



Dear family and friends: Greetings In the Lord!

The April season in Fukuoka is filled with vigorous life. After sakuras have fully bloomed, the azaleas are shining through in various colors. And then at the end of the month, the hanging wisterias are also waving and spreading their fragrance in the air. Everything in this season displays God's marvelous wonders and the mighty power.



The visits of our two daughters filled April with even more liveliness. Since we came to Japan last year, we couldn't gather with our children as usual for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, and Spring Festival. Now we are happy to have them visit us. Michelle had the opportunity to go to China for work and was able to take some days off and visit us. Annalisa also flew to meet us after her internship, and before she starts her new academic year.



Although their stay is short, we treasure this precious family time a lot. Michelle also had the opportunity to lead the church youth with devotion, and taught them how to play hymns. The girls enjoyed the fellowship time together a lot.



Along with Michelle's visit, the brothers and sisters took us to Fukuoka Tower, which is our first visit since coming to Fukuoka. Before we accepted the call to Japan, we heard that there were a total of 14 pastors and their wife praying at this tower for the gospel mission in Japan. That was in April 2019, almost exactly 5 years ago. Now we stand at the foot of the tower with our daughter, witnessing how God has faithfully answered the prayers. And as we continue the Japan mission here, we invite brothers/sisters to pray with us: May God send more missionaries to Japan, and may the gospel of Jesus Christ be spreaded even wider in this tough land.



Our thanksgiving:

1. Sister EnHui, who was mentioned in the last prayer letter, came to Japan to accompany her son for medical treatments. Her son, who was in a car accident, was a high paraplegic and had damaged bone marrow, almost all the doctors told them there is no chance to stand up again. But God listened to the prayers of many brothers and sisters, had mercy on him, so that in just over a couple of months here, he went from unable to move by himself, to being discharged from the hospital for rehabilitation, to now standing and moving. What a miracle we are witnessing here! Hallelujah, praise God! We pray earnestly that her son and daughter-in-law will be healed and that they will truly repent and experience God as their savior.

2. Thank God for a lovely Sakura outing at the beginning of the month, we connected and met with two new families. One husband in one family had been in Japan since he was a child. The other family has been living in Japan for more than 8 years and has three children. This connection is just the beginning and we pray that the Lord will open their hearts to the gospel.

3. In April, we started a new series for our weekly prayer meeting – the book of Acts. And we are learning to pray in the Spirit and walk in obedience.

We believe that God is already at work around us, The brothers and sisters are becoming more and more intentional in evangelism.

For the first time, we had two seekers attending our monthly Gospel Sunday. This month, a total of 3 new seekers attended Sunday services, 4 travelers visited us, and one Christian student who had just heard about us through a visitor and joined the worship. He is in his second year of studies at one university in Fukuoka. He actually came by bicycle on Sunday,

and it took him an hour to ride, while it was lightly raining that day. Pray that the Lord will strengthen his faith and be able to continue to worship with us.



4. We praise God for His healing power in brother YIMin, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer last year, also came to worship with his wife last week after a period of treatment (they were sitting in the last row in the picture above). Pray that God will strengthen his faith.

Although the sickness was not desired, yet it can still be used to save his soul. He was baptized in October last year. He has grown even more dependant on God since then. He also desires for more people to be saved and tries to invite new people to church. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)

5. In the second quarter, beginning in April, the Sunday message began a new series: "Spiritual Renewal and Change". With God's help, may the Sunday messages not only feed our brothers and sisters in Fukuoka, but also continue to build up the brothers and sisters in other places. Little did we know when we came to Fukuoka, God can open a channel for the pulpit message to be effectively shared in house churches in some areas of China. God is faithful indeed to those who desire and depend on him: "They are the ones who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them." Isaiah 33:16

Pray that God will continue to give us the word to speak and share, so that we will serve Him more with reverence and humility. (Click on the blue text to view the corresponding [April sermon messages.](#))

Our prayers:

1. Because our worship place is in a residential building, we were told that we need to keep the agreement and not to hang the church sign at the door, or on the balcony. As a result, it's a bit confusing for people who came looking for the church for the first time. Pray for more accessible ways for people finding the church. In the meantime, pray for the solutions that our church can be more easily identified by the newcomers.

2. Continue to pray that God will use the connections and activities between church families to reach out to new seekers/families. Empower our brothers and sisters to share the gospel and enhance their ability to follow up.

3. Continue to pray that Alan and deacons will all have effective one-on-one time with each other.

4. Continue to pray for the summer gospel outreach program, for God to give us the motivation and power, and to prepare people's hearts to turn to God in the midst challenging situations.

5, Pray all visits to our church from outside will be meaningful, constructive and able to build up the church body. Pray for the pastors and brothers/sisters so that their time can be effectively spent in the gospel mission.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ...

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble." 2 Peter 1:3, 10

Live our life for Him,

Alan & Joan

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news," Isaiah 62:7*

*"WILLIAMSBURG, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, NINETEEN, SEVENTYSEVEN" 1977-11-27*

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