

Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

# MLP Japan News



Somei Yoshino cherry blossoms reflected on the water's surface

## Greetings

### Living in God's Love

**March in Japan is a season of graduations and transitions**, bringing many farewells. Earlier this month, I also experienced the heartfelt loss of a dear uncle. However, as we enter Lent, according to the church calendar, I am reminded of **Jesus' cross and the hope** of His resurrection.

**Our Savior, Jesus, knows our sorrows and walks with us**, giving us the strength to carry our burdens. Through this newsletter, may you—like me—experience the **deep comfort of being wrapped in His great love**.

Kaori Egawa  
Editor of MLP Japan

## Report

### Nurturing a Healthy Mind

As our lifestyles change, more and more people are experiencing struggles with mental and emotional health. To support those facing such challenges, we've published a new translated article titled: **"Parent Conversations: How Can Christians Combat Anxiety?"** We invite you to read it here: <http://leccjp.org/post-1007/>.

Singing hymns can also bring comfort and help ease anxiety and sadness. In partnership with **Star Cross**, we're creating **simple, singable hymn resources** for use in a variety of Christian settings—**from worship services to small gatherings at home**.

## Pre-Evangelism and More Activities

**Tomato Club gathered on Saturday, March 1**, where members read aloud and discussed the February newsletter, followed by a fun activity of making chocolate croissants using frozen pastry sheets. **The next gathering is scheduled for Saturday, March 29.**

**Oyako Joy Club will meet on Monday, March 24, at 11 AM at Higashikurume Central Library.** We welcome parents and their children aged 0 to 2 to join us. During the event, **we will also sing English hand-play songs together.**



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

He was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;

Isaiah 53:5

Christian Magazine Summary – From *Forward in Christ***God's Unfair Love**

**"He was pierced for our sins and crushed for the wrong things we did."** (Isaiah 53:5)

In 2013, a 13-year-old girl named Jahi had surgery to remove her tonsils. At first, everything seemed fine. But soon she started bleeding. Her heart stopped, and her brain was damaged. She lived on life support for a few years, but later she died. Her parents must have said: **"This is not fair!"**

We also feel this way sometimes:

- We study hard, but get a bad grade.
- We work hard, but someone else gets the reward.
- We believe in God, but life is still very hard.

We may ask, **"Is God fair?"** The Bible says God wants us to be holy: **"Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."** (Leviticus 19:2)

And it says, **"The one who sins is the one who will die."** (Ezekiel 18:20)

We all sin, so we all deserve God's punishment.

**But God did something amazing.**

He did not punish us. He punished **Jesus** instead.

- Jesus was hurt **because of our sins**.
- Jesus suffered **so we can have peace**.
- Jesus died **in our place**.

This is very **unfair** for Jesus. But it shows how much **God loves us**. We don't deserve this love—but God gave it to us anyway.

Because Jesus died for us and rose again, we are forgiven. No matter what we've done or where we are, we can say: **"God is with me. God loves me."**

**Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for your amazing love. Thank you that Jesus took my punishment. Please help me live with a thankful heart every day. Amen.



Evan Chartrand  
Pastor at a new mission start in  
Panama City, Florida

**Jesus Is There**

**Jesus is always with us—no matter where we are in life.** In my ministry, I've visited many people with dementia. Though I see them in the room, sometimes I don't know where they are in their minds. Some feel like they're back in childhood, or with loved ones who have passed away. Some are in peaceful places, others in dark and confusing ones. **I try to meet them where they are—but I can't always reach them. But Jesus can.**

When I visit them, I often read from **Psalm 139**:

*"Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens, you are there.  
If I make my bed in the depths, you are there...  
Even there your hand will guide me,"* (7-10 NIV)

What a comfort to know: **"You are there... even there."** Wherever their minds may wander—past, present, joy, or fear—**Jesus is with them.** That truth brings peace not only to those with dementia, but to their families too.

And this promise is for all of us. No matter where we are—physically, emotionally, spiritually—**Jesus is there.** Lord, where are you?

You are there in my pain.

You are there in my joy.

You are there when I'm afraid.

You are there in my past and future.

**You are there in my guilt and weakness.**

**You are there when I cry for mercy.**

Why? **Because you were there on the cross, dying for me.** And now, you live. So wherever I go in life—**you are there.**

James Krueger  
Pastor at Redeemer, St. Croix Falls/St. John's,  
Centuria, Wisconsin

*Adapted from the March 2025 issue of FIC Magazine, the above articles have been rewritten in simplified English..*

**Praise Time****Jesus Loves Me – Japanese Lyrics Adapted into Two Verses for Young Learners**

|                              |                         |                             |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Amazing grace                | Oh doh roh koo          | Mah ee goh noh              |
| how sweet the sound          | bah kah ree noh         | wah tah she oh              |
| That saved a wretch like me! | Ah mah ee meh goo me    | Shoo wah mee tsoo keh tah   |
| I once was lost              | Mee jee meh nah         | Meh gah mee eh nah kaht tah |
| but now am found,            | wah tah she oh          | wah tah she moh             |
| was blind but now I see.     | Shoo wah soo koo oo tah | Ee mah wah mee eh roo       |

The first verse in English has been adapted into two verses for children.  
Translation:  
Kaori Egawa  
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