

# OPEN CIRCLE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TOKYO UNION  
CHURCH WOMEN'S SOCIETY

**March 2009**

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**With the Message given by  
Pastor Matthew Hardin**



2009 Country - Papua New Guinea  
In Christ There Are Many Members,  
Yet One Body

**Thursday, March 5, 2009**

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP FROM 9:30 A.M.**

**IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**PRAYER SERVICE FROM 10:30 A.M.**

**IN THE SANCTUARY**

**Tokyo Union  
Church  
Women's  
Society**

**5-7-7 Jingumae**

**Shibuya-ku,**

**Tokyo**

**03-3400-0942**

**Monday to  
Friday**

**10:00 - 14:00**

**(03) 3400-0942**

**<http://www2.gol.com/users/tuc/tucws.html> Email: [tucws@hotmail.com](mailto:tucws@hotmail.com)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My fellow WS members,

We are living through some trying times. It seems that everyone I talk to has been touched by some trial or problem. At times it is hard to know what to say or do to offer comfort and support. Prayer shawls are one way of doing just that. They are knitted or crocheted and can be given to anyone who needs special prayers in their lives.

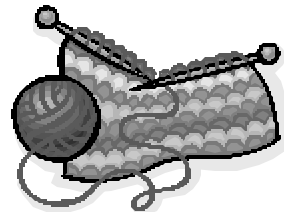
In the past few weeks I have been involved in the final blessings of two prayer shawls before they were sent off to show our comfort, support and prayers. The recipients both have serious medical conditions and these shawls will be a tangible reminder that people care and are praying for them. I do not know either of the recipients personally, but I am happy that I was able to be a part of this wonderful ministry. We cannot solve all of the problems that we see, but we can still make a difference.

If you know how to knit or crochet or would like to learn, you could be a part of a wonderfully caring ministry. Please e-mail Lauraleen at [lauraleeng@aol.com](mailto:lauraleeng@aol.com) or myself if you would like more information.

With prayers for many blessings in your lives,

Bonnie Henry

Co-President



## WE NEED YOU!!

Do you enjoy our programs? Do you enjoy our classes?

Do you enjoy the fundraisers we have? Do you enjoy our small groups?

The TUC Women's Society is an organization made up of volunteers. In April, we will elect a new Board. Many dedicated volunteers have been giving of their time to make sure we all have many wonderful events to enjoy. As many of us know, people move in and out of our lives. This year is no different. As people move on from Tokyo, we need to fill their positions in order for us to continue doing all the wonderful things we do,

***we need more people to lend a hand.***

Please consider giving some of your time to this wonderful organization. If you don't want to do it alone, ask a friend to join you. If you want to see what our Board is all about, come to our meeting and see. We will be meeting on Thursday, March 5th, at 2 pm. All are welcome. Or for more information contact

Bonne Henry at 047-326-3108 or [bonnieandfrank@yahoo.com](mailto:bonnieandfrank@yahoo.com)

# MONTHLY PROGRAM

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2009**  
**10:30 a.m. Worship Service**

2009 Country - Papua New Guinea

In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body

On **March 5, 2009**, the women of Papua New Guinea invite us to have the confidence of Ruth, who left what was familiar to her and went with Naomi to another land. They call us to ponder the mystery of our oneness in Christ in their context and our own. Papua New Guinea has one of the most heterogeneous indigenous populations in the world. More than 800 languages are spoken. Their diversity is expressed in this saying, "For each village another culture." Yet, the bilum, a traditional string bag is found nearly everywhere. Bilums come in many colors, sizes, shapes, and styles and often the creative designs identify where the bilums were made. Men usually prefer a long handle style that is worn over the shoulder. Women carry their babies and their market produce. Bilums are also used as a hanging cradle for a sleeping baby.

We are also invited to reflect on the collaborative networks among women. In Exodus, the story of deliverance from bondage begins with women's non-violent intervention. Their actions ignore the social forces that are rooted in the fallacy that one group is superior to the other and is entitled to exploit them. Together, the women overcome evil with good. So, too, in the context of Papua New Guinea, we are given examples of women's intervention in Bougainville and in the Highlands. And we are called to identify women's intervention in our own context.

## MOPS - MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS

**Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:30 a.m.**



Please join us for an inspirational time of fellowship, sharing, creative activities and of course eating. Childcare is provided at no cost. Moms, this is a great opportunity to focus on YOU for a change. Please feel free to contact Tomomi Kumagai at [Tomomi.kumagai.c@gmail.com](mailto:Tomomi.kumagai.c@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

# CLASSES

## Classes ~ sign up now!

March winds are blowing, so it's a great time to get out of the cold and take a class at TUC! Check out these upcoming classes listed below. You can read all the details in your copy of the Winter-Spring 2009 Class Catalog. There are several new classes starting up, and it's not too late to register. Even if a class has already begun, don't hesitate to ask the teacher if you can join.

M-T-W: Ikebana, Japanese Flower Arranging (#6-1,2,3) – Sogetsu, Ohara, and Ichiyo

Monday: Japanese Literature: "Once Upon a Time" Folktales (#4-2)

Monday: Tai-Chi for Health (#7-2), Session 2 starts March 16

Monday: Japanese Language (#8-5), Session 2 starts March 30

Monday: Japanese for Children (#1-4), Session 2 starts March 30

Monday: Japanese Literature: "The Tale of Genji" (#4-3) starts April 6

Monday: Washi Eggs & Box for Easter (#3-11), April 6

Tuesday: Sumi-e Ink Painting (#5-2), Session 2 starts March 17

Tuesday: Japanese Washi-Paper Covered Screen (#3-5) – March 17 & 24

Tuesday: Obi-Covered Photo Frame (#3-8) – March 31

Tuesday: Kids' Music Dance & Movement (#1-7), Session 2 starts March 31

Tuesday: Kimekomi Dolls (#3-7) – 4 lessons, April 7-28

Tuesday: Mashiko Pottery Town Bus Tour, April 28 – hurry, few seats left!

Wednesday: Japanese Onsen Tour (#4-4), March 18

Wednesday: English (ESL) for Adults (#8-1) and English Conversation (#8-2)

Wednesday: Pottery Making (#3-9), 3 lessons, begins April 1

Wednesday: Simple & Delicious Japanese Cooking (#2-1), begins April 1

Wednesday: Enamel or Silver Clay Jewelry Making (#3-6), April 8

Wednesday: Sashiko Stitching (#3-10), 3 lessons, April 8, 15, 22

Wednesday: Essential Ballet for Kids (#1-1,2,3), Session 2 begins April 1

Friday: Beautiful Japanese Wrapping (#3-1) – Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10

Friday: Everyday Japanese Beginning (#8-3) and Intermediate (#8-4)

Friday: Sho-do Japanese Calligraphy (#3-3), 5 lessons, Mar 27–Apr 24

Saturday: East Meets West: Jap.Fusion Cooking (#2-3), 2 lessons, Mar 28 & Apr 4

Class registration is accepted at the Women's Society desk, Monday through Friday, 10:00– 14:00.

### **NEW!!! TUCWS CLASSES COMMITTEE – YOU'RE INVITED!**

Everyone's help and ideas are welcome in helping to plan our classes. Interested in joining us? Just send an email to Nancy Schmatz at [tucws.classes@yahoo.com](mailto:tucws.classes@yahoo.com).



# MONTHLY TOUR—MARCH 17



More than just an ordinary museum, the **Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum** is also part historical theme park and part hyper-specialized restaurant mall. The first floor is devoted to numerous museum exhibits and a well-stocked souvenir shop. Every imaginable ramen-related displays are here to see -- ramen-making utensils, ramen bowls (over 300), ramen shop matchbooks, chopstick wrappers, curtains and aprons. The historical development of instant ramen is painstakingly chronicled, and the invention of cup ramen (the kind where you pour boiling water directly into a styrofoam cup) is celebrated as the dramatic technological achievement it most certainly was.

But the fun is only beginning, since the remainder of the museum is a miniature historical theme park. The date is 1958, and the place is *shitamachi*, a typically bustling working-class neighborhood crowded with tiny shops, houses, and restaurants. "Ramen Town" includes several nostalgic attractions -- vendors selling cotton candy and old-fashioned pastries, weathered storefronts and fifties-era billboards. Behind the storefronts are a time-capsule candy shop, two old-style bars dispensing regional brands of sake, and the main attraction: eight ramen shops from around Japan, each serving its own distinctive variety of noodles. Visit [www.bento.com](http://www.bento.com) and search on the museum for pictures and more details.

*Meeting Time:* 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 17 (JR Tokaido Line departs 10:12)

*Meeting Place:* **JR Shinagawa Station**, Central Exit (inside the wickets)

Accessible by JR Yamanote Line

Please search on [www.hyperdia.com](http://www.hyperdia.com) to find your fastest route.

*Costs:* ¥500 donation, ¥510 one-way train fare from Shinagawa,  
¥300 museum admission, and ramen averages around ¥900 per bowl.

To confirm attendance, please e-mail us at [tucws.tours@yahoo.com](mailto:tucws.tours@yahoo.com) with your full name and mobile phone number. Any problems on the day of the tour, call our mobile phones:

Hiromi Sato (080-5502-5230) or Nancy Schmatz (090-6954-6885).

## 2009 FLEA MARKET *IS HERE*

The Tokyo Union Church Women's Society will hold its Spring Fundraiser Flea Market this March. Nearly all the proceeds from this fundraiser are donated to the Tokyo Union Church Outreach charities, which help over 40 charitable organizations all over the world including Japan and other southeast Asian countries. Here are the details:

DONATIONS ACCEPTED: Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

FLEA MARKET: Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and

BAG SALE: Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

As this is one of only two fundraisers that TUCWS holds each year, VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED . Please volunteer for one or more days during the Flea Market week. Here is how you can help:

**Gather** your clean, gently used items such as clothing, toys, books, dishes, housewares, linens, towels, baby things, DVD's (please, no business suits, large furniture, electric items, soiled/broken items or undergarments).

**Tell Friends** so they can gather their donations too.

**Drop off** (and offer to drop off for friends) donation items during the collection time (March 8<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>). Remember, you can use "takyubin" or another delivery service if your items are too heavy to carry yourself.

**Distribute** Flea Market flyers at your schools, apartment complex or grocery stores. You can obtain flyers from Rose at the reception desk (M-F, 10-2)

**Bring** bags with handles (especially very large bags) to use during the flea market. You can bring the bags to either the February or March programs or drop off with Rose.

**VOLUNTEER** where and when needed

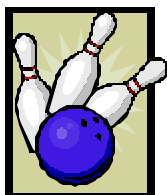
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> for sorting and organizing. Note: volunteers are given the opportunity to buy during this period (i.e. volunteers are given the first "dibs" on the great items donated)

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (10 a – 4 p) and Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> (10 a – 12 p) for cashiers and baggers, plus reorganizing tables as items are purchased.

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> (12p - ?) for everybody's favorite – the Clean up!! Bring your big, strong husbands and we can get done even faster.

PLEASE CONTACT: Terry Kolodzieski [pdmg@cox.net](mailto:pdmg@cox.net) or Mayumi Minagawa (03-3816-2613) to volunteer or with any questions. Or you can sign up at the March monthly program or with Rose at the reception desk (M-F, 10-2). THANK YOU!!!

## SHINBOKU-KAI (INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP)



**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2009**

*Note: This month's meeting is held on the third Thurs.*

**Let's Go Bowling!**

at the Prince Park Tower Tokyo

How long has it been since you've gone bowling? The Bowling Salon at the Prince Park Tower is like no bowling alley I've ever seen! Let's have some fun and laughs seeing who can knock the most pins down. No experience necessary!

Meeting place: Akabanebashi subway station (Oedo subway line E21)

10:30 a.m. - outside the exit wickets [or hotel lobby at 10:45]

Cost: ¥600 for one game, ¥400 for shoe rental.

Please RSVP to **nancyschmatz@yahoo.com**.

Any questions on that day, call Nancy's mobile phone at 090-6954-6885.

### **TIS THE SEASON**

For giving and receiving. This is the last Open Circle before the TUCWS Flea Market, our spring fundraiser. Many Women's Society "elves" are needed to make this the success it has been in previous years!

T'was the week before the Flea Market when all through the church

Women's Society members began their last search;

For used clothes, unwanted gifts, linens, books and toys,

No longer needed for their own girls and boys.

They were checking their calendars March 9<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>

To see where they had several hours to spend

Sorting, unpacking, arranging donations with care

Telling friends and colleagues that they, too, should be there.

The two days of the sale, bagging, cashiering and coat-check ALL matter,

Selling baked goods, while sharing in joyous chaos and 'Flea chatter'!

Many treasures will change hands many hands will have made the work light,

Successful Flea Market to ALL! while helping Outreach Charity's plight!

## OUTREACH / SERVICE



### **Sekoryo Children's Home Ministry**

***April 18, 2009 Fun Day***

**Meeting Place Sanshinomori Park**

**Outside Higashi-Koenji Station**

The annual Sekoryo Children's Fun Day will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009. We are expecting more than 30 children between the ages of 7 and 18 to participate in this event, which has proven year after year to be the most popular program with the Sekoryo children. We hope to assign 2 children to each host. As such, we need more than 15 volunteers plus many helpers. This is an opportunity for you to make a difference in the life of a less fortunate child. Spend the day with the children doing fun activities such as having a picnic in the park, going to an aquarium or zoo, go bowling, cook lunch or bake cookies, playing cards or board games or sightseeing at Tokyo Tower or Roppongi Hills. Show them that they are "special" and that you care enough to take time to be with them. If you can, involve your whole family, and if you are currently a Birthday Sponsor, we will assign your Sekoryo child to you unless you instruct otherwise.

We need your help to make this year's event a success.

Please sign up to be one of the following volunteers:

- **Host** ~ Host 2 or 3 children from 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
- **Co-Host** ~ Provide support to a Host
- **Transportation Host** ~ In situation where the Hosts are unable to pick the children up at the meeting place, the Transportation Host will escort the children to the activity location and will also collect and drop off the children at the meeting place after the event.
- **Japanese Interpreter** ~ Act as a language intermediary between Hosts and children when needed.

Sign up by fax, email or with our TUCWS receptionist. If you have any questions, please contact Reiko Takahashi 04-7185-9589 or Pia Keller at 03-3465-6080 or **kellercen-tral@ aol.com**

## **SMALL INTEREST GROUPS**

**AH SEW**—*Every Tuesday from 10:30 am to 3 pm - TUC Library*

This group of wonderful ladies work throughout the year on craft and sewing projects. The proceeds of these projects go to support our outreach charities. For more information, contact Hatsue Tashiro 04-2304-0221, or Helen Ott at 03-3597-6210.

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**WOMEN'S SOCIETY QUILTERS**—*Normally meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays -*

The Women's Society Quilters is a group of ladies who gather together twice a month to work on their individual projects. Some of us are quilters, some knitters, some work on handicrafts and some on mending! We have a lot of laughter and fun together. We meet at the home of Debbie Hayman. If you would like to join us, please give Debbie a call at 03-3324-3610 for more information.

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**JAPANESE CONVERSATION CLASS** -*Every 2nd Thursday -*

This is a great way to learn the Japanese you need to get your hair cut, find clothes in 'gaijin' sizes, or practice making a restaurant reservation. Simple textbook Japanese becomes easier and more comfortable to speak. Patient Japanese members are your teachers. This friendly group meets in the TUC library and often goes out for coffee afterward to discuss things about Japan and its people. Join us, no matter how little Japanese you know. If you plan to come to this month's meeting, please contact Hiromi at 080-5502-5230 or email her at [hiromibeat@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:hiromibeat@yahoo.co.jp).

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**THE LUNCH BUNCH**—*Usually Meets the last Wednesday of the Month*

The Lunch Bunch group is looking for venturesome women who like to try new restaurants or visit various eateries for good food, fun, and fellowship!! If you would like to join the fun, please contact Natsu to be added to the e-mail list! You'll be notified of the upcoming lunch adventure, and you can let her know if you'll be able to make it. Contact Natsu Kikuchi, 03-3913-0527 or [natsuup@aol.com](mailto:natsuup@aol.com)

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**SHINBOKU -KAI GROUP**—*Meets on a Thursday*

Our name says it all ~ Shinboku-Kai means international friendship group and that's just what we are. The wonderful ladies of our group meet the 4th Thursday of each month to discuss a selected topic, learn a new dance, and to share together in friendship, laughter and afterwards lunch. For more information contact Nancy Schmatz at [nancyschmatz@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyschmatz@yahoo.com).

