

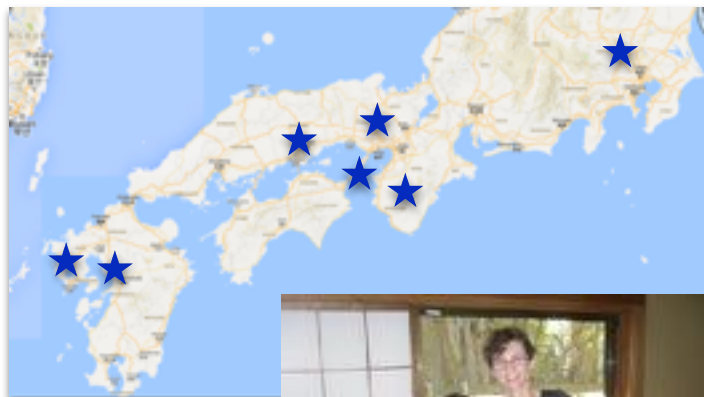
BACK TO JAPAN

NOEL MORRIS VISITS JAPAN AFTER 8 YEARS

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10

I spent 11 days in Japan, and this was very different from the previous weeks in Russia. Here I had a Rail Pass to travel freely, and felt that I should visit some of my friends who lived in more remote places. A couple of those places I had never been to before, which made the experience even more interesting.

There were some friends who lived “closer” who I did not have the time to visit, for which I apologise. My time in Japan was hopefully to encourage the ones I did go to see. Like **Simon and Alison North** from New Zealand serving with OMF. We have known them both since their single days and now they have two growing boys. They have just moved to Saitama to be nearer Christian Academy in Japan for the boys’ further education.



Simon & Alison with Isaac & Sam

Traveling down to the Kansai area I stayed with Pastor Aoki at the Good Samaritan Church. This was our home church for our last 5 years in Japan. This medium-sized church has its own Christian School, and last year built this 5-storied building on their parking lot to house 31 Aged Care clients. This also provides work for church members and income for the church. Aged Care is a growth industry in Japan. I stayed on the 5th floor which is the Pastor’s residence. From here I made several overnight trips to visit my friends.



Good Samaritan Church, Kawanishi



Left – Church building Right – Aged Care facility

Several hours south of Osaka, in the mountains of **Wakayama Ken** is where my friend Richard lives. Richard is from NZ and his wife Chise is Japanese, and they are living here to be near her parents and to give their 4 children an exposure to Japanese life. They can earn a living from their translation service because there is an excellent broadband service even up in these picturesque mountains. (Below left)



Sumoto, Awaji Island

The next visit took me by highway bus across this 3911 metre bridge to Awaji Island. Missionaries Jim and Darla Snipe have been on Awaji Island for 18 years and have build a church there. They first came with a team from FGBMFI Canada and I arranged their outreach 30 years ago. They loved Japan, sold their farm, came as missionaries, and have been in Japan ever since. Jim claims that I am responsible for that, but I think the Lord really deserves the credit for their calling and success! After lunch and a look around the facilities I was off back across that intriguing bridge to Kobe to catch a train to Okayama.



Bridge to Awaji Island – 3911 m



Jim Snipe – Sumoto Chapel

Okayama New Life Church

Back in the early 1990s I was the pastor of a small congregation at Okayama New Life Church, so it was a joyous time to go back to see them all. Fumikazu Sato was a small 10 year old boy who I had baptised and has now become the pastor. Also this church had given the first large donation that enabled us to start the Bible School in Russia, so I was able to share with them what had been happening in Russia as a result of their giving and prayer. We talked late into the night with his parents who I had worked with so many years before.



Okayama New Life Church

Omura, Nagasaki

Next morning I was back on the Bullet Train and local trains to Omura near Nagasaki. Americans Jack and Cathy Garrott met me at the station and took me to their church where we reminisced over our shared times of ministry. Jack is the son of missionary parents and was born in Japan, and Cathy was involved with AGLOW with Edith back in the 1980s. I remember we held some of the first Charismatic meetings in Nagasaki City together back then. I stayed overnight with them before setting out on the next stage of my journey.



Jack & Cathy Garrott – Omura, Nagasaki

Omura, Kumamoto

Meeting me at the station were Rob and Susan Kaylor. We went to a local restaurant for lunch, meeting up with Rob's parents Leo and Phyllis Kaylor. Leo was one of the young men who answered General MacArthur's call after the war to send missionaries to Japan, and has been there since 1951. Phyllis followed in 1952. They met and married and have served the Lord together for 65 years.

After lunch I was shown around Ariake Bible Church, which more recently was part of the relief effort after last year's devastating Kumamoto earthquake. Then I was back on the Bullet Train to my home base in Kawanishi.



Kaylor family – two missionary generations

Awaji Chapel, Osaka

The Good Samaritan Church has a small outreach church in Osaka pastored by Yoji and Noriko Ishii. The Ishii's are old friends, and though the church was few in number, their fellowship was warm. And, their church is right near the Bullet Train station for me to head back to the Tokyo area.

Niiza, Saitama

I stayed with Don and Carol Thomson, and again a lot of talking and reminiscing took place. Don used to help me with video productions and took over my tape and book ministry when we left Japan. Carol is another Goodall - sister to Gerald who was on the Russia team. When the Tohoku earthquake happened, Don became the Japan Director for Operation Blessing - a Christian relief organisation. He is still involved with Tohoku and also the effects of the Kumamoto earthquake.

The next day I was off to Narita Airport and headed home.

Thank you to all who prayed for me, gave donations, accommodated me, fed me meals, and encouraged me in every way as I enjoyed this visit with my friends in Japan.



Yoji & Noriko Ishii – church plant in Osaka



Don & Carol Thomson – Operation Blessing

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