

The Gardners

Missionaries to Japan

Brad, Gretta, Jared, Enoch, Charity, Lydia

April 2023



“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

John 4:35

Hello again friends,

Spring has arrived here in Japan and the 桜 (*sakura*), or cherry blossoms, whose beauty attracts innumerable viewers every year, affirms this fact. *Sakura* season coincides with Spring break when the parks are bustling with family and friends enjoying the stunning beauty of the season as they celebrate the completion of the school year and the arrival of spring. As I write this however, the cherry blossoms, which signify to the Japanese people the brevity of life, have already begun to fade in splendor. This and the above verse remind me too of the brevity of life. Now is the time to share the Gospel—even what I can share of it in Japanese. Thank you once again for your prayers and faithful support. We thank God for each of you and pray for you as well.

In February and March, we continued to focus on learning Japanese. In March I finished a Japanese conversation class. I greatly enjoyed learning Japanese with students from all over the world. It reminded me of my days at the University of Idaho years ago, when God began stirring my heart to be a missionary through many international students. I also enjoyed the walk and train ride to class which gave me an opportunity to hand out many tracts. Gretta and the kids have continued to make good progress studying Japanese at home. And through several activities we've gotten more practice with Japanese. At church, I filled-in several times again leading music and our girls attended a ladies' valentine banquet. At home nearly every week we have had a family over to practice Japanese. This has allowed us to meet the husbands of two ladies that attend church without their husbands. We pray that the Lord will continue to work in these hearts for His glory. In March we attended a Bible conference and youth camp. Both challenged us spiritually and we were blessed to hear several Japanese pastors preach and were able to get to know three new missionary families as well.

We praise the Lord that we all are improving in Japanese, that our three younger children have finished another school year, and that Jared is scheduled to finish later this month. **Please continue to pray** for us that God would allow us **to be a blessing** to our church here, to give us **opportunities to share the Gospel**, and to make **good progress learning Japanese**.

Your Missionaries to Japan,
Brad, Gretta, Jared, Enoch, Charity & Lydia Gardner
Eph 3:8

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