



MISSION TO
Unreached Peoples

Joey in Japan

April 2009



Jeremiah 1:18-19 "Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land... They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord."

Dear friend,

Greetings from Japan. Thank you for your prayers and all your kind emails after my last letter. Things have been up and down this last month, but that's been my life for the last year, so I'm more or less used to it. The weather has been wonderful, though the summer heat lurks like the grim reaper on the horizon.

April Ministry

Ministry in April... let's see. In Aji, a new lady named Shirafuji-san came to the outdoor picnic outreach and then, surprisingly, to the new Bible study. I'm still not sure what's going on in her heart, but it's exciting to see God drawing her.

In Ayauta, a ton of people came to the Easter church service: about 15 in all. Eight or nine of those were kids. Easter is a holiday that people in Japan may have heard of, but most of them have no idea what it's about. We geared much towards the kids, including Easter egg painting, an Easter egg hunt, and of course, the Easter story! A mom also stayed for the adult service, which is probably her first time at any kind of church service.

May: The Storm has come

May is here! Please be fervent in prayer. On the 23rd, Ayauta Christ Church will have the biggest event of the year, the seventh annual BBQ anniversary party, to celebrate the start of the church. There has been and will be a lot of preparation, and I'm looking forward to the big event. Next week will be consumed by shopping, cooking, and the event itself on Saturday.

PLUS, we're going to try an outreach event in Kagawa-Cho at my house at the beginning of June. Since I'm leaving in a few months, this may be a one-time outreach instead of the start of a church plant, but we'll see what the Lord does and how He guides.



Aren't cherry blossoms (Japanese: Sakura) amazing?

The Future

I leave Kagawa in four and a half months. I can't believe how quickly my time here is winding down, and I'm looking forward to the move. In October, I plan to head back to America on furlough for a few months, before going to my new assignment. Of course, none of this is in cement, yet.

I have three good options that I'm looking at. I feel like the one thing that God has made clear to me about my next step is that I will be going to a big city. I've learned that I'm not a good fit for rural Japan at this point in my life, so He is sending me city-ward, almost certainly to Tokyo or Osaka. I will miss the rice paddies and the scenery, but I'm looking forward to having other people near my age to interact with and... well... having other people to interact with, period. I'll keep you posted as things develop.



I'm sorry, but the picture from the Easter Sermon just wasn't as interesting as this one, even though that was the important part.

Prayer Requests

As for the difficulties and loneliness I've faced here, at times I'm great, and at times things are awful. This race will be a rough one all the way till October, I think. However, I'm learning to get out more often when I'm feeling down (even if just for a walk) and to be intentional about being around people. Please keep all this in your prayers:

- Pray *against* despair and *for* encouragement and friends.
- Pray for strength and unity at the Ayauta church plant and for salvation for the non-believers.
- Pray for a big turnout but, more importantly, for open hearts at the Ayauta anniversary BBQ.
- Pray for the outreach in Kagawa-Cho: for people to come and for guidance whether to continue or not.
- Pray for the new lady in Aji, Shirafuji-san: that she would keep coming to events and come to salvation.
- Pray for God's guidance for my next assignment.
- Pray for my Japanese study, especially in this busy month.

Whoa! I've written a new essay and a short story. They're on my blog. Care for a read?

<http://allkaiser.blogspot.com/> Spring is also a very photogenic season. Check out all the pretty pictures:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/allkaiser>

Thank you tremendously for your prayers and for your giving, as well.

Until that day,

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