

Aids in Learning to Pray in Japanese

1. JLC prayer supplement from 'Christian seikatsu supplement'.

The Christian Life Supplement is used at JLC at the intermediate level but can also be studied independently. It consists of 6 units of varying lengths on **prayer**, leading worship, tracting and making church related telephone calls, letter writing, the names of the books of the Bible and reading the testimony of a Japanese pastor. **The unit on prayer** includes different kinds of basic sentence patterns for use in praying and sample sentences.

This is available by e mail from the OMF Language Advisor at la@omf.or.jp

2. Prayer Power – 祈りの力

This text was originally produced by Kaoru Shimada in cooperation with Life Ministries (now Asian Access) in 1995. The current text was revised by Miss Shimada, an experienced teacher of Japanese as a foreign language, in August 2007.

It is an immensely practical text on learning how to pray in Japanese. The 29 A4 pages include English translation and vocabulary index as well as sample sentences, drills and tasks. The whole text can be downloaded free from the OMF Japan website at www.omf.org/jlc (click on “Japanese Language Resources”, then “Christian”).

3. Books written for Japanese Christians as resources in learning how to pray in Japanese

For example:

- **'Kokoro o mitasu inori'** by Manabe Akira ¥500

「心を満たす祈り」 まなべあきら著

This little book from 'Chi no Shio koonan kiristo kyookai' (地の塩港南キリスト教会) in Yokohama consists of 31 days worth of prayers for morning and evening each based on a short Bible reading. (Just the reference is given in the book). The content of the reading is turned into prayer without the complicated and highly honorific phrases that many Japanese Christians use and each prayer covers one page. The print is larger than in many books. With a total of 62 prayers based on different passages this is an excellent source of new Christian vocabulary as well as an introduction to praying about a wide range of topics in Japanese. With a high level of new vocabulary and kanji it may be helpful to read such a book as this with a language helper or ask someone to make a digital audio file for you.

- **'Jesusama to 365 nichi'** by Katoo and Totsuka, Inmanueru Kyookai Gakkoo Bu ¥600

『イエス様と365日』 加藤・戸塚共著 インマヌエル教会学校部

This is a devotional guide for children undated which in four separate books of 3 months material each covers a year's reading. There is a page for each day. Each page has one verse with a paragraph commenting on it, and concluding in a very brief one sentence

prayer. This series of books can also be a very useful tool for language students not just in learning the language of prayer but in acquiring Christian vocabulary in general. Furigana and larger print than usual are also helps to the learner.

4. Making your own helps for praying in Japanese

Devise your own prayer helps by, for example, taking a digital voice recorder or similar portable device with recording abilities, to a church prayer meeting. Record the prayers of the members so that you can listen to them afterwards. You will need to ensure that the pray-ers don't mind being recorded and that you can get clear enough samples of prayers to make it worth your while doing.