

# ADAIR UPDATE



A view of the oyster village we occasionally visit

## OUR TOWN

### Getting to know our community

Last Monday, Robert and I (Roberta) went for a walk together in our town of Tagajo. Although our main purpose was to spend some time together and enjoy the slightly warmer weather (above freezing and sunny!), we had some fun little interactions with people – grandpas, kids, moms, young men, and fellow *gaijin* (foreigners).

Some of the people we saw work at a small coffee shop that I have been to several times. The owner, his girlfriend, and his brother came to a Chinese New Year party at our house a few weeks ago, and I've been praying and hoping for opportunities to develop a deeper relationship with them. This particular day, I saw a comic book in the café titled *Kingdom Come*. This is a frequent prayer of mine: "Lord, may Your kingdom come to Tagajo, to this coffee shop, and to these friends' lives. May Your will be done here and in us..."

We also bumped into one of Robert's young English students and his mom near their apartment complex. It was a fun, light interaction,

and I pray that this family (and others connected to the English classes) will continue to get more comfortable with Christians and, ultimately, to meet Jesus.

Also, a jolly grandpa who lives nearby greeted us warmly (after I overly-enthusiastically greeted him), and three young boys walked and talked with us for several minutes using a few English phrases they have learned and peppering Robert with questions.

The strangest interaction occurred at a local Indian restaurant, which is a part of a local chain run by Nepalese people. When we were getting ready to leave, one man asked us where we work. After Robert explained where our church is, the man said, "I like to read the Bible." He has since emailed Robert writing, "Will you teach me the Bible?" (Wow!)

Thanks for joining us in praying for God's kingdom to come to Tagajo - to our coffee shop friends, our English students and their families, and our neighbors regardless of age and ethnicity.



**Roberta has one of these on her purse. What does it mean?**

- A) She enjoys hot springs.
- B) She is a foreigner.
- C) She doesn't speak Japanese.
- D) She is pregnant.

Answer on page 2

# ROBA-NO-KAI

## Why we do a small group out of our home

“Can a guy like me go to church?” This is the question I (Robert) was asked sitting on the couch after small group two Sunday’s ago. I was thrilled at how naturally it happened and that it was one step closer to seeing our small group become a place where people organically become disciples of Jesus. I don’t mean that they become Christians by accident. We are very intentional with the way we structure and facilitate the group. What I mean is that we desire to see our community become one that due to its core identity naturally attracts and leads people to Jesus.

## Format

Our form and values are fairly simple. As you would expect, they have been strongly influenced by groups and churches Roberta and I have served with in the past. From 3 to 5 in the afternoon, we have a small group that includes an icebreaker, worship, Bible study, and prayer. Then from 5 until the last person leaves, we have dinner together and hang out. The flow is set up this way so that people with interest in spiritual things can participate and those who are not interested can come after the Bible study and just have a fun meal with friends. Our three values that we try to live out as a community are to 1) Love God, 2) Love each other, and 3) Love the world.

Recently we average 10 to 15 people each time with about 1 to 3 non-Christians in attendance for at least dinner. People are becoming more and more comfortable inviting their friends into the group. They are also growing in viewing themselves (not professional Christians) as responsible for sharing their faith

and caring for their non-Christian friends and family.

While finishing up studying the book of Colossians, we had some interesting discussions about how to tangibly help people feel comfortable in our community. Our attendees reflected on scripture and their past experiences in the church. Then during dinner when some first-time people came, they had the opportunity to actively try what we had been discussing.

## Ministry Laboratory

How is a small group related to a church plant? As we continue to pray and discuss with our church where to focus regarding a church plant, we also need to continue developing our ministry skills in Japan. The beginning stages of a church plant will not look much different than a small group.

The small group also functions as a sort of laboratory where we can try different styles of Christ-centered community. When the church plant finally launches, the primary thing that will change is location. The skills we are learning as we lead this group together will be essential in our long-term work in Japan.

## Please Pray for our People

There are three categories of people we ask you to lift up in prayer. First is our non-Christian friends who have attended. Please pray for the friend from work, the high school buddy, the coffee shop owner, the waitress, the demolitions worker, the neighbor’s daughter, and



Greetings from Japan

the struggling artist. (Since we want to protect their names, I thought it might be easier to pray for them based on how we know them.)

The second group of people we ask you to pray for is our Japanese Christian friends. Pray for them as they grow in their love for Jesus and experience of the gospel as individuals and as a community. Also pray for them as they learn what it means for each of them to be a vibrant witness for Christ in this area.

Finally we ask that you pray for Roberta and me as we lead this group. Outside of the normal challenges in facilitating a small group, we are attempting to do this in a second language. We desire that in the near future more and more of the leadership of the group will be transferred to the members. Please pray that Jesus will be glorified and that His kingdom would be expanded in Tagajo through our time together on Sunday evenings.

Thank you very much for your support prayers and encouragement. - R&R

## Partner

To partner financially:

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## Specific Prayer Points

- Japanese language acquisition
- Wisdom and focus regarding where to spend our time in this next season
- Beach friend, M, with whom Roberta recently shared a story about Jesus
- Young adult small group
- Robert’s interactions with young men from the church
- Everything associated with becoming first-time parents

## Contact Info

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