



# Tokyo Central City Ministry

Published by **Evangelical Free Church of Japan**

‘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 commended you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

=May.2024=



<News Letter vol.15>

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19)*

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your constant and precious prayers and offerings to the ministry in the center of Tokyo. The Lord answered our prayers and gave us a fixed place of worship in the Tsukishima area where the Shimomura family is located, which is very close to us. We are grateful for the Lord's guidance.

## Why TSUKISHIMA?

Recently, we were asked this question by Master Sato of Aikido, and it reminded us of our first visit to Tsukishima in the fall of 2016. We had unintentionally gotten off the subway by mistake, and while walking to Tsukishima from Shintomicho Station, one stop before, I saw signs for Tsukuda-jima Elementary School and Tsukuda-jima Junior High School from above the Tsukuda Ohashi Bridge.

The buildings that looked like office buildings were the rumored high-rise apartment buildings. I thought to myself, “People are living in the heart of the city!” We were immediately shown that this was the place to which the Lord was calling us, and we immediately moved to Tsukishima. However, now that sign is nowhere to be found. At the time, the sign was only put up during that season for a school event in the ward. Pastor Aoyagi, who is the president of the local PTA, told us, “At the time, people opposed the 100,000-yen sign as a waste of money, but he was happy to hear that it was a cheap investment if it had served as a call for pioneering activities. Blessed be the name of the Lord!



## Where ...?

We started worship services at home, but there were no members living in Tsukishima other than Shimomura's, so we looked for a place to rent in parallel with offering worship services in Shintomicho, Shimbashi, Hibiya, and Higashi-Ginza, where there were many meeting rooms rented by the hour. However, when asked about the purpose of use, I had no choice but to answer "for worship," then we were not allowed to even look at the rental rooms because they thought worship would make noise. Those preconceptions made it difficult to find a way out. Later, as the average worship attendance exceeded 30 people and the number of young children increased, we were eager to find a certain amount of space for them. Sometimes we almost gave up, thinking, "It's impossible to find our place in the city center...."

## What is our SWOT?

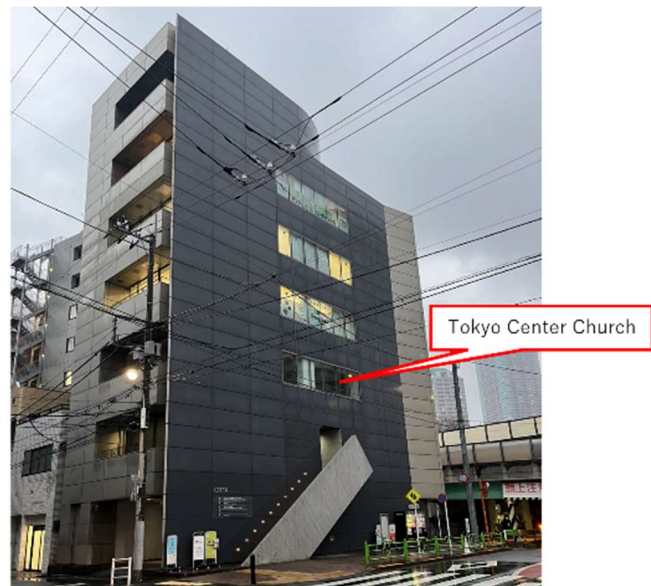
What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunity, and threats of the church?"

This year, when we had a discussion with all the worship attendees, we were able to hear directly the sense of anxiety and crisis in everyone's hearts, such as "TCC has diversity and potential for development," but "fellowship is thin because there is no chapel," and "if something happens to the pastor, there is a danger of survival". Prayers for the acquisition of a congregation building were piled up in the midst of this, and furthermore, core members offered such wisdom as, "From now on, let's check out the owner and ask him directly!"

## Information from God!

February 28th, we received information. It is close to Tsukishima station and Paster Shimomura's home, both only a few min. on foot, and 113squaremeter, 570,000yen/month. Although it's never inexpensive, the property is reminiscent of the vision we had originally envisioned, the desire to serve local families. The other floors also have many children's classes, and the building is crowded with parents and children on weekends. We were filled with hope.

We held an emergency ZOOM meeting for the ministry. The use of the building as a "Christian congregation" was added to the contract, and we will be able to advertise "Tokyo Center Church" prominently in the windows from now on. Praise the name of the Lord!



## Financial support

US\$85,000 is needed in the fiscal year 2024, including 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 use 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 : The Residence Kunitachi 206, 1-17-13, Higashi, Kunitachi-shi, Tokyo, 186-0002, Japan
- Bank address : 2-13-3, Akebono-cho, Tachikawa-shi, Tokyo, 190-0012, Japan
  - Swift code : BOTKJPJT (or BOTKJPJTXXX)

## Prayer Request

- Pray for salvation for those in the central Tokyo area.
- Pray for the growth of our church in numbers and spiritual depth.
- Pray for opportunities to reach out to people who are open to the gospel. If you have a friend that you want 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.