

September 2023

Hello Pastors/Praying friends,

I am so excited to say that we have officially moved to Hirosaki! Thank you all for your prayers and support for our family as we made this transition. There was a lot that went into moving, and it was very busy. I am thankful for how the Lord provided everything and guided us. Here are some highlights that have taken place during the transition.

In July, I, James, stayed busy primarily doing two things: moving preparations and renovation. As we were in discussion with moving companies and going back and forth between the city hall turning in paperwork, I was able to take part in some renovation that was going on at KIBBS, the Bible college that is located in Kobe. Many missionaries and national pastors came out to help. The renovation went on for about three weeks and I spent almost every day over there. I am very thankful for all that we were able to get done during that time and for the Lord keeping everyone safe.

In August, it was moving time! We had our last few services at Sannomiya Bible Baptist Church. Pastor Saeki asked if I would preach one last time before taking off to Hirosaki, and I am so thankful that I was able to do that. At the end of the service, a lady that has been attending for over a year raised her hand and said that she wanted to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior. What an amazing way to end our time there in Kobe! Although we were taking off for Hirosaki, the construction of the new building in Sannomiya continued. They officially broke ground, and it is incredible to see the building going up. Praise the Lord for how He has provided for the building project, especially over the last few months. The construction is "scheduled" to be completed by Christmas. Please continue to pray for the church and the new building construction. The church held a going away party for us. We received gifts and we all spoke about memories that were made during the time that we were there.

On the 17th we loaded everything up and took off for Hirosaki and arrived on the 19th. Since that day, the Lord has done some amazing things. I have had several conversations with people in and around town and they were very interested in the fact that a "new" church is getting started. Many people here in Hirosaki seem to have a strong desire to learn English. For example, the other day a lady named Natsuki approached me and asked me if I was from America. She explained that she studies English everyday by herself, but she has never had the opportunity to practice speaking English. Our kids are the same age and so she asked my wife and I if our families could get together sometime. We met another man who has been studying English and asked if he could practice with us, as well. Please pray that we will be able to use English as a tool to be able to share the gospel with many here in Hirosaki.

As our family gets settled here, I am currently in the process of looking for a location to start a church. Currently our desire is to find a place that we could rent to get started. Please pray that God will open up a place for us to be able to hold services. Once we find a place, we want to start holding some events at the church to try and get some of these people that are interested in English to visit. Once again, thank you for all of your prayers and support. God is working, and we are so excited to see what He does over the next few months.

Striving together,

James, Rebekah, Joshua, Lily, and Daisy Scott Your missionaries in Japan