

THE BENEKES' JAPAN JOURNAL

Building Movements of Spirit-Led, Disciple-Making Disciples on Kōbe Kyoto Campuses



Praises & Prayer Requests

- Praise God for 10 good years in Kobe and for guiding us to Kyoto for this next season of life and ministry!
- Pray for our family as we pack and say goodbye to friends, colleagues, and students over the next few weeks
- Pray for a smooth move on 3/17 and a quick adjustment to our new home
- Pray for God's blessing on the teammates and students we are leaving behind in Kobe

Dear Friends,

“My aim is to preach the gospel where Christ has not been named, so that I will not build on someone else’s foundation, but, as it is written, Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.” (Romans 15:20-21, CSB)

For the past few years, our family has been praying about our next steps after I finish seminary. We are comfortable in Kobe. We love our church and living situation here. But our desire is to go wherever the greatest need for the gospel is—even if that is somewhere else.

A couple years ago, we began to consider nearby Kyoto as an option. Kyoto is the heart of traditional Japanese culture and has the highest percentage of college students in the country. At the same time, the current leader has been looking for someone to replace him. As a result, after much prayer and deliberation, we decided to join the Kyoto team in preparation to assume leadership of the ministry there in 2023.

We are now preparing to move an hour away to Kyoto on 3/17, the same day our daughter Lela graduates from her Japanese kindergarten. In the meantime, we have a lot of packing to do and goodbyes to say in the next few weeks. Please pray for us as we wrap up our responsibilities in Kobe and prepare for this major transition.

We will write you again after we move next month. Until then, thank you for your continued prayers and partnership! We are excited about what lies ahead for our family in this next season of life in Kyoto. We trust that God has many fruitful years of ministry prepared for us there.



Yours in Christ,
Ryan, Jungshin, Lela, Micah, & Hannah