

# ✧ The Seed in the Stump ✧ Joe & Felicity Congdon

St. Louis Metro  
Campus Crusade for Christ

Isa. 6:13

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## Are We Ready for Japan?

We're about to find out! We are packing our bags for Atlanta, Georgia, where we will spend five days at Mission to the World's Readiness Evaluation (REV). REV is for those who feel called to serve cross culturally as long-term members of a Mission to the World church-planting team.

We'll engage in a number of activities modeled after situations in which missionaries are involved. Throughout the week, a skilled team of staff will assess us, and we'll receive a final recommendation and feedback on the last day of the conference.

Please pray with us that we'll receive a green light to move forward with our call to church planting in Japan.



### How you can be praying for us:

- Jan 8** – Safe travels to Atlanta, Georgia (and back on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Jan 9** – Physical health and intimacy with the Lord as we begin the rigorous evaluation process. We both have been feeling under the weather, and Felicity has had some fatigue lately due to her pregnancy.
- Jan 10** – Compassion for the international refugees we'll be serving this week and opportunities to communicate the gospel with them.
- Jan 11** – This will be our longest amount of time away from our daughter Zoey (2yrs) - She'll be staying with Joe's parents in Houston, as we aren't allowed to bring her to REV. Please pray for comfort and peace for both Zoey and us as we are separated, and pray for extra energy for her grandparents as they care for her.
- Jan 12** – For an accurate recommendation and helpful feedback from the staff who will be evaluating us.
- Jan 13** – Open hearts as we hear the results of our many assessments and tests this week.

### Denver Christmas Conference

Twelve of our Webster U students just returned from our annual Christmas conference in Denver. They joined 1,000 other students from our region for a great week of teaching, outreach and ministry training. Some of my favorite aspects of the conference are



Students connecting at Christmas conference

the ways the students grow closer together and the way they are challenge to consider going to various parts of the world. Jared from Webster opened up with the other guys like never before - sharing sin struggles and praying out loud (big progress for him!) and Shannon is now considering going to Greece this summer on a mission trip.

### Monthly Facts About Japan

For years, Japan has had one of the world's highest suicide rates. Though the number of suicides declined in 2010, the number remained above 30,000 for the 13th straight year (according to the Huffington Post).

Friends of ours in Tokyo told us that once a week, on average, the subway trains they personally use are delayed as a result of people taking their lives by jumping in front of trains. Felicity was shocked to learn that at most train stations, there are giant curtains designed for the purpose of shielding an "accident" site for clean up.



### Please PRAY

- Pray for success for our family through our formal assessment in Atlanta and pray that the Lord will use this special time to renew our heart for the world with a fresh vision for the ways God is moving in Japan.
- Please continue to pray for new relationships with Japanese students living in St. Louis.