

The Johnsons

Missionaries to Japan

July 2024



Missions Statement

Evangelize the Lost
Equip National Leaders
Plant Local Churches

Sending Church

Heritage Baptist Church
14510 Spriggs Rd.
Woodbridge, VA 22193
(703) 680-6629
www.visitheritage.com

Contact Information

181-8 Komagome
Kirinosawa, Aomori
Japan, 030-0955

20 Valley Ridge Dr.
Stafford, VA 22554

www.Johnsons2japan.com
johnsons2japan@gmail.com

Mission Board

Baptist International
Missions, Inc. (BIMI)
P.O. Box 9

Building Permits and Construction

Last year, by God's grace and the help of many individuals and churches, we were able to **purchase the building** we were currently renting for church. Recalling all that happened last year, I am overwhelmed by God's blessing and His goodness. So many of you were instrumental in praying for us and contributing in a tangible way towards the purchase of the building. I want to take this letter and share a longer update about the building.

Beginning in January, we began **making plans for renovations**. The building is 25 years old and needed to be redesigned to be used as a church building. Working with our architect, we created a plan of action. Approximately two-thirds of the building consists of 12 apartment units, the remaining one-third is the space we were previously renting. We have divided the construction up into three phases.

The first phase will be **renovation**. This phase involves demolition of several apartment units and expanding them to create a temporary auditorium space, classrooms, nursery, etc. The second phase will be **demolition** of the current auditorium space. This step is necessary because the previous owner had an unregistered addition built onto this portion of the building. The third phase will be **building a new auditorium**.

Our architect submitted the plans to the city, and **we received our building permit** last month! We are currently working on phase one. In an effort to be good stewards of the resources God has given us, we are trying to do as much of the work ourselves as possible.

Our missionary partners here, Steve Canter and I have been spending much time working on the renovation. We have also been blessed to have several people helping us along the way. Ben Thomas is a short-term worker serving at the Aomori Christian Center, a local Christian camp. He is in Japan for one year, and he has been helping us one or two days every week for the past 6 months. James Scott is a missionary serving in the city of Hirosaki, about one hour away from us. He travels to Aomori once a week to assist us in the work as well.

In May, missionaries Dan Gardner Sr., Dan Gardner Jr., and Henry Ward came from their ministries in different regions of Japan to work for a week. In June, three Japanese pastors also came up and spent a week working with us.

We have been incredibly blessed with progress thus far. We are making great strides forward, but there is much left to do. Please pray with us that **God will continue to bless as we move forward with the construction**.

On the last Sunday of May, we held our annual church barbecue. The Lord blessed in tremendous ways. We had **over 30 people attending**, with several first-time visitors. The special speaker, Pastor Sogoro Ogawa preached a great gospel message. Please pray that these seeds of the gospel will grow. Thank you for your faithful prayers!
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