



## Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC)

Congregations in Kumamoto

Rev. Hitoshi and Satoko Adachi

ELCA Missionary and Associate

### VISITORS FROM THE US

Hitoshi and Satoko welcomed 5 groups of visitors to Kumamoto, from the US, during the last couple of months. These visits were impossible during the Pandemic travel restrictions. Here are two couples' highlights that they want to share with you:

#### Mr. Bert and Mrs. Alice Teal from Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church

Hitoshi & Satoko's missionary work in Kumamoto has been made possible through the support of many congregations in the US, for which they are truly grateful. Among those congregations, Mr. Bert and Mrs. Alice Teal, members of the Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church in Chapin, South Carolina, visited the Jiai-en on May 9th.

In Jiai-en, they first visited the Powlas Memorial Hall. They were already familiar with Dr. Maud Powlas' missionary work before visiting Japan, but they were deeply moved when they saw the mementos, such as the Bible, clothes, and books, displayed in the memorial hall. In addition, they expressed their sincere gratitude to Mr. Yoshikazu Shiotani, a former chairman of the board, who carries on that spirit and to pour God's love into caring for babies, children, and the elderly who are in difficult situations.



They also observed a Bible study with the teachers at Hikari Nursery School. At the end of the study, they gave a message to the teachers saying, "The work of you, teachers, is the most important job in the world. Thank you very much for doing this job."

#### Mr. Jeff & Mrs. Mika Cours

Jeff was one of Pacifica Synod Council members when Hitoshi was serving as one of the synod's Assistants to the Bishop, and he and Mika, his spouse, joined Kumamoto International Service on



May 28th, the Pentecost. They witnessed worshippers from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, Germany, the US and Japan brought together by the Holy Spirit.

### ALMOST 2000 Years AFTER PENTECOST Hitoshi's Reflection

Acts 2:4 says, "And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability." Across the world people speak other languages and can still understand each other. But Hitoshi feels that further progress is happening rapidly. Here is an example:

Their eldest son's spouse, Pi, (they live in the United States now) was blessed with a scholarship and studied computer science at a university founded by the Methodist Church in the early 19th century. She currently works at Google's headquarters near San Francisco.

When they came to Kumamoto for four days last time, Hitoshi and Satoko took them to an event in Yamaga-city hosted by the Kumamoto Association of Incurable Diseases. They listened to the speeches of four people who are living cheerfully while battling various incurable diseases such as rheumatism, chronic joint diseases, and cancer. Pi can say a few Japanese greetings and phrases, but it was difficult for her to understand their Japanese. However, Pi was attentively listening to them through her smart phone as they were speaking in Japanese.

Surprisingly, what is said in Japanese is automatically translated into English almost simultaneously on the screen of her smart phone without the use of a human interpreter. It's not an exact translation, but along with their real voices, the laughter and sighs in the hall, their thoughts and feelings while living with diseases all combined conveying the essences of their speeches. It was this combination of words, emotions, and technology that allowed Pi to understand the speakers' speeches. Pi told Hitoshi and Satoko that she was grateful to attend the event.

The evolution of artificial intelligence has helped improve communication and translation, but Hitoshi feels that the driving force guiding it is Gracious God, the Holy Spirit and talented researchers working powerfully together. Amen.