

AIDAIR UPDATE



Biking in beautiful San Francisco

MAKING SHIOGAMA SALTY

Reflections on the name of our town and our role there

Over the last few months in the US, we have shared with individuals and groups about why we are in Japan. We have told stories of people we love there and (more importantly) who are deeply loved by God and made in his image.

As you may know, **roughly one in 300 people in Japan are followers of Jesus**, and in Shiogama there are even fewer (optimistically 1 in 600 people). Statistics rarely motivate people to pray yet hopefully the faces and stories of our friends do. We have been encouraged by people in PA, TX, OH, NC, CA, OR, and many places in between telling us that they are praying - not just as a sweet Christian expression but earnestly interceding for us, our family, our ministry, and our friends. Thank you.

When I (Roberta) was a freshman at Penn State and newly excited about sharing my faith, my pastor recommended that I read *Out of the Saltshaker and into the World*. This book ignited an excitement about evangelism and profoundly shaped me as a Christian. The same pastor also

preached a sermon on Matthew 5 that has stayed with me for 14 years. He talked about the uses of salt including enhancing flavor, being a healing agent, used in preservation and fertilization...and that salt makes people thirsty. I remember sensing God calling me "out of the saltshaker" to go to unsalted places.

Interestingly, Shiogama translates as *Salt Caldron* and historically produced salt for the region. Very few people there know Christ or have been in contact with "salt." Instead most people identify with the 1200 year old Shinto shrine for which the city is famous.

As we prepare to return, please pray that we and other Christ-followers will be salt in Shiogama. Pray that we will bring healing to the city - a place impacted by the earthquake and tsunami on 3.11. Pray that God preserves the good and beautiful. Pray that the soil will be fertile for the gospel. Pray that we will enhance flavor and make others thirsty to hear about, experience, and respond to the love of Christ.



Joseph is pointing at ____.

- A) His little brother crawling away.
- B) Sea Lions - which he is getting better at imitating.
- C) The sushi restaurant where he wants to eat.
- D) A seagull stealing Robert's hat.

WHERE ARE WE?

Maps, terms, and other exciting explanations

"Where do you live in Japan? How far is it from Tokyo? And how far is it from all that nuclear stuff?" Since coming back to the US, we are asked these questions frequently. We therefore thought we would answer them (and hopefully more) with the help of one of Robert's favorite things: a map!

The country: Japan

127 million people live in a country roughly the size of Montana and about half the size of Texas! The map to the right displays the 4 main islands. They are covered with beautiful mountains that remind us of the Smokey Mountains along the Tennessee/North Carolina border. In the valleys and flat spaces along the coasts are people - lots and lots of people - in cities like Tokyo, which has nearly 38 million people.

The prefecture: Miyagi

Japan has 47 prefectures, which are similar to states. Robert spent his first 4-year term on the southern island in **Kagoshima** prefecture (yellow). The prefecture where we now live is called **Miyagi** (red) and is located in the northeast. It has a population of around 2 million; half of whom live in the beautiful city of Sendai.

Fukushima prefecture (purple) is directly south of us and is where the nuclear plant was damaged in the earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011. Although we are relatively close to the area directly impacted, our region continues to have relatively low radiation levels. At the time of the disaster the wind was blowing west more than north, so the majority of the

radiation went inland as opposed to up the coast towards us. There is still a lot of time, energy, and concern going into monitoring radiation levels in our region, but we believe we are in a safe area. Please join us in praying for the people of Fukushima who are fearful of the long-term effects of the radiation.

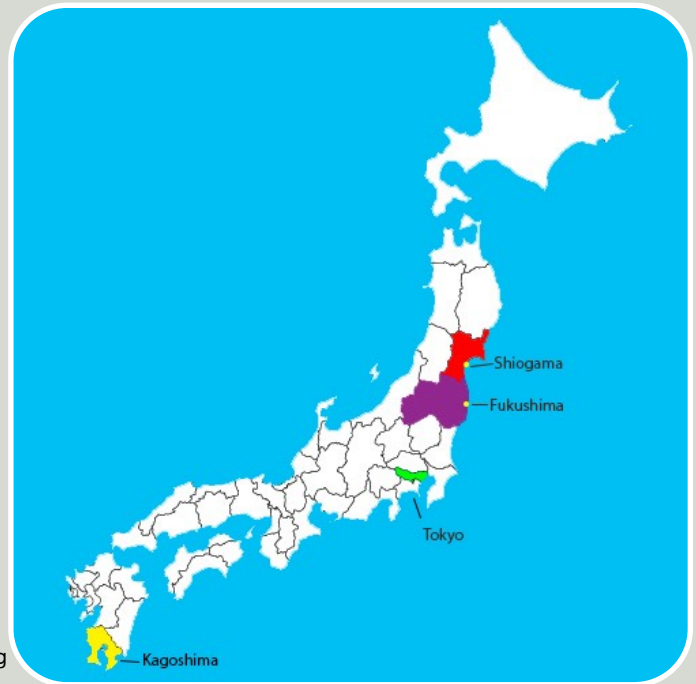
The city: Shiogama

About halfway up the coast of Miyagi prefecture is the city of Shiogama. Many people living there are connected to the fishing and ship building industries. Our first term, we lived in the city of Tagajo roughly 20 minutes away. Even though these cities of roughly 60,000 people each are right next to one another, they have different identities. Although our partner church's name is *Shiogama Bible Baptist Church (SBBC)*, it is located in Tagajo and has had a burden for Shiogama for several decades.

A few more FAQs

Are you still looking for a home in Shiogama? Yes! Thank you for praying with us.

Will you still be working in partnership with SBBC? Yes, and we are excited and grateful to be able to continue working in partnership with this church that has been a home to us for the



last 4 1/2 years. We will remain strongly connected to the mother church and are thankful for their commitment to us and to Shiogama.

How many other A2 missionaries are in your region? On our team in northern Japan, there are currently 13 adults and 15 kids in 7 different placements with Japanese churches. We come together twice a month for prayer, Bible study, worship, and trainings, and we are thankful for these friendships.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and partnership which allow us to minister alongside Japanese Christians as we seek to see the name of Jesus known throughout Japan.

- R, R, J & B

Partner

To partner financially:

www.sim.org/giveusa then click "support a missionary" (#038207)

Or by mail: SIM USA

P.O. Box 7900

Charlotte, NC 28241-7900

Memo: R&R Adair Support #038207

Specific Prayer Points

- For a home for this next season of ministry in East Shiogama
- For chances to connect in meaningful ways with our friends in Japan
- For God to provide our monthly financial need
- For our boys to feel safe and loved in the middle of all this transition
- For continued health and safety as we travel around Texas.

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