

ACWCJ

Naomi Tajima, Keiko Renge

The 15th ACWC Quadrennial General Assembly was held last year in Tagaytay, the Philippines on October 8-13th. "United in Christ, we build a Life-living World" was decided as the theme for the next four years. New officers were elected. The representative of ACWC Japan has also changed. We thank you for the donations of ¥282,743 to the International Committee of the Fellowship of Least Coin (ICFLC) and of ¥80,240 to the Signature Campaign last year.

Itsukushimi

* Kansai Committee

Akie Momiyama

No seminar was held in 2014 but we planned the 15th Seminar as follows;

Date: Oct. 17 10:30 – 15:00

Venue: JELC Osaka Church

Lecturer: Mr. Akihiro Mochida (attorney)

Theme: Court on earth and Court in heaven (tentative)

Details will be announced in early July. We hope to see many of you there.

* Kanto Committee

Hisako Ishitobi

We held a seminar by inviting Rev. Sayoko Oooka of the Anglican Episcopal Church in Japan on April 26, 2014. In 2015, we are going to prepare for the next seminar together with NRK representatives.

We are grateful to your understanding of and cooperation with the *Itsukushimi* Action.

NCCJ/ Women Committee

Noriko Ishitani

* World Day of Prayer

We deeply grateful for your support every year.

The committee helps with matters such as editing and shipping of the liturgy, and distribution of donations. We gain a deeper understanding of each other by working and praying together.

* Forum

This year, the planned "Forum" was postponed because of the office relocation. Instead, we had free sharing time about each other's thoughts in this committee. This meeting reported that "500 years memorial project of the Reformation" is getting wide attention. The Committee is an ecumenical movement, and I hope we tell of our projects even more actively.

LWF/WICAS

Kyoko Tawara

Japanese and Korean women's conference and Open Seminar by LWF/WICAS will be held at Ichigaya Lutheran Center and Tokyo Lutheran Church from April 7 to 9. WICAS secretary Ms. Elaine, five Korean members, and about ten members from Japan will participate in this conference. Gender Justice Policy was issued by LWF for the purpose of understanding and prevailing its policy for 500 Reformation Anniversary. JELC, as one of the LWF member churches, is also expected to expand its principles through the study of its Japanese translation. The main theme is to restore and promote abundant human relationship as God's justice without any discrimination.

Life as Salt of the Earth

Being Supported

By Setsuko Imai
(Hachioji Church)
Vice-director,
NPO Akebono Kai,



“Treat others as you want them to treat you” Mt 7:12

This is the word that Mr. Yasuhiko Imai, my husband and Director of NPO Akebono Kai is fond of. It is also the motto of our welfare facility based on the Comprehensive Law for the Support of the Handicapped. These are the programs we carry out under this theme:

Takiyama Workshop --- Currently 10 handicapped people are employed.

Umetsubo Workshhop --- Currently 18 people get training for employment.

Akebono Workshop --- Currently 22 people work with guidance.

Akebono Dormitory --- Group home (23 people)

The trainees are mentally disabled and engage in mailing services such as inserting flyers, books, or catalogues into envelopes and pasting address-labels. The trainees are quite serious about their work, but also enjoy it. As they use collators, they can do many insertions with just one motion. When many orders come, they may work overtime or on weekends in order to meet the deadline. Even then, they work diligently. We owe what we are to those trainees who love to work. Thanks to them, the customers also trust us.

The dormitory houses 17 men and 6 women. Two newcomers will join us in April, making the total 25. We will be a big family. The dormitory consists of four flats. My husband and I also live in the dormitory. There are four residents who have lived there for as long as 38 years. Together with them, our wonderful partners, we have shared the joys and sorrows of life. They are our pride. Twelve of the residents attend Hachioji Church every Sunday and one goes to church in the Metropolitan area. Nine have been baptized. Three girls have joined a choir, and now enjoy giving praise during communion services and at the senior citizens' homes they visit. Sister Setsuko Tateishi (Hachioji) visits us every Tuesday to teach them how to write. The trainees look forward to her visit. When time allows, they learn calligraphy. They are unique calligraphers.

It has been almost forty years since I began to be involved with the disabled. While they are gentle and charming, many of them are stubborn and once decided, they are set in their ways. Now we have more trainees than before. They are all willing to do their job, and are competitive and hard-workers.