



Japan Journal

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Connecting You with the Benekes' Journey Back to Japan!

Dear Friends,

When the officer called us in for Jungshin's citizenship interview, we never expected that it would be to tell us **her application had been denied**. Everything up until that point had gone smoothly—financial support was coming in, and we were on track to leave the U.S. by mid-January. So why didn't things work out?

One month later, after lots of prayer and reflection, I think the best answer I can give is that it just wasn't the right time. God clearly still has things for us to do in America before we leave, and things to prepare for us in Japan before we arrive. **So by faith, we're choosing to view this challenge as one more opportunity for Him to show his power and bring glory to his name.**

With our lawyer's help, we're in the process of appealing Jungshin's citizenship case. The local Congressman's office has also gotten involved, and they are talking with immigration on our behalf. **Lord willing, we'll have some news on our case after the holidays, and Jungshin will be able to schedule another interview in January.**

In the meantime, we are continuing our preparations—raising support, spending our last time with family, and applying for my Japanese visa—so we'll be ready to leave the country once Jungshin receives her citizenship.

Thank you so much for standing with us through these challenges by your prayers and partnership. No matter what happens, we know that God is in control. We look forward to what he'll do in the New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



We wish you a Merry Christmas!



Jungshin with Japanese women's Bible study in Boise this month

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For a meaningful time celebrating Christ with family over the holidays
- For God's provision of our remaining financial needs—**now at 96%!**
- For our appeal to be accepted and Jungshin to receive her citizenship

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