

Josh & Amy Durden

ABIGAIL • JOEL JASON • ANNA



Missionaries to *Japan*

Carrying the Cross to
the Land of the Rising Sun



January - March 2021

Wow, what a wonderful year we have already had thus far in spite of COVID-19. More of our church members have begun to attend our English Cafe Time on Sunday mornings. I am preaching once or twice a month in our Japanese morning services. Amy has been teaming with Mrs. Hiroko in teaching the children's Sunday School Hour. Having our English Afternoon Services have really encouraged our foreigners. We truly have an international Baptist Church here reaching Japanese, Filipinos, Brazilians, Malaysians, Indonesians, and so many more with the Gospel. Because of the Toyota main factory here in Aichi Prefecture it brings many foreigners who work but also need a church and the Gospel, amen!

In April we will begin having a Ladies Fellowship every Tuesday morning. Also the first Saturday of every month we have church-wide visitation time, which is bringing in new people. Our family is really doing better than we deserve.

Continue to pray for the Source of Light Ministry as well that we have at our church office that reaches all over the world with the Gospel. We are privileged to be able to distribute the literature in Japanese as well as English. We are very busy with this ministry working simultaneously with the pastor and Mrs. Yamazaki to see the work done in this ministry day-by-day. Also we have one lady who wants to help out in the ministry as well. Praise the Lord for that.

The cases in COVID-19 in Japan saw several prefectures including ours throughout January and parts of February go back to the issued state of emergency. Due to this many people were not coming regularly to the services in fear of the virus itself or maybe for some other reason. We have continued to press on, though, in our services and have encouraged our people to stay faithful, "faith over fear." Thankfully in February things started going back to normal, especially for our prefecture. Pray, though, for our people to stay faithful to the Lord during these continued uncertain times.

Pray for many in our church who either have spouses, parents, family members, co-workers, or classmates who are not saved. What an opportunity we will have this Sunday as we preach and celebrate Resurrection Sunday. It is forecasted to be bad weather, but pray the Lord would work on hearts to be at church anyway for the good day we are looking forward to having.

What a blessing again it has been to have people start returning since the lifting of the state of emergency. We were finally able to have our annual church business meeting a couple of Sundays ago. We discussed the future vision of our new church as well as getting closer. It looks like we will be able to purchase another piece of property along with where the building currently sits. This would expand our ministries so much in giving us so much more space. It reminds me of the message I preached two weeks ago on "The Prayer of Jabez" when he said "enlarge my coast." Amen, pray for us in these exciting times of wanting to expand and grow for God's Glory.

In March we had a baby dedication ceremony for three families. Little Ritsu, Dan, and Aimi were all born last year. However, due to COVID we had to postpone this until March. What a blessing it was though. Pray for the Lord to use these three children one day for His honor and glory.

Please pray for my mom continually whose health is declining every day and the fact of the matter is, she wants to get better until that blessed day in Heaven. My father-in-law also struggles every day but sure will tell you that he is blessed as well. Pray for my dad as he takes care of mamma and for my mother-in-law as she takes care of my father-in-law.

Pray for the children as they will begin back to Japanese school on April 8. Abigail will be in 4th grade, Joel the 2nd grade, and Jason the 1st grade. Anna will continue daycare/kindergarten. Continue to pray for Amy's Japanese schooling as she also will start back up in April.

Each of you mean so much to us. Your financial giving, prayers, and your love for us truly is what keeps us going on the field. Oh that the Lord's hand would continue to be upon us throughout 2021 as we continue to serve Him here and in representing you all. Everything that is done here to the Glory of God, you have a part in. THANK YOU.

Update on email: joshamy51@gmail.com and also joshamy51@icloud.com and also joshamy1499@gmail.com. GOD BLESS YOU!

Josh Durden

Pray for the lost souls of Japan to come to know Christ as their personal Savior

Home address: Japan 440-0024 Aichi-ken, Toyohashi-shi, Azumada-cho, Azaiharu 31-121
MagicJack cell phone number: 803-343-9485 • email: joshamy51@gmail.com

Serving at the Toyohashi Grace Baptist Church • 441-8061 Aichi-ken, Toyohashi-shi, Fujisawacho 11-10
+81-0532-48-3187 • <http://bcjapan.com> • Pastor Takuji Yamazaki

Sending Church: Lakeside Baptist Church • Clearwater, SC • Pastor Tad Marshall • Besidethelake.com

Mission Agency: Baptist International Missions, Inc. • P.O. Box 9 • Harrison, TN 37341 • www.bimi.org

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