

JH

Japan Harvest
Fall 2009



HOLLAND MIDSON YUKATA PARTY

浴衣パ

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LIFESTYLE SEMINAR

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS

celebrating 400 years Holland-Japan relations
日本・オランダ友好400周年記念

英語セミナー

practice and improve English skills
understanding international culture
practical professional lifestyle advice
networking opportunity - new friends

2009年7月17日 (金) 19-21時
コンファレンススクエアM+
参加費 5,000円 (お弁当別)

受付・会場
18:00フォーラム
20:00ワークショップ

「オランダ・ビジネス・プロフェッショナル文化」
「Hatch & work」 (前丸船の、人間関係)
「faith & beauty」 (プロの美容師の視点)

Greater Love
友だち同士の友情、恋人たちの恋愛、夫婦の愛
いろいろな愛のカタチ。より大きな愛がある。

バレンタインデーを迎え、
すてきな友だちと出会うパーティーはいかがで
友情の日をいっしょにお祝いしましょう。

バレンタイン・パーティー

「ZAREPHATH TRIO」ライブ・ミニコンサート
2009年2月11日 (水・祝) 17時
ザ・トーキョータワーズ・ミッドタワー・スカイラウ
(東京都中央区勝どき6丁目3番地、裏面に案内図があります)

TOKYO VALENTINE

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Paul Nethercott has been a member of TEAM Japan since 1987. Paul is the Director of CAN (Christians in the Arts Network). Paul's ministry focus is on training, equipping and empowering leaders. He is involved in church planting, Member Care & Development and teaches at CLTC (Christian Leadership Training Center). His interests include tennis, walking, playing guitar and reading.

The Arts and Church Planting in Central Tokyo



Is Japan on the verge of a shift in the spiritual climate that will profoundly impact the culture of Japan? If so, Grace City Church Tokyo will be in a strategic location, poised to gather influential young professionals and artists into the Church of Jesus Christ. I recently had a fascinating conversation with Rev. Makoto Fukuda (Presbyterian Church of Japan) and Geert de Boo (Reformed Mission League of the Netherlands), who along with their wives Michiru and Eline are leading this new church plant in central Tokyo, which includes the international financial district of Marunouchi, the political center of Kasumigaseki, the media hub of Shiodome, and the residential redevelopments along Tokyo Bay. I was especially interested in the fact that this team of church planters is intentionally integrating the arts into the DNA of this church planting project.

—Paul



Paul: In Japan, many cities have no church. So why are you starting yet another church in Tokyo?

Geert: I think we are called to use our limited (human) resources strategically. Central Tokyo is a strategic place from the viewpoint of not just starting another church, but igniting a church planting movement; a movement that not merely seeks to save souls, but longs to see restoration and renewal of society. The city in general, and Tokyo as the economic, political, and cultural heart of Japan especially,

is a very effective starting point for such a movement. By the way, central Tokyo is relatively unreached with most churches aging and very few that are thriving and gospel-centered. Yet the population of central Tokyo is growing rapidly (4-6% a year) with a new unreached generation of young professionals populating new high rises.

Paul: Many pastors and missionaries in Japan discount international churches because they are not really Japanese. What is your perspective?

Fukuda: I think international churches are needed especially in Tokyo because many foreigners live there together with Japanese people. There are international/global cultures in Tokyo.

Paul: How are you funding the high cost of locating a church in Tokyo?

Fukuda: I have generous supporters who were introduced by Redeemer Church Planting Center in NYC, by Mission to the World and its parent organization, the Presbyterian Church in America. The Dutch mission league, which sent missionaries de Boos to Tokyo, also supports Grace. We have other supporters within and outside the Presbyterian Church in Japan. All the supporters understand the special needs of planting new churches in central Tokyo and share the vision of church planting movements in global cities.

Paul: Geert, tell me about your background and your passions.

Geert: I am an architect and urban designer by training. So the city was my passion. My field of expertise was in urban renewal. It is very exciting to see that God has opened ways for me to still be involved in the restoration of the city. As a missionary, my passion is no longer directly physical restora-

tion, but the spiritual and cultural renewal of the city. My wife, who had a career serving in national politics in the Netherlands, and I have always had a clear calling to the city. We share our passion for the city and its role in renewal of society at large. Church planting in Tokyo is very important to us in terms of living out our mission calling. Grace is seeking to be a new community in central Tokyo that loves and serves the city.



Paul: Pastor Fukuda, you spent time at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NYC <http://www.redeemer.com>. What did you learn there in relation to the arts? What do you want to implement in Tokyo?

Fukuda: Although this was not a focus of the intensive study course at Redeemer Church Planting Center, I learned the importance of the arts in gospel ministries. I met the Japanese artist Makoto Fujimura, who is an influential artist in NYC. I discussed with him the role of the arts in society, especially in Tokyo. I got valuable insight into the arts being more important for Japanese to express the profound meaning of the gospel and Christian spirituality than rationalistic speaking. Many Japanese accept the gospel when they discover the truth at the emotional level, in their hearts.

Paul: Japanese, including Christians, tend to view Christianity as foreign—do you think this is a problem?

Fukuda: I agree many Japanese have this opinion and this is a stumbling block for Japanese to receive the gospel.

Paul: What can be done about it?

Fukuda: We must contextualize the gospel to be easier for Japanese to accept it. I want to use Japanese classical and contemporary literature, music, art, etc., which interests many people.

Paul: Tell me more about utilizing classical and contemporary Japanese art forms.

Fukuda: Nobel prize winning author, Oe Kenzaburo (not a Christian), wrote an essay about becoming “a new person”. He quoted Ephesians 2:15. I use this essay for presenting the gospel. And, I have used Japanese myth. For example, in Bible studies, I have referred to the historical legend, “Kojiki,” comparing it with the Biblical creation story. Makoto Fujimura, an accomplished Nihonga artist, presents the grace of Christ in his art, which is a visual presentation that Christianity is not a Western religion but really contextualized to Japanese culture.

Paul: Will you use the sanbika or seika (traditional hymnals)?

Fukuda: I don't use the sanbika or seika hymnals because it is difficult for younger Japanese to understand the lyrics. I will use “worship songs” and “praise songs”, and I want to use traditional hymns too, but only if they are revised to contemporary Japanese lyrics or music style. I have not yet decided about the worship style, but I would like to use relatively reformed worship tradition/liturgy along with contemporary music taste and a casual atmosphere.

Paul: Geert, how do you see the arts fitting into Grace?

Geert: We are intentional about reaching artists. Our vision is to impact the city as a whole and we acknowledge that artists are influential and indispensable in shaping the culture of city center Tokyo—the heart of Japan.

We are not only utilizing the arts to reach the artist community with the gospel, we envision working together with them to make this city an even greater place for God. We are preparing a 'faith & arts ministry' that will make the connection between the gospel and creative arts and serve the city. Roger and Abi Lowther will be very much involved



in this ministry. Art (not only music, although because of their giftedness we will utilize music heavily for outreach) has proven to resonate with the Japanese heart more than anything. Therefore, we use creative arts to communicate both the gospel and what our church community wants to be in the city.

NYC Nihonga artist Makoto Fujimura supports us by giving lectures and organizing other art meetings in Tokyo together with Grace City Church. For many members of our target group this is an attractive and gentle introduction into Christianity and Grace City Church. Fujimura instructs and inspires the staff about the connection between faith and art. That has propelled us to use creative arts as a bridge in our seeker Bible study series (from the paint-

ings of the world's greatest masters to the well designed urban café-lounge we use for this study series called CROSSROAD). We also connect with people by putting much effort into the design of our media.

Paul: Who are Roger and Abi Lowther and Makoto Fujimura?

Geert: Mission to The World missionaries Roger and Abi Lowther are professional artists who have a passion for utilizing music and the arts as mission, see www.missionart.org Roger received his Master of Music in Organ Performance from Juilliard in NYC, and Abi received her Master of Music in Piano Performance from The University of Memphis. They will join the staff of Grace this fall and will use their talents in many different ways to encourage a church planting movement in Tokyo.

New York City based Makoto Fujimura is a Japanese national who

is renowned for his combination of abstract expressionism with the traditional Japanese art of Nihonga. Fujimura started the International Arts Movement (IAM) and was a member of the influential National Council of the Arts for the US government.

Paul: What are two or three of your biggest challenges?

Fukuda: Finding a space for worship services, very difficult to find in central Tokyo. It is also difficult, from first contact (concerts, art events, parties) to the next level of relationship with non-Christians. And, we need leaders for the various ministries.

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人生のクロスロード。

あなたはどこに向かって歩んでいますか。グローバルな世界で顕著な影響を与えているベストセラーである「聖書(バイブル)」から、時空を超えた知識、ヴィジョン、メッセージをいっしょに学んでみませんか。
 (11:17-19:17)

CROSSROAD
 クロスロード・バイブルスタディ

日時 8回シリーズ
 土曜日午後4:00-6:00
 9月28日
 10月10日・24日
 11月14日・28日

会場 HENRY GOOD SEVEN
 新丸ビル7階、丸の内ハウス
www.heads-wood.com/henry.html

主催 グレースシティチャーチ東京
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