

## Spring in Japan

**Spring is a wonderful time to be in Japan with the blooming cherry blossoms and new people coming to church!**

Spring + Japan = lots of people moving! This can be both good and sad, as new people come to our city but others leave. Such is the case in our church. Praise the Lord, we had a new family start attending in April (more on them later). However, Shogo and Yamashita, whom I have mentioned in previous letters, have both moved to other cities.

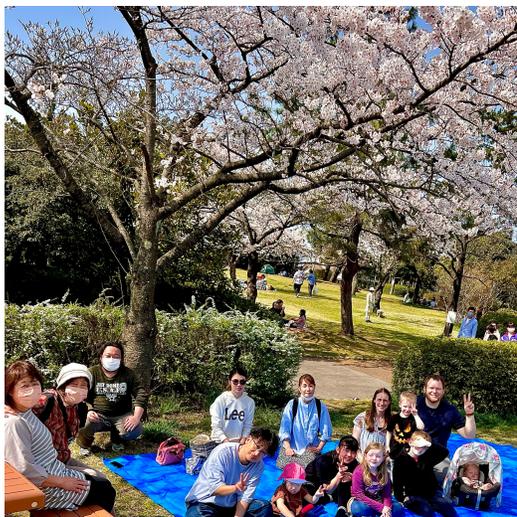
Before moving, Yamashita would attend our Sunday evening Bible study and then talk with me about the gospel afterwards. It seemed he was getting close to believing, but then his work transferred him to a city about 4 hours away. However, there is some good news as the city he is moving to is home to a missionary friend and the church he is helping. We are praying that Yamashita will come to know Christ in his new city!

Mai, another lady that has been attending our church is considering moving as well. She is really close to accepting Christ as her Savior, but she is struggling with the decision to believe as well as moving to another area of Japan. Please pray that God would close or open doors according to His will.

## March Events

On March 14th, Japanese men give chocolate back to the girls that gave them chocolate on Valentine's Day. We had a special event at the church for it. Even though people were somewhat worried about Omicron, we had people come! Pray for the lost that heard the Gospel!

We also had a "pizza fellowship" after one of our morning services in March. My goal for the fellowship was just that, to get church folks to fellowship. I was praying that people would stay and get to know each other so they can know how to pray for one another. God blessed and all but one regular stayed. It was a sweet time of fellowship and encouragement. So much so, we decided to make it a monthly time of fellowship and of course pizza! 😊



## Ohanami Event

When the cherry blossoms bloom in Japan, there is a special custom called "Ohanami" (literally "flower viewing") in which people sit below a blossoming Sakura and enjoy time together. This is the first time our church has been able to go together. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, short devotion, prayer and just enjoying God's incredible creation! I'm so thankful to see the believers becoming a church, encouraging and praying for one another!

Also the church has been more intent on inviting their friends recently. A sister of one of our church regulars, just moved to Niigata with her children. They came to the morning service before we went for Ohanami.

## Easter

God worked mightily through our Easter service! We had several visitors and the sister and her family that just moved to Niigata also attended.

God answered the prayers of Sato and our kids, Atlas and Journey, as well, by bringing their friends to the Easter service! Both Sato and our two oldest were praying that God would help their friends to come to church, and God did!!! Having the boldness to invite their friends, praying that they would come and then seeing God answer their prayers has been crucial in the growth of these new Christians! Praise the Lord!

Please pray for the lost that attended, a couple either raised their hand indicating they wanted to learn more about the Gospel or spoke with me afterwards. One person in particular seems very close to believing!

Please pray for boldness among believers here. Several people are struggling with family issues. I ask that you would pray for Satan to be hindered and these dear believers would be encouraged in the Lord!

# Hill Family JAPAN



Journey and others preparing for an event



Pizza fellowship after church service



Our unconventional egg hunt, with eggs hidden in a room full of balloons! The kids loved it! So thankful for Rebel and the church folks working to make it happen!

## Prayer Requests

1. Bro. Sato spiritual growth and Kevin to come back to church
2. Salvation: Mai, Shogo, Gina's children, Yuki, Kamegai, Yuko, Hasegawa, Sakata, Watanabe (F), Yuen, Sean, Matsuki, Kawasaki, Koide, Chouko, Hisami, Emi, Naoko, Momo, Fumiko, Takahashi, Takeshi, Maho, Usuda, Nagayama, Sachi, Watanabe (M), Suzuki, Motoki, Koizumi, Kevin's wife and more

**Thank you for praying!**

## Sending Church

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