
The 22nd JELCW • Newsletter

No. 149 October 15, 2014
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 Find a ‘Companion’

Rev. Yasufumi Nakajima,
Director, Chiba Bethany
Home
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One summer day 13 years ago, I was walking to the maternal and child living support facility, of which I had been appointed as director, in order to see its condition. The facility was about 1.5km away from the nearest train station. As I walked, pouring with sweat, I tried to imagine how the mothers would feel entering the place. “Have they not walked this way, feeling anxious about their life or the future of their children? What did they think about themselves when they had to seek shelter at a facility that they had never known?” I myself was feeling nervous, wondering what a non-professional like me could do as a director.

The women’s shelter is a facility for ‘women and their children under 18 years old, either from a fatherless family or for women who, for a variety of reasons, have not been able

to submit divorce documents.’ These facilities provide support while the mother/child dyad stays there but recently they often extend livelihood support after the dyad has left. Psychological support has also become increasingly necessary in many cases. I sincerely hope that more personal, appropriate support can be given for their independent living.

‘The Lord God said, “It isn’t good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him.” (Gn 2:18)’ The Bible tells us that human beings needs a partners. We tend to regard ‘independent’ to mean both economical and psychological self-reliance. The Bible, however, denies that. Rather it tells us, “You need help. It is when you have found a suitable companion that you become independent.” Just as I was unable to provide any help 13 years ago, I still cannot do anything for the mother and child who knock on the door with an anxious heart. These days I pray that I could tell them one thing; God surely sends a suitable companion to them. Needless to say, God sends a suitable companion to you and to me.