

# THE BENEKES' JAPAN JOURNAL

Connecting College Students in Kyoto to Jesus



## Praises & Prayer Requests

- Praise God that we can finally return to Japan this Thursday!
- Praise God for the chance to develop partnerships that bring more students to Kyoto!
- Praise God for faithfully meeting our financial needs!
- Pray for everyone to rest well on our long overnight flight
- Pray for Lela to recover quickly from jet lag so she can go back to school ASAP
- Pray for a quick readjustment to life in Japan and good relationships with teammates

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! After 4 months on the road, 23 moves, and almost 10,000 miles of driving, the day has finally come for us to leave America and return to Japan. In fact, by the time you read this, we should already be in the air. We depart LA just after midnight on Thursday, 1/19.

When we arrived in the U.S. last fall, we had three main goals: 1) to reconnect with family and friends, 2) to recruit more people to join us in Japan, 3) and to raise funds for our increased living expenses. We are happy to report that God has faithfully provided for us in all three areas!

For example, just this past weekend, I was able to lead a seminar on missions to Japan at the West Coast conference for Epic (Cru's ministry to Asian-American college students). Two short-term mission teams from Epic are planning to visit us in Kyoto this summer as a result of partnerships that we have been developing over the past semester.

Also, while we still have a little ways to go to reach our goal, we are now in a much better position financially than when we started our trip.

Once we get settled in Kyoto, our first priority will be getting to know our new teammates (above) as we officially transition to leadership of the ministry. Our daughter Lela will also be starting school again as soon as she recovers from jet lag. Please remember her in your prayers.

Thank you as always for your partnership with us and the gospel in Japan. We look forward to what God has in store for us in this next season of our lives and ministry. May He bless you abundantly in 2023!



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