

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Jos. 1:9)

One of the challenges we often face on the mission field is moving. It may not be a big deal in itself, but because of the move, we have to change ministries and living environments. Every transition brings along some level of challenges and stress. The feeling of being rootless is always present. It's hard to familiarize yourself with an environment, let alone another new one, but it's time to move again. We have to start all over again. When I think of this, I feel like the Israelites in the wilderness, who had to move often within a short period. However, God's promise to Joshua was sure. He said to Joshua in Jos (1:9), "God is with you wherever you go." There are many unknowns in changing environments and ministries, but as long as the Lord leads us, we can have assurance that He will be with us and guide us through.

Please pray for us that we will be strong and courageous to face the new environment, the new ministry, and the new living environment. Do not be afraid, but have the Lord's power to meet the challenges.



Ministry Update:

We are thankful that the Lord has led us to join a new team. We have had a good time sharing and discussing with our new team leaders (Greg & Asa) what the Lord might lead us to do, how we can contribute to the new church plant, and the future goal and direction of in this new term. Please continue to pray for us to have unity in the Lord as we work together to spread the gospel and build up the Lord's church.



Our church belongs to a larger church network called the Keisen Christian Church. For the first time since the pandemic, we could physically attend a joint meeting this year, with representatives from more than 10+ churches in different regions attending.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to know more about the vision He has given to the churches in each region and to learn more about the development of the Gospel in Japan. The senior pastor of the church also shared and encouraged brothers and sisters to dream for the Lord and to look forward to the future direction of the church. Please pray that the Lord will raise His church and that the gospel will be preached throughout Japan.

Ministry Update:



• In mid-October, our family traveled to Indonesia to attend our triennial Asian Regional Conference. This conference was suspended for a while due to the pandemic. We thank the Lord that we were finally able to have a physical meeting this year, with over 200 missionaries attending.

• Our missionaries in Asia met together and had a good time recharging and sharing. Thanks to the Lord, we heard about God's marvelous works in different countries. Through the sharing, testimonies, and prayers of the missionaries in various regions, we were once again touched by the Lord. God ignited the fire in us so we can

continue the race to spread the gospel.

- Kokubunji City, where our church is located, has a special event in November. All businesses, temples, shrines, and public service organizations in the area are invited to sign up. We have signed up! We hope to introduce our church (Josui House of Grace) to the community through this event: 11/19 Fall cake, vegetable soup, etc. 11/25 Children's games and Christmas craft. We hope to introduce our church to more people in the community through this event. We also hope to build relationships and spread the gospel to more people. Please pray for the safe and smooth organization, preparation, and co-workers for this event.
- We will be volunteering at our kid's school (CAJ) for the Fall Festival on 11/10, and our church will be preparing a taco lunch booth to introduce the church hopefully, more people will come to the school's Fall Festival this year.
- I continue to participate in the Bible study at the last church. I use the Chinese, English, and Japanese Bibles to compare and contrast because sometimes the translations use slightly different words and phrases. This comparison helps Japanese Christians to understand the Bible from a wider and broader perspective, and it helps me to understand better the meaning of the Japanese version of the Bible. Please pray for the spiritual growth of the members of this Bible study.

Please also pray for my Japanese language skills to improve.

Family update and prayer request:

• We went to Indonesia for the all-Asia gathering conference, and we had a great spiritual enrichment. However, probably due to traveling, the whole family got sick: Jennifer had a cold, Caleb had a cold and an ear infection, Abby had food poisoning, and Gary had a headache and diarrhea. After a week or so of rest, most are back on their feet, but Caleb is not quite there yet. Also, Caleb's gastrointestinal test revealed the presence of H. pylori, so he will have to return to the clinic again this week. Please pray especially for Caleb's health. Because of his illness, his schoolwork has been affected, and he is physically, mentally, and spiritually exhausted. Please pray for healing and strength.

• Abigail has adapted well to her new school and made new friends. However, since it is an English school, she has forgotten a lot of Japanese. Please pray for the children's learning. Pray that the Lord would guide and move them to be motivated and interested in learning in all subjects.

- Jennifer and Gary are getting into the pattern of a new life. Pray that the Lord will give us the ability and wisdom to have a good balance between family, ministry, and Japanese learning. Please pray for our family as we continue to learn the Japanese language.

Financial Update

- Due to inflation and some drop of support, we are now short about \$300 per month. 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 #4000-275 WorldVenture**
- **20 INVERNESS PL. E ENGLEWOOD CO 80112-5622**

Contact us:

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恵泉キリスト教会上水恵みの家

恵みの家は伝統的なプロテスタントの流をくむバプテスト系の教会です。スウェンソンファミリーが2019年に恵みの家を建てたこと、家の教会として集まっています。家の教会とは聖書とイエスキリストを中心に集まり、家族のように働きあひながら地域に仕え、開かれた地域の居場所のような所です。人が集まるということでご連絡をおかけすることもあると思いますが、どうかお気軽にお立ち寄りください。

オープンチャペル
11月19日3時から4時まで、(コーヒー付き)
礼拝ってどんな感じ?是非体験してみてください。持ち物も何もいりません。そのままどうぞ。



キッズフェスタ
11月25日(土) 11:00-15:00
カントリーゲーム(射的、輪投げ)
カントリーな写真を撮ろう
クリスマスツッキー、オーナメント
ドリンクセル(レモネードなど)
収益は小児癌の研究機関へ寄付されます



上水恵みの家はふんぶんウオーク2023に参加しています。
<https://bunbunwalk.com>でご覧になれます。

