



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isa. 7:14)

The year 2020 is coming to an end very soon. What will be written in the history book? Chaos and anxiety? In addition to the Coronavirus crisis, there are also many natural disasters, political unrest, and racial conflicts everywhere. This really makes us all feel frustrated and worried. However, for Christians, at the end of each year, the Lord uses the Christmas moment to allow us to think about the hope of humanity again!

As this verse says, in the midst of chaos and corruption, our hope lies in God's promise, and this promise is that

"Immanuel" God is with us. "God is with us" does not mean that no difficulties or disasters will happen to us, but it means that we will always belong to God no matter what happened. Whether we live or die, we have the assurance that we will receive God's eternal kingdom. Today, we still have an unfinished mission on earth. Let us follow Jesus' example, the true essence of 'Immanuel' that is, go to a people group where the gospel has not been heard, and share the love of Christ, and show the presence of God to people. For most Japanese people, Christmas was considered a wonderful time of party and celebration at the year-end. However, how many Japanese have experienced the peace and joy of "Immanuel," God with us, as the true meaning of Christmas? Let us pray for Japan. Pray that the Lord will change Japan so that more Japanese people can have the opportunity to hear the gospel, know Jesus, and trust in Him.

The Japan Mission Association (<https://jema.org/>) has produced a booklet on 30 ways to pray for Japan. I ordered 80 copies. This manual can help you better understand the gospel need in Japan and provide direction for your prayer. If you want to have a copy, please contact me by e-mail and tell me your mailing address. I can send you a copy. Here is a sample from the booklet. The quantity is limited, while supplies last. (The following is a sample)



9 Aging society

Celeste saw an elderly Japanese man fall out of his wheelchair on the sidewalk and helped him get home. She told him the address of her church, and later that week, he met her there. It was his first time in a church.

In 2020 more than 28% of Japan's population was aged 65 and over.¹ This is thought to be the highest proportion of elderly in any country and is increasing as Japan's population shrinks due to declining birthrates and a growing number of "lifelong singles."

There are enormous long-term implications. Labor shortages have led to increased immigration and investment in artificial intelligence (AI). The healthcare and pension systems are under stress and many are concerned about the future.

A growing number of elderly people live alone and are becoming socially isolated. The number of those dying alone at home has also been increasing. Some districts are making efforts to promote the well-being of senior citizens through campaigns and events.

Christians are also trying to reach out. Some churches run exercise classes or host seniors' lunches. Pastors visit elderly church members who are housebound or in hospitals. There are even elderly Christians who volunteer in nursing homes, seeking to befriend their peers.

Age 65 and over
Highest percentages in the world

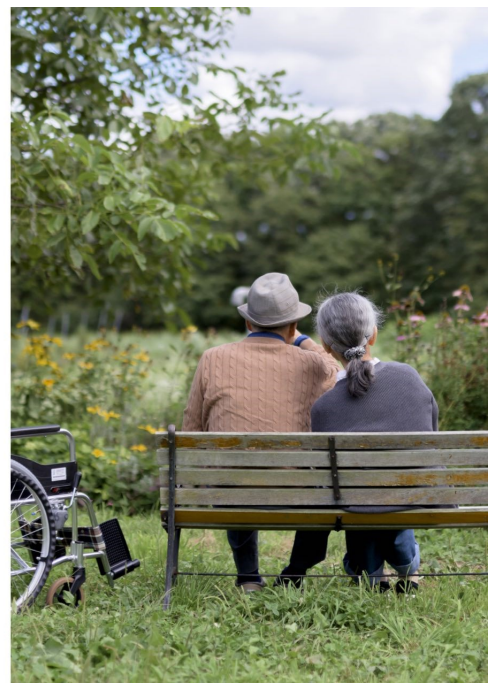
Japan	28%
European Union	20%
North America	18%
East Asia & Pacific	11%
World average	9%

Source: <https://bit.ly/343XG0A>

Give thanks for faithful
elderly believers and pray they will share their faith with their peers.

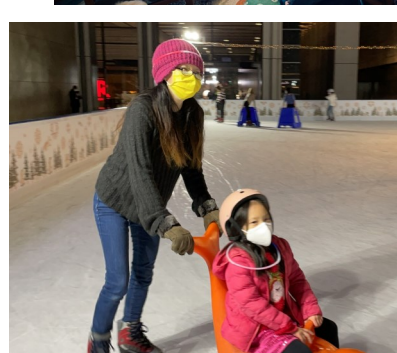
Pray for Japanese churches
to minister to the elderly, many of whom are lonely.

Pray for wisdom for the
Japanese government and other leaders making decisions about issues such as healthcare, pensions, and community programs.



Ministry update

- Due to the pandemic's impact this year, our church in Japan decided to host a Christmas candlelight service on the Internet. Jennifer and a missionary couple worked together to make candle lamps. This will send to each family, provide a way to think about the true meaning of Christmas and worship and praise together.
- Our co-workers have started a new church planting in a new area. In the coming year (2021), we will be supporting them. Please pray that the Lord will build up this new church.



Family Update

- Thank you for your prayer. We have safely returned to our home in Kawasaki on November 17th. In the past month, the children have gradually returned to life and school in Japan.
- We have the opportunity to invite Abby's classmate and her mother from last year to our home for lunch. They live near our new home. She will also go to the same elementary school as Abby next year. May the Lord lead us to build a deeper friendship with them. I look forward to sharing the gospel with them one day.
- In order to protect the privacy of our contacts in Japan and share more prayer details, we have started a new Facebook Private group. If you have Facebook, please message me. So I can invite you to join this Private prayer group.
- Thank God that Caleb has quickly adapted to the new station and can now go home from school by himself. However, He will graduate from this school at the end of May 2021. He will be transferred to another school in the north of Tokyo for his sixth grade and beyond. The new school will be further away. Please pray that he will finish well at the current school and have a good transition to the next.
- Abby returned to the Japanese kindergarten for classes. She was timid at first, but gradually she was able to communicate with teachers and classmates in simple Japanese again. The teacher also talked to me over the phone, explaining her situation at school. Abby will enter a Japanese public elementary school in April 2021. This will be a big change. Please continue to pray for her learning and adjustment.
- Please pray for me and Jennifer's reentry permit (I-131) application; we are still waiting for this document.

Financial Update

- We thank the Lord since last month we shared our financial need, several people start a new commitment to partner with us. Our monthly giving now **only in short of \$500 US** per month. We sincerely invite you to consider partnering with us or increase your giving prayerfully.
- 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>
- Or you can also send in checks, Payable to **WorldVenture, Memo #275, WorldVenture 20 INVERNESS PL. E ENGLEWOOD CO 80112-5622**

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