

The Blessings of Simply Staying the Course

Danielle's Journey

Dear Partners in the Work of God,

Hallelujah! Thank you to the many of you who have been praying for our search for a new church meeting space. **God granted us two great options this month through real estate companies that are open to working with our church**, which is a rare blessing in Japan! We are even more excited to share how God opened and reopened many doors with people this month.

Church Plant: After a season where we have had lower attendances and fewer opportunities with people, we praise God that **most of our regulars returned this month**. It has been a joy to see our people overcome battles of physical ailments and social pressures to choose to be in His house more and in His Word more this month. Please pray that our people will continue to choose victory. In addition to our regulars returning, on June 7, Mr. IT, the elderly gentleman whom we have been witnessing to, came to one of our services for the first time in many months, with **an attentiveness to God's Word that I have never seen before from him**. He even joined us for the afternoon mealtime and participated in the Bible study with genuine interest in God's Word. Please pray for Mr. IT's salvation! **His visit also affected our regulars to pray for him more and to be more faithful themselves**. We praise God for His work in people's lives. After a long pause, we were able to resume our men's kickboxing activity on June 10 and the one-on-one Bible study with Bro. MV on June 26. On that day, the Lord prompted me to **gift him with a new Bible, to which he responded by proclaiming in Japanese, "This is eternally better than being gifted with a brand-new car!"** I have never seen him without it since. We laminated his salvation testimony, which he had written out, for him to keep in his Bible, and he has since **rededicated his life to obeying God's Word**. Praise the Lord!

Special: It was a joy to hear that **Bro. Izumi**, someone whom I had the privilege of ministering to before coming to Kisarazu during my interim pastorate at the Emmanuel Bible Baptist Church of Nayoro, Hokkaido, **had gotten baptized on June 7!** It was humbling to hear this from Bro. Izumi himself, who thanked me for being one of the many whom God used to lead him to this decision, as small as my part was.

Personal Outreach: On June 20, we enjoyed a personal visit from Ms. EK, a lady my wife has been corresponding with via email to try to find her a good church and to encourage her to grow spiritually. The more we spoke with her, the more it became clear that she was either not saved or very confused about her salvation at best. The personal visit allowed us to take the time to give her a clear explanation of the Gospel and invite her to trust Christ, though she did not make any decision that day. Please pray for Ms. EK's salvation! For the past two months, we have been **preparing to launch the English Café, a new outreach ministry of our church plant, using English as a tool to meet and witness to more people**. We are inviting people to freely come practice their English, enjoy light snacks, and make new friends (in Japan, the word *café* is often used to describe a free public space). We will share more details next month. Please pray that God will use it from its launch on July 18!

Major Praises This Month

- Most of our regulars returned to church and continue to grow.
- Mr. TI came to church and showed a genuine interest in God.
- Bro. Izumi was baptized in Hokkaido.

Your friends and co-laborers to Japan,
Go and Danielle Oishi

Special Prayer Requests

- July 18: English Café begins
- Salvation: Mr. TI, Mr. DC, Miss MN, Ms. EK, and our neighbors
- Church Regulars: Bro. JP, Bro. MV, Bro. MW, Sis. TW, Sis. YH, Bro. TT, and Sis. TM
- New location for our church to meet on Sundays

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