November 2026

KDK News

Pioneer Evangelism Association Vol. 145

KDK's Three Core Principles

1. Church-planting evangelism
2. Building up the local church
3. Partnering with Bible-believing denominations

■ From the President ■

"How Long, O Lord?"

Tokio Arashi, KDK President



> O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?
> Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?
> (Habakkuk 1:2)

We often talk about having a "calling." The dictionary defines it as "a sacred duty given by God." Notice that a person's gifts, personality, or preferences are not the main point. What matters is the relationship between the One who calls and the one who accepts that call as a mission. Most of the prophets in the Bible served because God commanded them to, so we can rightly say they were living out their calling. Their main task was to receive God's word and pass it on to the people as His spokesmen.

Habakkuk, as you know, was one of those prophets. In his day—around 600 B.C.—the nation of Judah had little hope and no clear future. King Josiah, who had led the nation in reform, was killed in battle before his work was finished. His sons Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim each took the throne in turn, but both ignored God's will, and Judah hit rock bottom spiritually and morally. Meanwhile, Babylon was rapidly gaining power, and the small kingdom was hanging by a thread.

It was into this situation that God called Habakkuk. Yet in his case, the focus was less on delivering God's message to the people and more on the prophet bringing his own complaint to God. That is why the book of Habakkuk never uses phrases like "Thus says the Lord," so common in other prophetic books. The first half, in particular, is a dialogue: Habakkuk asks God hard questions, and God answers.

"O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?" (v. 2)

Although the world around him was in turmoil, Habakkuk began with the problems of his own nation, Judah. The people took great—perhaps too much—pride in being God's people, yet their actual condition was dismal. So the prophet laid it all before God. He was convinced God would act; in fact, he knew that unless God stepped in, nothing would change. Behind his bold complaint lay complete trust: a righteous God would never let wickedness go unchecked.

We often hear that we should "fear God," and rightly so. He is the Creator of heaven and earth and the Giver of life, and we should live in reverence before Him. Treating Him like a casual buddy is never appropriate. But reverent fear doesn't mean being afraid of God or keeping our distance. Through Jesus Christ, God has come near to us sinners. So, like Habakkuk, we can come to Him boldly and openly, telling Him exactly what is on our hearts. In fact, that is what He wants, because He never ignores or turns away the cries of His servants.

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Church Updates

News and prayer requests from our church plants. Please pray for them along with the regional prayer requests on the next page.

Fukuoka Shine Church

Fukuoka · Plant yr 10 · Support yr 6

Yuta & Ayumi Nakayama



○Update

Thank you for faithfully praying for and supporting Shine Church!

As we enter our tenth year, we are thankful that our prayer life has deepened and a passion for outreach is overflowing in our church. Two high school students we met at a Sept. 24 outreach near the train station came to our Thursday service, along with a non-Christian friend of one of our members. When we gave an invitation, two of them raised their hands to receive Christ! They haven't made it to Sunday worship yet, but we'll keep praying and inviting them.

In November, one of our members is organizing a mini field day after the service. We're inviting non-Christian friends and preparing in prayer.

We meet in rented public facilities, but some weeks no room is available and other weeks we exceed capacity. Our congregation is earnestly praying for a building of our own. Thank you so much for your prayers and support—they truly sustain us. May the Lord richly bless each of you!

○Prayer Requests

A church building and provision for all our financial needs.

Sennan Chapel

Yoshiya & Machiko Okita

Miyagi · Plant yr 11 · Support yr 4



○Update

Praise the Lord! Thank you for your prayers and support.

This year our goal has been to meet new people and help our community get to know the church. This summer, a kids' camp and an English Camp run with help from overseas churches connected us with several families. This fall we're focused on deepening those relationships. In November we're planning a harvest thanksgiving and children's blessing event, and we're talking through how to help guests and members really connect. We're also thrilled that several family members of our church members—who had long kept their distance—have attended some of our events this fall. We sense God has us in a season of building deeper relationships.

○Prayer Requests

・That the people we've met would grow open to God's Word and the church.
・For seekers to make a decision for Christ.

Kagoshima Izumi Church

Kazuhiko & Sonoko Uryu

Izumi City · Plant yr 5 · Support yr 3



○Update

① In September we hosted five team members from our denomination's evangelism caravan.

Despite worries about a typhoon, the week was packed with blessings: daily tract distribution, a children's outreach, a youth meeting, and Sunday worship. No one has visited yet because of the tracts, but our new building is slowly becoming known in the neighborhood.

② We installed an LED cross on the outside of our building, and it shines beautifully at night. More and more neighbors stop to tell us, "That's lovely!"—what a blessing.

③ Seeing the needs of our young adults, we are meeting one-on-one for Bible study with four of them (the pastor with the men, our associate with the women). Using study guides, they are seeking the Lord's will for marriage and career decisions.

○Prayer Requests

① For new visitors and baptisms.
② For wisdom as we walk alongside and mentor our young adults.

Saga Bible Church

Kikuo Irie

Saga City · Plant yr 3 · Support yr 2



Photo: after the Oct. 18 welcome service

○Update

On Oct. 14, the Gospel Box mobile bookstore came to Saga, and visitors bought plenty of Christian books and tracts.

From Oct. 15–18, we held an evangelism caravan, and with many volunteers we distributed 15,000 gospel tracts across Saga (10,000 as newspaper inserts and 5,000 by hand). On the 18th we held a welcome service and a mini gospel concert. Pastor Tetsuji Shinohara preached, and gospel singer Yoko Naito and hula worship dancer Narumi beautifully served the Lord. Although we had no first-time guests, everyone who attended experienced a sweet unity in the gospel. We're deeply grateful that our church has become a faith community united by the gospel. The caravan volunteers also joined us in praying over the small piece of land we purchased on June 30.

○Prayer Requests

・For many people in Saga and nearby towns to come to faith.
・For faithful gospel preaching every week.

■ Report: Church Planting & Development Seminar

Makoto Saeki, Kochi Grace Church



On Tuesday, Sept. 1, we held a Church Planting & Development Seminar in Kochi for church planters and pastors.

This was our first seminar outside a major city, and since Kochi isn't easy to get to, we wondered how many would come. We were thankful to welcome 21 participants from all four Shikoku prefectures, not counting speakers.

Our three speakers were Rev. Tokio Arashi (Chitose Christ Church), "Restoring Pastoral Health in Rural Churches"; Rev. Makoto Fukui (Tamagawa Christ Church), "Using Map Data to Discover a Church's Mission Potential"; and Rev. Tomio Ohashi (Otawara Christ Church), "Building the Church through Shared Leadership and Outside Partnerships."

Drawing on their own experience, the speakers offered practical insight on everything from church planting and pastoral care to church growth and ministry partnerships. It was a valuable time for rural churches to take a fresh look at their challenges and consider new possibilities for growth and outreach.



■ Reflections on the Kochi Seminar

Hajime Hara, Pastor, Kokubunji Christ Church (JECA)

Rev. Makoto Saeki of Kochi Grace Church, who hosted the seminar, invited me to attend, and I'm so glad I went. Each of the three speakers brought a valuable perspective that gave me fresh insights. Rev. Tokio Arashi, a senior pastor in our JECA fellowship, shared stories and testimonies that gave us a glimpse of both the struggles and the joys of ministry. Rev. Makoto Fukui presented a wealth of carefully organized data, and his analysis deepened my understanding of where mission opportunities lie. Rev. Tomio Ohashi spoke on shared leadership and outside partnerships, which encouraged us as we build the church under the Lord's leading.

For five years I served at a church plant once supported by KDK (pastored by my father-in-law) while working a part-time job five days a week. It was an invaluable experience in ministry and church building. Today I serve the Lord in Kagawa Prefecture, where the population is shrinking and aging, and I experience both the joys and the struggles every day. I also enjoyed fellowship with other pastors at the seminar, and I will continue to pray for KDK's vital ministry.

Save the Date: September 2027 · Obihiro, Hokkaido

KDK Church Planting Seminar in Tokachi

Planned Sessions

1 Restoring Pastoral Health in Rural Churches + Q&A
2 Using Map Data to Discover Mission Potential
3 Shared Leadership & Outside Partnerships

* More details in an upcoming issue.



■ Coming Soon: Regional Prayer Requests

In upcoming issues we'll share prayer requests from Sendai, Okinawa, and Shikoku, where past seminars were held.

Please pray for church planting in each region.

■ Join Our Prayer Network

Want to receive this newsletter regularly or pray for new and replanted churches in Japan? Join our prayer network! We'll email you prayer requests that you're welcome to share in prayer meetings and church bulletins.

Sign up: scan the QR code

https://kdk.asia/

Alumni Spotlight / Office News

Tsukasa Shirahata, Pastor, Ichigao Christ Church (Conservative Baptist Association)



This year our church, Ichigao Christ Church, celebrates its 42nd anniversary. It began as the first church plant in the Yokohama–Kawasaki area from Okachimachi Christ Church, where I was pastor at the time. Behind it was the vision of the late missionary Joseph Meeko, who ministered mainly in Yamagata, to reach the greater Tokyo area.

In those early days we were feeling our way in the dark, facing spiritual, financial, and strategic challenges. KDK's financial support, prayer support, and the accountability of monthly ministry reports helped us more than words can say. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us.

At one point our church grew to about 40 members, paid off our building loan, and became a registered religious corporation. For various reasons, we are now about half that size.

Even so, our desire to follow Jesus and grow as His disciples is stronger than ever.

As we have pursued church health and growth, we have made Jesus-centered discipleship the backbone of our church. Studying the history of the Holy Spirit's work, the biblical languages, and what the Spirit is doing around the world has also reshaped the way we worship and do church.

Personally, out of a longing to study the New Testament in the original Greek, I completed an interlinear New Testament and started a Greek class. Now I'm using AI to create verse-by-verse PowerPoint slides, and it's been a joy to discover insights I had never noticed in the text before. Hallelujah!

Our Donors: July–September 2026 (titles omitted)

○Individuals

神尾鋼行, 神尾紀代子, 河成海, 田代浩子, 長谷部裕子, Anonymous

○Churches & Organizations

Asahikawa Shin'ai Christ Church, Utsukushigaoka Green Chapel, Eiko Christ Church, Kokubunji Baptist Church, Shiroyama Christ Church, Tosu Sonezaki Christ Church, Niiza Shiki Baptist Church, Japan Presbyterian Church, Japan Alliance Christian Church, Haijima Baptist Church, Masago Baptist Church, Yachiyo Christ Church

● Christmas Offering Appeal

Thank you for faithfully remembering the ministry of KDK in prayer. Your prayers and support are a tremendous encouragement to the church planters serving in partnership with KDK.

It's no exaggeration to say that the spread of the gospel in Japan has stalled in recent years. Yet many church planters are persevering through hardship, praying and laboring for lost souls. KDK exists to support these pastors and their churches. Please prayerfully consider a Christmas gift so this ministry can continue. —Tokio Arashi

■ **How Your Gifts Are Used** Your gifts fund monthly support for church planters (¥120,000 in Year 1, tapering to ¥30,000 in Year 7) plus regional seminars and retreats. Thank you!
▷ **Ways to get involved:** Give / Attend a seminar / Join the prayer network (https://kdk.asia)

Church Planter Support: Eligibility & Applications for 2028

[Eligibility] ① Church-planting ministries aiming to establish a church ② Church plants backed by cooperating evangelical denominations ③ Churches in the planting stage (including replants)

[Monthly Support] Yr 1: ¥120,000 / Yr 2: ¥105,000 / Yr 3: ¥90,000 / Yr 4: ¥75,000 / Yr 5: ¥60,000 / Yr 6: ¥45,000 / Yr 7: ¥30,000 (support ends after Year 7)

[Applying for Support Beginning April 2028] Request an application from the KDK office and submit the required documents. Deadline: June 20, 2027 (must be received by this date).

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