

August 2019

# ADAIR UPDATE



Robert introduced as the new Field Director for Japan

## R'S NEW ROLE IN A2

### Waterskiing and Transition

On September 1st, I (Robert) will be starting my new role as the Field Director for our missionary team in Japan. It is still strange to say, and I am wrestling through feelings of inadequacy and excitement. I am continuing in local ministry and am committed to the church plant in Shiogama. That said, my focus for this next season will be split between these two important areas of ministry.

It feels somewhat analogous to waterskiing (side note: I have only actually waterskied a few times and was never very good at it). One ski is our ministry with Shiogama Bible Baptist Church where we are partnering with them to plant a church in East Shiogama. The second ski is the new position where I will be working with our leadership team to help all of our missionaries to be in healthy and fruitful partnerships. Finally, Jesus is the boat pulling me forward. If I let go of the rope or my skis get crossed, I am going to crash. If I can keep everything pointed in the same direction, it should be an enjoyable ride.

I will also not be doing this alone. I serve on our field leadership team and will continue to work as a part of this team. Also, Jeffery Sonnenberg, with whom I have worked closely on several projects through the years, will be serving as our Associate Field Director. While I will have some new responsibilities with this position, the majority of the leadership of our missionaries will happen through this team.

Finally, this will impact our family. There will undoubtedly be elements of this position that push me towards isolation and place Roberta in a delicate position as both fellow missionary and spouse. There will also be some increase in travel. I want to love my family well as I adjust to this new role.

Please pray for the five of us during this transition. Pray for me that my priorities will be Jesus, family, ministry, and everything else. Finally, please pray that many people would encounter Jesus as a result of our local ministry and the broader work of Asian Access.



We are thankful for a wonderful team from Bethel Bible Church (Tyler, TX) who cared for the kids in our A2 family at our yearly retreat in June. Our boys had a blast with them...and we did, too! We also enjoyed having 2 days with them in Shiogama introducing them to some of the places and people we love.



## Fun with Friends

This summer included a lot of time with families connected to the boys' school, English classes, and our neighborhood.

- 1) Playdate with one of J's classmates
- 2) Kayaking with friends for the first time in Japan (with all 3 boys!)
- 3) Roasting marshmallows with some of J's classmates at a friend's house

- 4) Playing with friends in our blow-up pool in the park next to our house
- 5) Two of J's buddies coming to church for the first time
- 6) Playing at the beach with friends from English class



### Ministry Moments

The summer also included a lot of ministry events and activities.

1) A last-day-of-summer-vacation picnic next to our house with families from our

neighborhood

2) Joining the bi-monthly community dinner at the kids' center

3) Camp for elementary school kids (our church took 21 this year!)

4) Robert helping at an internship program

at a local seminary

5) English day camp at our partner church with a team from Crossway Community Church (southern CA)

6) The boys playing with an elderly woman at a house church where Robert preached

# TAKE OUR LIVES AND LET THEM BE

## Good times with a short-term team from PA

One of my (Roberta) favorite hymns is *Take My Life and Let It Be*. After a team from Grace Fellowship Church went back to State College, PA, I found myself processing our 2-weeks together through the lens of these lyrics.

### Take our hands

...and let them move at the impulse of *Thy love*. When we prayed for healing for a neighbor, I put my hands on her shoulder. This felt especially significant in the Land of Little Physical Contact. We also used our hands harvesting garlic and onions while volunteering with a local non-profit. The team helped clean, paint, and move boxes with people from our partner church on 3 different occasions.

Additionally, the team used their hands in making silly monkey gestures at an English event at the kids' community center (top picture). *Lord, through hard work, touching others, and being silly, bless our hands and use them for your kingdom.*

### Take our feet

...and let them be swift and beautiful for *Thee*. My friend's father led us on a walking tour of 3 islands (including 5 boat rides) and told us stories of the disaster, of rebuilding, and of his many years volunteering on the islands. As we walked, listened, and observed, we asked God to have mercy on the land and people there.

Another day, we went to a touristy area famous for natural beauty as well as a lot of Shinto-Buddhist historical sites. As we walked and talked with a non-Christian friend who came with us, one of the team members asked, "Who are you praying to when you pray at the shrine?" Our friend responded, "I guess I don't know." As

*we walk and seek to be present in hard and beautiful places, lead us.*

### Take our voices

...and let us sing always, only, for our King. When some of R's English students invited us to a potluck picnic, I wasn't expecting it to include a song exchange. The ladies sang an older traditional song and then asked us to sing something. We were taken by surprise, and we (awkwardly? awesomely?) sang *Jesus Loves Me* while sitting in my neighbor's parking lot.

At a friend's home a few days later, we sang karaoke with them. Although singing Disney songs and 90s love ballads doesn't necessarily sound "spiritual," it was sweet and fun (and vulnerable), and, *Lord, we trust you can and will use these moments, too.*

### Take our lips

...and let them be filled with messages from *Thee*. We had opportunities to share pieces of our testimonies and ask questions. The team, with R, helped teach English to kids and adults, and we prayed that God would anoint their teaching and move in these relationships. Additionally, we got to pray a prayer of blessing for a grandma (middle photo) on an island after eating and spending time together.

While sometimes we forget that we are the Body of Christ in our contexts, we want to remember to submit our time, our stomachs (so much good food with friends!), our ears, and our minds to however God will direct them. *Take our lives, and let them be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take our moments and our days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

- R, R, J, B & A



## Partner

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Memo: R&R Adair Support #038207

## Specific Prayer Points

- Robert as he transitions to the new role of Japan Field Director for A2 (officially starting September 1st)
- A bi-monthly Bible study also starting September 1st at the church plant
- Neighbors, English students, and friends to turn to Jesus
- Our boys (and us!) to adjust to a new schedule after summer break

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