

The Johnsons

Missionaries to Japan



August 2025

"Progress, Setbacks, and Faithfulness"

As in every area of life, missions work is full of mountains and valleys, progress and setbacks—but through it all, God remains faithful. At times, it feels like we take two steps forward and one step back, yet we are thankful for His steadfastness even in the challenges.

This truth has been especially evident in the building project for our new auditorium. For months we have been in planning meetings where it seemed like little progress was being made, but now we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Every delay we encountered uncovered solutions to problems that would have caused greater issues later. Thank you for praying for us during this process. I would much prefer to just grab a hammer and start nailing boards together, but **the Lord is teaching us patience** as we navigate building codes, budget requirements, contractors, and more.

While working through the building project, we also **remained very busy with outreach and church events**. On June 1, we held our annual church barbecue. Thousands of invitations were distributed, friends were invited, and our church family participated actively. God blessed us with a wonderful day—**about 40 people attended, including several first-time visitors**. One of them was the father of one of our faithful members, who, despite our 11 years here, had never attended before. My father-in-law, Jim Townsley, was visiting Japan during that time and preached a clear and powerful gospel message. Please pray that God will continue to work in the hearts of those who heard it.

In July, we prepared for our **"Summer Festival" outreach** event for elementary-aged children. We passed out flyers, made signs, and set up games to create a fun and welcoming environment. On August 9th, we held the event, and **15 children came along with their parents**. They enjoyed games, prizes, and even a food truck in the parking lot. Missionary Henry Ward and his daughter, Teresa, flew up from Kobe to present a special chalk talk gospel message. As Teresa drew on the canvas, Brother Ward shared the story of the Good Shepherd. The children listened attentively, and we are grateful for every opportunity to plant gospel seeds.

During cleanup after the Summer Festival, **I met two high school boys** who had come by to purchase lunch from the food truck. I invited them inside the church to eat, and we had a wonderful time getting to know them. I also invited them to our monthly teen board game night, and they expressed interest in attending. Please pray that we will be able to build meaningful relationships with young people like these. It is amazing to see how God brings people across our path in ways that may seem random to us, but we know are divine appointments.

As we move into the fall, please pray for our **upcoming events**. September is our **Missions Month**, and in October we will hold our annual **Apple Party**, which is usually very well attended. We covet your prayers as we continue sharing the gospel here in Aomori, Japan.

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