



Japan Journal

| SEPTEMBER 5, 2011

Connecting You with the Benekes' Journey Back to Japan!

Dear Friends,

“Consider it **pure joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work **so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**” (James 1: 2-4, NIV)

“Perseverance” has been a big theme for me this month. I don’t know about you, but “pure joy” and “trials” aren’t words I tend to use in the same sentence. Often I falsely believe that just because God wants me to do something, that means it’s going to be quick and easy!

But as these verses in James remind me, God usually has a bigger purpose in mind than just my temporary comfort. He’s testing my faith and teaching me perseverance so I’ll be “mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

There are days I’m so anxious to get back to Japan that it can feel like I’m wasting my time in America. But I know that God is using these “trials” to make me more like Jesus and to deepen my love for Him. This is where God wants me to be right now, and He doesn’t waste anything!

We’ll be in San Diego for the rest of September and in the Bay Area in October, continuing to meet partners and share our ministry. Please pray that God would guide and provide for us as we go. Pray also for **Jungshin’s U.S. citizenship application**, which we’ll be submitting very soon. More on that in the months to come...

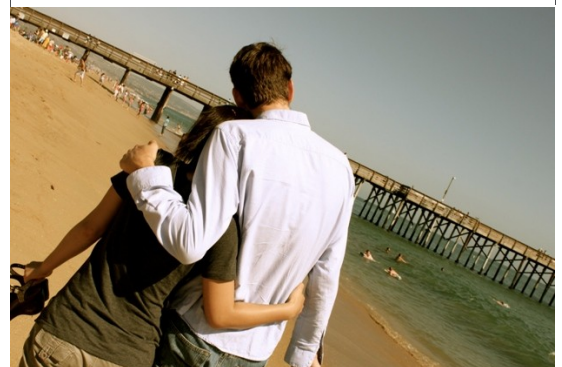
Thank you for your prayers, and God bless!

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



With my grandparents in San Diego



A summertime walk on the beach. So grateful for one another in this season!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Through trials, that we would learn perseverance and grow in maturity
- For Jungshin’s U.S. citizenship application process to go smoothly
- That we would trust God to provide all of our financial needs and bring us back to Japan in His perfect time

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