



Tokyo Bay Counseling Ministry

Spring-Summer 2020

Newsletter from Tomoko Steinbach

Wow! It's hard to believe that it has already been three years since we moved to Japan. While there have been many changes, and a lot of ups and downs, God's grace has been constant and unchanging. It has been through His grace that I have continued to grow in my calling to reach the broken and hurting. And it is through His grace that the counseling ministry has continued to grow and evolve.

Earlier this year, there was a significant development in the operations of the counseling ministry. Shin-Urayasu Grace Church and I renewed the contract we have been operating under, but with a different organizational and financial structure. The new structure is designed to improve the long-term sustainability of the ministry.

In addition to changing the structure, we have also clarified the ministry's mission. The mission of Megumi Counseling is to

- 1) BE a safe place for the brokenhearted.
- 2) WALK alongside the brokenhearted.
- 3) HELP the brokenhearted grow in connection to God, Self, and Others.

Despite the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus, Megumi Counseling has remained open and active. I have been able to offer counseling services and receive counseling training through the use of online tools and resources. At the same time, the Megumi Counseling network has been gradually expanding by building partnerships with churches and counselors in Japan to extend the availability of counseling services.

Just as the counseling ministry continues to change and grow, so do I continue to change and grow as a person. Recently, God has given me an opportunity to reconnect with my father, something I struggled to do since returning to Japan. This has been bitter-sweet as we catch up on time lost while I was in the U.S. and address unresolved grief. Through all of this, God has revealed my unwillingness to stretch myself in expressing love and to tolerate ambiguity. He has also reminded me that personal transformation is not just for the counseled; it is for the counselor as well.

It really is amazing to see what God has done in our three years here. The more I sit with people in their pain, the more I am convinced that God has called me to carry out His work of healing and restoration.

The Psalmist says, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3) Isaiah also writes, "For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden,

her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.” (Isaiah 51:3)

Thank you for your interest and support.

Tomoko Steinbach

Tomoko.kabeya@gmail.com



This space has been designated for our ministry and transformed into a beautiful counseling room.

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