

# The Gardners

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

January-February 2025

But Moses' hands *were* heavy; . . . and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. Ex 17:12

Dear Praying friends,

We began this year with a morning worship service on New Year's Day at Nishimaiko Baptist Church! What a wonderful blessing it was—a joyful time of worship and fellowship. We thank the Lord for the privilege of another year to serve Him. Thank You so much for your prayers and financial support allowing us to continue to minister in Japan! Recently, as I read the above verse, God strengthened my desire to preach in Japanese. This year by God's grace I want to be helpful to Nishimaiko Baptist church by being able to preach in Japanese as I have been asked. I would appreciate your continued prayers to that end!

In January we enjoyed some time together and with friends. After the busy Christmas season, it was a blessing to take a break from normal activities for a few days. We hiked a familiar trail with a great view of Kobe, we explored new areas, and we had lunch with friends from church. I noticed that talking with them came easier. It was a lot of fun and encouraging as well. We had our pastors and staff over for dinner. What a great time. As a gift from our church, my family and I went skiing on nearby Rokko Mountain. Our kids enjoyed seeing snow again, and downhill skiing for the first time, and we celebrated my birthday as well. We had a wonderful day together. The Lord also allowed me to meet a man that day from Washington state who said he was saved but had not been attending church. I recommended one of our nearby supporting churches and encouraged him to get back into church. Also in January, one Saturday we had a great time passing out flyers at Gakuentoshi station. This train station is near several colleges & universities. Many people received flyers for our church event, and we were able to share Scripture and talk to several people while they were waiting at the stoplight. One man asked me how Baptists were different from other religions. He was searching for truth because his grandparents are ill. I was able to share the Gospel and about Biblical authority. He said he might show up at church.

In February a man who had been coming to the church occasionally trusted Christ as his savior! **We pray that he will continue to come and that he will grow in the Lord.** Our church had a Valentine Sunday event themed on God's love. We helped pass out 4,500 flyers, prepared food, and practiced music for a choir concert for this event. Praise the Lord, 12 visitors came, including the leader of my Wednesday Japanese class. They heard the Gospel in song and preached by Pastor Yoshinobu Omote as well. Later in February that teacher invited us to attend a gyoza (Chinese dumpling) making event hosted by my class. It was fun to make gyoza, and good to be able to participate, given Japan's community-minded culture. We met many of the teachers, and several Chinese speaking Japanese people who grew up in China as orphans following WWII. Recently, Gretta has been especially busy homeschooling our kids and mentoring another missionary mom who joined the same program. It has been busier but good for Gretta and the girls to meet weekly with another missionary family for school.

At the end of February, I completed another Japanese class. My plan going forward, at least for now, is to study Japanese by preparing sermons and Bible lessons, learning the Japanese in Hymns and choir songs, and by studying Kanji (Chinese characters in Japanese). I also plan to continue the Wednesday lesson of conversation practice and reviewing Japanese lessons.

**Please pray for youth camp (March 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>).** Please pray for Jared as he begins taking Bible college classes in Japanese in April at the nearby Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School while he continues high school. We are excited for him for this wonderful opportunity!

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

#### Answered Prayers:

- Progress in Japanese
- Open Doors for the Gospel
- 1 Man was Saved

#### Prayer Requests:

- Japanese Studies
- Opportunities to Share the Gospel
- Salvation of Friends, Teachers, Classmates & Others
- Healing of Joshua's Cancer

#### Brad Gardner

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