



NOVEMBER 2024

IMMEASURABLY MORE

Praises

- Praise the Lord for his abundant grace and love.
- For God's work in the lives of the women who participate in the ladies' seminars throughout the Japan Baptist Conference.
- For the partnership NAB has had with the JBC for all these years as we have shared the love of Jesus together in Japan.
- For the lives of the precious young people who attend and lead the youth gatherings.
- For the opportunity to visit Karuizawa, to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and say thank you and goodbye to friends.
- For the opportunity to rejoin Anointed Gospel Choir to sing praises with these friends and fellowship with them.

Prayer

- Pray with us as we approach the Christmas season, for opportunities to share the true meaning of the season.
- For the youth of the JBC, and throughout Japan, to grow in their love for Jesus and for boldness to share that love with their friends and families.
- For me as I experience more 'lasts' in Japan; please pray for me to continue to be the aroma of Christ as I meet with friends one last time.
- For Yuri and me as we walk through the legal journey of paperwork and meetings and waiting as we seek to close the legal entity with integrity and kindness.
- For Komyo Christian Church to continue to shine the light of Jesus in our homes, schools, and neighborhood.
- For the JBC as they continue to seek a deeper walk with Jesus and desire to serve him faithfully in their churches and neighborhoods.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:16-21 (NIV)

This quarter has been full of God's abundant grace! One of the many joys of the past three months has been the privilege of co-leading three ladies' seminars with Yuri in Osaka, Kyoto, and Aichi. God graciously guides us as we

prepare for each seminar. We are grateful for the ladies who participate in the learning, conversation, and fellowship as sisters in Christ. Through our times of study, we are learning more about our hearts, how God designed us, and



Ladies' Seminar at Komyo Christian Church

how to walk with him more closely. The Spirit is at work, helping us to pay attention to the places where more transformation is needed and to learn to encourage one another. We are praying a break in the rhythm of the seminars during the year of Yuri's home assignment will not dampen the desire to meet, learn, and fellowship but instead deepen the desire and ignite a deeper passion for Jesus.



The first missionaries sent to Japan from the North American Baptist Conference arrived in Japan November 21, 1951. After language school, scouting trips, and various trials, the first church was established in Ise, Japan. Since that time, many missionaries have come and gone, but the church remains. In 1978, the Japan Baptist Conference was organized, and our partnership strengthened as we have worked together to share the love of Jesus and build his church in Japan. Although the partnership between the NAB and JBC will change, we desire to continue working together for the Kingdom of God. It has been an incredible honor to work with the pastors and churches of the JBC throughout my time in Japan. God continues to be at work in his people, his church, here in Japan. Please pray with us for these brothers and sisters as they walk with Jesus and shine his light in this dark country.

Shan Reed

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In October, the autumn youth gathering was held in Suzuka. The theme was eating! The speaker shared from Matthew 4 about Jesus's temptation, especially focusing on Jesus's words that humans do not live on bread alone but on the words of God. She encouraged us to remember that the Bible is our spiritual nutrition and we cannot live on one meal a week. Following our morning of praise and study, we spent the afternoon outside enjoying the beautiful weather as we made pizza in the pizza oven made by one of the university students from the Suzuka church. Even though it was a hot afternoon, and it took a long time to bake pizzas for thirty people, the students enjoyed hanging out and creating pizzas without complaining. Pray with us for the students to learn what it truly means to be fed by the Word of God.

There are many steps in the process of preparing to return to the US next spring. Some were sped up by the Christmas fire last year - getting rid of things I do not need! Other steps include filling out paperwork for the process of closing the legal entity - which is mostly done by Yuri and our legal advisor. Then there are the steps of saying goodbye, the 'lasts.' In October, I was able to go to Karuizawa, where I attended language school November 2001-March 2004. What a joy to visit with friends from that season of my life. Playing basketball once a week at the community gym during those years helped me build relationships with people that continue to this day. It was fun to have dinner with some of them and their children. I also stopped in a few of my favorite shops to greet the owners and say goodbye. During those years, I also hosted a Bible study in my apartment, which Melissa Ewing helped me lead. It did my soul good to spend time with two of those ladies who have encouraged me over the years as sisters in Christ. Along with spending time with these friends, I spent time with Jesus enjoying his creation and reminiscing about my years there while walking around town.

I am grateful for another year of life! Through all the surprises and twists and turns of life over the past year, God has remained faithful and present. He continues walking with me each day, each moment, encouraging me, guiding me, protecting me, and laughing with me. What a wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord!

