

# AIDAIR UPDATE



Roberta  
reconnecting  
with her sisters  
in PA

## PRAY FOR OUR FUTURE HOUSE IN JAPAN

### We need somewhere to live

It is hard to believe that in just over three months, we will be boarding a plane and returning to Japan. As we've mentioned previously in other letters, one need looms particularly large: we still do not know where we will live.

Over the last 4 years, our home served as one of the focal points of our ministry. We hosted large and small groups, saw friends believe in Jesus, and listened to stories of pain from others. Our home was our safe place in a country that is sometimes quite stressful to live in. It also was a place of community for people who did not have one.

We believe God is calling us to help lead a church plant in East Shiogama with our Japanese partner church in the coming years. We also believe that God is continuing to call us to use our home in similar ways, and we ask you to join us in praying that we would be able to discern where we should live this next term.

Specifically, here are some of the things we are hoping for in our next house:

- Located in East Shiogama
- Parking options for guests nearby
- Insulation
- 2 toilets
- Large family room that can be used for various gatherings
- Good relationship with our landlord

We are in contact with a couple of realtors in Japan and have a framework in place that would allow us to sign a contract on a home from the US. We also have friends who can view the property on our behalf. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find a home that meets even half of the short list above.

Thank you for continuing to pray that we will find a home. Also pray for unity for us during the discernment process. Finally pray that our future neighbors would encounter Jesus and that our home would be a light in our community.



### Christmas Outreach

On December 23rd, our partner church in Japan had a Christmas concert for the community with over 450 people in attendance. Many of the participants were Robert's English students. Please pray that the hearts of all who attended will be softened to the gospel and for the church's continued ministry in the area.

# LOOKING BACK

## Short stories from the past of seeing God at work in Japan

In the Old Testament, we frequently see Israel leaving stones of remembrance so that they do not forget the path God had led them down. In light of our time in Japan over the last decade, I (Robert) thought it would be a good time to reflect on what God has done. Below are two excerpts from old newsletters from 10 and 2 years ago.

### Ten years ago (Robert)

Summer vacation for college students in Japan runs from July through September. This year, I met a young man in Minamata who was home for the summer. He began coming to Okuchi every week to attend our Sunday service, and the two of us would hang out a few times every week. It got to the point that he and another friend would come over Saturday afternoon, spend the night, and stay until Sunday evening.

During this time, he began to sincerely seek what is true. He read a concise version of the Bible (the equivalent of a children's Bible that summarizes several main stories). He also began to ask us to teach him how to pray.

One day, while taking him home, he asked me, "Can anyone become a Christian?" This was a great opportunity to share the gospel in full. Another day talking over coffee, I asked him point blank what was keeping him from becoming a Christian. He said that he believes in Jesus and the thing that is keeping him from making the decision is his parents. He is an only son, and his religious decisions impact not only himself but his extended family as well. That is the main reason I write all of this. Please pray

with me that he would believe and that his family would as well.

***I am still friends with this young man and while he has not chosen to be baptized yet, he is still in close fellowship with the church in Minamata.***  
**Two years ago (Roberta)**

A few times a month, my beach friend, her daughter, and I (Roberta) meet for lunch. She is one of my best friends here, and I believe she is in the process of becoming my sister. In addition to hanging out, playing with Joseph, and eating together, we usually read a Bible story from John.

We first listen to a passage about one of Jesus' miracles then look at it in the manga version of the Bible. This last time, we read the story of the resurrection of Lazarus. Although we got into some confusing theological waters ("Let's pray that I'll be able to meet my deceased son when Jesus resurrects him"), my friend also commented on Jesus' compassion, power, and love. I asked her what else she's been learning about Jesus from the stories we've read together over the last few months. She said something along the lines of, "Jesus can turn water to wine, feed a huge crowd, heal the poor and the powerful, and walk on water. And he can raise the dead?! Amazing - he's the most powerful!"

What I "give" in this relationship is simple. I prepare a simple lunch (she always brings



something, too), pick out a passage, and keep conversation flowing. What she gives is her availability (a true treasure), sweet friendship, encouragement in language and in mom-ing, and fresh eyes when looking at scripture ("Jesus found the 5,000 people grass to sit on! What a nice guy!"). We occasionally shrug our shoulders and smile when we don't get what the other is trying to say, but we love and pray for one another. She is my friend, and I am eager for the day when she publicly identifies as a daughter of our Heavenly Father.

***We are still meeting with her and pray that she will take another step towards Christ.***

### Thank you

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](http://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 health and safety as we travel to the west coast for 10 days in the beginning of January

### Contact Info

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