

# ADAIR UPDATE



Asian Access  
Fall Training in  
Fukushima

## NEXT STEPS FOR THE CHURCH PLANT

### Small group and English

We shared in our last newsletter about our new neighborhood friend who expressed interest in studying the Bible together. She has come over nearly weekly for Bible study and comes frequently to Sunday worship at our partner church. We are going through a seeker Bible study together and have just one more (rather important!) lesson. She asked us recently, "What will we do after we finish this book?"

We talked with her about wanting to start a small group. She seems both interested in and committed to it. We are hoping a few people from our previous small group will be a part of the launch, too. Please pray with us that we will know where and when it should meet and how to structure it. Pray ultimately that it is a place where Christ is worshipped and made known.

We are also planning to start an adult English class and a class for middle and high school students. Several of Robert's former students live in this part of town, and they seem to be interested in continuing. Additionally,

Roberta will likely restart a women's English class that she taught last term. English is a natural way to form relationships in the community, and there seems to be a fair amount of interest. That said we don't want to do something just because it is easy or the normal thing to do.

We want to ask for prayers regarding our meeting place. Our partner church owns property a short walk from our home that is well past its prime. We, along with our partners, hope to tear it down and replace it in the next year or so, but until then, we are planning on using it for small group and English classes.

As our hope is to be salt and light in Higashi Shiogama, we have to figure out practically what we are going to do. There are countless ministry opportunities and ways to do outreach. Please pray that we would be able to discern the best things we should do, that we would do them well, and that many people would encounter Jesus as a result.



### Getting the building ready

Our partner church has been trying to plant in this neighborhood for over 30 years, and much of that effort has been based out of this building. Church members came over recently to help get the facility ready to resume activities this fall. Please pray this building will be a place people encounter Jesus.

# BACK TO KYUSHU - KIND OF

## An opportunity to encourage a church planting network in an area I love

Back in May I (Robert) got on a plane for a two hour flight down to Kyushu, the southernmost of the four main islands of Japan. Another missionary and I had been invited to meet with a network of churches to see if Asian Access could send missionaries there in the future. I was a bit torn. On one hand I was excited to see many people I had ministered with during my first 4 years in Japan. The pastor I served under as well as several I knew would be at this meeting. At the same time I was disappointed because I didn't think there was a realistic way for us to send missionaries to this region in the near future.

### Earthquake

Late on the evening of April 14, 2017, I got a text from an old friend in Kyushu that just said "I'm ok." I hadn't talked to him in a while, so I was confused by the lack of explanation. I did what any normal person does these days (google) and saw that there had been a magnitude 6.4 earthquake near his home. That month there ended up being two large earthquakes near Kumamoto city that both caused considerable damage.

Since 2011, the church in Miyagi (where we live) has been focused on responding to the earthquake and tsunami. While we wish the disaster had never happened, the church here has responded in a strong and unified way that has clearly communicated the love of Christ.

Following the Kyushu earthquake, a similar thing began to happen in a different region. Several local churches pooled their resources to be able to meet the physical needs of the local people. They did this for well over a year without

focused outreach or church planting. They also sent people up to our region to learn from our experience. Very naturally, a strong connection was built between Miyagi and Kumamoto.

### Network

As the physical needs have been met, the local churches began to ask in more practical terms how the spiritual needs of the people impacted by this disaster can be met. The Kumamoto Missions Network is a result of this desire. It is a locally-led, cross-denominational network of churches focused on encouraging one another in reaching Kumamoto Prefecture.

### Sending A2 missionaries

As this network was being formed, Asian Access was asked if we would willing and able to send missionaries to help. Having served in that region for 4+ years, I had a strong desire on an emotional level but was unsure if we could do it. Jeffery (on the right in the photo) and I went on the exploratory trip in May to see what, if anything, we could do.

### Joining what God is doing

Organizationally we are at a point that we believe God is calling us to expand. For the last six years, most of our missionaries have been in two regions. This opportunity is intriguing because with our without us, churches will be planted. Instead of using resources to start a fire, we get to hopefully be the gasoline poured



Catching up with an old friend in Kyushu

on top to heat things up. Over the next 6-months, I will be working with Jeffery and our Japanese national director to discern which churches will make the best partners and then hopefully send a new team to work in Kumamoto. I will also continue in a supervising/coaching role with the missionary team and network. I am excited that while we are doing valuable work here in Miyagi, I have the opportunity to encourage what is happening in Kyushu.

If you made it this far, we have some exciting news to share. Joseph and Benji are going to be big brothers! The baby is due in March 2018, and we ask for prayers for a healthy pregnancy and baby. Thank you for your prayers and partnership with Christ's work in Japan.

-R, R, J, B, (& 1 more on the way)

### Partner

To partner financially:

[www.simusa.org/give](http://www.simusa.org/give) 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 our neighborhood friend to make a decision for Christ in the near future
- For more spiritually significant connections in our neighborhood
- For wisdom in starting English classes, small group, and other activities
- For a healthy pregnancy for mother and child
- For other church members to commit to the church planting team

### Contact Info

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