July 2021

Hello pastor and praying friends,

It has been a very interesting past few months here in Japan. Before I give an update, let me start by saying thank you for all of your prayers and support for our family. The Lord has been guiding us and blessing our family from all directions, and we know that it is due in a large part to all of the prayers back in the States and we are so grateful.

In May, although COVID had sent our church into live stream services many times in the past year and a half, things were still busy for our church. I continued my preaching schedule at the church. I have been preaching around six to eight times per month. Also, while another missionary, Brother Henry Ward, was back in the States, I was able to preach for his church via Zoom. This has been a huge help with my language studies and has really helped me to gauge where my Japanese studies are. Although things seemed like they were going to start opening back up, our area here in Japan was sent back into a state of emergency, and services went back to livestream. After deliberation, in May we made the decision to take a somewhat last minute furlough that, as many of you already know, begins in August. We are hoping to raise some needed support and would deeply appreciate your prayers for us.

In June all of the preparations began for furlough. We are so grateful for how the Lord has blessed. Here is a quick testimony of God's goodness. As my wife and I began looking at how much plane tickets would cost during the timeframe needed, everything was extremely expensive. The Olympics are held in Japan this year and we plan to leave around the time that they start. After calling many different airlines, we were able to find tickets that were cheaper than the regular cost! Also, right after purchasing the tickets, we received our last stimulus check for exactly what the plane tickets cost. Praise the Lord!

And God has continued to bless. In our last prayer letter, I mention the lady that had gotten saved at our church. Thank you so much for all of your prayers for her. She is currently going through a Bible study program with Saeki Sensei, the national pastor we are working with. Also, recently, another young man who had been attending our church for a while, made the decision to officially join our church. He has also begun the Bible study program. Please continue to pray for their spiritual growth. Despite doing services online, we are grateful to see souls saved and for those that want to find a church family to worship with.

Our departure date is July 30. We covet your prayers while we are back in the States. We have lined up some meetings at new churches and are praying for God's blessing. While I am in the States I will also be preaching Via Zoom to our church here in Japan once or twice per month. Please pray as we make this transition back to the States. Although we will miss our church family and friends here in Japan, we are excited to see our family and friends back in the States. Thank you to you-all, and we look forward to our next update.

Striving together,

James, Rebekah, Joshua, Lily, and Daisy Scott Your missionaries to Japan