

# MLP Japan News



Beach of Okinawa

## Greetings

### June Brides

What comes to mind when you hear the word June? I think of June Brides. My husband and I were blessed to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year. This month we celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup>.

Weddings are the start of a long journey of married life. It will test how much you can love one another. I pray for us and all married couples that we can **follow in the footsteps of Jesus**, who first loved us deeply and served us by giving up his life to save us.

Kaori Egawa

MLP Japan Media Consultant

## Pre-evangelism

### Picture Book Time

The storytelling meeting by **Oyako Joy Club** for 0-3 year-olds will be held in Higashikurume in the following schedule.

June 9 (Fri) 14:45 at:

Japanese Restaurant  
E.den

June 26 (Mon) 11:00 at:

Central Library

July 7 (Fri) 11:00 at:

Hajimari no Ie Sora

Please check our Instagram for details. @oyakojoyclub

## Announcements

### Radio Appearance

Oyako Joy Club was introduced in the radio program on Monday, June 7. The special feature of **Japanese Creative Cuisine and Sake, E.den**, which provides Oyako Joy Club a venue once a month, will be broadcast the following week on Wednesday, June 14.

Broadcast time:  
12pm-1pm  
Wednesday, June 14

{TOKYO854 Kurume Radio}

Yuttari Higashikurume



**SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH**  
But whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. Psalm 1:2

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## Evangelism Topics

### God's Kingdom as a Foreign Country - Kaori Egawa's Diary

On May 8th, I was invited to a "Travel Radio" radio program hosted by TOKYO 854 Kurume Radio Station. This program introduces guests with overseas connections to their respective countries. Due to my father's job, I lived in Calgary, Canada, for three years of my childhood (age 8-11) in the '80s. My Travel Radio host had excellent questions for me to answer, which led me to dig deep into my memories.



In the program, I was asked about the way I felt when I left Japan for the first time and some new food I ate in Canada, which surprised me. I had wonderful responses from the listeners, and I am very grateful that I could share my experiences in this way.

Talking on this radio show gave me a new perspective on Christian cultural awareness in Japan. Through baptism, we are **adopted into God's family and granted citizenship of God's Kingdom**. In a way, God's kingdom is a "foreign country" to those who have not yet accepted God's call to heaven.

With that being said, it is easy to imagine that there are a considerable number of non-Christians in Japan who have various questions about God's Kingdom". We should be ready to casually share our personal stories with non-Christians in order to carry out our Christian mission (Matt 28:19,20) in this country.

It is said that 99 percent of the Japanese population is non-Christian. Even in this heathen country, the door to heaven is still open today. I hope for the joy of being God's child and a citizen of God's Kingdom to be communicated to many people throughout my native country. I hope that we learn the Bible well and always be ready to answer people's questions as kindly and clearly as possible using the tools God has entrusted us, such as the Small Catechism, Christian Apps like TELL and YouVersion, and through books, music, and art. In the radio program, I asked the radio host to play my song recording, **"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** in both English and Japanese. This hymn is the most well-known hymn in Japan. I humbly pray that many seeds of the beautiful teachings of the Bible be sown in all 47 prefectures in Japan. I am privileged to play a small part in it.

## Meeting

### CELC (Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference)

The CELC meeting was held in Seoul, Korea from June 6 to 8. There are currently 34 churches affiliated with CELC. Held every three years, this conference is a good opportunity for **Christian representatives from around the world** to gather and deepen their Christian faith and fellowship. The presenters and presentation were as follows:

**Rev. Nicholas Proksch (US/CAN of ELS)**

Biblical exegesis

**Rev. Uģis Sildegs (Latvia)** Doctrine

**Rev. Kebede Yigezu (Ethiopia)**

Lutheran Confessions

**Rev. Angus Cheung (Hong Kong)**

Church History

**Rev. Mario Gálvez (Chile)** Practical Theology

## Original Hymn-Back Translation Tree Planted by Streams of Water

Blessed is the one

Who does not go

In the way of the wicked

Proclaiming salvation,

Not becoming the one

who mocks,

Rejoicing in the teachings

Of the Lord

{Chorus}

The person who,

Day and night

Speaks the teachings of the Lord,

Is like a healthy tree planted

By streams of water.

The wicked one is,

Like chaff blown

In the wind and

Disappears.

But the tree planted

By the streams of water,

Never withers

And will bear fruit.

{Chorus}

{Chorus}

By Kaori E. 2013