

THE BENEKES' JAPAN JOURNAL

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



Praises & Prayer Requests

- Praise God for Ryōsuke's baptism!
- Pray for his spiritual growth and his parents' salvation
- Praise God for our family's safe arrival in Kyoto and our recovery from Covid-19!
- Pray for Lela's adjustment to her new elementary school
- Pray for a new church home where we can serve and grow
- Pray for vision and direction for our future ministry

Dear Friends,

“Now that I've come to know Jesus, there's nothing that can keep me from being baptized,” said **Ryōsuke** (see photo on right) as he prepared for his baptism this Easter. It was the culmination of a journey that began with our first Bible study a year-and-a-half ago. But arriving at this destination was not easy.

Because Japanese people view baptism as the point when someone officially becomes a Christian, Ryōsuke's parents came halfway across the country to try to stop him. They even met with our pastors to voice their opposition. But Ryōsuke would not budge. So eventually his parents relented and joined the service to witness their son's baptism.

It was a fitting end to our ten years of ministry in Kobe. We thank God for his kindness in allowing us to see some of the fruit of our labor before we left. Please continue to pray for Ryosuke's spiritual growth and the salvation of his entire family.

Although Easter was our last day at church, earlier we said goodbye to students and teammates at our **Sending Ceremony** on March 4 (see photo above). We moved to Kyoto two weeks later. But on the day we moved, our daughter Lela tested positive for Covid-19. It slowly spread through the rest of the family until everyone was infected. So we spent the first 18 days in our new home in quarantine.

Now everyone is healthy again, and we are slowly getting settled. Lela started 1st grade last week. We visited a new church for the first time this past Sunday. And I have begun meeting staff and students in Kyoto.

Please pray for us as we continue adjusting to our new life and ministry. We appreciate your partnership, and we will write again soon!



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