



Dear Family and Friends,

As we reach the end of 2025, we pray that this letter finds you anticipating all that the Holy Spirit will do in and through you this coming year. We trust that you had a wonder-filled Christmas as you pondered the miracle of the incarnation of Christ. Admittedly, celebrating Christmas in a foreign land was lonely, but we are thankful to have had time to consider how we might best celebrate Christmas in a land where Christ is unknown.

December was a busy month filled with outreach. In Japan, there are no longstanding Christmas traditions. Of course you can find light displays, and many eat a KFC feast with Christmas cake (strawberry shortcake) on Christmas Day, but most people do not seem to know that Christmas is related to Christianity. Thankfully, many Japanese are curious about "foreign" things, so we had several opportunities to talk about the birth of Christ.



Our church met in small groups after the Christmas service



Tanja spent many hours preparing bookmarks with the story of the candy cane, each with a sweet treat affixed to the backside. She included them in a package with a Gospel tract and distributed them to about 50 people including moms from the kindergarten, people in our neighbourhood, and even the local courier. The highlight of the season was our neighbourhood Christmas party where we served homemade apple cider, learned more about our neighbours, and Andrew read Luke 2:1-14 and John 3:16-17 in Japanese (after hours of practice). Six of the nine neighbours who attended heard the Christmas story for the first time! We received kind messages of thanks for our efforts from those who attended.

In the coming month, we hope to have a bit more clarity on our future ministry placement. January 11, we will attend a church in Yokohama to worship with the congregation and meet with the elders afterwards. We are interested to hear more about the ministry of the church and discuss an internship where we can learn how we can be more useful for God's service here in Japan. At times, it can feel like things take a long time in Japan, but we are thankful that God has given us this time to ensure that we end up at the right church. Please continue to pray for us as we seek the Lord's leading for our ministry placement.

In Christ,

Andrew, Tanja, John, Anna, and Peter

Prayers and Praises

1. In December, we handed out many tracts and had conversations about the meaning of Christmas. Please pray that we would be able to build on these conversations in the new year.
2. We have been invited to attend a church in Yokohama on January 11 to worship with the congregation and meet with the elders after the service to discuss joining their church for an internship. Please pray for a fruitful meeting with the elders and continued wisdom to discern if we should serve at this church.
3. Last month, we asked you to pray for Tanja as we awaited the results of the testing related to a medical issue flagged on her annual checkup. Praise the Lord, the doctor said that the problem is minor and should resolve on its own over time.