



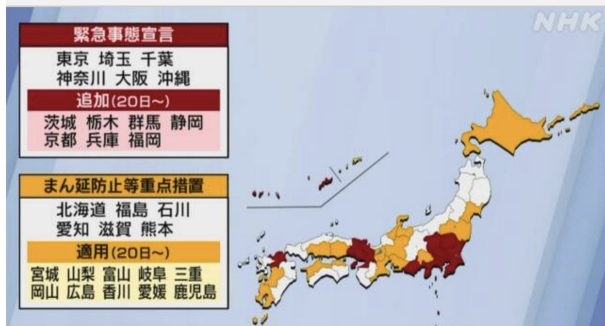
Japan plans to expand the country's state of emergency from six to 13 prefectures, and extend it from the end of August until mid-September.



JAPANTIMES.CO.JP

Growing fifth wave forces Suga to expand state of emergency

速報 緊急事態宣言 7府県を追加 あわせて13都府県に(18:47)



... **For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ...He has made everything beautiful in its time ” (Eccl. 3:1-11)**

Summer vacation is coming to an end in Japan. Tokyo has just concluded an unprecedented spectator-free Olympics. Although the venue was less than an hour away from my home, it was a pity that we couldn't go, so we had to watch the Olympics on TV. Even though the glum atmosphere continues to cloud Tokyo, the spirit of the sportsman brought a little encouragement to Japan. Now that the Olympics has ended, we have to come back to reality. The persistently high number of COVID cases continues to bring challenges to Japanese society. Japan announced its fourth state of emergency on July 8. Still, the infections cases did not drop but go even higher because this is actually just persuasion. The Japanese government can only ask the restaurant and bar to close its doors earlier, and it has no substantive legal binding force for the general public. Now that the Japanese government wants to extend this declaration, the school is about to start, and Japan has only about 37.6% of inoculation rate. We are facing a lot of uncertainty and unknown. The Japanese medical system is on the brink of collapse. Many people infected with the virus can only stay at home, and some have died at home because the hospital is running out of bed. Although the impact of this virus is worldwide, Japan's mortality rate is not too high compared to many other countries. Still, this long-lasting pandemic affects every layer of Japanese society.

The Olympics did not bring wealth but cost around \$15.4 billion US dollars. These expenses will eventually pass on to all taxpayers, including us. So the tax is likely to go up. Even so, many major events have happened in the world recently. The fall of Afghanistan, the Great Earthquake in Haiti, and the fires in Europe and the United States remind me again of a song my mother often sang when I was a young "The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers." (1 Pet. 4:7)

Due to the pandemic, many ministries are suspended. We often ask, what can we do in this situation? The answer is "prayer," and everyone can participate. Pray for the Lord to give Japan repentance, mercy, protection, wisdom and power, and salvation. As God's word stated in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, God has His good timing. We all look forward to the end of the pandemic and hope that many uncertainties in life and ministry will return to normal, but even in this dire situation, we will continue to believe that "the Lord

is in reign."

Ministry update

- In the past 3 months, we are looking forward to the go back to physical worship. Denen Grace Chapel, the Mother church, was planning to host hybrid worship. However, due to the rising Covid cases in Tokyo and Kanagawa, the church core leader group decided to continue gatherings online. Although it is a pity. However, the church has several older people, and this adjustment is necessary. Our other church planter (Azamino) has the opportunity to have hybrid worship. Thank the Lord for allowing me to preach the message and share the gospel with these Japanese seekers.
- In the past 6 months, our leadership team has spent a lot of time reorganizing and planning for the church planting ministry. Thank the Lord for giving us a spirit of unity. Although there are still many challenges ahead of us, please continue to pray for us, may God grant us His grace and wisdom, and continue to move forward under the Lord's love and guidance.



Ministry update

- The Lord answers many of your prayers and sends in many more new workers. However, due to the state of emergency (the 4th and extended), Japan still doesn't allow tourist visas or new visa holders to enter the country. We have 4 units in preparation, and 2 units are fully funded and ready to come to Japan, but because of the locked-down on the border, they cannot enter Japan yet. Please pray for these new co-workers. Jeff, Malia (couple with 2 kids), Danny and Ray (couple), Alissa, Jack (Single). May God strengthen their faith in the midst of waiting.
- The following picture is the whole "Cross-Project Team" we took this photo with our Japan field leader Ken Taylor.



Life Sharing

- Thank the Lord, Mrs. Y is the mother of Abby's kindergarten classmate with who Jennifer become a friend. She likes to practice English, so she and Jennifer were scheduled to meet every other week. She is a teacher on Kimono (Japanese traditional dress) and an assistant teacher on Japanese traditional dance. She taught Jennifer how to put on Yukata (a simpler form of traditional dress). Due to the pandemic, they have to cancel the meeting. We hope to meet again after we are vaccinated. Please pray that this friendship will grow and the opportunity to share the gospel with her and her family.
- Thank the Lord for allowing Gary to practice Japanese conversations with Mr.O regularly. This Japanese gentleman is not yet a Christian, but they have the opportunity to talk about spiritual topics sometimes. Pray for the Lord to lead this relationship so that Gary can improve his Japanese skills and have a chance to share the gospel with Mr. O.
- This summer, we have the opportunity to go out with our mission co-worker, The Zody's. They have made a series of videos for our team to introduce the area where we live and church planting to our new co-workers. Due to the pandemic in Japan, these new missionaries have not yet been able to enter Japan, so these videos are specially made to help them prepare. I edited a video using their video to share with you our lives and areas. Please pray that the Covid cases can be under control as soon as possible, and the vaccine rolled out can be faster, so the border can be open again, and travel can resume.
- Please take a look this video <https://www.chang4japan.org/video.html>



Family Update and Prayer request

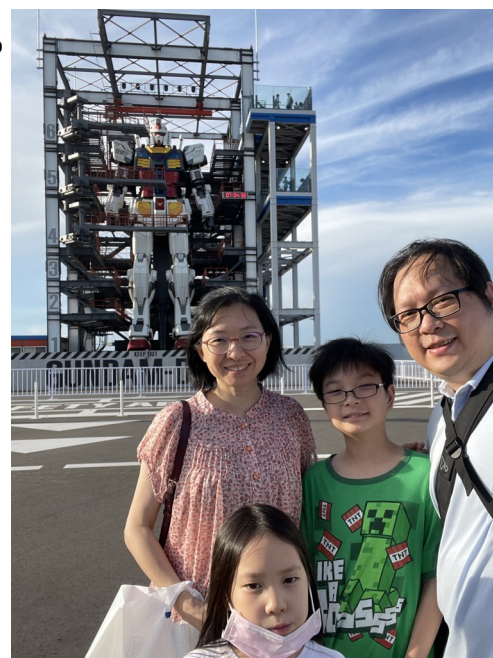
- In the last newsletter, we mentioned that we are going to renew the Japanese visa. Thank you for your prayers. The Lord gave us a 5-year visa (the maximum for religious visas). Thank you again for your prayer, and it has once again confirmed the Lord calling for us to continue to serve and share the gospel in this unreached people group.
- Although we get our Japan visa renewed, our status in the US also needs to be maintained. Thank the Lord, Gary applied for US citizenship and finally received the interview notice. Gary will fly back to the United States on 8/26, and the citizen interview will take place on September 9. After Gary becomes a U.S. citizen, he must apply for a U.S. passport before he can travel again. Due to the impact of the pandemic, it takes an average of 12 weeks to apply for a U.S. passport. We hope that Gary will not wait that long. Would you please pray for the citizenship interviews and passport applications? May God grant His favor so that Gary can get his passport asap and return to Japan with his family and continue to serve in Japan. Gary will also take the COVID vaccine while he is in the US, pray that all goes well and stay healthy.
- Caleb graduated from elementary on 6/11, and now, his middle school will start on 8/23. As we mentioned before, his new school is very far away from home, and he has to transfer through central Tokyo (a 80-minute train ride, one way). Originally, Gary planning to accompany Caleb to school for a while, and Caleb can come home by himself. However, now that Dad is going back to the United States, Caleb has to do this alone. With the rising Covid cases in Tokyo, and the jam-pack of train commute, as a parent, we do have our worry, but please pray for Caleb and ask the Lord to grant him courage and keep him healthy and protect his safety.



• Abby's Japanese has improved a bit, but she is still struggling to keep up in class. She is about to start the second semester on 8/25. Would you please pray for her learning and the courage to make friends? May God give her many good interactions with my classmates in the new semester.

• Jennifer continues her weekly Japanese online course. This summer vacation's original plan was to invite Japanese mothers and children to come to our house. However, due to the rising cases of Covid, unfortunately, we have to cancel all of the meetings. Would you please pray that these friendships can continue and grow? Jennifer will also receive the first dose of the vaccine on 8/25. Please pray that all goes well and no side-effect. Vaccine rolls out still very slow in Japan. Due to the shortage of vaccines and the limited number of medical personnel capable of delivering the vaccine, the national inoculate rate is only 37.6%.

- During Gary's time in the United States, please pray that the Lord will give strength to Jennifer and that the Lord will protect the whole family physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy.



Announcement from head office

- The head office decides to make all paperwork "digitized" so from now on, Worldventure will not send out "paper form of donation statement." You can log on to your account to download all your donation statements.

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