

"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philip. 4:6-7)



Today is the fourth anniversary of our arrival in Japan. Generally speaking, a missionary's term is four years. However, due to the pandemic and other factors, we have postponed our home assignment to next year. We hope to have the opportunity to meet with you in the US summer of next year.

Time is like running water, passing by in a blink of an eye. This reminds us of the Lord's teaching that we should number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. The most common lesson to be learned in the mission field is "waiting," which is mixed with a lot of "uncertainty," so it is easy to cause "worry" and "anxiety." Most people yearn for a stable job, a stable income, a stable education for their children, and a simple and stable social life. These needs are reasonable and expected. However, cross-cultural mission "change" is the norm, and it is challenging to have stability.

This reminds me of Paul's teaching in the book of Philippians "do not be anxious." This was easy to accept when I read this in the past. God gave me a smooth life, and everything seemed to be under control, so there was less worry. But since we begin on this mission journey, it has shown that we are unable to control almost anything in our hands. Anxiety and nervousness are often the norms of our lives.

However, when I think of Paul's missionary work, sometimes there was no place for him to sleep, financial difficulties, challenges of racial differences, disagreements among co-workers, changes in the environment, and even physical persecution, etc. It was a challenging task. It's something that ordinary people can't do. And yet, in such a situation, he gives this teaching, "do not be anxious." How did he do it? The answer is that he clung to the Lord always.

During these four years, there have been many ups and downs. Looking back, although our experience is nothing compared to Paul's, learning to rely on the Lord always is the lesson we have been taught. Sometimes I have thought about giving up and returning to my familiar environment and serving in my familiar language and culture. Would I be able to be more useful this way?

This reminds me of a bible verse that I often read when I was a child, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6). It's not that we have any ability to make many people believe in Jesus, nor is it that we can have the social influence to increase the number of Christians in Japan. Only the Lord can change and save people.

Ministry is not about achievement or power; it is about faithfulness. Earlier I read an article written by another agency's missionary. He said people constantly ask him, are there any special secrets or keys to mission success in Japan? He has been serving in Japan for 35 years. Every few years, there is a new strategy and approach, and then a few years later, it's over again. What is the key? The key is that we believe with all our hearts in the "power of the gospel" that in God's time, He will build and raise His church and that we should preach with all our hearts the unchanging message, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When we first came to Japan four years ago, we first visited the Hachiko Memorial Statue in Shibuya (if you are interested in the story of Hachiko, please click this website). At that time, we prayed to the Lord, "Please help us, no matter what difficulties we encounter, let us serve the Lord faithfully in Japan like this dog until He calls us home."

Faithfulness to God's calling should be a minister's lifelong pursuit. We pray and ask the Lord to empower us to live the life He has planned for us. As we enter a new term and start a new page, we pray that the Lord leads us to move forward courageously, without looking at the environment or people, and only focus our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ. Serve the Lord faithfully to the end.

As we celebrate our 4th anniversary, we sincerely thank you for your partnership. Thanks to all the churches and individuals who sustain us through prayer, encouragement, and financial giving. Without you, the path of the mission would not be possible. May the Lord remember all your sacrificial giving.

We desire to receive the Lord's reward and praise with you before Him so that we may altogether become faithful servants of the Lord and fulfill the mission that God has set before us in this life.



Ministry Update:

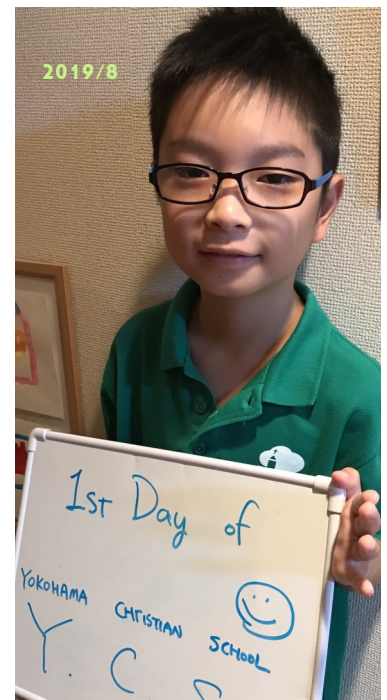
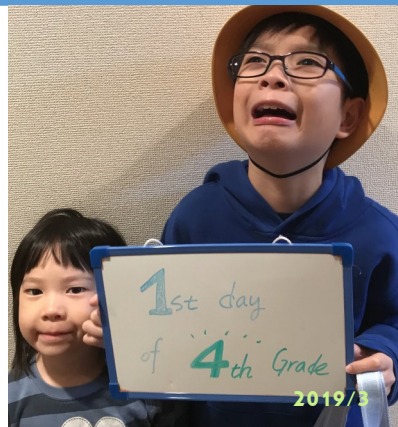
- One area (Azamino) of the Cross Project Ministries we are involved in has a new development. Due to the growth of the number of people, the meeting was initially held in the living room of my co-worker's house, but now it can no longer be accommodated, so renting a space is needed. However, to rent this community center requires a lottery system (every single time), so there are chances that you may not be able to rent it. Please pray and hope that the Lord will provide so that this chapel can meet the needs space.
- In the "book of Romans" Japanese Bible study co-led by Gary, most of the group's family members have not yet believed in the Lord. Some of them are the only Christians in their families. Evangelization to the family members has been difficult. Please pray for the group members that the Lord will give them strength and opportunities to share the love and gospel of Christ with their families.
- Gary has had some opportunities to give a short message in Japanese, but preaching requires a lot more practice because it will be longer and more complicated. Please pray for him that soon he will have the language ability to preach in Japanese.
- This year Jennifer will be in charge of one of Caleb's school outreach activities: making cards with mothers. May God use these activities at the school and open doors for Jennifer to share God's love with moms who have not believed in the Lord yet, and encourage those Christian moms on their faith journey with the Lord.

Family update and prayer request:

- Thank you all for your prayer. Jennifer passed the naturalization interview and officially became a U.S. citizen on July/6. During this trip, she has completed most of the things that she needs to do. However, for various reasons, Jennifer's physical condition has changed. Her blood pressure and heartbeat went up and down. Although she went to the doctor and took the medicine, it did not solve the problem. We are planning to find other doctors and do some health checks. Please pray for her health.
- We have shared in the past the difficulties our children have in going to school. After a period of discussion and communication, we finally decided that we could move next year. The time and place are still under discussion, and we hope to move before next summer vacation. Please pray for the new location and be able to find a suitable house. Finding a home in Japan is not so easy. As we shared, our co-workers took three months to find a place to live. Please pray that the Lord will open the way for us to find a suitable house close to the school with enough space for some ministry.
- Due to the move, our current monthly budget may not be enough, and we will share more details as the time comes. Please pray for this need.
- Due to the move, our ministry might have some change. Please pray the Lord will lead us in this whole process.

Four years of memory : Below are some photos over the past four years. Thank you again for your care and prayers.





Financial Update

- Please visit this website if you feel called to partner with us financially. <https://www.worldventure.com/chang4japan>
- You can also send in checks please make payable to
- **WorldVenture**, and **memo #4000-275 WorldVenture**
- **20 INVERNESS PL. E ENGLEWOOD CO 80112-5622**

Contact us:

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