



Dear family and friends: Greetings in the Lord!

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Does this verse sound familiar? Has it ever touched you deeply?

What a precious identity God has given us! And what a significant responsibility He has entrusted to us! That is to "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Therefore, spreading the Gospel is the lifelong mission of those who have been saved.

There is a hymn called "Citizens of Heaven" that expresses our God-given identity and mission in simple terms:

We are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven

We are God's precious treasures

We must love each other sincerely

We must live holy lives

So that the world can sense

The fragrance of Jesus in us

We must be united in the Lord

We must live lives of love

So that when the world sees us, they will know

We are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven

Our youth really like this song. There is a girl named "Hetao" (meaning walnut) who was invited to church for the first time on Mother's day Sunday. She didn't want to talk to anyone, and when Joan greeted her, she was kept at a distance. But after the service, two of our teenage girls invited her to go buy flowers for their mothers nearby, and she gladly went. When they returned, the fear was dispelled by the love from girls. Thank God! The two girls not only bought flowers for their own mothers but also for Joan too, who was pleasantly

surprised! They were grateful for the time Joan spent with them every Saturday. Teens need friends; providing them with opportunities to gather also gives them the chance to do meaningful things together.

Hetao soon became good friends with the girls. She also joined our youth group that meets every Saturday to sing hymns, devotions and do crafts. On Father's Day, the youth presented the song they practiced. They gave handmade cards and flowers to the fathers. For some, it was the first time they wrote heartfelt blessings to their fathers. It was quite moving.



We learned that if we are willing to spend time to know them, accompany with them, then we will be able to see them grow more like what God has designed them to be. Pray that our youth will be nurtured in love, and grow more like the citizens of Heaven, so others will sense the fragrance of Jesus in them.

Please continue to pray for the growth of our youth and for their deepening knowledge of God. Earnestly pray for more young people who have not yet joined the fellowship, especially for those who came to church with their parents when they were small but have stopped coming due to a variety of reasons and academic pressures. Pray that God continues to give them opportunities and willingness to reconnect with Him in their lives. Pray for the parents, that they can be good examples in their children's lives. 🙏🙏

Unexpected encounter

Monday is usually our day off, and hiking and reconnecting with nature is our best way to live a balanced life. On the first Monday of the month, we met a young man in a cave of Kitakyushu. He heard us talking and asked where we were from. He said he had studied in Taiwan and is now in Japan, his parents are also here. Alan told him that we live in Fukuoka and he is a pastor, inviting him to visit us in Fukuoka. During our conversation, we initially thought he was Taiwanese living in Japan, but slowly we discovered that he is a Japanese who studied Chinese culture in Taiwan. 😊😊



The young man really loves Chinese culture and was eager to talk with us. Before leaving, he even asked to take a photo with us. He contacted Alan recently, saying he wants to visit us and will come to Fukuoka with a friend. The meeting is scheduled for early next month.

Pray that God blesses this meeting and future meetings too. Pray that we do not become impatient or fearful, but instead follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, allowing the fragrance of Jesus Christ to be evident in every interaction. May this young man be touched by God and become a blessing to other Japanese people. 🙏🙏

A Father's Mission

The third week of this month was Father's Day, and the theme of Sunday worship was "Knowing the Creator as our Father." There were 12 fathers who showed up. It was one more than the number of mothers who attended the service. That was a pleasant surprise. 😊😊

We thank God that although some fathers were attending for the first time and may not yet be consistently coming, they had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and learn about the identity and mission that God has given to fathers. They listened attentively, including one Japanese father who does not understand much Chinese.



Seeing the small space crowded with people, we are both joyful and fervently praying for the good and powerful God to pave the way for us. May we know how to continually spread the Gospel despite limited funds and space, so that the Gospel is not hindered by these limitations. Instead, let these challenges become our blessings, allowing us to experience God's wonderful guidance even more. We hope that every father can understand the heart of the Heavenly Father and live out the mission God has given them.

We also pray for young men who are about to become fathers. With the rise of social media, people are increasingly pressured to conform to unrealistic standards and follow trends, leading to various identity crises. This is especially true for young people, making them feel inadequate or that they are not living the life they should. The sermons remind us that only by knowing the Creator can we truly understand the created, and by defining ourselves through God's Word, we can avoid being swayed by ever-changing trends. Here is [June's sermon series](#) on knowing the Father from Genesis chapter 1-3:

- 6/16: Knowing the Creator Father
- 6/23: Knowing the Righteous Father
- 6/30: Knowing the Redeeming Father

May God use Alan's sermons to strengthen the faith of the brothers and sisters, enabling them to carry the sweet aroma of Christ's love wherever they go and whoever they meet with.

Prayer Requests:

1. ****Youth Camp in July****:

- Pray for God to use the camp to help the youth build their faith.
- Pray for the mission team from Taiwan, that they are well-prepared for the journey and for leading the camp.
- Pray that more parents recognize the importance of the camp for their children and actively sign them up.
- Pray for God's provision for all expenses related to the camp, including venue, accommodation, and meals.

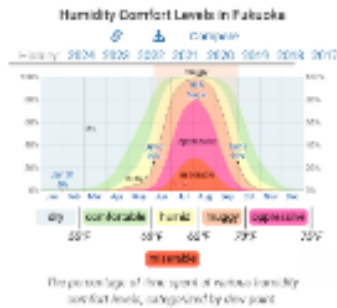
2. ****Joan's Health****

June and July are the rainy season (梅雨) in Fukuoka. It has rained almost everyday in recent weeks. The average humidity during this period is around 75%. Below is the chart showing the average humidity levels throughout the year:

Fukuoka experiences extreme seasonal variation in the perceived humidity.

The muggy period of the year lasts for 3.9 months, from June 5 to October 1, during which time the comfort level is muggy, oppressive, or miserable at least 25% of the time. The month with the most muggy days in Fukuoka is August, with 23.3 days that are muggy or worse.

The least muggy day of the year is January 31, when muggy conditions are essentially unheard of.



The high humidity during the rainy season can cause rheumatic pain for Joan. Pray for God's mercy and care, that her discomfort remains at a tolerable level and does not hinder her ministry work.

3. ****Out-reach****:

- Please pray that more newcomers will be able to find us and attend our church.
- Pray that those without faith will have opportunities to hear the Gospel and be transformed by it.
- Pray for wisdom and clear direction on how we could accommodate those we have outreached and how to outreach for more.

Live for Him,

Alan & Joan

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

"在山上报佳音，传平安，报好消息，传福音，那人的脚踪何等佳美啊" 以赛亚书 52:7

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