



the Scott Family

MISSIONARIES TO JAPAN



January 2019

Update:

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

It is hard to believe that 2018 is coming to a close! God has blessed us in so many different ways over this past year. Last December we were still on deputation with a good amount of our support left to raise, and the Lord has not only allowed us raise our support but we have moved to Japan and have been here for almost six months now. God has blessed us in so many ways, and we are so grateful for everyone who has supported us and prayed for over this past year.

On deputation, the holiday season was always a busy time with Missions Conferences, long distance travels, etc. It was busy, but very blessed. In many ways, it is no different on the field! In November, we continued our Japanese studies at the YMCA. It was our final month of studies for the year before the winter holiday, which means a lot of studying and preparing for a final test. Praise the Lord for good results. I, James, had the opportunity to preach for the first time at the church where we have been serving. This time it was in English, and one of the Japanese men in our church that speaks English well translated for me. Also, our church held an annual Christmas Wreath activity. My wife and I were able to see three of our fellow YMCA students come and attend the activity. Each student is from a different country: South Korea, China, and Thailand. We are praying that we will be able to see them come more often and accept Christ soon.

December was incredible! There is no other way to describe it. After preaching in November, I discussed with our pastor about the opportunity to preach in Japanese for the first time. I would write my messages in English, then translate it into Japanese. On December 16 I preached the message. Honestly, it was more like reading the message. I spent many hours preparing/translating the message and I praise the Lord for the opportunity. Our church had a Christmas concert the next Sunday and six weeks prior to the concert we began to pass out as many church invitations as possible. Our church, also, had small invitations printed and put inside of small tissue packets that people could keep in their pockets and/or purse. We passed out hundreds of those tissues and we were excited to see 38 of the 40 chairs in the auditorium filled!

On a personal note, this was our family's first holiday season in Japan. We are thankful for those that prayed for us, encouraged us, and for all the many gifts that we received from those in the States. We spent Thanksgiving with the Ward family, a missionary family that is close to where we are. It was a great blessing to be with other missionaries and to share with each other different things we are grateful for as well as a great meal. Christmas was great. Our family was able to video chat our families back in the States. We also gathered and read the Christmas story together. We were able to start our own traditions with our son Joshua, and we are very grateful for those that made much of it happen for us.

Prayer Requests:

In January we will resume our Japanese studies at the YMCA. Over the holiday we spent much time studying Japanese in other ways and this semester at the YMCA will be a little different. We will be adding another area of study. Not only will we be continuing our Japanese conversation class, but we will begin a Japanese Kanji class. This is a very difficult part of the Japanese language and we would appreciate any and all prayers for us.

Please pray for those students that came for the Christmas Wreath activity. Their names are Miss Lee, Miss So, and Miss Nicole. I am excited to see what the Lord is going to do! I, James, will be attempting to preach more often this year (in Japanese) and would definitely appreciate prayers. Knowing that there are those that are back in the States praying for us is a real encouragement and we are very thankful for each and every one of you.

Striving Together,

James, Rebekah, and Joshua Scott

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