

J A P A N: March 1-31, 2017

Paul DeGagne of Abbotsford and **Katsutaro Kawai** of Romania together with myself, formed a 'three-fold cord not easily (LB) broken' (Ecc 4:12). Katsu's intimate knowledge of the land, language and people of Japan made it possible for us to speak freely and move easily around the country. We spent



many hours praying and prophesying into the lives of those in need. New and wider doors of opportunity opened up in different directions. This resulted in increasing the scope of ministry into a growing number of churches. God graciously confirmed His word by pouring out His Spirit on the hungry and thirsty. Things were accomplished that are

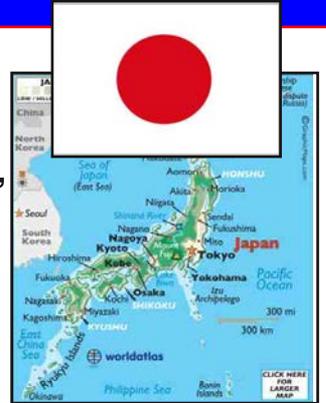


of eternal importance. The Lord's work is truly a 'great work' (Neh 6:3). There is **so** much to be done!

The schedule was so tight and demanding that my strength broke and I collapsed into bed March 18 with an inflamed bronchial system. **Dr Makoto Okawa** whom I have known since he was a child, graciously took care of me in Kochi that weekend. The condition of my chest later developed into 'walking pneumonia' so I spent most of the time thereafter, in bed at Izumi Church on the outskirts of Osaka. But Paul and Katsu were well able to carry on, and keep all our commitments. In the end, we got even more done than expected.

'THE GATES OF HELL...'

We left the 'land of the rising sun' for home at the end of March. The last day or two before leaving, **Pastor Koishi** of Chiba Grace River Church took us up into their prayer tower. The high rise stands on a peninsula that circles Tokyo and reaches well out into the Pacific. This is as far east as you can go anywhere in Japan. These are the very first people in the world, to be praying and praising the Lord as the sun rises on any given day! We stood overlooking a red light district directly below and prophesied the Kingdom of God would be enforced and reinforced by 'arrows of deliverance' that would accomplish a 'great work' and reap a great harvest. Paul



Nagoya Castle





Japan remember you with much fondness. They always inquire about your health, and ask how you're doing'.

May 23 and August 28 I had



surgery to open up a new drainage system in each eye. This dramatically reduced internal pressures and brought the disease process under

control. My recovery is an ongoing process, but the big win is that I'm off those awful drugs and I'm not going blind anymore! I also had prostate surgery November 27. In a follow up appointment at the end of December, Dr Warner said 'You're in great shape! Good for another 76 years!'.



Happy Birthday!

returned by himself in September to follow through with more in depth ministry. He said 'Two people received baptism in the Holy Spirit during the personal ministry time. It was as if you were there ministering with me! Wow!'. He went on to say, 'People here in

Coming

HAIDA GWAIL: March 1 - 12, 2018



Pastor Bruce Brown of the Native Pentecostal Church in Vancouver and I will visit his people in this pristine wilderness where he was born, and also pastored himself for nine years. He says it is quite a dark place and needs more ministry. It has been on my heart for years to go, but now the way is opening up and the lights are turning green. I feel honoured that Pastor Bruce is willing to take me up there and introduce me to some of the people.

There is this spontaneous stirring in our hearts at this time, to go up to the Haida people with healing in our hands and a blessing from the Lord. The Anglican pastor has opened a door to the church in Masset where we will begin ministering for a few days over the weekend. Then there will be house meetings in various other places through the next weekend.

Pastor Bruce said we can stay with his daughter at her place. **Brenda** his niece now living in Langley, is also a key in the hand of the Lord to open doors. Haida Gwaii is about 100 miles off the west coast so it's another one of those 'ends of the earth' to which 'the Lord commanded us' (Act 13:47)

to go. The next western landfall is Chiba, built beside Tokyo across the Pacific. Any advance or forward move by the Kingdom of God is always met by the resistance at some level, of hostile spiritual forces in the kingdom of darkness. This is truly a case of 'kingdoms in conflict' neither of which, are of this world. The Bible says 'resist the devil, and he shall flee from you' (Jas 4:7) so it is clearly, one spiritual force against another. Will you join us in this great resistance movement in the Kingdom of God? We need to press this battle to the very 'gates of Hell' (Mat 16:18) and break through to great victory that will bring people 'out of darkness into His marvelous light' (1 Pet 2:9). We really need 'you also helping together by prayer for us' (2 Cor 1:11) - to achieve this breakthrough. Would you be willing to set aside a specific time and place to pray for us daily, on this mission?

Rev Lionel Batke
February, 2018

'Release Ministries' began in the 1990s during a series of visits to Japan with veteran missionaries Donnel & Venda McLean. Our express purpose, burden and vision is to inspire, activate, release and establish spiritual gifts throughout the churches in an ongoing, operative way. One day Donnel said, 'This is a release ministry'. Many years later it became obvious Team Thrust Ministries was

outdated, needing to be retired and replaced. Pastor Doug Fortune then confirmed 'Release Ministries' to be the name of this new thing God is doing, so new governing documents were prepared. 'Release Ministries Society' was registered in Victoria as a corporation September 19, 2011, then in Ottawa as a charity January 24, 2013. To Unsubscribe, reply with 'UNSUBSCRIBE' in the subject line. Graphics: Norman Glass

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