

Mission letter from Japan (6)

“Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.” (Deuteronomy 4:9)

Deuteronomy is the last will written by Moses before sending the Israelites into the land of Canaan across the Jordan River. He first looks back on his 40 years of wilderness life and urges his people not to forget their wilderness life even when they enter the new land, but to engrave it in their hearts from generation to generation. He may be saying that they should keep maintaining a humble heart which were gotten through life in the wilderness. It has been one year since we began missionary work in Japan. We look back to see if I am still maintaining my original intention from a year ago and if there are any distractions.

We were able to go to Tampa during the short winter break last December. First of all, we would like to thank the Lord and the church for allowing me the time to meet and fellowship with the members of the Tampa Korean Methodist Church and give them mission reports.



Open house of GCA



Testimony in
Kawana Church

After the three-week winter vacation, the winter semester began on January 9, 2024. The start of the new year in Japan was truly gloomy due to the “Nodo Peninsula Earthquake” that occurred on New Year’s Day. There was no direct damage to our school, but we urgently contacted a student who lives in that area and we were relieved to see that fortunately he and his family were safe. There are still many people suffering from water and electricity cutoffs in this cold winter. We ask for your prayers and support so that the destroyed buildings and roads can be restored as soon as possible and normal life can be resumed. Although the earthquake did not cause the damage, the school's water pump broke down and we had to go without water for three days starting January 2nd. It wasn't easy to find a repairman because it was the New Year holiday period, but fortunately, it was resolved with a temporary solution. Last year, during the semester, the water pump broke down and we suffered for several hours. Experts say that to completely solve the problem, the aging pump must be replaced, but this has been postponed due to the high cost. However, we believe that the water problem must be resolved as a top priority, so we are currently rushing to replace the pump.

Six families attended the last school open house on January 25th, and we successfully finished it with God’s grace. Currently, 6 students have submitted applications and completed interviews. There are still parents who are inquiring and interested. We are praying and working hard to enable more than 10 new students to enroll. Many families say they like our school, but are having trouble applying for admission due to tuition issues. We are praying and asking for help from various churches so that more students can enjoy the benefits of scholarships, especially the children of missionaries who are struggling financially.



Testimony in Izu church



Completed high school dormitory/classroom

02/18/2024

Sophia & David Hong

For the first time since coming to Japan, we were able to have time to introduce our faith testimony and school vision at two Japanese churches. We will continue to work to ensure that Japanese Christians are interested and cooperate in nurturing the next generation of Christian workers for Japan. An elder from a Japanese church who heard my testimony that I am teaching students with the vision of nurturing talents who will lead Japan to become a Christian nation confessed that he was moved to warm his heart when he heard that Japan, which has such a small number of Christians, will be a Christian nation that he had never thought of before. I suggested to him that we should work together to make this goal the hope and prayer topic of all Japanese Christians.

The high school dormitory/classroom building was completed on January 31. We are currently purchasing dorm beds and classroom desks and chairs. There are many things left to be done, such as internet access, broadcasting facilities, and purchasing supplies for classrooms. We are preparing everything in detail so that high school students can live and study here from the spring semester, and we are planning a completion ceremony on March 15th. To establish an external framework while maintaining the characteristics of a Christian school, we are preparing to apply for a “special school” permit from Shizuoka Prefecture. Once we get permission as the special school, we can expect financial support from the local government, provide tax deduction benefits for donations, and accept foreign students by issuing international student visas. Please pray for GCA so that we can complete all processes with the various document preparation, application, and permit procedures and prepare wisely and without mistakes. We end this missionary letter by thanking everyone who prays for us and the Japanese missionary work.

Prayers

1. Please protect the hearts and faith of students who leave home and wish to enroll in GCA.
2. Let us finish the winter semester of 2024 successfully and start the new semester with the entrance ceremony on April 9th. Please let the school pump replacement project proceed smoothly.
3. Please allow applications for special schools in Shizuoka Prefecture to proceed smoothly and be approved.
4. Let students have a passion for learning and have a bigger vision.
5. To raise scholarship funds for students experiencing financial difficulties.
6. Let me always concentrate on missionary work without losing my original intention.