



September - October 2018

Dear Pastors/Praying friends,

It has been a great couple of months! We have been very busy with language school, my first few times to preach in Japan, and much more. I am very grateful for each and every one of you that have been praying for us. God has blessed tremendously. We are all getting settled very well here in Japan. Joshua is making friends in his nursery school, and my wife has had opportunities to share the gospel with other English speaking people at the nearby park. We are grateful to God for all that He has done for us and for how He has helped us.

September, the month that marked the beginning of our language studies, was an incredible month. Our church voted to do a renovation due to the increase of children in our church. There was not enough room for the teens and young children in the nursery room. It began in just a few short weeks. We are thankful for how quickly it went. Every available space is being used now! On September 11th we had our first day of Language School at the YMCA. Things moved very quickly and we are amazed at how far the class has come in just two months. We still have a long way to go but we are grateful for all the Japanese we have been able to learn.

The first Sunday of October was a very special day for me. I have been looking forward to the day I could preach in Japan for the first time for many years. I was asked to come and do a children program at a church not too far from where we live. After the children's program I was to preach the afternoon service. I was very grateful for the opportunity. A few weeks later I was able to preach at Sannomiya. After the service, a lady who has been visiting our church for a couple of weeks came to speak to me. She is Malaysian with a Catholic background. She has been living in Japan for many years now. She said that before today she thought all she needed in life was to believe God existed. After the message on prayer, she understood a little more about having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Praise God! Pray that she will soon receive Christ as her Savior.

**Prayer Requests:**

Over the next few weeks we will be finishing up our first semester of Language School. Over the holiday season our church will be having many different activities just like many of the churches in America. Please pray that we will have many visitors and opportunities to share the gospel. Please pray for the lady I spoke of. Her name is Iwata San (or "Miss I"). And please pray for us as we finish up our first semester of studies. The semester may end but our studies won't, as we will continue to study on into December. Thank you once again for your prayers. The next prayer letter that we will send will be after the holiday season. So we hope you have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Striving Together,  
James, Rebekah, and Joshua

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