

Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

# MLP Japan News



## Greetings

### God is Love

In February, Valentine's Day invites us to think about the meaning of love, often marked by the exchange of gifts and enjoying sweet desserts.

This occasion serves as a reminder that love is best expressed through both words and meaningful actions. **Jesus is love. He made the ultimate sacrifice by coming to earth as God promised us.** He suffered and died on the cross to save us from eternal death, and is continually protecting and guiding our way to heaven. Let's continue to study Jesus' love with joy and share it with the people around us.

Kaori Egawa

MLP Japan Media Consultant/Editor

## Evangelism

### MLP Japan Plans

MLP Japan, based in Higashikurume, is dedicated to supporting outreach activities in all 47 prefectures of Japan with our specialized materials. Our planned activities for the coming year include:

- 1) Developing translated materials designed for ministries in Japan, for example, the 'People's Bible.'
- 2) Directing Christian events for the younger generation, such as the 'Joy Club' and 'Tomato Club.'
- 3) Collaborating with libraries and local businesses to organize book reading events aimed for pre-evangelism, like the 'OJC (Oyako Joy Club).'

## Events

### This Month's Schedule

This month, we are thrilled to welcome two missionaries from the Asia One Team of WELS, visiting Japan. On Saturday, February 10th, we've arranged a meeting at the MLP Japan office in Higashikurume, followed by lunch at E.den, a Japanese restaurant owned by the Egawas.

Additionally, we've scheduled an OJC reading session at the Higashikurume Central Library for Monday, February 26th, starting at 11:00 AM. We invite you to join us in prayer for these events, hoping for enriched fellowship and outreach.



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us.

1 Kings 8:57

## Christian Magazine Summery-*Forward in Christ* Practicing Christian Freedom

Using a Bible app on my smartphone has seamlessly integrated daily Bible study into my life. This app not only provides access to a wide range of Bible translations but also features a side-by-side comparison tool for different versions. Selecting a 'Plan' makes it easy to track progress and align readings with personal interests. The app's text-to-speech feature allows users to listen to Bible readings and plans.



Additionally, the app's plan-sharing feature fosters community among friends and family. **I've found this particularly enriching for strengthening connections with my local Christian community and my adult sons.** Sharing God's word, even in our busiest times, keeps our spiritual bonds strong and our discussions meaningful.

This approach is a good example of the devout use of technology, turning potential distractions into opportunities for spiritual growth. In a world filled with challenges and temptations, it is truly a blessing to use technology to deepen our understanding of Christ's teachings, connect with God, and maintain fellowship. **This Bible app illustrates how even the creations of the fallen human race can serve divine purposes, a realization that deeply moves me with gratitude.**

Robert Martin | Director of information technology at Martin Luther College  
A Summary of *Forward In Christ (FIC)* article of February 2024 issue.

*Translator's note: One standout app, YouVersion, offers more than 1,000 Bible versions in over 700 languages, including English and Japanese, making it incredibly versatile.*

### He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not

One day, while driving on a highway in the US, I was surprised to see a bumper sticker on the car in front of me that read, "Satan Loves Me." My wife, who was in the passenger seat, also noticed it and sympathized with the misguided message. Satan, or the devil, enjoys sin, lies, and deception. Satan does not know love. On the other hand, God is love. Jesus, the Son of God, embodies pure love and loves each of us deeply from the heart. There is no need for us to wonder as if we are picking petals off a flower one by one. **God loves us. He truly does. How do we know this? Take a look at the lyrics of the hymn "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." The Bible teaches us the genuine love of Jesus.** It clearly teaches the essential difference between God and the devil. The Bible teaches us the truth that Jesus loves us.

James Pope | FIC Editor

A Summary of *Forward In Christ (FIC)* article of February 2024 issue.

### Hymn of the Season

***Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*** by Anna Bartlett Warner

1 Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
They are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain:*

Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me he who died  
Heaven's gate to open wide.  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let his little child come in.  
*Refrain*

3 Jesus loves me, this I know,  
As he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee,  
Saying, "Let them come to me."  
*Refrain*