



The Carters

Missionaries to Japan



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Dear Praying Friends,

This has been a truly unforgettable summer. Japan has been going through some very difficult times, to say the least. Over the past several months, there have been several immense obstacles that have really hampered Japan's ability to recover from the earthquake and tsunamis that took so much life and property. Recently, one of the biggest factors that have been affecting people here is the leaking radiation from the nuclear reactors, which has been detected in vegetables and rice in a lot of different prefectures; even the fish has been detected with radiation, which has kept a lot of people from being willing to buy food from the affected areas.

Thankfully though, as far as the tsunami hit areas, food and supplies have returned to normal, and people have begun the process of rebuilding. In July, Dad, I, and a man in our church took our fifth trip to the northeast with more supplies and food. Our church people spent Sunday afternoon after church sorting the items and packing them in boxes to make it easier to pass out. We are so happy to have our people's help each time we go up. The funds you all have so graciously sent have been a huge blessing, and because of that, we have been able to get the Gospel to those who so desperately need it.

Another obstacle for not only the Japanese economy, but also for missionaries here in Japan, has been the incredible strengthening of the yen because of the weak dollar. We have seen the exchange rate drop from around 125 yen for every dollar to 76 yen, at one point, dropping to 75.9 yen, which has been the lowest exchange rate since World War 2. That difference in exchange rates has caused our support level to drop nearly 40% from when we first came to Japan, even though you, our churches back at home have continued to faithfully support us each month.

All of that was said to let you know how great the God we serve truly is. Despite the drop in exchange rates, God has been SO GOOD!!! He has taken care of us and has met our needs in such miraculous ways, from so many unexpected places, always in His perfect timing! He has made sure that we have enough to keep our bills paid, as well as food on the table!

Not only has God sustained us personally, he continues to sustain our church family as well. Throughout the year, we have been having visitors come nearly every week. So far, we have had 37 visitors come to church this year. Praise God!

Earlier this summer, we also had a special blessing of seeing a lady named Mrs. Nakahara, who has been coming for over a year, make the decision to trust Christ as her Savior. Also, at our annual family camp that is held with several other Baptist churches, one of the young men that came surrendered his life to become a pastor in the tsunami hit region of Japan! Praise God! The average age of Japanese national pastors is close to 60 years old, and we desperately need young Japanese men and women to pick up the torch of spreading the Gospel, so this has been a great blessing for us to see.

God has truly sustained our church family, but there are still many folks in our church who need prayer. There are still many that are going through difficult times, not only financially, but also with family problems, as well as spiritual attacks. Despite the difficulties that surround them, our folks continue to grow, bringing their friends to church, and taking a stand for Christ, even though they may be the only Christian in their family. Thank you for your prayers. Through them, God has continued to uphold us. Through your prayers, He continues to strengthen our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Japan.

Serving Him,
The Carters to Japan