

# The Johnsons

## Missionaries to Japan

November 2024



## Fruit that remains

One of the greatest joys of our ministry in Japan is seeing the people with whom we are blessed work grow spiritually. From learning the stories of Jesus, to figuring out the books of the Bible, to seeing them make steps of obedience to the Lord, it's so exciting to see people grow. This growth has recently become very evident in the life of Mrs. 'H.' **Her husband was one of the first people to be saved** at our church almost 30 years ago before we were even in Japan. At the time, missionary David Harris was planting this church in Aomori and met Mr. 'H' as a result of passing out Christmas flyers. Mr. 'H' made a profession of faith and later began bringing his wife to church.

When we came and restarted the church 10 years ago, the 'H' family had not been coming faithfully to church for several years. We were able to reconnect with them, and they began to attend sporadically. Approximately eight years ago, David Harris and his wife came back for a visit, and we invited the 'H' family to the service. At that service, **Mrs. 'H' made a profession of faith in Christ.** Sarah and the wife of our partners in ministry here, Kimiyo Canter began holding Bible studies and discipleship with her.

Looking back, it's exciting to see the slow but steady growth of both Mrs. 'H' and her husband. Recently, **she made the decision to be baptized.** While this is something we may speak of flippantly in America, making a public profession of faith in Japan is a monumental step of obedience. Identifying yourself with Christ means being different from the culture around you, and in a group-centered culture like Japan, this oftentimes leads to societal persecution. We were so encouraged by the faith and courage Mrs. 'H' showed in this decision. We were thrilled as a church to take a whole day and focus on her baptism. I preached about the meaning of baptism, and in the afternoon, we had a **wonderful baptism service.** It was so encouraging for our entire church family!

September is **missions month at our church.** It's amazing to be a missionary teaching a church on the mission field about sending missionaries to foreign fields. This year, our folks had a tremendous response to the preaching and we were able to take on a new missionary for support. We are able by God's grace to **support 4 Japanese missionaries to foreign countries and 2 Japanese church planters.** As one of our supporters, you have a hand in sending these missionaries out. Although you may never see the fruit in this life, there is fruit that remains because of your sacrifice.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our building project. We are making great progress. In August, five men from our home church came and assisted us in the construction for 10 days. I want to say a huge thank you to Pastor Tangeman, Chris, Mark, Ronn, and Brian. We were able to get much accomplished. We worked at finishing a temporary auditorium and fellowship hall. We began holding **services in the temporary auditorium** in September. This will allow us to demolish the portion of the building we were currently using as an auditorium. There is much work left to be done, but we are so thankful for the progress that we have made this past year.

We are planning **many special events for the Christmas season.** We have a ladies wreath making event, a children's Christmas party, a Christmas service, and Christmas eve candle service. Our church members are already inviting their friends and family. Thank you for your faithful prayers for us.

God bless,

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