

Updates from Ray and Shelley Kwan - please add us to your safe senders list. Thank you!

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Kwan
Quarterly



Updates from Ray and Shelley Kwan



View of Osaka from the Umeda Sky Building

"Do you long to see those around you know Jesus? Are you praying for gospel opportunities in their lives? Look inside yourself: Is there sin that is preventing you from loving others? Fight for compassion in your life; fight for the ability to see others the way God sees others, not the ways the world sees others."

- J. Mack Stiles, author

Konnichiwa!

Dear Family and Friends,

This summer marks three years of ministry in Japan for our family! We thank the Lord for His faithfulness and your continued encouragement, partnership, and prayers. Here is what has been happening in our corner of the world:

REJOICING OVER NEW BELIEVERS

Hatta Nishi Christ Church has been rejoicing over two professions of faith in Christ in the past few months! One new believer is a young man who works with a couple of church members and has been coming to church since Christmas. The other is the daughter-in-law of a church member and has been coming to church with her husband and children (who have been attending the Joyful Kids VBS every year). Please pray for their continued spiritual growth and encouragement.

TEACHING GOD'S WORD

In May, Ray preached a message on evangelism from Acts 17:16-18 and in August, he preached on overcoming temptation from Matt. 4:1-11 (with translation). Ray continues to teach and lead worship in Japanese as part of the children's Sunday School rotation. Please pray for the faithful proclamation of God's word and for the salvation of the children,

of Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus (from the 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches series)



Osaka, Japan

Highlights

who are the future church.

MOTHERS' GROUP

Some older women at Hatta Nishi church recently started a monthly group to teach and encourage younger mothers. They are reading the book *Shepherding A Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp. It has been a great opportunity for Shelley to improve her Japanese as well as fellowship and build deeper relationships with other moms, including one of the new believers.

BIBLE AND ENGLISH

In July, a team from Redeemer's Grace Church in San Diego came to encourage Hatta Nishi Christ Church and to support evangelism efforts by teaching adult English classes, known as B&E (Bible and English). Some people who have not been to church in a long time came, as well as unsaved family members and even one of Ray's Japanese conversation teachers. Please pray that relationships would be strengthened and that the seeds planted during that time would, in God's perfect timing, grow into faith.

As a spinoff, this fall, Ray will begin teaching a couple of weekly English conversation classes with a short Bible message. Please pray for clear communication and for the salvation of any unbelievers who may come.



Ray preaching.



Ray teaching for the children's Sunday School.

JOYFUL KIDS

In August, our home church, Immanuel Bible Church, sent a team to assist with the annual Joyful Kids VBS program. While only 10 kids had signed up initially, over 30 kids from the church and neighborhood ended up participating. Many of their parents stayed and heard the gospel, too. Please pray for the salvation of these kids and parents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JBA Proclaim Conference (November 3-4): Senior pastor of Mission Road Bible Church and longtime college pastor of Grace Community Church, Rick Holland (who was Ray's college pastor) will be speaking at this third annual conference organized by Japan Bible Academy (led by Daisuke Okada). Pray for many to come and hear solid Bible teaching (in both English and Japanese) on the Five Solas of the Reformation. It will be held at the Narita View Hotel near Tokyo. Since childcare will be available, our whole family is planning to attend! Sign up at www.proclaim.jp. Tell your friends living in Japan about this event!

In California (Nov. 21-Dec. 12): We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible, whether in LA, San Diego, or Northern CA! Please contact us if you are interested in meeting up.

Thank you for your interest in and support of our ministry! May the Lord continue to build His church and magnify His glory in Japan!



The team from Redeemer's Grace Church in San Diego.



On the train with the Redeemer's Grace Church team and Hatta Nishi young people.

By His grace,

Ray, Shelley, and Masanobu Kwan

**WOULD YOU CONSIDER
FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP?**

Thank you for making it possible for us to serve the Lord in Japan! If you are not already doing so, would you please prayerfully consider contributing financially, perhaps even on a regular basis?

For those interested in giving online or using a credit card, here's an easy way for you to do that on the IBC website: <http://www.ibcbible.org/missions/kwan-missions/>

Thank you for your consideration!

***Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally:
An Introduction to Missionary
Communication***

By David J. Hesselgrave, *Emeritus Professor of Missiology*



The team from Immanuel Bible Church in Santa Monica.



Dinner with Chloe from Immanuel Bible Church and some Hatta Nishi youth.

at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Review by Ray

I didn't have much room for books in hardcopy when we moved from Los Angeles. However, this was one of the few books that I did bring. Not only was the topic relevant to me as a missionary, the book was of particular interest to me because I knew that Dr. Hesselgrave was a missionary in Japan for 12 years and I was sure that he would use some of his experiences as illustrations in the book (which of course he did). So after three years, I finally got around to reading it, and it was completely worth the time spent.

Overview

This book is not an easy read by any measure. It's over six hundred pages and is written for at least a college-educated audience. It tackles the issue of missionary communication from every angle imaginable. It addresses missions from historical, sociological, philosophical, psychological, and strategic standpoints. Though it was a difficult read, I must say that I wish I had read this before I even got here.

Despite the book's intimidating length, it's divided up into many bite-sized chapters which made it a lot easier to handle than it initially seemed. The book revolves around seven main topics: 1) worldviews (ways of perceiving the world), 2) cognitive processes (ways of thinking), 3) linguistic forms (ways of expressing ideas), 4) behavioral



Exploring Namba with the Immanuel Bible Church team and some Hatta Nishi young people.

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Ministry in Japanese: That we would communicate the gospel effectively, continue to build relationships, and grow in our knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

2. B&E, Joyful Kids, and fall English class

patterns (ways of acting), 5) social structures (ways of interacting), 6) media influence (ways of channeling the message), and 7) motivational resources (ways of deciding). Through this outline, Hesselgrave provides wisdom and insight on what a missionary should think about as he or she ministers to those of a different culture.

Helpful Insights

There are too many important insights to share from the book in this short review. I have about 25 sections flagged in my hardcopy but I do want to share a couple of them to give you an idea of what kind of valuable insights Hesselgrave has to share with his readers. On page 152, Hesselgrave gives some perspective on how missionaries need to be careful in evaluating their audience's understanding of their message:

Christ commanded us to teach people to observe all that he commanded (Matt 28:20), but he did not command us to do it in one sitting! Many evangelists who travel to another culture attempt to communicate all of the essentials of the gospel in a thirty-to-forty-minute message with hardly a clue as to what the audience is actually decoding. For the average adherent of some other religion, this approach results in information overload and may result in a gross misunderstanding of the gospel. (italics author's original emphasis)

participants: For relationships with unbelievers to continue so that they might understand the gospel and be saved.

3. Proclaim Conference: For safe travels and a profitable time for all who attend.



Celebrating 9 years of marriage in July.

Along the same lines, on page 182, Hesselgrave says this regarding responses to gospel invitations:

Generally speaking, Western missionaries (especially short-term missionaries and visiting evangelists) have assumed too much in asking for decisions in non-Western cultures. This observation is in no way intended to place limits on the power of the Holy Spirit. But the number of people in these cultures who have responded one way or another to a gospel invitation only to return to their former way of life is ample testimony that something is amiss. The answer is often to be found in the fact that they have obeyed the instructions of some missionary or evangelist without having a real understanding required for a “hearing of faith” or an “obeying from the heart” in regard to the Christian gospel.

Be Careful and Thoughtful

When it comes down to it, the thing I appreciate most about Hesselgrave’s book is that he calls missionaries to be careful and thoughtful in the work they are doing. I think there is a real danger and temptation for missionaries to be too entrepreneurial and try unwise or unbiblical methods just to get results (though with good intention). Hesselgrave calls the missionary to slow down and carefully think about things from different angles, especially from the Bible’s and the audience’s perspectives. Missions is far too important a work to do



Celebrating Masanobu's 2nd birthday in July.



Playing in the river during the Hatta Nishi Church retreat in August.

haphazardly.

Recommendation

I would say that this book is pretty much a must-read for all missionaries. I'm sure that there are many out there who are more well-read than I am and possibly know of better books on the topic, but I would hope that all missionaries would wrestle with the topics that are addressed in this book and that they would consider Hesselgrave's valuable insights on those topics.

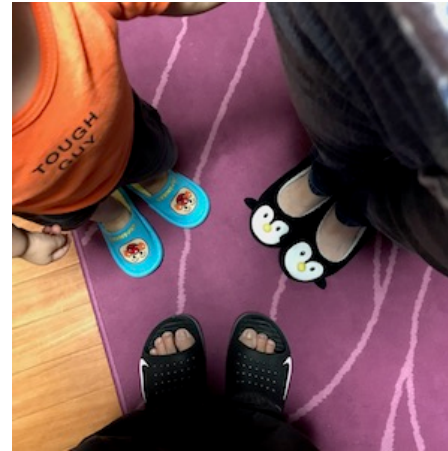
Did You Know?



May 5 is Children's Day, a national holiday characterized by carp-shaped flags.



Fireworks are legal in Japan and popular in the summer.



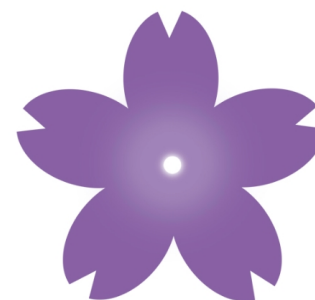
People in Japan take off their shoes upon entering a home and either go shoeless or wear indoor slippers while inside.

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