

what is ec

Theme

one m.o.re
~ministry of reconciliation~
It's entrusted to you

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV)

What images conjure up in your mind when you hear the word, "reconciliation?" Is it something personal like reconciling with friends, or something beyond our physical control like reconciliation between nations? According to the Bible, reconciliation is actually something that pertains to all of us.

Two thousand years ago, God sent Jesus Christ to this Earth in order to restore His relationship with us. And with the power of the cross, God reconciled with us. Accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior, and being reconciled with God, we have been entrusted with m.o.re: ministry of reconciliation by God.

Let us seek m.o.re entrusted to you through ec 07!

purpose

equipper conference (ec) is a five night conference which "equips" (Ephesians 4:12) Japanese Christians who met Jesus overseas for their eventual return to their home country as ambassadors of Christ.

"It was He who gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God."

Ephesians 4:11-13

Currently many Japanese are living abroad for various reasons. These include ongoing studies, businesses, and international marriages. The Gospel touches them and many of them become believers, who are to return to Japan some day. There are also those who became Christians in Japan but are now growing spiritually overseas. God can work through them in a great way when they go back to Japan to witness to their families and friends and to spread the Gospel message as they become connected to local churches.

Yet in reality, many of these returnees suffer what is often called "reverse-culture shock" beyond the level they had expected, which affects even their walk with Jesus. As a result, and regrettably, many of them depart from churches within a few years of returning home. God has started equipper conference by gathering several missions organizations in order to reverse this sad trend in returnee Christians' life (please see history). The purpose of equipper conference is to prepare Japanese Christians abroad (mainly in North America) by cultural and discipleship trainings before their return, so that with God's encouragement they will be equipped as the disciples of Christ to share His love and forgiveness in Japan.

who should come?

equipper conference (ec) 07 serves people such as,

1) Japanese Christians who plan to go back home;

- 2) Japanese Christians in North America who serve the Lord;
- 3) Non-Japanese Christians (English speakers) who are serving such Japanese Christians;
- 4) Christians in Japan who want to receive and help returnee Christians; and
- 5) those who are interested in ministry to Japanese people.

(please see the Program for the details).

date and place

equipper conference 2007 (ec 07)

from december 27, 2007 (thu) to january 1, 2008 (tue)
(please see tentative schedule for the detailed info.)

place

Calvary Chapel Conference Center: <http://www.calvarychapel.com/mhs/>
39405 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd., Murrieta, CA 92563, USA

ec 07 will be held at the conference facility owned by Calvary Chapel in Murrieta, CA, outside Los Angeles. It enjoys mild temperature even in December and it has very open atmosphere. Hot spas and swim pool (both outside) are available during ec 07.

history

In 1997, under the vision that Japanese Christians would be encouraged and equipped for the work of the Lord's before their return to Japan, several missions organizations worked together to host the first equipper conference in Seattle, WA.

themes and main speakers at past ec

ec 97 "returning to our home land with Christ" Rev. Yuichiro Nakano (Seattle, WA)

ec 98 "home for the Harvest" Rev. Arthur Hollands (Seattle, WA)

ec 99 "ambassadors for Christ" Rev. Mitsuo Fukuzawa (Seattle, WA)

ec 01 "looking to Jesus" Rev. Hidenori Takahashi (Forest Falls, CA)

ec 02 "our Christ, our confidence" Rev. Kazuhiko Uchida (Forest Falls, CA)

ec 04 "You are God's Masterpiece" Rev. Akira Sato (Murrieta, CA)

ec 05 "love incarnated" Rev. Katsuhiko Seino (Murrieta, CA)

voices of past conferees

"Before coming to ec, I was asking God for the direction of whether I should return to Japan or not next year. But I am now confident that God brought me the burden for Japan. I am in peace with returning to Japan."

"I became a Christian while I was staying in the States. But now I am living in Japan. I was spoken through ec as I came back to the place where I became a Christian. I could realize that I am a missionary to be sent back to Japan.

"I spend my Christian life surrounded by American Christians. It was a great opportunity that I was reminded of being Japanese."

"I was so thankful that I could serve the Lord with joy through the conference. It was grateful that there were lots of precious encounters. I needed them!! I hope to have more Christians in Japan. I would like to work to connect returnees to the churches in Japan."

"God encouraged me through my encounters with new and old friends. Through messages and worship, God revealed to me what I need to repent and helped me to know that I didn't have to blame myself any more. I want to practice His love which enables me to rejoice in the midst of difficulties and to rejoice for others."

"[ec] convinced me of God's existence."

"By God's grace, the purpose of ec which is to encourage future returnee Christians was fulfilled."

"I was delighted that God reminded me of my Japanese identity at ec, because I do not have many Japanese Christians around where I live."

"I was able to understand the love of God through the cross. God also helped me to see that I had the gift of leadership through my volunteer service at ec."

"Ec renewed my devotion to Jesus. My desires to love the Japanese people and study their language were also renewed."

"At ec I realized that I had become weary and lethargic in my busy and spiritually difficult life in Japan. But through praising God, sharing with each other, and praying with my wonderful brothers and sisters I met at ec, my soul was filled with the Holy Spirit. Even after I came back to my routines in Japan, my heart is still burning. I would never lose sight of God from now on."

"I am not a Christian. At ec I made many precious friends. I think it was a gift from God, because I'd never thought the friendship would become this important to me."