

The Johnsons

Missionaries to Japan

February 2025



"Am I Going to Hell?"

During the Christmas season last year, a couple of our daughter Karen's classmates came to several of the special events that we held. These are girls that Karen has grown up with and she truly has a heart for wanting them to be saved. She invited them to the Christmas activities and was thrilled when they participated. Over the course of the Christmas events and services, these girls heard the gospel several times. After one of the events, one of these girls approached me and asked, "Am I going to hell?" I had the opportunity to share the Bible with her once again, and she listened intently. Afterwards, she was very contemplative and said that she would think about it. This is not an unusual response in Japan. For many, salvation is not a decision to be taken lightly and comes with many social implications as well. **Please pray for Karen's friend 'S'** that she would trust Christ as her savior.

We had a wonderful Christmas season last year. We held our second annual ladies Christmas wreath making party. **17 ladies attended with several visitors.** We were very thankful for the new fellowship hall/temporary auditorium that allowed us to hold an event like this. We also held a **children's Christmas party** in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We had **13 children** from the neighborhood as well as children we had invited personally. We enjoyed cookie decorating and Christmas games and they all listened well to the Christmas message. It was encouraging to hear kids that have been coming to Sunday School for a couple of years now begin to answer the Bible questions.

On the Sunday before Christmas, we had a **special Christmas service and meal.** We held a mini-Christmas concert, and I shared a message about the joy of Christmas. That morning we were in the midst of a blizzard so we were not sure if anyone would come or not, but **34 people attended the service.** There were a couple of first-time visitors, as well as several return visitors. Once again, we were thankful for the new, larger space. After the service, we ate a traditional American Christmas meal and enjoyed some great fellowship.

We also were privileged to have another baptism at our church last year. Our daughter **Karen made the decision to follow the Lord in believers' baptism** and I was privileged to baptize her. Although she was nervous, she stood in front of the church and gave her testimony in Japanese and did a great job. We're thankful for the way that she is growing spiritually.

This winter season, we experienced heavy snowfall starting in mid-December through the first week in January. With 25 feet of average annual snowfall, we are used to snow, but **we received about 18 feet of snow in five weeks.** It was a challenge to keep everything clear, but we survived. We also held our annual **kids snow camp** in mid-January. **15 kids attended** and we enjoyed a day of sledding, hot chocolate, and games. At the end, I was able to share a simple gospel message about faith. Much of our ministry here involves planting seeds, and the last two months have been no exception. Please pray for these gospel seeds to sprout.

Thank you for praying for our building project. I recently sent out an **update video** which can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Efs35TTDNf0>

We are grateful for how God has worked and are looking forward to the future!

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