

The Saltzmans Missionaries to Japan



DECEMBER update

Praise the Lord for another year to serve Him and further His Gospel to those that are lost. It is important to look back at what God has done, and what we must do in order to please and glorify Him more. This was our first Christmas in Japan, and we were reminded of our different this time of year is in a country that has a miniscule knowledge of Christ in comparison to what we are used to. We observed what Christmas is to people in Japan, and it burdens our hearts that the common view of Christmas is simply commercial. It is an American holiday, that focuses on commercial materialism. Its a time about presents, Santa, cake, and American holiday music. Because the people are more naive to the idea of what Christmas is, opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and His birth come more often, which is a blessing from God. Even though the true meaning of Christmas is unknown to the people, it causes people to be interested in what the true meaning for celebrating Christmas is. We prayed, and worked to use this to our advantage in evangelizing. The Lord gave us favor in the eyes of the community, in allowing us to set up posters for the church's Christmas program, as well as being able to go door to door handing out posters. Through our prayers and efforts, the Lord sent a nurse from the hospital that Bro Mansell got to invite; a teenage boy, that the English teacher, who attends the church invited; one of our neighbors, who wanted to give us a gift for moving to town; and Aly's friend Yui and her husband and two kids. It is always a miracle for lost people to make a decision to come to church, and we praise the Lord for each of them, and the opportunity to share the Gospel with each of them. Please pray that doors of opportunity would open to follow back with them, and that we might be able to share the Gospel further, or to see them come back to church. We are also blessed to have fellow Christians in missionary families, and church members here to celebrate Christmas with. The Lord has truly blessed our family during our first Christmas on the field. We are thankful for the special prayers and blessings from our supporting churches, and praying friends as well.

Prayer Requests

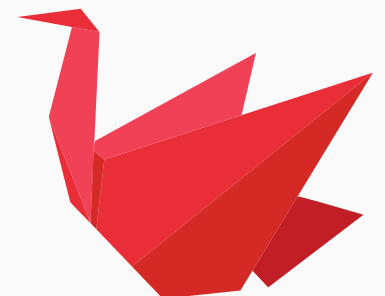
Direction in the upcoming year

Provision over driver's license process

The Kuwata family, and for wisdom with our to be the best encouragement and witness that we can

Language learning

Lost souls in Teshio



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NOVEMBER update

We are excited to see what the Lord does this coming year. Now that we have had some time to adjust, we will be working even harder on learning the language. We are encouraged by the willingness of Miss Akimoto, and Bro Mansell to teach us Japanese, as well as the friends and neighbors that are so willing to let us practice our Japanese. We pray that the Lord continues to give us these opportunities as we head deeper into winter. Finally for this month, we ask sincerely for prayer for our landlord, Mr Kuwata and family. A few days before the Christmas program, Mr Kuwata's father went missing while on some work calls out by the farms around town. The family and fire department conducted a search, but only found his vehicle and some belongings. Because of the snow, they have to put the search on hold until spring. It's truly devastating to lose a father, and grandfather, but also to not have the closure of putting his physical body to rest, and of course from our perspective seeing a lost soul of someone close to us go into eternal separation from God. How important it is to be a witness of the Gospel in every moment possible. We ask for prayer, because according to custom the family will go into a time of mourning for the death of a family member. This time of mourning is heavily rooted in culture and religion. It is very important to pray that the Holy Spirit would have power over this time of despair, and that the Gospel will progress further in the hearts of the Kuwata family. We will look for opportunities we can to be an encouragement and witness, while taking into account the sensitivity and gravity of this unique situation. We praise the Lord for faithful prayer warriors that think of us daily, and for such amazing supporting churches. We look forward to more news that we will get to share throughout this coming year about the Lord's work in Teshio.

