



## Dear Family and Friends,

We pray that this letter finds you anticipating the return of sunshine and warmer temperatures. The old calendar of Japan marks the change of seasons on February 3. Customarily, people toss roasted soybeans to drive away evil spirits and welcome in good luck. Also, a special uncut sushi roll called ehomaki is eaten while pointed in that year's auspicious direction. We are often told that customs like these are not religious practices, but it is difficult not to see the spiritual connections.

As you know, over the past year, we have been working diligently to find an internship for once we have completed our full-time language studies. We are pleased to report that we will be serving at Yokohama International Baptist Church (YIBC) after returning from home assignment. YIBC is a fully bilingual church made up of about 60% Japanese, 20% Filipinos, and the remaining 20% coming from all over the world. We are especially excited that the church is committed to supporting our continued language development and equipping Andrew to help lead a future church plant. Serving at YIBC will require us to move to Yokohama, so we are already grieving the loss of some of the close relationships we have formed in Nerima and at Saikyo Nozomi Chapel. Nonetheless, we trust that God has led us to YIBC for our good and His Glory.



An unusually warm spring day had us out at the park in t-shirts



This coming month will be both busy and a tad bit sad. On top of our language studies, we will be busy organizing our move to Yokohama and preparing for home assignment. Andrew will be finishing up sermon prep and working on presentations and our annual report. Tanja will have a big change this month as Anna finishes her year at Japanese kindergarten and starts kindergarten at what John has named "Rokeby Academy". Foremost, we are considering how we can best spend these last weeks in our neighbourhood. We love our community, so the pull to stay and continue to witness is strong. But Andrew was recently encouraged by a veteran missionary who told him, "Wherever you go in Japan, you will find people who need to hear the gospel." In Christ,

Andrew, Tanja, John, Anna, and Peter

### **Prayers and Praises**

1. We are currently searching for housing in Yokohama near our new church. Please pray that we will find suitable housing before returning to Canada for home assignment.
2. A move to Yokohama and a visit to Canada involve a lot of transitions and goodbyes. Please pray that God will give our family extra grace and comfort during this time of change.
3. Praise God for His provision of an internship at Yokohama International Baptist Church. Please pray that the Lord will send His Spirit before us to work in the hearts of our new neighbours and the people we will meet in the community.