

# MLP Japan News



Spring scenery in Nagano Prefecture

## Greetings

### Holiday in May

This year's Golden Week is a maximum of nine consecutive holidays in Japan. Many of us get excited when hearing the word "**holiday**." When I come into contact with rich nature in this beautiful spring season, I am moved by the power of God, who created all things in the heavens and the earth. I praise God for providing us with the **opportunity to rest our souls** as we think of our loving, almighty God.

Kaori Egawa  
MLP Japan Media Consultant

## Pre-evangelism

### Picture Book Time

On April 21, Oyako Joy Club held an event at the Japanese reative cuisine restaurant, E.den in Higashikurume. After 30 minutes of reading and playtime, a conversation on children's English education started with the mother of a participant's toddler. **She felt a strong need for English fluency** when she lived in Holland for several years. We enjoyed talking about the importance of early childhood education.

The next event will be held on Friday, May 19 from 2:45 pm at E.den.

## Announcements

### Radio Appearances

Kaori Egawa will appear on the local radio show on Monday, May 8. She will talk about how her 3 years of childhood experience in **Calgary, Alberta Canada** influenced her sense of self-awareness. There will be talks on cross-cultural perspectives and **ESL education** and announcements on upcoming events of Oyako Joy Club. (Oyako Joy Club is a Christian storytelling group for 0-3 year-olds.)

Broadcast date:  
May 8 - from 9 PM to 10 PM  
on (Tokyo 854 Kurume Radio)  
Program name: Travel Radio



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

**He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters.**

**Psalm 23:2**

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〒203-0053 1-3-39 HON-CHO, HIGASHIKURUME-SHI, TOKYO PHONE: 042-472-3454

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## Outreach Activities

### Tomato Club Restarted – Report by Kaori Egawa

Tomato Club, a Christian cooking club for teenagers has resumed after three years of not meeting due to the pandemic. The regular members met for the first time in 3 years. It was amazing to see how the youngest member grow tall in the years we haven't met!

We gathered at our home and studied the Bible verse, **“Not only so, but we<sup>a</sup> also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”** (Romans 5:3-4) We then sang a hymn, *Yasashii Tomodachi ~Ituskushimifukaki~*, which is a translation of *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. The two sisters who participated planned what to cook and came up with a meal and a snack that they could make from a cookbook. I offered my assistance in the planning and cooking. They decided that they wanted to make the naan and curry with sausage. They also decided to make waffles as dessert. It was their second time in three years to make the naan and curry so the process was smooth. The waffles were topped with strawberries, blueberries, whipped cream, and chocolate sauce. We had a great time eating and chatting over the delicious meal. My husband, the owner and chef of the Japanese restaurant, E.den, joined us, too. Time flew and we had the most wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of May. Please keep these teens in your prayers so their faith would grow as they learn how to cook!



### Picture Book The Lost Sheep

This is a picture book on the parable of the lost sheep. It is a board book and the front cover continuing on to the last page is partially hollowed out to create depth in the background. Every time you turn the page, the scenery changes, making it an eye-catching feature for children.

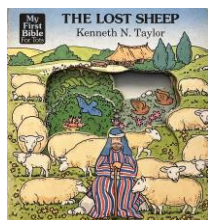
A good shepherd has 100 sheep, but one goes missing. The shepherd leaves the 99 animals and goes in search of the missing one. When he finds the sheep, he carries it on his shoulders and takes it home with care.

Jesus is our good shepherd. He comes out to find us who have been separated from God and put us in a safe place just as the Psalmist describes, **“The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, and takes me by the waters of soothing waters”** (Psalm 23:1,2).

*The Lost Sheep*

My First Bible for Tots

Kenneth N. Taylor



### Original Hymn - Inspired by Psalm 62 -

#### My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

My racing heart makes me sleepless at night,  
Hatred and lies ringing loud in my ears.  
With their mouths they bless me.  
But inside their hearts they curse me.

How long will they assault me like this?  
Lord, I pour my heart out to you.

{Chorus}

My soul finds rest in God alone.  
I am not fighting this on my own.  
He never abandons me.  
God is my fortress, He is my Rock!

Their foolish talk still torments me inside,  
Feeling like I'm buried deep in the ground.  
Bitterness grows with sorrow,  
Clouding my hope for tomorrow.  
Come, Lord, be with me through the pain.  
I wait for your Spirit to come.

{Chorus}

My shattered heart is a sacrifice to the Lord.  
I trust that new doors will open before my eyes. Oh.

{Chorus}

Text and Tune by Kaori E., 2022.8