

Dear family and friends: Greetings in the Lord!

Have you heard the news about the Japanese child who was stabbed to death in Shenzhen, China on September 18? Here is a report from Asahi News on September 19:



This incident has deeply saddened many of our brothers and sisters living in Japan. That Japanese child and their parents were so innocent! One of our sisters fasted for a week in prayer:

Pray for the protection of innocent lives on that land, that the hearts of children will not be polluted with hatred from a young age. May no more parents lose their children, and may the world not be torn apart by deeper divisions and hostility. May the gospel be spread even more in both lands, and may sinners be awakened by the love of the Lord.

Proverbs 10:12: Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

No matter how heavy the marks of history, every life is God's creation and should be respected and cherished, regardless of their nationality or lineage. God sees them all as precious. We pray that such tragedies will never repeat across generations.

Hatred does not come from the good and gracious God. The Lord Jesus came among us, and with His perfect love, He resolved all hatred. Therefore, we can choose to forgive and to come to Japan, praying for the Lord's love to transform generational hatred and to call for more love and understanding.

We also realize that incidents like this make it harder for Chinese people living in Japan. It also increases the difficulty for our Chinese to share the gospel with Japanese. For example, on September 19, the same day this news came out, a sister arranged a meeting a month ago with a Japanese person for dinner. We prepared several dishes, but right before the dinner, the person suddenly told us he couldn't make it. This made us realize the pressure this incident has put on everyone. Please pray earnestly for Japanese and us!

Gospel Outreach: End-of-Summer Barbecue

In August, the church planned an outdoor barbecue to connect gospel friends with brothers and sisters from the church. September 23rd happened to be a public holiday in Japan, and most companies were off. With everyone's thoughtful preparation, a lavish barbecue and various sports games helped build bonds of love. Three seekers came for the first time, and six others who had previously attended our church joined us. They heard testimonies from four brothers and sisters. Out of the three newcomers, two expressed their willingness to return to church if they had the chance. We pray that God opens their hearts and removes the obstacles preventing them from believing in the Lord.





An Encounter with a Japanese-Chinese Couple

Grace, a Chinese sister who has been attending a Japanese church for many years, visited our church for the first time and felt a burden to pray for our meeting place. She also wanted to introduce her pastor from the Japanese church to us, but due to various reasons, it didn't work out. Later, she invited us to her home for a meal, and on that day, a couple who were friends of hers and her husband's suddenly came, so we had a conversation together. It turns out that her friend Wenfang is from Wuhan, Joan's hometown, and has lived in Japan for over 30 years. Her husband is a Japanese, he is the president of a large company in Fukuoka.



Wenfang's husband doesn't speak English, so she translated the entire conversation fluently in Japanese. Over the three-hour conversation, the topic of faith inevitably came up. Her husband had attended Seinan middle school at the Christian-affiliated Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, where he was exposed to Christianity. Wenfang said that he still remembers some hymns and sings them quite well. A few years ago, they also attended a Japanese church for a while, but due to some reasons, they couldn't continue. Two main reasons stood out: First, the messages from the pulpit in the Japanese church didn't touch them or provide real help in their faith. Second, the church had rigid and numerous requirements, which made them feel only pressure. Although Wenfang hasn't attended church, she now participates in an online Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) group. We entrusted both of them to God, praying that God will continue draw them to HIM eventually.

Grace's husband, James, who invited us for the meal, has not yet believed. We pray that God opens up effective ways for us to continue interacting with them so that they can open their hearts, hunger for righteousness, and be truly transformed by the gospel. We also earnestly pray for the current desolation of Japanese churches, asking the Lord for mercy. May the missionary work that has been carried out year after year in Japan be revived on Japanese soil and grow. May God raise up more outstanding young Japanese leaders to become pastors in the Japanese church, so that the messages from the pulpit can touch hearts and lead more people to know Christ and repent to Him.

Our Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for the piano evangelistic concerts in six locations across Japan in October (Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Osaka, Gamagori, Ishikawa, and Tokyo). We ask for the Holy Spirit to move more brothers and sisters in Christ. Whether you are in Japan or not, if you have family or friends in Japan, please let them know about these concerts. Share the digital flyers and YouTube video introductions below with them, and help spread God's love through this outreach effort.



Here is the concert tour map showing the actual time for each city:



Here is the concert introduction video in Youtube :

https://youtu.be/BNaxIZZUVfk?si=PDlgnuMc5DPmR0SD

- 2. We pray that the Lord bless Sister Sandra, her husband, and the accompanying coworkers traveling from the U.S. to Japan, ensuring safety and smoothness throughout their journey to the six locations in Japan. May God's grace be with them throughout. We also pray for God's abundant anointing on Sister Sandra and Brother Eiro Kobori, that they may work together in harmony, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and testify to the Lord's salvation, bringing glory to God.
- 3. We thank God and our brothers and sisters for their intercessions. After a month of hospitalization and staying in a rehabilitation center, Alan's father was able to return home at the end of September! Although he still requires follow-up rehabilitation, we are very grateful. We pray that God strengthens him and that he experiences the comfort and presence of the God of all comfort every day.

4. Alan's <u>sermon at the end of September</u>, titled "The God of All Comfort," received many positive feedbacks from brothers and sisters. We thank God for using this message to encourage and help those currently facing difficult situations. We pray that God continues use this message to edify brothers and sisters in various places.

Psalm 67:1-2:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine on us—so that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

Living for Him,

Alan & Joan

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news," Isalah 52:7

"在山上报佳音,传平安,报好信息,传扬救思,那人的陶踪何等佳美啊"以赛亚书52:7

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