

Volume 84: Covering May 2025

A New Believer's First Camp

Danielle's Journey

Dear Partners in the Work of God,

Praise the Lord! This has been an unusually exciting month for both our family and our church, with a lot of travel and opportunities to minister to people in faraway places. We praise God that we are also seeing a faithful and excited core group of people solidifying here at the Kisarazu Hope Baptist Church. Thank you for being used of God to invest the prayers and resources to make this all possible!

We started the month strong with **another first-time visitor** on our first Sunday service of this month, the day after we landed back in Japan from our short Monday-Friday document trip to the U.S. Due to time zones, this meant landing back in Japan on Saturday, but we praise God that He allowed us to continue not to miss a single Sunday ministering to our young, growing church plant and for giving us the strength to still have a great Sunday after our trip! On the Monday following, I had the joy of taking one of our young men, Bro. K, to an annual Young Adults' Retreat, hosted by the Senri Newtown Baptist Church, our initial training ground in Japan. This was his very first Christian camp-type event, and especially as a newer, growing believer, it was encouraging to see his joy and excitement at making many new Christian friends his age from all over Japan, where it is difficult to find even one Christian friend in their own city, let alone one that shares our same convictions and are in a similar season of life. God used one of the messages preached to lead Bro. K in **a decision to become a fruitful Christian and not just someone who enjoys the blessings of salvation!** This decision prompted him to **begin meeting with me one on one every Saturday for a Bible-study curriculum, in addition to his faithful attendance on Sunday and Wednesdays, to aid in his discipleship.** This is a curriculum I am currently developing that is specifically tailored for someone with zero former background in Christianity to give them a firm Biblical foundation of understanding in what they have placed or are considering placing their faith in. Our first session was on May 10, and the Holy Spirit is doing a very evident work in his life, as he will now **speak often about how much he is enjoying his personal walk with God as he makes prayer and Bible reading a part of his everyday life!** Please pray that God would do something special with this young man!

On that same day, we visited the TA family who came as visitors to our special Christmas services this past December when their youngest son and oldest daughter trusted Christ as their Saviour. They are a family of six living in our city, whom God has allowed us to befriend. Since no children came to our Easter service in April, we decided to visit families whom we are trying to reach with the candy-filled eggs and a Gospel presentation written for children that we had prepared to give any children who would come. Our souvenirs from the U.S. also gave us a good opportunity to visit families who are more challenging to make an opportunity to visit. We enjoyed great visits, learning more about these families. Please pray that they would trust Christ as their Saviour and make their way back to our church!

On May 19, Danielle and I celebrated our **seven-year wedding anniversary.** I am thankful beyond words for her faithfulness as my wife and for our amazing God, Who brought us and keeps us together. We truly love our life and ministry together! We enjoyed a wonderful three-day vacation to the city of Nagoya to celebrate, which was a much-needed time of truly reconnecting and refreshing after how much our church plant has come to demand our time and attention! Another great blessing this month was the **salvation of a dear family member** on May 24, a major answer to prayer! We were also blessed to have some of our college friends from the U.S. visit our church during their trip here on our last two Sundays this month. We finished this month visiting a former church regular who had since moved to Tokyo with Pastor Steve Carter, a trusted missionary friend who is closer to his area. Thank you for your prayers and for your part in all of this!

Your friends and co-laborers to Japan,
 Go and Danielle Oishi

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