The Japan Society of Christian Studies was established in 1952 with fifty members. It has been growing since then and currently we have over seven hundred members. This means that we are the largest Christianity-related academic society in Japan. We truly appreciate those who have worked hard for the administration of this society who have made it possible for us to become what we are today.

As we live today in the globalization era of the twenty-first century, we, the caucus of the society, are urged to make an active contribution towards the dialogue between Christianity or theology and other religions and also towards the development of relationships with fields like natural science, human science and social science. Furthermore, we feel a responsibility for and a need to contribute towards resolving the stagnation of evangelism in churches in Japanese society. Facing such issues we are promoting the continuation of healthy administration of the society and desiring to succeed in our mission for the next generation. With the help of many members, we have enacted the "bylaw for choosing the committee members for election of trustees," and the "bylaw for choosing the editing committee members and the head of the committee," for Theological studies in Japan. We also have clarified in writing the "agreed items" regarding the determination of articles and book reviews for the periodical. In addition, in regards to informational reform within the society, we have opened a website and have started to use computers to manage member and financial information. We truly hope that the Japan Society of Christian Studies will continue to develop both qualitatively and quantitatively.

The dynamism of globalization and the information revolution mentioned above are promoting a new point of view in reading the Bible as "Media Space." Our 52nd annual meeting was held at Tokyo Women’s Christian University on 8 - 9 October 2004. The main theme was "Monotheism as Christian Self-Understanding". The keynote lecture was by SEKINE Seizo, an Old Testament scholar, and
was titled “Reconstruction of Old Testament Monotheism.” It was full in content both as seasonable Biblical Studies and Christian philosophy. We had vigorous and meaningful discussions during the question and answer time. Our members actively participated in presenting their studies, but it seems that we need to establish the ways to polish the level of studies to improve the quality of academic work. We also hope that there will be more presentations by scholars in Biblical studies. There seems to be a need to have creative dialogue among Biblical studies, Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics. Unfortunately, due to a typhoon, afternoon programs on the second day were cancelled. We regret having to do so, especially for those who worked so hard to make preparations.

I would also note here the regional activities which support our JSCS regular activities. The Hokkaido region held their branch meeting at Hokkaido University Academic Hall on 18 July 2005. They had four research presentations. The Tohoku branch held their meeting at Morioka University on 18 July 2005. They had a public lecture titled “Joint Declaration of the Doctrine of Justification by the Roman Catholic Church and the World Lutheran Federation” by KURAMATSU Isao, Chancellor of Tohoku Gakuin University. There were four other studies presented at this meeting. The Kanto branch met at Japan Lutheran College and held a symposium titled “Theology of Worship: Changes in these 40 Years and Its Theological Significance” by ISHII Yoshihiro (Sophia University), KOSIKAWA Hirohide (Doshisha University) and KATOU Hiromichi (Anglican (NSKK) Bishop). ETO Naozumi (Japan Lutheran College) chaired the symposium. There were other six research presentations.

Kinki branch held meeting at Sapientia University on 14 March 2005. ODA Takehiko (Sapientia University) held the lectureship titled “Towards a Reconstruction of the Ecclesiology: 10 Years After the Great Kobe-Awaji Earthquake” and KATSUMURA Hiroya (Kobe Shoin Women’s University) served as commentator. There were fifteen research presentations. The Kyushu branch held meeting on 31 March 2005 at Seinan Gakuin University Academic Research Center. As the special lecture, KIMURA Koichi (Japan Baptist Convention pastor) lectured on “Christians in Islamic Societies,” and there were six other research presentations.

Observing activities at each of the regional branches, the Kinki branch seems to be especially active. We hope and encourage that other regional branches will
bring in younger members and help them to actively participate in presenting their studies in this academic society.

(Translated by Paul Tsuchido SHEW)