



**BIMI**

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SENDING CHURCH  
 Lakeside Baptist Church  
 Clearwater, SC  
 Pastor Tad Marshall  
[www.besidethelake.com](http://www.besidethelake.com)

**March 2019**

Dear Pastors, Partners, and Praying Friends,

Hello everyone and a very good Friday afternoon, March 1st, 2019 as I report here from Gamagori, Japan. We have had a great January and February. We trust as we report here and give updates that you will be blessed and encouraged by our prayer letters. Here we go.....

In the month of January we are proud to report that our Residence Cards were renewed. We have another 3 years added onto our stay here in Japan. What a blessing and answer to prayer.

Also, on Thursday, Jan. 17th, Ms. Vanessa Whitehead, from Minnesota, arrived here in Japan. She is the young lady that we mentioned about previously that was coming for an internship. She has been such a blessing in many ways to our children as well as to all those at Hikarinosono. She enjoys kids, studying Japanese, and, Lord willing, praying about coming back one day to teach here in Japan. What a blessing.

On Sunday, Jan. 20th, I preached at our church here, Gamagori Baptist Church. I am thankful for the opportunities to be using the Japanese that I have learned. Mostly, I am thankful in being able to share and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ here. On Sunday, Jan. 27th, I was able to lead the singing at the church. Also on this day, Vanessa gave her testimony as I translated it into Japanese for the congregation.

On Tuesday, January 29th, I began meeting with Mr. Suzuki and Mrs. Sato, who are two Jehovah Witnesses that attend the Kingdom Hall here in our town. This came about because over the past few weeks, various Jehovah Witnesses were coming to our door. I would always kindly speak to them and tell them that I am a Baptist Preacher and Missionary. On one of those occasions, Mr. Suzuki and Mrs. Sato came and knocked on our door. After speaking with them, they could not understand why I believed differently than they did if I was a Christian. They also could not understand why I told them that what I believe is right whereas what they believe is false. Being unlearned in this area, they asked if I would study the Bible with them. I agreed and have met with them once a week for the past five weeks. In each meeting, they both sit and listen to everything I say. They have not come to the place of believing that Jesus is God yet, but, I am praying and asking the Lord to work in their hearts as only he can do. Would you join us in prayer that as long as it takes, we would see these two precious souls come to the Truth. Mr. Suzuki has been a JW for 40 years and Mrs. Sato for 2 years. Our sixth meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5th. Pray for their salvation. I am praying for the opportunity to see these two one day saved.

On Wednesday, Jan. 30th in the mid-week prayer and Bible study, I began a series of preaching messages on the differences between the Jehovah Witness and Baptist doctrinal. Pastor Asada had asked me this year to take the last Wednesday night

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service of every month and teach a Bible Study or preach. As I prayed about it, the Lord continued to bring my thoughts back to the Bible Study I had already begun with Mr. Suzuki and Mrs. Sato. Because there are so many Jehovah Witnesses here in our town (sadly more than Christians), I wanted to talk about that ways that our people could defend and know the truth of why we are Baptists. This first study went very well and my next opportunity to speak on this subject will be Wednesday night, March 6th. Pray that as I do these studies, the Lord will guide, lead, and direct each of us.

On Sunday, Feb. 10th, I had the joy again of preaching at Anjo Hope Baptist Church. I enjoy the fellowship amongst the believers here at this church. Each one has been so faithful in spite of not having a full-time Pastor. It is an encouragement to me to always stay faithful no matter what. As Bro. Brigham continues to pray about the right man to take over the Pastorate at this dear church, pray for God to bring the right man to Shepherd these people. I enjoy preaching here at every opportunity.

On Saturday, Feb. 16th, we joined Bro. Ben Collins and his family for English Cafe time at the church. Once a month, he has the English Café; a time of coffee, snacks, and fellowship for the Japanese who are interested in learning English. It is a blessing.

Our church bowling activity last month brought more kids than ever before. The Marathon Day was also a success for the church. Pray as these various church activities are done for fellowship but most of all to recruit new children and parents to see the Love of Christ.

On Thursday, March 7th, I will begin meeting with a gentleman named Mr. Tsutsumi. This older gentleman was a part of the Japanese mafia for many years. Back in 2014, he contacted Pastor Asada, crying and ready to commit suicide. By the Grace of God, he agreed to meet with Pastor Asada that same night and got saved. He began to come to church, but over time, he has continued to fall more and more away from the church. Pastor Asada believes he is saved but has never been baptized. He wanted to study the Bible in English. This is where I come in. What an opportunity. Pray as I begin Bible Studies with Mr. Tsutsumi that he will understand the Bible more and more but mostly to fully yield his life in service to Christ.

Our tutoring continues to grow well as we progress more every week. Abigail is finishing up first grade and will be starting second in the fall. The boys continue to enjoy Hikarinosono and Anna is walking everywhere now. Look out.

March and April is filled with ministry opportunities. I begin Sunday, March 17th preaching at Toyohashi Grace Baptist Church for the next 9 Sundays. Pray for all of these ongoing ministry opportunities. We thank you for your prayers, support, love, and care to our family as we continue in doing what we do here for the Lord. Your part counts. Every bit. Love you and until next time, keep pressing onward. God Bless you.

## **Moving Forward By Faith - Deepening Roots, Increasing Fruits in 2019**

*Joshua, Amy, Abigail, Joel, Jason, & Anna Durdan*

Luke 4:18-19

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