

and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32)

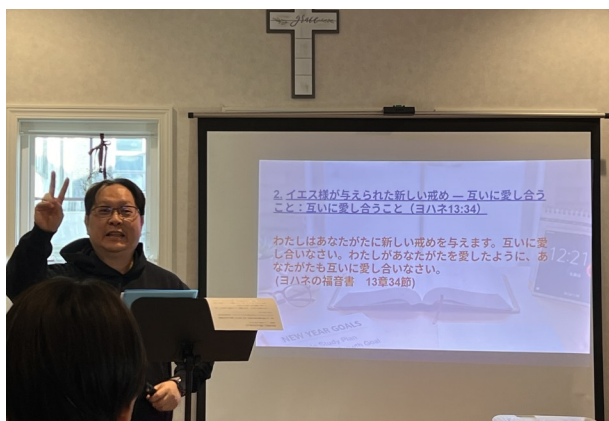
After the Sunday sermon at our church, there is always a time for sharing and discussion. During one group discussion, our topic was: "On what basis are you certain that you will enter the Kingdom of God?" The sermon that day was based on the Book of Ephesians. The simple answer to this question is "all those who trust in Jesus," but if you think about it more, there is a lot that can be discussed because the keyword of this question is "basis."

Suddenly, no one knew what to say, so I thought of the example of the famous American author and pastor, Lee Strobel—how he went from being an atheist journalist, researching all kinds of evidence, to gradually becoming a Christian. After I finished speaking, the pastor smiled and said (the speaker of the day happened to be in my group), "Thank you for your sharing," but he said that in Japan, almost no one believes in Jesus because of researching the truth. He then asked the Christians in the group, and indeed, not a single person believed in Jesus because of researching the truth.

I was momentarily stunned and asked, "Then how do Japanese people generally come to believe in Jesus?" They said it is almost always through the establishment of long-term relationships. Therefore, the method of evangelism learned in America—using logic and empirical evidence—can be said to be almost completely ineffective in Japan. I still remember the previous evangelism training; the first question was: "If you were to face death today, do you know where you are going?" Japanese people, however, say, "Although I am not sure and I don't know, isn't it just becoming one with this world?" The Japanese perspective on facing death is very different. Due to the influence of Shintoism and Buddhism, they view death as a natural continuation and "purification," rather than a complete end. Therefore, from this perspective, death is a part of a cycle; explained this way, death is not so terrifying! Thus, the Western approach to evangelism that emphasizes the viewpoint of judgment after death is truly like an "alien language" to them.

Although we know that these are all various thoughts and ideologies used by the devil throughout history to mislead a people group, our mission is to help the Japanese people see the truth of the facts. However, how can this be achieved? This truly requires wisdom from the Lord.

These experiences have led me to reflect once again: while the Gospel must certainly be preached, the methods and channels are truly different. The Gospel also truly needs to be localized, but this is indeed a very difficult thing to do. May the Lord give us new inspiration and new channels to build deeper relationships with the Japanese people. We pray that the Holy Spirit moves more people to break through the lies of the devil, helping more people to know the truth and trust in Jesus.

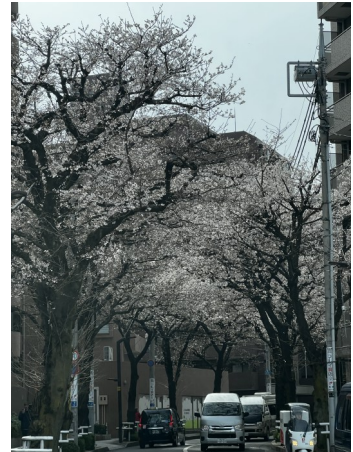


Ministry Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the seekers, Ms. K and her daughter. Although they are still interested in learning more about the Bible, because the daughter is about to prepare for university entrance exams, they have decided to temporarily stop attending the Bible study. Please pray for them, asking the Lord to continue working in their hearts.
- Please pray for an individual Bible study with Ms. Y and her family. As I shared above, this lady has actually been a seeker for perhaps over four years. She asks many biblical and life questions, and we strive to answer all her various doubts, yet she still has not believed. However, she attends the Bible study very diligently and takes many notes every time. May the Lord work in her heart and give her the courage to take a step of faith.
- For the discipleship Bible study, we have finally finished studying Romans chapters 1–11 over more than three years and are about to enter chapter 12, which is about life application. Among these four sisters, only one has family members who are Christians; the families of the other three are almost entirely non-Christian. Therefore, it is also very difficult for them to share the Gospel with their families. Please pray for each member's spiritual growth in the Lord, and ask the Lord to give them opportunities to spread the Gospel within their homes and circles of friends.
- Our team leader and his wife are expected to return to Japan around late May 2026. Due to certain reasons, the team leader's wife's physical, mental, and spiritual condition is unstable. Please pray for their physical, mental, and spiritual health; ask the Lord to protect and heal them, hoping they can return to Japan according to the scheduled time.
- It is a pity that our application for Japanese permanent residency was rejected. Therefore, we need to apply for a visa extension this June. Please pray for the smooth renewal of our visas.

Family update and prayer request:

- As the children are gradually growing up, their interests are also increasing. Please pray for their future development; ask the Lord to lead their paths.
- Abigail's activities, whether at school (Elementary Student Council, choir, band, after-school clubs, etc.) or her self-study and extracurricular activities, are quite numerous. May the Lord help her to have good time management.
- Caleb's gastrointestinal issues are still fluctuating. May the Lord heal him. On April 11th, Caleb will be serving as a volunteer at a film festival organized by a missionary we know; we hope he will have good learning and experiences during this time.
- Please pray for Jennifer's physical, mental, and spiritual health, that she may have wisdom and love from God when caring for sisters in the Lord and seekers.
- Please pray for the physical, mental, and spiritual health of our entire family.



Financial Update

- Thank the Lord, due to the recent depreciation of the Japanese Yen, it has still been sufficient after conversion. Despite this, we are still short by **USD \$250** from our monthly budget. If you feel moved to support us through an offering, please go to the following website: <https://give.worldventure.com/> to start a giving account. (Credit cards can also be used for offerings from outside the United States.)
- **WorldVenture**, and **memo #4000-275**
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