



November 2022

Dear Friends,

Greetings from your missionaries halfway around the globe in Yokohama, Japan. We are grateful for your prayers and support. This marks the 15th year since we embarked on this mission. It is by God's grace that we have made it this far. We are pleased to report that our family is healthy and well. Despite the darkness of the world around us, we are reminded that we walk in the light of Christ Jesus.

High School Ministries

Japanese society is still being affected by the COVID-19 situation. In late summer 2022, daily news covered a "7th wave." Nonetheless, last spring the Lord continued to send us a small group of high school students for the weekly gatherings at the Green House. The girls from the area school kept coming back and we had really good quality fellowship and Bible time with them.

In July, we were able to hold an in-person special event for the Jr. and Sr. high school students from area local churches. Since many of the churches are not currently holding in-person youth groups, we have been offering the Green House as a good place for the youth to gather so they can encourage each other and receive some nourishment for the soul.

Young Adult Ministries

Since the beginning of this year (2022), we have been opening the Green House to a new ministry for young college and early career adults. As noted above, because of the COV-19 policies, many local churches virtually gave up in-person gatherings completely while other churches have been limiting their in-person gatherings to Sunday morning worship services only. It quickly became apparent to us that the young people who had been coming to the churches have largely lost their faith community or opportunities to fellowship with other young believers. So, two of our sons, Ken and Raymond, have been reaching out to such young adults. Once a month, they invite an area pastor to join them for an in-person outreach gathering at the Green House. Ken cooks the food and Raymond (who is a Bible college student), helps lead the program. This group is still small, but there is usually someone to join them. It is a joy to see our sons reaching out to their generation in this way. Please pray that young souls can meet the Lord and flourish.

We also have an outreach to the graduates of the mission schools. A couple of times a year we extend an invite to the graduates who used to come to the Green House weekly program while they were in high school. For

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example, in April, we hosted a special Easter teatime. Several joined and enjoyed the fellowship and a Bible-based message. We will invite them again for a Thanksgiving meal with fellowship.

Children and Worship

We are so grateful to receive the wooden figures for the Children & Worship from some of our supporting churches! During these past couple of seasons, due to the various limitations on activities, we have focused on training small groups of worship leaders. It is amazing to see how God is using each of them to lead C&W in many places across Japan. Not only it is wonderful that many children and adults can experience C&W, but the joy of the worship leaders is overflowing! These ladies (and a few men) love the Lord and love the children. They are eager to serve Him, and through C&W, God has granted a very practical way for them to do so. As they wrestle with the scripture to tell the story, they find themselves so engaged in the Word and this draws them closer to the Lord. They will use these precious second-hand wooden figures you've sent to us. Indeed, it is as if these wooden figures came here on a mission trip. Now we will see how far these figures will go out from here across Japan!

We are also so thankful for the second printing of the Japanese version of the first C&W textbook, "Young Children & Worship," which is now being published with a new improved binding and cover from this year.

Other updates:

Serving as a delegate to the General Assembly

I (Nathan) was asked to serve as a delegate at the General Assembly of our partner denomination, the Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan. This September was the first General Assembly to be held in person since the beginning of COVID-19. It was a long three days of meetings with votes on many issues for the future of the church in Japan. Fortunately, there was good fellowship among some of the delegates.



Me with Rev. Terada and a cluster of some of the young pastors who are involved in youth outreach.

The Mt. Fuji Climb

Below are a couple of photos from my first climb of Mt. Fuji. I finally took the challenge and climbed to the tallest point in Japan. At 3,776 meters, the mountain is tall enough to feel the lack of oxygen, especially for those of us who spend most of our time at or near sea level. Although we climbed in mid-July it was like winter at the top. This trip made me ever more grateful for God's amazing creation. And I am grateful for the small team of Japanese and international friends from the local gym who helped make that climb possible. We encouraged each other along the way. I found it harder coming down than it was climbing, which was because of a knee injury and surgery which I sustained years ago. Nonetheless, it was a great experience from which I learned a lot. I should like to write more about it in the future.



RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.

Japan mission partnership between RCA Global Mission and CRCNA RESONATE

We are glad to report that, based on years of dialogue and pioneering cooperation between the missionaries here on the field in Japan, the denominational representatives of both RCA Global Mission and RESONATE (CRCNA) have signed an even more solid and intentional MOU (We had already been cooperating on some projects based on an earlier MOU). This MOU is now a three-way agreement between the mission arms of RCA Global Mission and RESONATE (CRCNA) connecting with the Leadership Training Institute for Reconciliation (LTIR), which is a legal mission entity here in Japan. Through this partnership, we aim to raise up leaders for the church of tomorrow for the glory of our Lord. This has the potential of being a historic event marking a new chapter in the Japan mission.



Rev. Wayne Jansen (RCA) signed on behalf of RCA Global Mission and Rev. Nathan Brownell (RCA) signed on behalf of our mission group in Japan with Rev. Yamashita (LTIR) and Rev. Paul Yu and the representatives of RESONATE CRCNA.

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the strengthening of the church in Japan and, most specifically, for the next generation of Japanese Christians to be raised up. Please pray for God to continue shaping who we are and what we do so that there will be fruit that will last.

May the Lord bless you all as you serve the Lord with passion wherever you are!

...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being... Eph3:16

In Christ,

Rev. Nathan & Nozomi Brownell

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