

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

[View this email in your browser](#)

**Kwan**  
*Quarterly*



*Updates from Ray and Shelley Kwan*



*At the Japan Bible Academy Proclaim Conference in Tokyo*

**"If we're ever going to do anything for God, we need to be broken men, broken for the people to whom God has called us."**

- Alex Montoya, Ray's preaching professor in seminary

# Konnichiwa!

*Dear Family and Friends,*

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are filled with gratitude for so many things. We thank God for Jesus, whose death and resurrection made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and called sons and daughters of God. We thank God for His word, unchanging and true, by which we can know Jesus and have eternal hope. We thank God for you, our friends and family, who spur us on to know and love Christ more no matter where we are. And we thank God for the opportunity to be part of magnifying His glory in Japan!

## OUTREACH TO SENIORS AND KIDS

This fall, Hatta Nishi Christ Church held two evangelistic events. In September, there was a *Keiro No Hi* (Respect for the Aged Day) event featuring musical performances, a gospel message, games, and the presentation of gifts to seniors. In November, there was a kids event featuring songs, a gospel presentation, and carnival type games. Please pray for the spiritual growth of those who attended these events.

## AMERICAN ENGLISH CLASSES

In October, Ray began teaching English conversation classes on Tuesday mornings and Friday evenings at Hatta Nishi Christ Church.



Osaka, Japan

## Highlights



Ray played the guitar with the Hatta Nishi band during performances at the *Keiro No*

The classes include a 10-minute Bible lesson in Japanese. This first set of classes was a trial run with Hatta Nishi members but in January, the class will be open to the public. Please pray for wisdom as Ray leads the classes, clear communication, boldness for Hatta Nishi members to invite unsaved family and friends, and the salvation of unbelievers who may attend the classes.

### **TRANSLATORS NEEDED!**

Japan Bible Academy is currently looking for Japanese translators for *Biblical Doctrine*, a systematic theology book released in the U.S. earlier this year. If you or a Christian you know may be interested in helping with this project, please contact us!

### **PROCLAIM CONFERENCE**

On November 2-4, our family traveled to Tokyo for Japan Bible Academy's third annual Proclaim Conference. It was a great time of teaching and fellowship. You can read Shelley's reflections in the article below.

### **IN CALIFORNIA NOV. 21-DEC. 12**

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible during our time in California! We will be at Redeemer's Grace Church in San Diego on November 26 (Ray will be preaching), Immanuel Bible Church (IBC) in Santa Monica on December 3 (Ray will be preaching), and IBC on

*Hi (Respect for the Aged Day) celebration and during a Sunday service.*

---



Masanobu delivering gifts to seniors for *Keiro No Hi*.

---



Ray teaching an American

December 10 (missions presentation during the Equip Hour). We'll be in Los Angeles for most of the time, with a trip up north to see Ray's family in Sacramento.

We appreciate your ongoing interest in and support of God's work in Japan!

By His grace,

*Ray, Shelley, and Masanobu Kwan*

#### **PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT**

We thank God for your partnership in making disciples in Japan!

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/>

We appreciate your support!

## ***Proclaim Conference 2017***

*Reflections by Shelley*

On November 2, our family traveled by train, plane, and automobile

English class at Hatta Nishi Christ Church.

---



Shelley enjoying monthly fellowship with the Hatta Nishi mother's group.

---



Celebrating Yuya's birthday.

(bus) to attend the Japan Bible Academy Proclaim Conference in Narita, Japan (in the greater Tokyo area). While Ray had gone to the previous two conferences, this was the first time that Masanobu and I joined him. We figured that even if I couldn't attend all the sessions, it still would be a profitable time of teaching and fellowship. And it was!

## Teaching

---

In celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, this year's theme was "The Five Solas and Christian Living." Dr. Rick Holland, who was also Ray's former college pastor, provided biblical insight and practical ways to live by Scripture, faith, grace, Christ, and glory to God alone. All sessions were in English, Japanese, and *shuwa* (Japanese sign language)!

One of the many insights I appreciated was the reminder of the great privilege and blessing it is to have the Bible. One day we will see God, but for now we have God's prophetic word, which Peter (who saw God's glory in Christ) says we "will do well to pay attention to as to a lamp shining in a dark place..." (2 Peter 1:19) Reading and obeying God's word is more valuable than having a momentary experience of seeing God. After all, we live by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7) Dr. Holland encouraged us to have the attitude, "I can't believe I get to read my Bible every day!"



Celebrating Hiromichi's birthday.

---



Masanobu enjoyed the carnival games at an outreach event for kids at Hatta Nishi.

---

## Fellowship

---

We are so thankful for the many opportunities we had to enjoy Christian fellowship with people from all over Japan, as well as places like Singapore and the United States! We met long-time missionaries and pastors from various denominations and backgrounds, Japanese people of all ages, newly-arrived missionaries, and missionary hopefuls. We also were encouraged by the joyful service of the team from NorthCreek Church in California who flew in to help with childcare so entire families could attend!

All of the meals were provided at the hotel, which made it easy to talk with other attendees. In addition to meeting new people and sharing a couple meals with some young people from Hatta Nishi Church, Ray had a great time catching up with Dr. Holland and some alumni from his seminary. I really enjoyed meeting a few other missionary moms and their families who also lived in Southern California at one time.

Traveling with others was a great way to have extended fellowship. We traveled there and back with our friend Tamie and enjoyed being able to talk about what we learned at the conference. At the airport, we ran into a missionary we met earlier at the conference!

Christians are few in Japan, but through this conference, we could see many bright lights shining in the darkness!

[Click to make an online gift now](#)

### 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. English classes:** For wisdom in preparation, clear communication, boldness of Hatta Nishi members to invite unsaved family and friends, and the salvation of any unbelievers who may attend.

**3. Time in California (Nov. 21-Dec. 12):** That we would stay healthy in the midst of a busy schedule and encourage the people we

## Keep Growing in Grace and Knowledge

---

As we were reminded at the conference, Christians always need to be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Please pray that we and all who attended the conference will continue growing by knowing Christ all the more.

We would love to see more Japanese pastors, missionaries, and lay theologians (“We are all theologians - the question is, how accurate are we?” said Dr. Holland) at the conference next year!

To God be all glory, great things He has done!

interact with.

---



With Dr. Rick Holland, Proclaim Conference speaker and Ray's former college pastor.

---



Traveling to the Proclaim

Conference with our friend  
Tamie.

---



Sharing a meal with new and  
old friends at the Proclaim  
Conference.

---



It was a blessing to meet other  
missionary families from



Southern California at the  
Proclaim Conference!

---

Did You Know?

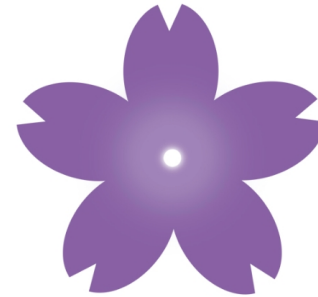


One of the most popular dishes  
for Japanese children  
is *omurice* - an omelet stuffed  
with a reddish-colored fried rice  
made with ketchup, veggies,  
meat, and cheese.

To support the Kwans in  
Japan long-term:

- Give online via  
PayPal or credit  
card  
at [www.ibcbible.org](http://www.ibcbible.org)
- Make checks  
payable  
to **IBC**. Write "IBC  
Missions - Japan -  
Kwans" in the  
memo line and  
send to:

IBC Missions - Japan -  
Kwans  
**Immanuel Bible Church**  
1254 19th St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90404



*Copyright © 2017 Ray and Shelley Kwan, All rights reserved.*

To support us, go to <http://www.ibcbible.org/missions/kwan-missions/>

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp.