

The Johnsons

Missionaries to Japan



January 2024

New Year, New Building, New Vision

As we enter the new year, our hearts are full of gratitude for the way in which God has blessed in recent days. On December 19, we were able to **officially purchase the property and building** we have been renting for the past three years. We are overwhelmed by God's goodness. Through the generosity of many of our supporting churches, we were able to pay cash for the property! What an amazing testament to God's provision! Owning the building gives us **three times the amount of usable space** compared to the area we were renting previously.

With the extra square footage comes more opportunities to minister to our area. We have several ideas and plans that we are excited to share with you in the days to come. For the time being, the first step is to **start renovation and construction** to bring the building up to code and usable for the ministries we envision taking place in the near future. This year will be full of hands-on work and physical labor. If you would be interested in taking part in renovation and construction this year, please reach out. We would love to facilitate anyone who has a desire to serve in this area!

In the midst of the building purchase, our church ministries have not slowed down either. Sarah and the ladies held a **Christmas wreath making activity** at the beginning of December. This was a first for our church, and we had **four new visitors** attend, one of whom has returned for a church service twice in the past month. I was invited to travel to **Kobe to preach for a special Christmas program** at the Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School and enjoyed a great time of fellowship with the pastors and students. I flew back to Aomori on a Saturday morning, and we had a **Christmas cookie party** the same day. **Over 20 kids and parents participated**, and they listened with rapt attention as I shared the Christmas story and gospel.

We had a special Christmas service and meal on December 24, and **33 people attended**. It was packed in our small auditorium and was an excellent reminder that we need more space for the church as we grow. Over the past six months, we have had a **slow but steady growth in faithful attendees** to church. We are excited to see God building His church!

Every January, we hold a snow camp for elementary age kids. It has typically been very well attended and we always have a great time. This year, other than another missionary family, our kids were the only ones there. We love sharing the great things that happen, and it can certainly be discouraging when no one comes to an event, but this is not uncommon for ministry in Japan. It's a reminder that we need your prayers for encouragement as we serve God. Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and support!

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."

Psalms 113:3