayers for our health so that we can continue to do this work.



## Financial support

US\$75,000 is needed in the fiscal year 2023, and includes the rental fee for the worship venue. Please pray for God's provision. If you would like to support us, either as a church or an individual, please process the transaction with the following bank account information.

Bank Name : Mitsubishi UFJ Bank (Tachikawa Branch)

Name of the recipient : Tokyo central city ministry Takahashi Hidenori

Account Number : 227-0998877

Recipient's address : 1-3-7-201, Kashiwa-cho, Tachikawa-shi, Tokyo, 190-0004, Japan

Bank address : 2-13-3, Akebono-cho, Tachikawa-shi, Tokyo, 190-0012, Japan

Swift code : BOTKJPJT (or BOTKJPJTXXX)

## Bible Study & fellowship

- 『Sunday Worship Service』 17:30~19:00
- 『ZOOM Evening Bible Study & Prayer Meeting on every Wednesday』 20:00~21:30

## Prayer Request

- Pray for salvation for all who come to TCC.
- Pray for the Lord to bring more Christians to our church to worship HIM together
- Pray for outreach to people who are open to the gospel. If you have a friend you would like to introduce to us, please contact us by email. : akiyashimomura328@gmail.com
- Please pray for Pastor Akiya & his wife Hatae's health, and their relationship with the Lord.