

July 2024

Hello Pastors and Praying Friends,

Thank you all very much for all of your prayers and support for our ministry over here in Japan. It has been an exciting time! This is our first prayer letter since we started Hirosaki Baptist Church. We are very thankful for all the Lord has done over the past few months.

In May we were ramping up for the Opening Service that was on the 26th. We spent much of our time on the street inviting people to the Opening Service. We continued to teach our English Conversation Class and the Kids English Class. We are very thankful for how the Lord has blessed those classes. We have had a consistent group of five that have attended the Conversation class and a consistent group of kids that have been attending the Kids English Class. We made sure to invite each of those families, and we had some other families that we met that we invited. The weekend before the first service, members from Sannomiya Bible Baptist Church, the church that we served at while studying Japanese, came up to Hirosaki to help with the first service and to help pass out flyers the Saturday before the first service. Finally, Sunday arrived! We were very excited about the service. And the good news is we had a lady, Mrs. "K," show up that came after finding a flyer on her door. This was a huge blessing. Getting people to come to church in Japan is very difficult. And so, having someone come to our first service was a huge answer to prayer! The gospel message was preached, and we shared a time of fellowship and food after the service. We learned that she is not a Christian but has been fascinated recently with the Bible and wants to learn more.

June was a very busy month for us. Not only did we just start a church, but it is basically "construction/ renovation" season here in Japan. There was a construction project going on up here in Aomori at another missionary's church as well as a construction project going on back down in Kobe at the Bible College. I was able to be at both of the projects. We are thankful for all the work that got done, and I am excited for what the Lord is going to do in those two places. Mrs. "K" has been faithful to both Sunday and Wednesday services. She also started bringing her teenage son with her. During a service her son raised his hand and asked, "If our sin has hurt our relationship with God, what can we do to mend that relationship?" We can clearly see the Holy Spirit working on them. Please continue to pray for these two, and please pray that we will be able to see more come to church.

Over the next couple of months, we are going to continue passing out invitations, and teaching the English classes at our church. Those from Sannomiya are planning on coming back up to help with evangelism and a big event that we are putting together. Once again, please pray for us. Pray for more visitors and for those coming from Sannomiya to help with evangelism. We look forward to what the Lord will do over the next few months.

Striving together,

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