



September Newsletter Visa Approved

Dear family and friends in Christ,

Peace be with you in the Lord!

After a ten-month journey of anticipation, our Japanese visas have finally arrived! 🙏🙏

We recently received our visas from the Japanese embassy, and they are religious worker visas, valid for three years with multiple entries. This outcome truly surpasses our hopes and expectations. Just a while ago, Alan applied for a Chinese visa and was granted only one month with single entry. Reflecting on the waiting period, it reaffirms God's faithfulness:

"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord." (Lamentations 3:25-26)

Reflecting on our past waiting, we also see our own weaknesses more clearly, which makes us treasure the salvation of the Lord Jesus even more. As the Lord said to Paul:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Just as the Lord spoke to Paul then, He also speaks to us today.

Therefore, just as Paul experienced the Lord's ever-renewing grace in various situations, he said:

"Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me... For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Even though we cannot fully comprehend what Paul went through in terms of weakness and grace, we have gained a deeper understanding through our situations. We only can say that we can continue moving forward today entirely due to God's faithful preservation.

Our thanksgiving:

1, In the past few months of wandering and serving in various places, we had the opportunity to get to know and connect with fellow believers in God's family, which has been wonderful. The photos are just glimpses of the many blessings we received.



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The loving arms of God, through the kindness and hospitality of our fellow brothers and sisters, embraced us fully. In moments of sharing and fellowship, many inspired and comforted us. During the challenging times, many held us tightly in their prayers, many were there to lend helping hands, lifting us to once more look up to the Lord with hope. During the past months, God has also shown us so many times of rainbows in the sky, to remind us he is a covenant God and he will not forget us!

As one song expresses it:

"I am strong, when I am on your shoulders... You raised me up, to more than I can be...Each restless heart beats so imperfectly; But when you come and I am filled with wonder. Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity..."



2. This month, Alan gave four sermons in Mandarin: two for the Fukuoka Church in Japan and two for the local churches in Ottawa. Among these sermons, three of them from the Minor Prophets of the Bible, focusing on the judgment of the end times,

to warn today's Christians "not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober." 1

Thessalonians 5:6

One sermon comes from the New Testament · focusing on discipleship. May God's Word stir people's souls more deeply through these messages (click [Sermons in Sep. 2023](#) to watch the sermon messages below):

- September 10: Contemporary Messages of Hosea (Chapter 1) (Japanese Church)
- September 17: Learning to be true Disciples (Mark 6) (Ottawa United Church)
- September 24: Preparing for God's Judgment (Joel 2) (Japanese Church)
- September 24: Judgment, Revival, and Mission (Joel 1) (Emmanuel Church)



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3 · Amid Alan's busy preaching and ministry, he took the time to record a violin version of a praise song (click the blue link below to watch):

[You Are More Beautiful Than These](#)



The music is the work of sister SehLin, a Taiwanese Christian. She is the founder of Lamb Music and an excellent singer. Many years ago, when Alan first heard this song, he was deeply moved by its lyrics and melody :

Pearly Gates, Jasper Walls, New Heaven New Earth.

All sorrow and pain have come to pass. Yet your scar remains a mark that will last.

Your life-giving love how can one forget.

Our Utmost High King, the Lamb who once was slain. You are more beautiful than these.

The musical theme is repeated three times from the bass to treble of the violin and then takes on a new form of melody in the middle: who can forget, who can forget.

Alan transcribed this main theme to play on the G-string to bring out the power and depth of "You are more beautiful than these". Immediately after that, a changed tone was developed and ended in treble notes.

Thank God! As we are about to embark on our missionary journey, Alan had the opportunity to record this praise song into a video. There is currently almost no violin version of this song. Our prayer is through this video that more people will be touched to know the great love of the Lord Jesus and remember His sacrificial love forever.

Our prayer requests:

1. We ask God to strengthen our bodies. During our recent challenge transitions, our bodies have



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experienced some irregularities. There have been some minor issues, and we pray for God's continued care so that we can return to a regular routine as soon as possible.

2. In our current plan to travel to Japan, we ask for God's wisdom and guidance to be with us every step of the way. Although the itinerary is not yet finalized, we are likely to depart from here in mid-October, transit through China for about three weeks, visit relatives, and commemorate our deceased parents. We plan to enter Japan in mid-November.

3. We pray that the Spirit of unity will be with us as we engage in ministry in Japan in the future. May we work harmoniously with pastors and fellow believers from different places to share the Gospel and testify to the grace of the Lord.

4. May God grant us peace of heart as we settle in Japan. Despite the cultural, language, and environmental differences, which will require significant adjustments, we pray that God will give us contentment and joy, and may our thoughts and desires be in Christ Jesus, under God's care.

May peace and joy be with everyone!

Alan & Joan

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news," Isaiah 52:7