



“For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” (1 Thess 5:2-3)

11 years ago, on March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake took the lives of nearly 20,000 people. 11 years later, this catastrophic disaster has not made the world reflect and cherish life more. Just in the past one or two weeks, we have again seen the world in turmoil and war.

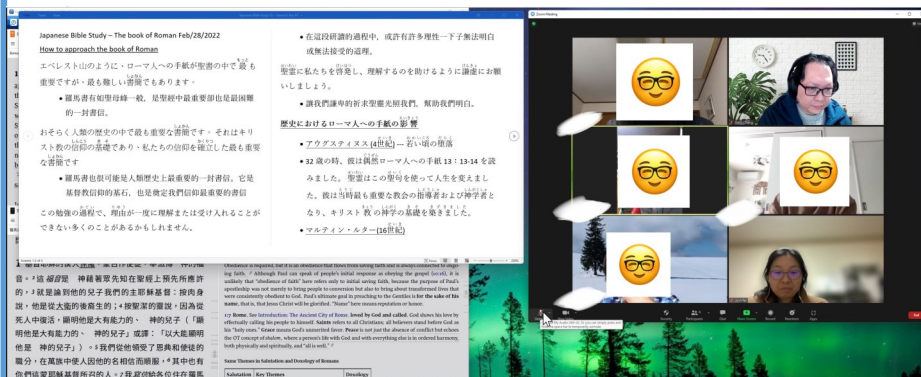
The Ukrainians are faced with a war that has come out of nowhere. Millions of people were displaced from their homes because of one man's lunatic actions. Natural disasters, COVID Pandemic, and war are all signs of the nearness of the coming of the Lord. The Bible tells us that life is like a drop of morning dew, vapor appears a little and gone. However, there are many people in this world, especially in Japan, who do not know the "Day of the Lord" and do not know how to escape the judgment of that last day, because they do not know Jesus and have not yet accepted the salvation that He has accomplished. No one knows when the next calamity or war will come. Every year at this time, I reflect again on why God called us to Japan. During these three years in Japan, many things were different from what I thought they would be. Many of the ministries were not as easy as I thought they would be, but I reflect on God's calling every time I am doubting. I remember in seminary, during chapel time, I heard a speaker say that we need to hold on to God's promises and His calling because it is the anchor that perseveres us in times of trouble in ministry.

The Lord has given each Christian a different individual calling, but there is a common calling for us all, which is to be faithful in sharing the love of God and spreading the Gospel until the end of the age. On this 11th anniversary of the 311 East Japan earthquake, we pray again for the nation of Japan. Pray that the Lord would open more doors so that more Japanese would have the opportunity to hear the Gospel and that He would move and call more people back to Him.

Great East Japan Earthquake, 10th anniversary NHK special report. <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/zt/ondemand/video/3016087/>

Japanese Christians special songs to commemorate the Great East Japan Earthquake <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLzrL7B6XQk&t=530s>

## Ministry update



Starting this year, I have been invited to join the Romans Bible study group. This will be the first time I will be serving entirely in Japanese (although I still use some English), and I hope to practice more Japanese through this opportunity. My main ministry is to summarize the bible passage and provide QA. It will be very challenging to fully share in Japanese, so please pray I will be able to do so. Please pray that the Lord will use this Bible study to empower the Japanese Christian so that they will be moved by the Holy Spirit and be on fire for the Lord.

(I am switching between Chinese, English and Japanese at the same time (in my mind and on my note :P))

- I was invited to give a short talk in Japanese at a prayer meeting in early February. Although I was reading from a sermon that had already been translated, I was very nervous and thanked the Lord for the good response from Japanese Christians. I hope that one day my Japanese will be better and I will be able to share freely with the same passion and enthusiasm that I have when I share in Chinese.
- The COVID cases are still somewhat high in Japan, but it seems that most people have become a bit weary about it. Nevertheless, the church continues to meet online, so please pray that we will be able to resume physical meetings by the end of March.



### Ministry update

- Jennifer was invited to a ladies' Bible study group, and she led them to create a craft through the study of Ruth. This ladies' Bible study is one of the Bible study groups that our co-workers have started at Azamino church plant. Please pray that the Lord will use and lead more people to come to know the Lord.
- For Valentine's Day, Jennifer arranged 3 "Friendship Bracelets" events for children and moms in mid-February. Due to the rapid rise of Omicron, we could only arrange small meetings. Children made rainbow loom bracelets and listened to a short story about friendship in English. This is a great way to get to know and build relationships with Japanese parents.



### Praise and prayer request:

- The Japanese border has finally opened in March. The border has been closed for almost two years since the outbreak of COVID in 2020. We heard that nearly 400,000 people are waiting to enter Japan. This time, we will have three units (one family, one couple, and one single) joining us in March. We will be helping them to settle and process many paper works. Please pray that everything will go well.
- Caleb has been at his new school, CAJ, for almost a year now, and he has grown a lot over the year and is more used to the long train rides. Although it is still not easy, as the train is almost always packed with people in the morning, please continue to pray for his heart, physical strength, and spiritual life growth.
- Abby's 1st grade will end at the end of March, and she will continue attending 2nd grade at the Japanese elementary school. Her Japanese has improved somewhat over the year, but she still has difficulty fully understanding the lessons. Please continue to pray for her as she continues to learn. She has also made some new friends during the year, we are thankful for God's guidance and blessing.
- On 3/28-4/6 is Japanese elementary spring break. Jennifer will have some outreach activities at home. Please pray for the friends we are inviting to have a willing heart to hear the Gospel and prepare for these outreach activities.
- Starting in April, Gary and several of our co-workers will be attending a special 3-month intensive Japanese course. Please pray for our Japanese learning and progress as we take classes every day.



### Financial Update

- Due to inflation and budget increase in some categories from the head office, **we are short about \$200-250 on the monthly budget.** If the Lord leads you to partner with us financially, please visit the following website to start a donation account or increase your giving. Thank you so much for your partnership. <https://www.worldventure.com/chang4japan>
- You can also send in checks please make payable to **WorldVenture**, and **memo #275 WorldVenture**
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