

Ministry Update

News from Tomoko Steinbach

January-March 2018



The end of March is one of the most beautiful times in Japan. It is a time of warming weather and blooming cherry blossoms. In a similar way, through God's grace and mercy, my counseling ministry, that was started only three months ago, is showing beautiful signs of growth. God has blessed my husband Ryan and I with a wonderful community of believers at Shin-Urayasu Grace Church. God has also opened doors for me with several local ministry organizations, city initiatives, and mental health professionals. As I join his mission here, God has granted me his love and passion for his work of renewal.



Megumi Counseling

I have decided to call my ministry "Megumi Counseling" after the Japanese word for 'grace.' I recognize that it is only through God's grace that I will be able to counsel effectively



and that my clients will experience transformation and healing. A very practical example of God's grace is having space available at our church for counseling. Rent in Tokyo is very expensive and so

this truly is a blessing.



First Seminar

Seminars are one of the best ways to reach out and connect with people. I gave my first seminar on Valentine's Day. It explored effective ways of dealing with marital conflict, and many of the women who participated openly shared their stories and struggles. This initial seminar has already led to opportunities for additional ones in the coming months.

I truly enjoy sharing what I have learned both academically and experientially and I plan to continue offering counseling-related seminars/workshops to reach as many people as I can.



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Praise & Prayer

1. Praise for having such a **wonderful support system** for this ministry. I do not feel alone. This is a new way for me to experience God's provision through the body of Christ and it is very humbling.
2. Prayer that I will **communicate effectively** in my ministry. Most of my materials and sources are written in English and so I need to translate them into Japanese. I need wisdom to be sensitive to cross cultural values and contextualize my materials in ways that are practical and understandable.
3. Prayer **that God will continue to nurture me** with his love so that I will follow his lead and love the people he has entrusted to me.
4. Prayer that God will give me **connections** through participation in church events, through seminars I can give, and through counseling sessions with people with whom I can share God's grace as we interact about issues they are facing in their lives.

Thank you for your prayers,

Tomoko

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My ministry partners:

MTW Mission to the World and

PMI Presbyterian Mission International

All gifts are tax-deductible.



This is the neighborhood where our church and counseling ministry is located. Will you join us by touching this one part of the world with the gospel of grace found in the Lord Jesus Christ?



Crows building a nest from hangars on a utility pole near our apartment - creative!



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