

Chang4Japan

Making disciples of Jesus in Japan for the growth of the Gospel in Japan

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**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given; and
the government shall be
upon his shoulder, and
his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isa. 9:6)**

What does Christmas have to do with immigration? Recently I realized that "Long-term mission is similar to immigrants in many

ways". I think many who immigrated to the United States, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada have similar feelings and experiences. When I first arrived in a new place, I have to go through many paper-work in order to settle down. During this process, I have encountered many challenges, but since I have already "moved here" I should prepare my heart to "live-on" in this new environment. Christmas is about Jesus immigrants to earth and becomes the bridge between God and man. In fact, the Christian life is like immigration. We were once identified with this sinful world, and follow the ways of the world. However, when God saved us, we become citizens of heaven. We should aim our life on the heavenly purpose. But those who had immigrated know, you will miss food from home, and friends and family. The battle between heaven and earth is like this, it is happening in our hearts very often. From the last newsletter, I share about encountered many challenges, as if it were my spiritual winter. I was affected by earthly thinking and not focusing on Jesus as I should. Thank God, although the weather is getting cold, spiritual spring seems to arrived. God's word and grace will not give in vain. He called us here and He will sustain us in this new land. Sometimes I wonder what I could do in Japan? Thinking of the slowness of language learning and the challenges we face, it seems mission in Japan is hopeless. I pray and asked the Lord. Please give me some guidance and confirmation so that I know what my goal in Japan is. (We all know we are here to share the gospel, make disciples, build up the churches, but in reality, if there is no opportunity and lack of ability, it is easy to think and feel "what a waste of time!" when we only focus on what "I" can do, and not trust in what God is already doing.) It was through this prayer that the Lord allowed me to talk to several Japanese about faith and life. With my kindergarten level of Japanese, the opportunity to speak about such topics with Japanese is God's given grace. "Being a bridge is the essence of Christmas." Even Jesus, he waited 30 years before he starts preaching the gospel. We have only been here one year. We should have the right expectation. May God give us humbleness and patience and enable us to learn the language and culture. I believe that the Lord will provide many more opportunities and used us as the "bridge" for the gospel.



Sharing gospel with bus mum

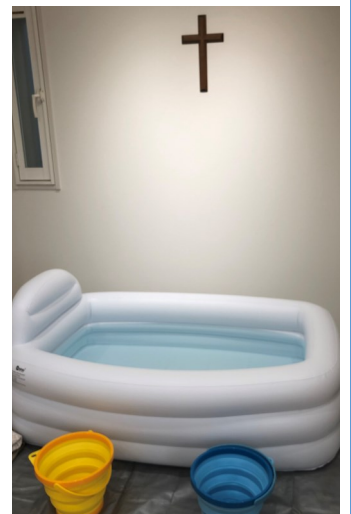


Ministry update

There have been several natural disasters in Japan in the past three months. Several consecutive typhoons caused significant damage and economic losses, and many people's houses collapsed, including my daughter's kindergarten. Many people have yet to return to normal fully. Although Japan has done a thorough job in disaster prevention, however, the suddenness and the magnitude of natural disasters cannot be predicted. Please pray for disaster relief work.



The day before my birthday (11/10), we witnessed the first baptism in Japan. This brother has been coming to church for several years now, to witness his baptism is the greatest joy of our team. We give all the praise and glory to the Lord!



Gary prayer request

- In the last newsletter, I mentioned that although I have been driving for more than 25 years, facing a strict and challenging road test in Japan is brutal. I failed five times, and thankfully, I passed in the 6th time. Being able to drive is very important because I need to drive 90 minutes to take Caleb to school every day. Thank you for your prayer.
- We had a wonderful time at the missionary retreat to Thailand in early October a lot. Being able to meet and share with missionary workers across Asia has dramatically encouraged our heart for on-going missionary service. Thank you for your prayer support.
- Starting from January next year, I will go to a new language school. This language school offers flexible class hours, so I can take care of Caleb's needs to go and from school and also to attend the language classes. Thank the Lord for his preparation. Please pray for my new year, language learning.
- Caleb is doing well in the new school. He not only understands the curriculum but also has a good relationship with teachers and classmates. Last month I was honored to be invited to Chapel-Time to share a message. Although it is a church school, many students and parents are not yet Christians. Please pray for Caleb's study and be a gospel witness in the school.
- Thank the Lord; we are gradually getting on track with the new schedule. But the life of missionary always has more changes than planned. We will be moving in another two or three months. We will be moving to a new house about 10 minutes walk from where we are now. Please pray for this transition.



Jennifer prayer request

- We thank the Lord for bringing Abby's school friend to attend the church special kids bible event. This time not only her classmate came, but her two brothers also came. Their mother, "Mrs. M," also shows a keen interest in attending church English Café. May God continue to work in this family's lives. We pray that the seed of the gospel will be grow in their hearts.
- This winter holiday, we will invite Abby friends from the same school bus station to make Christmas cookies and read the story of the birth of Jesus. These three children are one grade higher than Abby and will enter elementary school in April next year. Please pray that our friendship with them will continue, and may God allow us to share God's love and message with them.
- Please continue to pray for my Japanese study. I will finish my language school at the end of this month. Next year, I will try out the community Japanese classes. Please pray that the Lord will increase my ability to learn the Japanese language.



Caleb prayer request

Thank you for your prayer. Although Caleb's current school is far away, he enjoys going to school. We met some of the parents of his classmates. They all said they are pleased to be in the same class with Caleb. One of his classmates who has just moved from South Korea this year and does not speak English at all. The other is an Indian girl with special needs. They are not yet a believer. Please pray that the Lord will use Caleb to be a witness to the gospel.

Caleb has started coming home on a train by himself. The train ride plus walking will take about 70~80 mins one way. He also needs to transfer halfway. Please pray that the Lord will increase his courage and keep him safe.



Abby prayer request

Abby's ability to speak Japanese has improved. The school teacher told me that she would start talking to her classmates in some simple Japanese. Pray that the Lord will continue to lead her in learning the Japanese language. Also, building a good relationship with classmates.

Since Abby's school is a local Japanese kindergarten, the school has several regular Japanese festivals and celebrations every year, including many festivals to celebrate local gods. (Although they also celebrate Christmas, its about Santa Claus.) There are times when she hears stories about "gods" at school, and she will ask if this is the God we believe in the Bible? Of course not, but how to help her understand and respect the school celebrations, we need the Lord's wisdom to teach her.

Please pray and ask the Lord to keep Abby safe so that she can know the Lord Jesus from a young age, learn the words of the Bible, and become a little messenger of the gospel.

Financial Update

- In this new coming year, we face new challenges. Due to the new school, also some changes to the previous donations. We are short of about \$1000 per month. We sincerely invite you to partner with us. Your support allows us to continue building bridges for the gospel in this spiritually needy country.
- Please click the following link to become our financial partner. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.
- <https://www.worldventure.com/chang4japan>

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