

Dear family and friends,

At the end of February, we moved away from Japan. Amidst the packing and busyness, we were filled with warm love from the farewell gatherings. Additionally, God had given us so many sweet surprises, which had answered our daughters' prayer for us: finish strong.

Our brothers and sisters in Fukuoka came to send us off at the airport, handing us gifts and farewell letters filled with deep emotions and heartfelt blessings. Their words touched us profoundly and further encouraged us to continue being a blessing to those we encounter, sowing the seeds of the Gospel among those in need. Here is one of the letters we received:

"Dear Pastor Yin and Mrs. Yin,

Time flies like an arrow, and before we knew it, more than a year had passed.

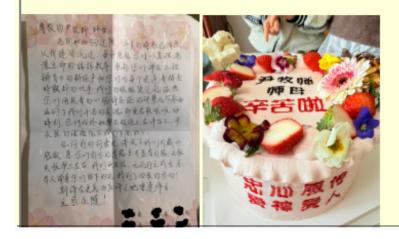
Every time we recall your devoted teaching, nurturing our lives with truth, your powerful voice expounding Scripture from the pulpit, and your trembling hands lifted in prayer for the lost, our eyes well up with tears.

With a shepherd's heart, you turned biblical wisdom into gentle rain, refreshing our thirsty souls. Even in the most challenging moments, you remained steadfast on the pulpit like an immovable rock, allowing God's eternal Word to sustain our weary hearts.

As you embark on this new journey, please take with you our heartfelt gratitude. May the morning star light your path, and may the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night guard you always. We firmly believe that wherever you go, the light you have left behind will continue to guide others home.

We eagerly await the day we reunite in the land of God's promise.

May the Lord's grace and blessings be with you always. ..."







A Seeker's Step of Faith:

February 23rd marked our final week at Fukuoka Church. Since last year, when Ma Xin, a seeker, was first introduced to our church, we have been fervently praying for her. She had been struggling with immense stress and exhaustion due to the prolonged delay in obtaining her work visa.

God, in His mercy, heard our prayers, and not long after, her visa was finally approved. She was deeply grateful. However, coming from a Buddhist family, she found it difficult to take the step of faith. Yet, each time she attended a church gathering, God spoke to her heart, and she always left with something meaningful. The follow-up discussions after the services also helped to gradually resolve her doubts.



During our final Sunday service, <u>Alan's sermon message</u> on "God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility" gave MaXin the courage to take responsibility for her own faith. She decided to open her heart and hands to receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. After the service, Joan led her in a prayer of commitment to Christ! Finally, everyone gathered in a circle, Alan prayed blessings over her. Praise and thanks be to God!

Here is MaXin's farewell message:

"Good evening, Pastor's wife. Tomorrow, you and the Pastor will be leaving Fukuoka, and I feel so reluctant to say goodbye. I still remember the first time I listened to Pastor's preaching—I was completely drawn in. Every time I came to church and spent time with everyone, I felt so much joy. From you and Pastor, I have received so much new energy and encouragement.

I am so grateful to God for allowing me to meet both of you. Though I feel extremely sad and unwilling to part, I know I cannot be selfish. There are so many others who need you and Pastor, and I hope that you will go to more places to help more people—especially those who have yet to know God. Our separation now is only physical, but in the kingdom of love, we will always be together!"

Please pray for MaXin, that after our departure, she will continue to be led by God and walk steadfastly in her journey of faith. May she no longer carry her burdens alone, but find her closest companion in Jesus Christ. And beyond her earthly identity, may she cherish even more her heavenly identity as a child of God.

###God's Miraculous Work:

On our final Sunday, God blessed us by allowing us to witness His miraculous work in the life of a church brother. He was the very first cancer patient we visited when we arrived in Fukuoka. We had also shared an update about him in our October Newsletter. Over the past year, God's grace has been evident in his life.

In January of this year, he began experiencing persistent pain in his lower right jaw and had difficulty swallowing. Alan took him to the hospital for a check-up, where an X-ray revealed a salivary stone lodged deep beneath the gum line at the root of his tooth. The stone had grown larger over time, pressing on the nerves and causing severe pain. The doctor recommended surgery, which would require general anesthesia and a 10-day hospital stay.

Before Alan left, he laid hands on him and prayed, entrusting the situation to God's grace. Two weeks later, the brother shared an astonishing testimony:

One night, in his sleep, he vaguely felt as if the stone was moving from within. In a half-dreaming state, he instinctively reached into his mouth and grasped something hard. To his surprise, he pulled out the stone with his own fingers! At first, he thought he was dreaming, but upon fully waking up, he saw that the stone was indeed real, resting in his hand.

When Alan asked if he would be willing to share this testimony at Sunday service, he readily agreed. Below is a picture of him sharing his testimony in church. All glory and praise be to God!



Not only was the stone real, but after waking up, the brother immediately informed his oral and maxillofacial specialist about what had happened. The doctor, though not entirely convinced, was both skeptical and excited. He immediately arranged for an X-ray and imaging scan before the brother's next scheduled treatment that afternoon.

The results confirmed that the salivary stone, which had been lodged in his lower right jaw, had completely disappeared! The Japanese doctor and nurses were astonished and cheered and applauded for him with joy. Praise be to God for His mighty healing power! Hallelujah!

May God continue to pour out His grace and mercy on this brother, strengthening his faith as he looks to God for complete healing. Even though we are no longer there, may the unfailing love of God continue to surround him, sustain him, and inspire him to live for the Lord!

A Couple Committed to Christ

On Sunday, February 16, when Sister Wei came early to bid us farewell, she shared a wonderful news with Joan—something she had not yet told anyone else. She and her husband James had made the decision to be baptized! When they return to Canada this summer, they will be baptized together in the church where they first encountered the Christian faith!

She expressed deep gratitude, thanking us for helping her overcome a major spiritual barrier—understanding why Jesus is the only way to truly worship the Triune God.

Hallelujah! Praise God for His wonderful work! Through countless conversations, prayers, and encounters, they have opened their hearts. After more than ten years of waiting, God's unfailing love and patient pursuit have finally led them to surrender wholeheartedly to the great triune God.

We mentioned their journey in our <u>November Newsletter last year</u>. We are deeply grateful for Fukuoka Church and all the brothers and sisters who have faithfully prayed for them, and we praise God for answering those prayers!



Sharing the Gospel with Japanese Friends:

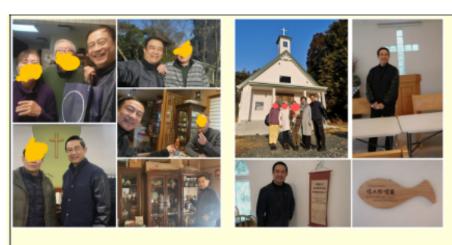
Through over a year of effort, Alan has built one-on-one relationships with more than a dozen Japanese friends. Aside from the two or three who are already Christians, he has had the opportunity to share the Gospel with ten of them. Before leaving, two Japanese friends invited Alan to their homes, which is a rare occurrence in Japan.

One of these friends, a middle school principal, even gave Alan four pieces of porcelain that had been collected by her mother as a souvenir. Alan also introduced him to a Japanese pastor whose church is only a five-minute drive from the principal's house. What's more, they both graduated from the Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka. Seinan Gakuin University was founded in 1916 by C. K. Dozier of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States. It began as the first academy for boys in Fukuoka City, and was one of the first schools to incorporate modern Western educational practices. The junior high school was opened in 1947, and the senior high school the following year. In 1949, Seinan Gakuin University (SGU) was accredited as a private Baptist university, and today it has grown to include an elementary school, nursery school and kindergarten to become a comprehensive educational institution serving about 10,000 students of many ages. The school still holds its motto, taken from the founder's last words: "Tell Seinan, be true to Christ."

This Japanese pastor was 16 years old when he gave his life to Christ at an evangelical meeting at Seinan Gakuin high school, and later, he dedicated his life to becoming a pastor after graduating from the university. By now, he has faithfully served the church almost 40 years and still continues to serve.

We got to know him through his church member, Sister Kojima. When Kojima was a child, she was taken to the children's Sunday school at his church, where she came to know Jesus and become a Christian. Years ago, She has moved to Kumamoto, where she teaches at a university. She and her husband donated a piece of land to the Christian community in Kumamoto for the construction of a church two years ago.

At the beginning of February, we visited her and took a group photo in front of the church, marveling at God's wonderful salvation story!



Ephesians 3:20-21 says:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

May all glory and praise be to our loving Lord!

Our Prayer Requests:

- 1. Pray for continued work in the hearts of those we have sown seeds into: Although we have left Fukuoka, God's grace remains with them, and His chosen ones will never fall short. We hope that the seeds we have planted will one day bear fruit.
- 2. Pray for our three-month home assignment starting in March: Please pray for our travels in Canada and the United States as we share our ministry, for safe travel, host families, and for the practical needs of food, lodging, and travel. Also, pray for the arrangements with the inviting churches. We ask for God's help, that all the arrangements will be guided by His gracious hand.
- 3. Pray for our upcoming sharing and Sunday services: Pray that God will anoint Alan to deliver messages that are in line with His heart. Sometimes, there will be two or three different services in different locations on Sundays, so please pray for strength and endurance for him.
- 4. Pray for the new ministry field ahead: We have completed the task entrusted to us in Fukuoka, but now we seek God's guidance in our new mission. Although there are many needs and obstacles, we dedicate our missionary hearts to His service. Pray that in our quiet waiting, we will clearly understand His direction.

We especially thank all of you for supporting our Japan mission venture. We can not accomplish those amazing results without your prayers and financial support. At this point, please suspend all donations until further notice. Please continue to pray for our future mission service.

###Closing Encouragement: The Great Commission

Finally, we encourage all of you with the words of the Great Commission from our Lord: May we all remain faithful in spreading His love and truth to the ends of the earth:

Matthew 28:18-20: "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Dear family and friends, keep an open and thankful heart, allowing your soul to soar freely with the Lord on life's journey. You'll find that the true meaning of life is not just in the destination, but in the scenery and experiences along the way, with the Lord walking beside you.

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,传扬救恩,那人的陶琮何等佳美啊"以赛亚书52:7

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