

The Johnsons

Missionaries to Japan

April 2024



Goodbye's...and Hello's

Missions Statement

Evangelize the Lost
Equip National Leaders
Plant Local Churches

Sending Church

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The past month has been highlighted by several stark contrasts. We starting by saying “goodbye” to a Filipina lady named Karmela that has been serving with us for the past two years. She came to Aomori to teach English at an international kindergarten and began attending our church from the very beginning. She joined our church and **served faithfully during the time she was here**. We were sad to see her go, but thankful for the time we had together serving the Lord.

Another goodbye was an unexpected one. One of our church ladies called on a Saturday morning and informed me that **her husband had passed away suddenly**. She asked that I lead a Christian funeral, and I was able to do so the following week. It was a small funeral for family, but they all heard a message of hope through Christ even during grief.

In contrast to the “goodbye’s,” are the “hello’s”. I want to share a short story about how a simple “hello” can be life changing. Over two years ago, Sarah had just pulled into our church parking lot and was unloading all the kids from the van. She saw an older lady walking past and said “hello.” We later found out that the older lady was happy that a foreigner had greeted her and thought how nice our church must be. She saw on our sign that we offered English classes for kids. She told her adult son that he should bring his daughter to our English classes. He did so, and that was the first time we met the “T” family. As we developed a relationship with them, we invited them to special church events, and they came. They found out that we have a kids Sunday school, and began to bring their daughter once a month, and then every week. After about a year, they began staying for the regular church services. In the first part of April, my parents came for a visit, and I asked my father to preach. Later that week, Mrs. “T” texted and said that while listening to my father’s message, she decided that she wanted to become a Christian. The following Saturday, I met with both of them, and was able to clearly and slowly explain the gospel. At the end, **both of them made a profession of faith in Christ!** Please pray for the spiritual growth of these new believers.

God has been working in a great way at our church over the last few months. We recently held a baby dedication for one of the new babies in our church. The family of the baby invited their family, and several came. **We had 32 people in attendance**, and I was able to share a clear gospel message in relation to the importance of family.

We held a special Easter celebration this year as well. Mainly advertised for kids, **15 kids and several new parents participated**. I was able to share the story of Easter and the kids all listened well. Please pray for the seeds that were planted.

We were also travelling during the month of March. We took the whole family to the Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School in **Kobe for a Bible Conference and college graduation**. Two weeks later, Tim and I returned to Kobe for **Youth Camp**. Over **150 young people attended**, and many great decisions were made.

In the midst of all these activities, we’ve been moving **forward on the building project**. I will share more details in the days to come, but we have several groups lined up to come and assist us in the renovation and construction taking place this year. Please pray for safety and God’s blessing on the work.

Paul, Sarah, Timothy, Karen, Ethan, Joshua, and Charity Johnson

Paul, Sarah, Timothy, Karen, Ethan, Joshua, Charity

“From the rising of the sun...the LORD’s name is to be praised.”

Psalm 113:3

