



THE BROWN FAMILY TO OKAYAMA, JAPAN



Dear Friends & Supporting Churches,

Jan 2025

We hope this letter finds you well and experiencing the blessings of the Lord. As we reflect on the events of this past month, we are reminded of God's faithfulness, your continued prayers, and the opportunities we have had to grow and serve here in Japan. We want to share with you some of the recent highlights and prayer requests as we continue to move forward in our mission.

We had the joy of spending the first week of the month visiting with our dear friends and fellow missionaries, Chris and Kim Walters, and their family. It had been a very long time since we had both families together, and we were blessed by the time spent reconnecting and building memories. The Walters have been serving in Japan for 5 years now, and it was a special moment for them to meet our two youngest sons, Scott and Chris, for the first time. This time of fellowship was an encouragement, as we were able to share experiences and talk about the unique joys and challenges of serving here.

One of the opportunities I had during this visit was to attend our neighborhood group's work day with Bro. Chris. This was a valuable experience, as it provided an open door to connect with our neighbors and explain why we are here. It also allowed us to demonstrate our respect and willingness to be part of the community. The cleaning day involved tidying up the Odakacho community center after the Shinto religious matsuri (festival), where large mobile shrines are carried to the homes of those who have paid the required fees. It was interesting to engage in this aspect of Japanese culture. One neighbor showed me pictures of their local shrine, which he referred to as our "Japanese church." These interactions sparked an opportunity for further conversations and relationship-building with those in our neighborhood.

The following two weeks brought significant transitions for our family, especially as Gwendolyn officially started school at the Shougakkou. She is adjusting well to her new school environment, and it's encouraging to see her adapting to the Japanese education system. However, as we know, every new place brings its own set of challenges, and we have spent the past couple of weeks combating some new illnesses that our bodies aren't quite used to. We have been informed that this is common for many who experience their first winter in Japan, especially with a large family of seven who are often bringing home "bugs" to share with each other. Please pray for health and protection as we continue to adjust to these new circumstances.

Japanese study continues to be a priority, and we are thankful to report good progress. We have been able to ramp up our hours of online instruction and have also begun attending a local facility for in-person language lessons. It's encouraging to see our language skills improve, and we are grateful for the opportunity to immerse ourselves more in the culture and language.

We are so thankful for each of you and the role you play in our ministry here in Japan. Your prayers and support allow us to continue this work, and we are grateful for your partnership. Please know that we are praying for you as well, and we are excited to see how the Lord will continue to move in each of our lives as we serve Him

Randy Brown and family

browns2japan.com | browns2japan@gmail.com

First Bible Baptist Church | 427 Woodrow Ave Bakersfield, CA 93308 | fbcbakersfield.com
Beacon International Baptist Mission | PO Box 5907, Johnson City, TN 47602-5907 | beaconibm.com