

Mission letter from Japan (17)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Jone 13:34-35

Indeed. The world recognizes that we are disciples of Jesus not through our knowledge, abilities, or miracles, but through the way we love one another. Love is the most powerful evidence and the only identity card proving that one is a Christian. Without love, the fragrance of a disciple does not emanate, and one cannot exert a positive influence on the world.

In Japan, various types of cherry blossoms begin to bloom from the end of February. The pink cherry blossoms we commonly see start blooming from mid-March; as this period coincides with school graduation ceremonies, almost everyone in Japan takes photos with a cherry blossom backdrop. GCA also held its first graduation ceremony on March 10th, marking its first time in five years since opening. Himeno Yoneda and Kouki Sasa, who entered as 8th graders when the school opened on April 5, 2021, are the first graduating class at GCA, stepping out into the wider world. Although there were only two graduates, members of the Kawasaki Shotai Christ Church, who have always prayed for GCA, and the parents of current students attended the ceremony. Student President Nozomi delivered a speech of gratitude and congratulations to the graduating seniors on behalf of the current students, to which the graduates responded with speeches expressing their gratitude, future aspirations, and advice for their juniors. The graduation ceremony concluded gracefully with a congratulatory video message from Pastor Myunghoon Han and a sermon by Principal Pastor Namsoo Cho. Everyone was deeply moved to tears during the ceremony to hang the photo of the first graduating class on the wall. I believe all of this is the grace of God, the fruit of the congregation who prayed behind the scenes, and the dedication of all the faculty and staff who endured hardships and worked tirelessly.

Himeno, who plans to study psychology at university and dedicate herself as a future missionary, was accepted to various schools, including Ashbury University, California Baptist University, Dallas Baptist University, and Temple University (Japan Campus), receiving 30-50% scholarships. As she is enrolling in the fall semester, she is still waiting for the results from the schools she applied to. Kouki, who intends to major in business, has decided to attend Dallas Baptist University and is currently preparing for his studies. I pray that they will gain much experience, learn in the wider world, and become outstanding servants of faith.

We were delighted to welcome a new teacher from Colorado, USA, in March. Ms. Anna So will be teaching Math, Biology, and English, and she has dedicated the next two years as an educational missionary at GCA. Since some missionary teachers are required to return home after the next semester, we ask for your prayers for the recruitment of new teachers.



GCA first graduation ceremony
(Graduates: Kouki & Himeno)



Welcome to

GLOBAL
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

GRADUATION
CEREMONY

"This is the day
that the LORD
has made;
let us rejoice
and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24

We are working together with all the teachers to prepare various documents and establish the school system for ACSI/WASC accreditation. Since some of the items we are preparing differ from standard schools in Japan (such as school safety systems and emergency protocols), we are taking a significant amount of time to research and re-document them to suit the local environment. Additionally, we must establish a system tailored to our school to gather opinions from parents and students and incorporate them into school policies in order to receive accreditation. As we are preparing for all of this for the first time, we are going through various trials and errors. Please pray that we can all cooperate well to prepare and receive school accreditation as soon as possible.

The futsal field, which we painstakingly constructed, has an insufficient drainage system. Consequently, whenever it rains heavily, the soil is washed away by rainwater flowing down the side of the soccer field. Therefore, starting in April, we plan to resume drainage work with volunteers every Saturday. Since this is a self-taught task performed by non-professionals, we ask for your prayers that the work can be done safely and without accidents.

Pastor Namsoo Cho, who founded GCA and has led it until now, has decided to step down from the position of Principal starting this new semester in April and serve only as Chairman of the Board. This decision was made because the workload was too heavy and he wanted to focus more on external ministries going forward. The Board of Directors has decided that I (David Hong) will take on the role of Principal. As I will face many new responsibilities—including contacting parents and communicating with the Board—in addition to teaching students, I ask for your prayers that I may handle them wisely.

Four new students will be enrolling in the 2026 semester. Although the number of new students has decreased significantly compared to last year, we ask for your prayers that we may cherish and responsibly educate each and every soul entrusted to us.

I conclude this mission letter by praying for the physical and spiritual strength of all of you.

March 23, 2026

Sophia & David Hong

Prayers

1. To prepare well for the entrance ceremony on April 7th, when four new students enroll, so that it may be a grace-filled event, and that the new students adapt well to the school.
2. To complete all the paperwork required for ACSI/WASC school accreditation and establish a systematic system for school administration, financial management.
3. May all faculty and staff serve the students with one heart and strength in body and spirit, and especially that the new teacher settles well into GCA.
4. May a miracle occur where nine students from non-believing families meet Jesus and accept the Lord through their life at GCA.
5. Please grant wisdom so that I may faithfully and humbly fulfill the duties of Principal, which I have assumed starting this new semester.