

The Johnsons

Missionaries to Japan

February 2022



Blessings of Winter

As I write this, we are in the midst of yet another snowstorm. It seems like it has been snowing nonstop since the middle of December. Although the residents of Aomori are used to heavy snow, this year we are having more snow than we've had in decades according to the news. Through the beginning of February, **we've had about 19 or 20 feet of snowfall**. We will probably continue to get snow through March, so your prayers are appreciated. Most of our time is spent snow blowing, clearing snow from our roofs, or hauling snow. Our daily lives certainly change during the winter, but we've had some great opportunities these past two months to still have outreach opportunities.

In past years, we have held a large Christmas Sunday service with a traditional American Christmas meal. With the current COVID restrictions, we were not able to do a meal this year, but still had a special Christmas service. On Christmas Eve, we had a candlelight caroling service. **We had four visitors come to that service**. We read the Christmas story, sang Christmas carols, and I shared the message of Christmas. Everyone listened attentively and we enjoyed a wonderful night remembering the birth of our Savior.

On January 29th, we held a snow camp for elementary aged children. There has been a surge of COVID cases and as a result many people are hesitant about gathering still. We invited our English class students as well as our children's classmates from school but were not sure how many would show up. In the two days before snow camp, we had four or five feet of snowfall and it was almost too much. The morning of snow camp, we were wading through waist deep snow to dig out the cars. Despite the weather, **we had 14 kids come to the snow camp**. We had a great time sledding, having a snowball fight, drinking hot chocolate, and most importantly, I was able to share a simple gospel message. Most of these kids have never been in church before, and it was a great opportunity to share the gospel with them. Please pray for the seeds that have been planted in their hearts.

As mentioned before, many people are still hesitant about gathering in groups, but we are planning several outreach events for the next few months.

We are planning a **special kids Easter outreach** on April 17th. Around Easter time, you can see pictures of bunnies and eggs in many of the department stores, but most people have no idea what the word Easter means. It's a great opportunity for us to share the message of the empty tomb.

At the end of May, we are planning an outreach barbecue. This will be the first time at our new location to do an outreach like this. We are going to have a **"Welcome to Church"** day and invite the community to attend. We have to wait for the snow to melt, but as soon as it does, we want to get out into the community. Please pray for these special events that the Lord will use them for His glory.

God bless,


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