



November 2023

Dear Friends,

A warm greeting from Yokohama, Japan. We are happy to express our gratitude for your prayers and support in this letter.

Celebrating a visit from Grace Christian Church

In late February, we were blessed to have a visit of a team from the Grace Christian Church (GCC), Staten Island, NY. Rev. Jeff Chang and several elders came to Green House Youth Center. It was such a joyful afternoon of fellowship in faith. It had been a while since a team like that was able to come due to the international situation. We could share what God has been doing here in Yokohama through RCA missions in lively conversation in the same room face-to-face, which was a real joy.

We share a special connection with GCC through the Children and Worship program. We still remember the time we first visited GCC, more than 20 years ago. Nathan and I (Nozomi) were still serving at the Japanese American United Church in NYC. We were invited to GCC to learn how Children & Worship was practiced at their church. Now we are filled with joy to see that the church in the U.S. and the ministry in Japan are beautifully connected and working together. God has been working among us all this time. It was also a blessing that we could pray together for the various challenges that we face.

The baptism of a graduate

A couple weeks before Easter, Nathan received a joyful mail from one of the graduates of Ferris Girls' High School, Risa Suzuki. She was his former student and a regular participant at the Green House afterschool ministry for junior and senior high school students. Even after graduation, she would come back to the Green House from time to time whenever we had special gatherings for the graduates.

She was in the school choir and loved to sing. During the pandemic when people were not allowed to sing together, she blessed us by sending a beautiful recording of the hymns for which she sang each of the harmony parts herself and layered them into one recording. When she came to the Green House in the winter, she shared that she was very close to deciding to confess her faith, but we were not sure how close she was. That is why it was such a great joy to receive her note with an invitation to her baptism. Nathan was able to attend her baptism which was held on Easter Sunday at International Christian University Church. Now she is working as a teacher at one of the mission



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schools (meaning a private high school which was founded by Christian missionaries) in Tokyo. We believe that the Lord will continue to raise her to share her testimony along the way with her students long into the future.



Sunday Afternoon Fellowship

Beginning in January this year, we started a new program called Sunday Afternoon Fellowship (SAF). We had attempted to start this program in 2020 but had to postpone it for a while. Now we are inviting the graduates of the mission schools and their friends for the time of Christian fellowship every third Sunday of the month.

Madison Sagara (a Ferris teacher) and her husband Yusuke, who reside upstairs of the Green House, have been helping take some of the initiative to send out the invitations and welcome the students. We are glad to see the graduates coming back now as university students, graduate school students, early careers, and even as young moms! Each month we have more than half a dozen guests, plus our team and friends of Greenhouse, totaling between 12-24 people. We are continuing this program. Trusting that God will lead draw each one attending close to Himself.



Please pray for:

- The ministries of Green House:
 1. For the junior and senior high school afterschool program
 2. For SAF—especially for the participants to meet Jesus as their savior
 3. For the growth of young Christian leaders

- Children & Worship
 1. For new participants to join the training program

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2. For those who are practicing the program to be empowered.

• For The Brownell family

1. For our eldest son Ken, who resigned from his corporate job to start his own business this past year.
2. For our second son Ray, who is currently a graduate school student at Tokyo Christian University preparing for the ministry and serving as an intern at a church in Tokyo.
3. For our third son Luke, who just entered college.
4. For continued physical and spiritual health.

Thank you so much for your faithful support! We pray for you as well.

In Christ,

Nathan and Nozomi Brownell

www.rca.org/brownell