

# The Johnsons

## Missionaries to Japan



June 2021

**Missions Statement**  
Evangelize the Lost  
Equip National Leaders  
Plant Local Churches

**Sending Church**  
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## Setbacks or Opportunities?

The difference between a setback and an opportunity is a matter of perspective. When situations do not materialize in the way we envision them, we can either see it as a setback or an opportunity for God to do something amazing. Over the past nine months or so, we have asked for prayer in regard to a bank building that we were considering purchasing for our church. The bank that owns the building just recently announced that they are merging with another bank. They have informed us that until the merger is complete, all their transactions will be put on hold. After the merger, they will once again evaluate the property value, decide whether to sell the property or not, receive bids from interested parties, and then make a decision. We are not sure when all this will take place, but **we are in an indefinite waiting period** for the time being.

In the week after we heard about the bank, the landlord of our current church facility came to talk to us. His son is moving back to Aomori from Tokyo this September and we are currently using the son's house as a church facility. To make a long story short, **we will need to find a new church facility** in the next few weeks to start the transition. We are leaving for furlough on July 15 and our desire is to have the new meeting place by that time. Please be in prayer with us for these important decisions.

God is continuing to work at Aomori Megumi Baptist Church. Our church members have been very supportive during this time of uncertainty. We have seen some folks making tremendous steps of growth in their spiritual walk. Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to teach a Bible study and discipleship class to a couple of people during the week. One of the men I have been working with recently made the decision to be baptized. We are excited to see the growth in "T" and are looking forward to seeing how God uses him. **His baptism is scheduled to take place on July 4.**

We have also continued to **teach a weekly English class** for elementary children. In recent weeks, the number of Coronavirus cases has grown in Aomori resulting in tighter restrictions on groups meeting. We continued the class via zoom and are thankful to still have the opportunity to teach not only English but the Bible on a weekly basis to children and their parents.

We recently had a visitor come to church **as a result of our livestreaming**. She had gotten one of the Topical Bibles we have been distributing at her house. She looked up our website and watched our livestream. We were excited and encouraged to see God working through this new avenue of outreach.

As referenced above, we are planning on **leaving for furlough on July 15**. God has blessed us with a full schedule of meetings during the four months we will be in America. With the current travel restrictions, there are a few extra hoops we will have to jump through in order to travel, but it seems like we should be able to make the trip. At the time of our trip, Charity (not pictured) will be four months old. Please pray for our whole family as we travel with five young kids.

God bless,

Paul, Sarah, Timothy, Karen, Ethan, Joshua, and Charity Johnson



Paul, Sarah, Timothy, Karen, Ethan, Joshua

“From the rising of the sun...the LORD's name is to be