

Update: We are realizing that the fall/holiday season is definitely the busiest time for ministry in Japan! We had a lot of amazing opportunities this month including volunteering at a film festival, helping with our teammate's church plant service, helping with another teammate's fall festival for kids, and throwing a Halloween party for our friends! See the photos below for more details! :)

Praise: We have a HUGE praise from this month! A sweet Japanese lady named Kanako who has been attending our team's church plant in the Mitchells' home made the decision to follow Jesus! Kanako and her two kids, have been coming to the church services, bible studies, and kids' English classes that the Mitchells host and we get to help with. We are so overjoyed about her decision to step from death to life and into a relationship with Jesus. Please join us in praying for her husband and kids to understand their wife/mom's new faith and come to make this decision to follow Jesus as well.

Prayer Requests:

- Ministry: for Kanako and her family
- Language: for \$4000 for us to be able to attend our last term of language school at TAC
- Japan: for the Covid restrictions to continue diminishing so that we can get together with people, and so that the borders will open for new missionaries to move here



Left: Volunteering at the Damah (means parable in Hebrew) Film Festival! Some of the missionaries on our team in Japan started a company called MetaVenture that hosts events and helps people produce products and services (for example another missionary wrote a Christian manga book)! They hosted a film festival this month and it was really incredible to see lots of well known film directors and actors, film fans, and Christians all talking and enjoying some amazing films together! (for more information- here is MetaVenture's website: <https://metaventure.jp/>)

Right: We had our team's annual Day of Business, it was so encouraging to get together with everybody and hear how they are doing in life and ministry! We have currently 20 units (families, couples, and singles) in our team called JVenture, and several more units ready to come as soon as the borders open!



We were so glad to finally be able to meet in person again with the Mitchells' church! Due to Covid and the Mitchells going on home assignment, we hadn't met in person since July! Abigail was able to give the kids' lesson completely in Japanese for the first time, thanks to our Japanese teacher helping her write the lesson beforehand! Addison has recently been able to help with both this church plant and Den-en Grace Chapel (the mother church) in managing the online portion of the hybrid service.



This past weekend was super busy with fall and halloween parties!! Our teammates the Changs hosted a fall party on Saturday for families, and Addison and I dressed as cowboys and got to help with the games and reading a story! Then on Sunday the Mitchells hosted another fall party in their home, and we hosted a Halloween party for our friends at our house! Altogether 81 people (kids and adults) came to these three parties over the weekend!! It is SO exciting to see that people are starting to be willing to get together again (dare I say 'post-covid?'), and we are so grateful to God for giving us these sweet friendships! Thank you so much for praying for our ministries, please keep praying with us for the continued building of these relationships!

Addison & Abigail Zody: your partners in God's ministry in Japan

Update: We have been working on some new projects this month as we also completed our 15th month of language school. We are preparing for teaching English to some kids in August (Japan's one month summer break), and also working on creating some videos for new missionaries who will be arriving to Japan when the borders open (please keep praying for this; several families are fully supported and just waiting to be allowed into the country!).

Praise: We got a van! Thank you so much to everyone who has given to us and is giving regularly. We are constantly thanking God for how He provides for us through all of you. We had been given all the funds to purchase this van before we even moved to Japan. We will be using this van mainly to drive short-term teams around Japan (once the borders open). In our daily life we are able to walk/take trains everywhere, but it is also very helpful and nice to be able to drive (sometimes it cuts our travel time in half!). Now we can go to places where we wouldn't be able to carry everything back via train, can drive our friends places, etc. We are so grateful and feel so blessed!

Prayer Requests:

- Ministry: for Addison's Bible study with En, the homeless ministry in Yoyogi Park, his soccer group, our friends from our previous language school, and Abigail's ministries with kids.
- Language: for energy, understanding, and discipline to learn Japanese well.
- Japan: that God would open the eyes of the Japanese people and the foreigners living here to the truth of His gospel.



Left: our new van! Driving around Japan hasn't been as stressful as we thought it would be. There are many people walking and biking along the narrow streets that often don't have sidewalks. We drive on the left side of the road and the driver is on the right side of the car. Everything is backwards, but because the roads are so crowded we have to drive alot slower which helps! By God's grace we have gotten used to it! Praise God for helping us overcome another thing we were nervous about!
Right: teaching English at our friends' home to the sweetest Japanese kids!



We are SO grateful for all of the friendships God has blessed us with. From spending time with fellow missionaries to getting to be a blessing to our non-christian friends, we feel so encouraged by these people and others!

Thank you for praying for us, we have had some discouraging and frustrating days recently but we are always encouraged to stop and remember all that God has done for us. He has provided for us through your generous support, and has given us so many sweet friendships and opportunities here in Japan. We know He will continue to take care of us in the future! A quote that I saw recently that has been very encouraging in this season: "The secret is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances." -Elizabeth Elliot

Addison & Abigail Zody: your partners in God's ministry in Japan

Update: Japan is in another state of emergency due to Covid. This doesn't affect our daily lives too much, but we have several new missionary families fully funded, stuck waiting in the US for Japan to open up. We also have several other new missionaries trying to get in for vision trips. Please pray for their hearts in this time of waiting, and for borders to open soon.

Earlier this month we went along on a mission retreat for Stumo (another mission organization that WorldVenture is partnered with here in Japan) to help with childcare. We enjoyed helping watch the kids during their sessions, and also getting to go along on some outings.

Praise: The weather is in the 70s now here, and there are flowers blooming everywhere. Spring is our new favorite season in Japan because the scenery is so beautiful! We have been encouraged in the past few weeks by spending time with other missionaries from various organizations, getting to know each other better, and hearing different strategies for ministry in Japan. We have also had several opportunities to hang out with our non-Christian friends from our previous language school and have some spiritual conversations. Thank you for praying for these friendships!

Prayer Requests:

- Ministry: for Addison's Bible study with En, the homeless ministry in Yoyogi Park, his soccer group, our friends from our previous language school, and Abigail's ministries with kids.
- Language: for energy, understanding, and discipline to learn Japanese well.
- Japan: that God would open the eyes of the Japanese people and the foreigners living here to the truth of His gospel.



Left photo: Helping with kids ministry at the Mitchells' church plant in their home!
Right photo: Our language school teachers took us out for a traditional Japanese lunch! We are learning so much in class everyday. Thank you for praying for our stamina and discipline to continue studying Japanese well. It's all by God's grace!



Two of the sweet kiddos that we got to watch at the retreat. Their families are doing college ministry and church planting in Tokyo, it was so encouraging to spend time with them and hear what God is doing through their ministry!



Please continue praying with us for these two couples. They are such sweet friends to us and we are praying that God would open their hearts and eyes to His truth.

Addison & Abigail Zody: your partners in God's ministry in Japan

April 2021

We are enjoying studying at our new language school, TAC. We are so exhausted each day after class because we are learning so much! Each week we give several 3 minute impromptu speeches, and have lots of conversations in Japanese. We can tell that we're getting more comfortable speaking already, but we also feel like we just realize more and more everyday how much more we still have to learn!

Praise: We had a lovely team retreat two weeks ago at a center with a view of Mount Fuji! Since we were not able to have our yearly retreat last year, we had still not even met some of our teammates yet! So it was such a sweet and refreshing time hearing everyone's stories, praying, and worshiping together (in English!!). We are so grateful for our team and for how God has worked in all of our lives to bring us to Japan to work together for His glory.

Prayer Requests:

Ministry: for Addison's Bible study with En, the homeless ministry in Yoyogi Park, his soccer group, our friends from our previous language school, and Abigail's ministries with kids.

Language: for energy, understanding, and discipline to learn Japanese well.

Japan: that God would open the eyes of the Japanese people and the foreigners living here to the truth of His gospel.



We are so grateful for each of these people, and we had such an encouraging retreat!



Sunday School, English class, and piano lessons are the highlights of my (Abigail's) week! I feel so grateful that I get to be a part of these sweet kids' lives, and that I can serve God by serving them!



Left photo: Our classmates (plus another class) at our new language school! Our teacher bought a cake to celebrate my birthday!

Right photo: I had a little flower-arranging party with two friends from our previous language school, Lindsay (fellow missionary), and her daughter Mollie. It was such a sweet time, thank you for praying for these relationships with our classmates!

April Update: We finished one year of language school! We had a great experience at our school, but we will be switching to a new language school for our second year. Our first school, Kanrin, was a secular school with larger class sizes, geared towards getting students to pass the JLPT language test and then get into universities or jobs in Japan. It was very structured and rigorous and was great for our first year as we started wrapping our minds around the Japanese language. However, we are excited about switching to the new school, TAC, because it is for missionaries so we will get to learn more about Biblical terms, how to share our faith in Japanese, etc. It also has smaller class sizes and focuses on being confident in having conversations in Japanese!

Praise: We are enjoying spring break, sakura blossoms, and temperatures in the 60s! We are getting some much needed rest, preparing for Easter, and excited for a new routine at TAC and in ministry in April! Addison has started playing soccer on Sunday evenings to meet new friends and we are trying to be intentional to continue relationships with our friends from language school. Thank you as always for your prayers and encouragement, we have so much to be grateful and excited for!

Prayer Requests:

For Addison's Bible study with En, the homeless ministry in Yoyogi Park, his soccer group, our relationships with classmates, and Abigail's ministries with kids.

For energy and understanding to learn Japanese well as we start at a new language school.

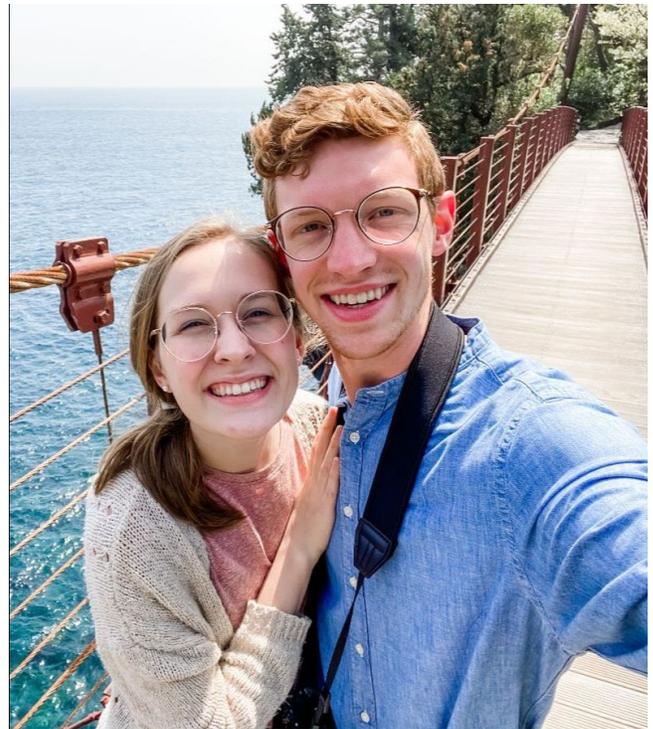
For Japan, that God would open the eyes of the Japanese people and the foreigners living here to the truth of His gospel.



We enjoyed our year at Kanrin Language School! It was kind of crazy to see all the textbooks together that we went through this year! Still have lots more to learn but grateful to see how far we've come!



We had some friends from language school over and made them enchiladas (their first time to try them!!). We also put together Easter baskets to hand out to our neighbors next weekend. We can take advantage of the American cultural side of giving gifts on Easter to share the real meaning behind the holiday. Please pray for our relationships with these people: that God would give us boldness, and use our hangouts and gifts to open their hearts to the message of the Gospel.



This huge sakura tree is right across the street from our house and fills up all of our living room windows. Such a sweet blessing! We enjoyed a refreshing trip to the beach about 3 hrs away with some other missionary families during our spring break!

March Update: By God's grace and strength alone we have made it through one year living here in Japan! It seems unreal that we haven't been back in the US, or seen our friends and family in person, for an entire year. Yet we also feel settled in here, and are enjoying seeing the familiar springtime coming back around. In our second year we are excited to be transitioning to around 75% language school and 25% other ministry with our time! See photos below of the other ministries we will be helping with!

Praise: As we have processed and talked about our first year, we are truly overwhelmed with how much God has blessed us with. We moved over here with only a few suitcases, and by God's provision we have been able to furnish our little home and it has been such a sweet place to rest each day. Our teammates here have helped us and encouraged us in countless ways. and have become dear friends to us already. We love our city, and have loved getting to explore Japan. We feel safe, cared for, and excited for the future. God has blessed us and encouraged us in so many ways beyond these: from blessing our hearts with a huge sakura tree right outside our window, to giving us strength to learn Japanese each day, to bringing amazing new partners to support us financially. Join us in praising God for all His goodness in these things!

Prayer Requests:

For Addison's Bible study with En, for the homeless ministry in Yoyogi Park, and for Abigail's ministries with kids.

For energy and understanding to learn Japanese well as we complete our 12th month of language school.

For Japan, that God would open the eyes of the Japanese people and the foreigners living here to the truth of His gospel.



As we start our second year of life in Japan, we have more capacity to join in on more ministry in a healthy way as we still focus mainly on language school.

-Abigail has started helping a fellow WV missionary with teaching English to Japanese kids twice a month, and helping with the kids group during their monthly church gatherings.

-Addison has started helping out on Saturday mornings with a homeless ministry in Yoyogi Park (a large park in downtown Tokyo).



One year in Japan! The day we got to 100% funded, the song "God is so good," was in my head all day. Now, one year into life in Japan, the lyrics still ring true! We are so excited for many more years in Japan to experience God's goodness and to share His goodness with the people in Japan!