

The Wards . . . Church Planting in Japan



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May the Lord richly bless you for all your sacrificial giving and prayers for us.

Attendance at Kato BC since January 27

Our attendance dropped off drastically in January and February. . There are basically two reasons. One is that the Brazilian people have stopped coming. They started their own services in affiliation with a church in Brazil. I do not know much about the group, but it obviously has the contemporary "worship style." That accounts for four people.

The other reason is that starting in January there has been a severe increase in the number of Covid cases in our area together with colds and flu. In fact, Celeste, my wife, for sure contracted Covid around the beginning of February. Her symptoms were only a slight fever on the first day, and after that, feeling tired and having nasal congestion for over a week. We discovered she was infected on February 7 when we went to the hospital to get the prescriptions for the medicine we take regularly. I probably had it before she did. I felt like I was getting a cold on Friday, January 28, but did not have a fever. I only felt kind of wiped out for two days, and then I felt okay. But I did not get a Covid test, because I had no fever, so I do not know for sure.

Other people in our church have either been sick or had family members contract Covid, so they could not come. However, our attendance started to get back to normal during March and April.

Anyway, we have had first-time visitors for five of the Sundays since then. That includes Mr. Akita mentioned below, as well as a man from Dakar, Senegal, in West Africa named Mboup Dieng. I can't pronounce it either!

Our first Baptism!

Mr. Kenkichi Kasahara, who made a public profession of faith on Sunday, December 12, finished the Bible studies we do with new Christians. He was baptized on Easter Sunday! Several people from Kato Baptist went over to Bread of Life Baptist Church (my first church) after our Easter morning worship service. At 2:00 we had a baptismal service for Mr. Kasahara. Several people from Bread of Life BC also attended. It was a joyous and victorious moment! Mr. Kasahara was moved to tears. Please pray for his continued spiritual growth and the salvation of his older sister, Mrs. Kimiko Kubo.

I mentioned before that Mrs. Ichijima and Mrs. Shikata were prospects for baptism. Please pray for their decisions concerning this.

Another Soul Saved!

On Sunday, March 20, we had a visitor named Mr. Shuu Akita. He had been viewing our videos on YouTube and found them interesting. He had a Gideon New Testament that he had been

reading. He began coming to Sunday School and the Morning Services. On Sunday, March 27, we had a guest speaker, Missionary Dan Gardner, Sr. from Okinawa. Mr. Akita attended then, also. On the following Sunday, April 3, when I was talking to him after the service, he asked me about baptism. I asked if he was thinking about believing in Christ and he said yes. I presented the gospel to him and he prayed to receive Christ. He has continued to attend every Sunday. He started new Christian Bible studies on Sunday afternoon April 24. Please pray for his spiritual growth.

Sayonara

We sadly said goodbye in March to Mrs. Iwanaga and her three daughters. Their family has moved back to Okinawa. We gave them addresses for two churches there and hope they attend one of them. Her husband is still not saved.

Prayer requests for salvation

- Mr. and Mrs. Kageyama, our house landlords
- Mrs. and Mrs. Tokimoto, our real estate agent
- Mrs. Tsunemine
- Mr. Morimoto
- Mr. Manabu Matsumoto, the cousin of Hiroko Matsumoto, a Japanese missionary in Senegal.
- Mrs. Fujiwara, the grandmother of Mr. Komi, a member of another Baptist church.
- Mr. Tokuhara, owner of the bike shop where I bought a scooter.
- Mr. Taro Kuramae, the plumber who did our plumbing
- Mrs. Taitano, the wife of Mr. Taitano
- Mr. Kasahara's sister, Kimiko Kubo
- Salvation of Mr. Shika-ta (different from above) , friend of Mr. Taitano

Other prayer requests

- Mr. and Mrs. Kuramae: salvation and health
- Growth of Mrs. Shi-kata and Mr. Kasahara
- Mrs. Funabiki: to come to church again
- Mrs. Yamada: to come to church again and be saved
- For Mrs. Tanaka and Mrs. Fujimoto, who came to the Christmas Concert in 2019
- Property and/or building for the future of Kato BC
- God's care, protection and blessing of Brother Yuki Fukumoto, our Japanese co-worker
- That God would save the people in Kato City, Ono City, Kasai City, and Nishiwaki City.