
The 22nd JELCW • Newsletter

No. 147 Oct. 15, 2013
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church Women
1-14-14 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0072
Publisher: Naoko Suzuki Editor: Fumiyo Terashima

Overlying Theme: “Christ Wants You” --- Joy, Prayer, and Gratitude

Scriptural Theme:

Always be joyful and never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ.

This is what God wants you to do. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

to you

What is it like in Rainbow House?



Junko Tsuru
Senior Manager
Rainbow House – Social Welfare
Corporation

Rainbow House was established because people wished to work normally regardless of disability. In March 1989, it opened as a workshop for the disabled in the Saga Church yard. The house was a pre-fabricated building made of second-hand members and materials from the near-by junior high school. At that time, there were not as many workers --- we had parents, siblings, church members, volunteers and the handicapped, especially the deaf, come to bake and sell cookies. All worked together to provide for the future, depending on the help of the Lord. Saga Church's centennial was 1992. When the church was refurbished for the commemoration, Rainbow House was granted permission to rent its second meeting room to begin full-fledged operation. In 2004, the House needed to obtain social welfare corporation status with a foundation. A fundraising was made possible

through savings the House had made over the years, and benevolent contributions by church members, workers' families and volunteers. In the last 25 years, the House has grown out of a group of a few to 57 strong, covering different types of work, such as baking, telework, and collection of waste articles. So many people have extended helping hands. On behalf of the House, I express our sincere gratitude. The present director is Rev. Michiaki Hamada. We hold a Bible study every other week for staff, as well as choir time for all participants once every month.

I cannot say for sure if we have always been joyful, but we kept praying and thanking God for 25 years. Maybe we have taken our eyes off the Lord or caused him to wait sometimes. In spite of that, he blessed us more than we can hope with abundant fruit. He has prepared the way, held our hands, supported us from behind, and walked by our side to this day. We are thankful that we could be united in prayer by his grace. Through this time of reflection and prayer, we have realized how important and joyful it is to work under the Lord's blessing, and will move the Rainbow House forward.