

# The Gardners

## Missionaries to Japan

Brad, Gretta, Jared, Enoch, Charity, Lydia

December 2022



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Japan. We pray that you all have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and wonderful time with family and loved ones. Thank you so much for your support and especially your specific prayers for us. In October and November, **the Lord has answered several specific requests**. Regarding time use, we have made good progress on establishing a schedule and routine. Gretta has resumed a full schedule of homeschooling with our kids, and we all are studying Japanese. We have an initial strategy for learning Japanese grammar and Japanese characters (kanji). Regarding areas of service, see below. Lastly, thank you especially for your prayers for souls to be saved. Praise the Lord, the Husband of a faithful elderly woman was saved recently, as well as two college students and four children in the English teaching ministries!

### Building Relationships

In October, much of our focus has been on establishing and building relationships. we introduced ourselves to our neighbors and presented them with a gift, as is customary in Japan upon moving into a new community. We helped our neighbors with the park clean-up activity. We had a family from church over for dinner nearly each week, and we were able to spend time with our "host daughter," Yuka, as well. It was such a blessing to see her again after several years. The boys and I drove to Gifu for a three-day missionary conference. We met some great men who challenged us and taught us many things. In November, the boys and I also got to help other missionaries and pastors with a roofing project one day on a church in northern Kobe. It was blessing to help, and great fellowship.

### Areas of Service

In October, I led music for the first time in Japanese. I made some obvious mistakes. Folks laughed and were so gracious. Gretta is frequently accompanying special music and is enjoying playing offertories. In November, we got some good exercise handing out fliers for the church's anniversary service and evangelistic campaign. We handed out several hundred fliers, including more than 200 homes in our neighborhood. Children in our neighborhood now frequently greet us with "Haro" (Hello). We have also had the opportunity to sing special music. The Lord encouraged our hearts so much as we sang together preparing music for the church's anniversary Service. We love singing in Japanese! It was also such a great reminder in the importance of praise (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16). Also in November, we began giving a ride to one of the college students who was recently saved. At the end of November, our family was asked to prepare food for the International Church's Thanksgiving dinner. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

**Please pray** for the Lord to help us **use our time well**. **Gretta** is especially challenged with teaching our kids and trying to find enough time to study Japanese. Please pray for us as we prepare **music for our Christmas services**, and for me to have the **right message and God's anointing to preach that day**. Please pray that the Lord will continue to save souls for His Glory. Please pray for **Yuka and Norika to be saved**, and for the **discipleship of the new Christians**.

Your Missionaries to Japan,

Brad, Gretta, Jared, Enoch, Charity & Lydia Gardner

Eph 3:8

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