

Dave and Tomo Robison in Japan



February, 2022



THE CHURCH-PLANT IS IN FULL SWING!

After spending two years meeting out of our home for private worship, building relationships and prayerfully laying the ground-work for the Miyako Megumi ("Grace") Church plant, last year we began renting a building in the heart of Miyako and hosting weekly public worship services. Because Miyako is such a small town, and because our church building is located on one of the main roads, everyone in town has noticed our presence! By God's grace we've seen an encouraging number of visitors over the last six months and we're excited to enter into this new phase of church-planting.

Dave preaches three times a month in Japanese, while Tomo manages the church finances, Administration and Sunday School. Once a month we host an evangelistic worship service where we invite friends and people from the community to come hear a message from the Bible that's both relevant to their daily lives and connected to the gospel.

In addition to the weekly worship service we also host regular outreaches teaching English to children and adults, and community events for elderly people. Our weekly children's English program has also grown to three classes with 25 kids participating. Each month we host an "English Hour" where adults can come practice English Conversation while their kids watch a movie in another room. Additionally we're working in three neighborhoods in Miyako to help put on monthly community events to support elderly residents. These involve tea-time chats, arts and crafts, and even a little bit of English lessons.

Through these events God has allowed us to get to know dozens of families in our city, and earn a good reputation for His church in the midst of a place where Christianity has historically been looked at with much suspicion.

In 2022 we look to continue these ministries while at the same time developing deeper relationships with families we've met in connection with teaching English and through our children's school. We've already seen a few of our friends show some interest in learning about our faith, and our hope is that in 2022 God will work in their hearts to draw them to Himself.

EVANGELINE HANA



KIDS UPDATE

In 2021 God surprised us with the gift of a new daughter, Evangeline Hana was born on September 7th! We were able to take two months off of ministry for Tomo to recover and for our family to adjust to a new baby. So far Evangeline is adored by her three older siblings, and Titus seems especially taken with her.

Titus and Felicity are attending the local Japanese Elementary School, while Silas is enrolled in a Christian pre-school near our home. Felicity is taking piano lessons while Titus and Dave have joined a local Jiu-Jitsu club. Silas strives daily to be the best Nintendo player he can be.





PRAY FOR WORKERS!

We've got a lot of ideas. For instance we'd like to start a dinner fellowship where Christian topics can be discussed in a casual setting. We'd also like to expand our children's Sunday school ministry. We want to start some sort of a mid-week Bible Study for both believers and seekers. We could easily expand our Children's English Program to a fourth class. Our new church building has a little storefront that we could open up to serve Coffee and Desserts. We think it would be wonderful if we could start a monthly bi-lingual international worship.

However the reality is that we are already close to our capacity for ministry. Because of this we continue to pray and trust that if it is God's will for us to branch into these new areas that He will either send or raise up workers to help us. Until then we'll plan and pray while continuing to serve in the areas He's called us to.

Please join us in prayer for Miyako. Pray that God would use our church to lead people to Salvation in Christ, that we would be able to disciple them to serve and honor their Creator, and that He would establish this church permanently in Miyako. Pray that He will provide all the workers necessary to accomplish His work. Pray that we will remain faithful to continue serving for as long as He has us here.



PANDEMIC UPDATE

So far the effects of the pandemic here in rural Japan have been relatively mild compared to larger cities like Tokyo, and other countries like the U.S.

We have not had any lockdowns, and schools have only experienced a few days of closure. While taking precautions such as mask wearing and extra ventilation, we've been able to continue in person worship and English classes with only minor interruptions.

However due to the Omicron wave our programs with elderly residents are currently on hold.

