

Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

# MLP Japan News



Heart-Shaped Hydrangeas

## Greetings

### Christian Happiness

June is usually a season of **gentle rain**—but this year has brought **unexpected heat** instead. A time meant for **quiet reflection** feels restless. Still, **God pours out His unchanging grace**.

This month brings **Father's Day**—a time to thank our **earthly fathers** and remember our **Heavenly Father**, who lovingly leads us.

Earlier this month, we also celebrated **Pentecost** and the gift of the **Holy Spirit**, who fills our hearts with **faith and joy**. **True happiness begins in His faithful love**.

Kaori Egawa  
Editor of MLP Japan

## Report Part 1

### One Asia Team Visits Japan

On **May 24, 2025**, **Pastor Peter Yanke** from the **One Asia Team** visited Higashikurume, Tokyo, along with **Pastor Ben Tomczak** from WELS. We welcomed them to restaurant E.den for lunch, followed by a time of **fellowship and discussion**. A shared vision for **hymn translation** and **gospel outreach to children ages 0–14** became a source of **mutual encouragement**. On the next day, **May 25**, a **four-way dialogue** took place with the two pastors, **Pastor Nakamoto** from **LECC's Aganai Lutheran Church**, and myself. The meeting marked a **hopeful step forward in Christ**.

## Report Part 2

### CELC Conference in Bali

From **June 10–12, 2025**, the **3rd CELC Asia-Oceania Conference** was held in **Bali, Indonesia**. Participants included translators from **Indonesia and the Philippines**, as well as **Hmong missionary in Vietnam**—many of them graduates of the **ALS Translation and Theology course**. **Two LECC pastors from Japan** attended. The gathering was filled with **joy**, including **musical exchange**. We thank God for this blessed time together.



The photo of the Bali beach was taken by our Filipino translator during the CELC conference.



## SCRITPURE OF THE MONTH

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;**

Acts 1:8

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Christian Magazine Summary – From *Forward in Christ***Your Identity in Christ**

We all stumble into sin. We lie, we speak harshly, and often feel, "I'm just a sinner." The more we read God's Word, the more we see how deep that sin goes.

But is that really who we are? The world talks a lot about identity. People try to define themselves by their feelings or others' opinions. But for Christians, **true identity comes from what God says**, not from what we feel.

When the Bible talks about believers, it uses overwhelmingly positive language: **"holy," "chosen," "God's special possession"** (1 Peter 2:9). That means our identity isn't based on our **state**—how we're doing—but on our **status** in Christ. We are not simply sinners. **We are God's children.**

In Jesus' parable of the **Prodigal Son**, the son says, "I'm no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father runs to him and embraces him. His **condition** was broken, but his **relationship** remained. The same is true for us. **No matter our past, through faith in Christ, we remain God's children. That's what matters most.**

Author **Max Lucado** tells of a shy young woman who suddenly radiated confidence. Why? "I was chosen," she said. The man she loved had said to her, "Come spend forever with me."

**God says the same to you:** "I have chosen you. I love you." It's not always easy to live in that truth—we often focus on our failures. But that's why we must return again and again to what God has declared: **You are His child.**

The Bible is filled with portraits of this new identity. **Don't just glance at them—linger. Reflect. Rejoice.** And as you do, your life of faith will grow deeper and more joyful than ever before.

Rev. Mark Cares, Retired Pastor,  
Member at Messiah, Nampa, Idaho

**Promises of Pentecost**

Jesus Christ lived a perfect life for us, paid the full price for our sins on the cross, and guaranteed our eternal life through his resurrection. **After accomplishing all this, he reclaimed the full use of his almighty power as the King of kings.** This gospel truth remains unchanged today.

**After this, Jesus promised to send the "Helper"—the Holy Spirit.** "Very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7)

This promise was fulfilled on the day of **Pentecost. The Helper, the Comforter—the Holy Spirit—was sent with power**, enabling the apostles to preach the gospel in many different languages. Those who heard the message believed, and on that day alone, about **3,000 people came to faith in Jesus.**

This event was also a miracle in which God **brought together nations and languages once divided at the Tower of Babel**, now united through the gospel. It marked the beginning of the vision described in **Revelation 7:9**, where a great multitude from **every nation, tribe, people, and language** stands before the throne of God.

**The work of the Holy Spirit continues to this day.** He gives us words to speak, courage to act, and reminds us of the salvation we have in Jesus. "For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." (Luke 12:12)

Pentecost, celebrated **50 days after Jesus' resurrection**, remains a major festival in the Christian Church. And the promises of Pentecost—the **power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of the gospel**—continue to spread through you and me today. Through the gospel we speak, the Holy Spirit leads people to Jesus. Let us **rejoice in this wonderful gift!**

Rev. Snowden G. Sims,  
Associate Pastor and Michigan District President

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

**Praise Time****This Little Light of Mine in Japanese**

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine.

Chee-sah-nah hee-kah-ree  
hee-kah-rah-seh-yo  
Chee-sah-nah hee-kah-ree  
hee-kah-rah-seh-yo  
Kee-rah-ree, kee-rah-ree,  
kee-rah-ree

Wah-tah-shee no moh-noh,  
hee-kah-rah-seh yoh  
Wah-tah-shee no moh-noh,  
hee-kah-rah-seh yoh  
Kee-rah-ree, kee-rah-ree,  
kee-rah-ree

The first verse in English has been adapted into two verses for children. Translation: Kaori Egawa 2025.6

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