

# The Bedows in Japan

*Thank you for your Prayers  
and Support.*



## Peace International Church Baptism Testimony - Mariko Matsuo

*Winter 2022*

I was born in Iruma. I grew up with my parents, grandparents and brothers and sister. For nearly 170 years my family has been a member of the Cyosenji Temple in this city. I went to Kindergarden at the temple for 3 years, every morning we all sang and prayed Buddhist mantras.

Every year we visited the family cemetery during the Obon season and every Ohigan season. On the first day of Obon my sister and I dressed up in our Yukata Kimono and went to welcome our ancestors' spirits back. We were told that the spirits of our ancestors would come back to this world during Obon. Thinking about it now, our lifestyle was the typical Japanese style where Buddhism and Shintoism teachings and ceremonies are all mixed together. For the New Year's Day we go to shrines and temples, many weddings are held in a western church style, if we buy a new car we go to a shrine to get a blessing of protection. I didn't even think something was wrong about it. All my life I have lived like that but 3 years ago a good friend invited me to go to Peace International Church. The message is in English and Japanese. I've never been to church so I was very reluctant to go but I love studying English.

For the first time in my life I opened the Bible. Pastor Mark preached about sin. I still remember that he said sin is missing the target and as a result we are separated from God. It took awhile for me to understand but as I started going to church and studying the Bible, I realized I am a sinner.

In my life I have gone through many difficulties and every time I faced troubles I relied on my own effort and patience. But it seemed I just wandered around the darkness of a long tunnel and could never find true peace for my soul.

*"All who are weary and heavy burdened, come to me and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

*When I met this word I thought God must know where I was at.  
What a powerful word it is !*

Only Jesus can take away my burdens and give me a rest. God was speaking to me but yet I couldn't understand His love and was wandering around as I learned the Bible. It was my pride. Even though I was going to church I still had pride and tried to solve problems by myself. God allowed me to go through hardship. God helped me to realize there are some things I cannot do anything about by myself. I've been learning to trust God. I realize now that God was patiently looking for me all that time I was hiding from Him. I was that lost sheep Jesus left 99 others to come and find. As I learned more about Bible from Pastor Mark and Rutsuko I desired to respond to Jesus who has been calling me. "Here I am!!"

After accepting Jesus into my life I still had many worries and doubts about whether or not I had truly become a new person. Do I really have the right to get baptized? Even now I am in many ways in a dark tunnel, but I have a new hope as I have found the sun ray of day. The light which is the love of Jesus.

As I follow Jesus, I know He will continue to shine bright in my life as he changes me. I am thankful that He is walking with me and I want to walk step by step with Jesus and my new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Christ died on the Cross for our sins, buried and resurrected in 3 days.  
I rejoice in this wonderful grace of God and will live the rest of my life believing Jesus as my own Savior.

September 25, 2022



Wishing you a ...*Merry Christmas in Christ Jesus...*

Evangelism Ministry

Peace International Church



Before Covid we had to balance Evangelism events with Church but since Covid we have had 5 Events in the 3 years but have been able to participate in a few online recordings. Still wearing masks here but when we eat, take a picture, or are in agreement we sometimes take them off. For the most part the fear is dissipating but...



We are still delivering Bread donations from Costco to the needy.

From July I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors - Christian Academy in Japan where Marikah is currently a senior. Kachel looks forward to graduating from Calvin and Jessica is enjoying her second year of College life.

My local morning evangelism has been very sporadic but Christmas should get me out more.



- \*Wednesday Bible Study
- \*Baptism - Church Picture
- \*Feeding the Hungry
- \*Time in the Park
- \*and the many visitations for those who can't come.



*We are enjoying doing personal bible studies and are encouraged to see the word of God change people*

Demolition / Parking Project

Grace Christian Preschool



5 months of off and on work with help from a friend at times. I destroyed and he helped load. Rutsuko and the girls were also a big help at times too.



Since June I have gotten a lot of needed exercise and saving a small fortune with my crow bar and soar muscles. And my 30 year old \$50 little truck is awesome.

I had been praying for years to buy the property, I don't know why God put it on my heart to pray but just after finishing our new house church the owner suddenly asked if we would buy it. Didn't even know it was for sale.

I said it was impossible however after I discussed it with my father we made an offer. The owner came down again if we took it as is for \$10,000. A lot of trash, junk, but some tools and ladders. It will be great for parking and a church billboard as people turn up into the neighborhood.

We are privileged to share Jesus on Monday morning and special events like Christmas, Fathers & Mothers Day, etc.. On Thursday mornings an English class. It is an honor to plant seeds for the future.

