



July - August 2018

Update:

Hello from Japan! It is exciting to be sending out our prayer letter about our first couple of months in Japan. It has been very busy with getting our residence card, getting our apartment, getting our car, and preparing for language school. We have had many ministry opportunities come our way as we have been getting settled and we thank the Lord for allowing us to serve in Japan.

July was a very interesting month to say the least. As we arrived in Japan, there had been a lot of rain that week. It caused massive flooding in the area in which we were staying. There were many mudslides, and a lot of roads and train stations had been closed down due to the flooding. We were not able to get to Sannomiya for several days. We thank the Lord for His protection during that time.

When we finally made it to Sannomiya we were able to spend our first Sunday at Sannomiya Bible Baptist Church. The church was very excited that we would be serving there and we were, too. There are a few members that speak English. It is a huge blessing. During the course of these events, we have been trying to learn as much Japanese as we could. I quickly learned to be careful when telling somebody that their baby was cute. The word for cute in Japanese is "Kawaii." It is okay to say this, but I had to make sure I did not say "Kowai," which means "scary." At the end of the month we had the opportunity to attend a Bible camp with many of the Japanese churches in the Kobe area. It was great getting to know some of them (via google translate) and also having the opportunity to try and learn some more Japanese.

August was a very full month of ministry. We got to work right away! Every few months our church has a children's program and the pastor asked me if I would be willing to do some balloon animals for the kids. It was great being able to teach the kids some Bible stories and principles using balloons. We saw visitors come to the event for the first time and they heard the gospel. Praise the Lord! Just a few days later, I went to KIBBS (Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School) to help many of the Japanese pastors and other missionaries with some renovations on the building. The school has been around for many years and the building was in need of many repairs. I was grateful to be able to learn some more Japanese, as well as, help with the repairs of the school that has produced many Japanese pastors. Another blessing that took place was my very first opportunity to lead music in Japanese. I am very grateful to the Lord to be able to do this because it is supposed to help with learning Japanese.

Prayer Requests:

At the beginning of September Beka and I will start language school at the local YMCA. We are excited about diving even more into the language and another step closer to verbally sharing the gospel with the Japanese people. Please pray as we start this next step. Also, please pray that we will be able to see more visitors come to church. Thank you for all of your prayers for us. God is blessing and we know that, in large part, it is due to the faithful prayers of those back in the States.

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