



August 2025

Dear Praying Friends,

Our May update was a video update! If you haven't seen it yet, feel free to check it out here. 🖱️
Summer church camps are about to start next week, so we're excited about that. Pray that those who attend from the different churches will be encouraged and challenged to live their lives for Jesus!



THE "EBBING"

Throughout the years of serving here in Japan, we've consistently seen the "ebb and flow" of ministry: We love to see the "flow" of people who come into our lives to work alongside us as we serve the Japanese. But we also experience seasons of "ebbing" where God moves people away and on to the next part of their journey with Him. For us, the last few months have definitely been an unusually heavy season of "ebbing." We've had to say goodbye to folks we love and with whom we have found great joy in serving Jesus together. Let me introduce several of them to you.

Dan came to our church about seven years ago. Married to a Japanese, he came to our area to do contract work for nearby Yokota Air Base. It wasn't long before Dan was helping wherever he could, from helping me pick up day old bread at Costco to send to other churches, to getting up early Sunday morning to get the church set up for everyone, to even helping run the computer for the services. Dan has been a consistent faithful servant, and a close friend to me. This May, God called him and his wife to another prefecture to care for her ailing parents. A few weeks after moving, Dan discovered a church to attend right in his neighborhood!

Waichiro and Yoshie operated a small Japanese Christian publishing company for many years while attending their previous church. Yoshie had gone through serious health issues which forced them to move to our city to be closer to their hospital. One day, in 2020, just a few weeks after Japan began opening up from the covid pandemic, they came across our church while going for a walk, just 10 minutes from their house! After receiving the blessings from their pastor, they started attending our church. In their first year here, her health significantly improved! They too became such a huge help to our church family! Yoshie was amazing in welcoming new guests and making them feel at home. Waichiro was so helpful in helping me lead and spiritually care for our church family. On several occasions he preached for our church while I had to be away for quick trips to the States. But also, they were personally a HUGE comfort and encouragement to me and Bethany as we were going through the difficult time of Bethany's cancer. I will never forget how they both prayed over me as I wept in their living room during a very tough season. God brought us together to be one another's help, each in our time of need! In March, God provided a better location to meet the needs of their publishing company. And He provided a new church family for them to minister and serve, once again just a few minutes' walk from their new home!

A year before Waichiro and Yoshie, God brought **Ben, Rebecca, Nolan and Eli**, a missionary family to our church. It was a time when I was absolutely swamped with ministry work. I needed help badly. Ben and Rebecca were looking for a place where they could serve behind the scenes while they learned the language. What a team we made! God allowed us to work together for many years together. They will be finishing up their ministry here and heading back to the States in two weeks. While we will deeply miss our dear brothers and sisters, we are also thankful for how God is ALREADY bringing new families into our church family to serve together with! Thanks for continuing to pray for us as we look forward to the next season of "flowing!" We sure do appreciate you all!

Serving Him,
The Carters to Japan