



November 2023

Hello Pastors/Praying Friends,

It has been getting colder here in northern Japan! Currently we do not have any snow on the ground, but we know that it is coming, and we are preparing. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support for our family. It has been really encouraging, especially in recent times as we have transitioned up to northern Japan. God has allowed us to do much over the past few months and I have been looking forward to sharing this news for a while.

In September, I spent a lot of time out searching for a place to start a church. I went to many different real estate agencies, I drove around town looking for buildings that were being advertised, etc. I quickly encountered some obstacles. A while back, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated. The accused suspect who shot and killed Abe told investigators he had a grudge against a religious group that he believed Abe was associated with. This group is formerly known as the Unification Church. In America the group is often called the Moonies. The issues with the church and its relation to former Prime Minister Abe have appeared in the news several times. This has led to a distrust of churches in many ways. And so, as I have searched for a building, many owners have expressed their concern with us wanting to start a church. However, now of writing this letter, we have found a place that would be perfect to start a church and are currently in discussions with the real estate agent and the owner. Everything seems to be going well. Please pray that we will be able to get this building.

October was very busy! We had the opportunity to fill the pulpit for Military Missionary Jesse Pilalas over in Misawa, Japan. We were able to fill in a few Sundays while Brother Pilalas was back in the States on a short furlough, and we greatly enjoyed the fellowship with the people of Faith Baptist Church. Also in October, we were able to get together with the family that I mentioned in our last prayer letter. Natsuki and her husband Yusuke invited us over for a BBQ. We enjoyed some great food and fellowship. After eating, Rebekah and Natsuki took the children to a local park, and I had the opportunity to talk with her husband. He started to ask why we came to Hirosaki, and it was a great segway into the gospel. After sharing the gospel, we began to talk about the spiritual state of Japan. I mentioned that Japan is a difficult place to start a church and many people choose not to hear what I was telling him. And then he said something like this, "Many people in Japan probably would become a Christian, but many people simply don't know about Jesus." Please pray that we will be able to see this family accept Christ as their Savior, as well as many throughout this city. And please pray that God will call many more to come share the gospel in this needy country.

Please continue to prayer that God will lead us to the building He would have us to rent. I am praying that the current location that we are looking at works out. Mrs. Natsuki has begun to come over to our house and study English with Rebekah. Please continue to pray for this family to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. Once again, thank you so much for all of your prayers and support.

Striving together,

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

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