

MLP Japan News



Canola flowers along the Watarase River in Ashikaga City, Tochigi.

Greetings

Christian Happiness

Life often feels full of **never-ending challenges**. For example: **How much money** do we need to earn and by when? How **popular** do we have to be before we can finally **feel secure**?

This newsletter invites us to reflect on an important question: **What is true happiness?** For Christians, what does it mean to be truly happy? As the article on **page 2** explains, it is the fact that **Christ has completed the work of salvation for all people**. During this **Easter season**, may your heart be **filled with hope**.

Kaori Egawa
Editor of MLP Japan

Report

A Missionary Couple in Australia

Missionary Matt Dobler, serving in Brisbane, Australia, is reaching out to a multicultural community, including Japanese people, through Gospel ministry. We are pleased to share a **podcast conversation** between Matt and **Missionary Terry Schultz**, who is engaged in outreach through **art and music**. [Listen here](#)
You can also read a heartfelt **personal reflection** by Matt's wife, **Christine Dobler**, available in both Japanese and English:

[Read here](#)



Pre-Evangelism and More Activity Report

The junior high and high school cooking group, **"Tomato Club,"** gathered on **Sunday, April 20**, to celebrate **Easter** with a cheerful lunch and a fun time making snacks and Easter eggs.

For the snack, they baked **bread topped with cookie dough**, decorated with a **cross-shaped pattern**, which we called **"Cross Bread."** It turned out delicious, and everyone was very happy with the result.

We're grateful for such a joyful time of fellowship!



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look,
I am alive for ever and ever!

Revelations 1:18

Christian Magazine Summary – From *Forward in Christ***He lives!**

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

What if Easter never happened? No Easter hymns, no lilies, no celebration. Just an ordinary Sunday. But even more, no resurrection means no Savior, no forgiveness, no hope.

That’s exactly what the apostle Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 15: **if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is useless, our faith is meaningless, and we are still lost in our sins.** Death would be the end. Heaven would be a dream that never comes true. Everything would change.

But Easter *did* happen. And it changed everything. The tomb is empty. The Savior lives. The disciples saw him, spoke with him, and gave their lives to testify that. **Jesus is alive. He lives.** Two simple words. But they hold eternal weight.

Because **he lives**, your faith has a firm foundation. Because **he lives**, your sins are truly forgiven. Because **he lives**, you have a future in heaven—and the promise that death is not the end.

Even in a world full of uncertainty, the message of Easter gives us unshakable peace. The risen Christ walks with you today and promises to welcome you into eternal joy.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, may the joy of Easter fill my heart each day. Help me to walk in the hope and strength that come from knowing Jesus lives. Amen.



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

The dawn after the darkness

Easter morning began with light—the story of that first resurrection day. At dawn, while the world was still grieving the crucifixion, an angel appeared and declared, **“He is not here; he has risen!”** (Luke 24:6)

The women who came to Jesus’ tomb were expecting death and darkness. But instead, they found an empty grave—and the living Jesus. A morning that began in sorrow was transformed into radiant joy.

The prophet Isaiah had foretold this: **“After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied.”** (Isaiah 53:11) And this light didn’t end on that one morning. It continues even now.

The risen Jesus appeared to his disciples, to Paul, and to John. His brilliance was like the sun, and there was no darkness left. **“There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the sun, for the Lord God will give them light.”** (Revelation 22:5)

Our churches reflect this light. White altar cloths, glowing candles, blooming lilies—all signs that **Jesus lives**. And because he lives, **we also live**.

Good Friday reminds us of the sorrow and darkness of the cross, but Easter shines with the light and joy of victory. Christ died for us and rose for us. That is the heart of our faith.

Every Sunday is like a small Easter. We no longer walk in darkness, but in the light of Christ.

If your heart feels heavy with guilt or grief, may the risen Jesus fill you with peace and hope. **He lives, and that changes everything.**

Timothy Nass
Pastor at St. Paul, Lake Mills, Wisconsin

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

Praise Time**Christ the Lord is Ris’n Today; Alleluia (verse 1) – Japanese lyrics adapted into two**

Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
See the place where he was laid; Alleluia!
Praise him for the ransom paid. Alleluia!



The first verse in English has been adapted into two verses for children. Translation: Kaori Egawa 2025.4

Yo-mee-gah-eh-ree no Shoo, Hal-le-lu-yah!
Ee-soh-ghee mee-teh koh-yoh, Hal-le-lu-yah!
Shoh-ree no oo-tah oh, Hal-le-lu-yah!
Meen-nah deh oo-tah-oh, Hal-le-lu-yah!

Soo-koo-ee no Shoo Yeh-soo, Hal-le-lu-yah!
Sheen-jee-roo hee-toh yoh, Hal-le-lu-yah!
Shoh-ree no oo-tah oh, Hal-le-lu-yah!
Meen-nah deh oo-tah-oh, Hal-le-lu-yah!