

## Family Churches create the Golden- Rayed Lily Club in the city of Takeda, Japan

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*Left: Because they heard that the Golden-Rayed Lilly (*Lilium auratum*) is True Mother's favorite flower, the six active families (pictured above celebrating the New Year) began the Golden-Rayed Lilly Club as the main vehicle through which they host activities to infuse spiritual life into their fellow residents in the city of Takeda.*

My husband and I run a lodge where we serve light meals on Mount Kurodake, one of the mountains belonging to the Kuju Mountain Range in the western part of Oita Prefecture, part of Subregion Five. The lodge is located at the 830-meter elevation. We close it during the winter months; we run it for nine months a year from March to November. We set up a space to introduce *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* in a corner of the lodge and have distributed it to mountain climbers and tourists who visit our place. We have already distributed more than a thousand of the autobiographies, and we intend to carry on this effort.

Last year, on October 1, the district headquarters acknowledged my family as a family church. There are three family churches so acknowledged by the district headquarters in the city of Takeda, where our home is located. Among them, one "family" is a second-generation couple. Centered on these three families, a total of six families work in the Takeda area. At the end of the year, representing the district's overall effort, the Oita district announced a policy for the acknowledged family churches and the other church members to work together to hold "one-hundred-person rally" for regional vitalization.

The Takeda area decided to hold a New Year's party entitled "A New Year's Friendly Gathering" at a restaurant run by one of the members. Among the forty-two participants, twenty were newcomers. Neighbors and other families we meet daily, a man who received True Father's autobiography, former colleagues, etc., came. We ate home cooked food, enjoyed bingo games and listened to a harmonica performance by a famous musician who performs in all parts of Japan. At the end, we sang together a Japanese folk song "*Furusato*," meaning "Hometown," all together. From beginning to end, the party exuded a happy atmosphere.

On holding the party, the three family churches held a series of meetings to decide on the members' roles such as food provider, emcee and sound-person. Actually, the Takeda area has continuously held small scaled but consistent activities for regional vitalization as the Golden- Rayed Lily Club since 2013. We have carried out town cleanup activities, participated actively in town events and widely notified Takeda residents through the Internet. As programs to enjoy the beautiful nature in Takeda, we have held cherry blossom viewing picnics, fishing events, mountain climbing, etc. We made a slide presentation introducing our activities and plans for the New Year's party. Many participants expressed their interest in attending our next event, which is the cherry blossom viewing picnic.

Centered on the three family churches, six blessed families in the Takeda area are working together to plan and carryout activities as the Golden-Rayed Lily Club. I truly feel that Heavenly fortune and spiritual guidance are with us when we work together in unity. The members of the Takeda area will work hand in hand to deepen our relationships with the newcomers who attended the New Year's party and love them so we can lead them to accept the blessing.