

Regular prayer update for Ian and Maki Smith,
Converge missionaries to Japan.

Prayer Works





Out for a walk with boys from the Family Home.

Thank you for your prayers! We arrived back in Japan in the middle of July and hit the ground running. Thank you everyone for praying for our safe travels. We had a bit of a hiccup when we got back to Tanabe and found that both of our cars were dead. Thankfully, with a loaner and a rental car, we were able to make things work until we had our own wheels back. The house was mostly turn-key, as we left it ready to go when we visited back in January.

The first two Sundays back in Japan, we attended Shirahama Baptist Church, where we served last term. I was able to share about our move to Mihama Grace and receive prayer from the congregation. It is bittersweet, but we've experienced the Lord's grace and comfort during this difficult transition.

Shortly after we arrived back in Japan, we found out that we were about to pass a deadline in which all the work we had done towards becoming foster parents in order to be eligible for adoption would become void. As a result, we rushed to complete a few steps to keep the process going; including a few days of training at a 'family home' with some young children. Thankfully we were able to find childcare for Emma while we spent two full Saturdays at the children's home. Please pray for the young children we got to spend our time with, especially H-kun (5) and O-kun (3) who were living full-time at the facility after being abandoned by their single-mother. Please pray that God would

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Intercession Points:

Thank you for your prayers for our return to Japan! We arrived safely back in Japan!

The Lord provided more than what we asked for in order to buy a new van. Once we have the bandwidth to begin shopping for it, we'll let you know what we end up buying. Please pray that we would be able to find a reliable and suitable van.

Thank you for praying for Maki and Emma as they were sick for about a week, and are now fully recovered.

Please pray for the transition to Sunday mornings at Mihama Grace. Please pray for the new prayer meeting, and that the Lord would bless the church as we seek his face. Please pray that I could faithfully and clearly teach God's Word.

continue to guide us in this process--we remain open to adoption, but are praying that God might give us one or more additional children biologically.



Preaching at Mihama

Immediately after returning to Wakayama I took over the preaching responsibility at Mihama Grace Church, where I am now serving as the pastor. In just a little over a month, I have preached as many original sermons as I did in a half-year period during my previous term. I have had to change a lot about how I prepare for and deliver sermons in order to accomodate this new pace. Gone are the fully translated manuscripts, dutifully edited by my wife, and I have shifted to an expositional method working from a paired down outline. So far the feedback has been good, and Maki tells me she much prefers my newer sermons over the older ones (but I wonder how much that has to do with not needing to check my grammar).

We are currently already into chapter 2 of a series on the book of Galatians, which will we will continue to study at least into the winter. We'll be taking a break in a few weeks as Pastor Takei, one of

Please pray for those individuals and families that we are reaching out to. Please pray that God would lead us to 'people of peace,' in Gobo and Mihama-cho, who will be receptive to the gospel.

Thank you for praying for us as we battled the heat of summer here in Japan during July and August, the hottest part of the year. Thankfully things are cooling off and we can start enjoying the outside again.

Emma is walking! Emma is healthy and growing like crazy. We're so grateful for everyone who has been praying for her! She's adjusting to life back in Japan and really misses her grandparents, the dogs, and the back yard at our home in Olympia.

I've lost about 7kg (15lbs) since being back in Japan, and need to lose another 15kg. Please pray that I can have self-control when it comes to diet and exercise.

Please pray that we will be godly parents that can demonstrate the love of God in our marriage and in the way we raise Emma. Pray that God would be glorified in our home. Please pray for our marriage that it would be a testimony to God's love and grace.

the board members of the Baptist Rengo comes to perform an official installation service for me at Mihama Grace. Please pray for those that are traveling to attend, including the Chapmans from Nara, who should be back in Japan shortly. The Luskys are also planning on visiting near the end of September, which will give me another week off from preaching as Brian has offered to bring the word.



Ruth Hinson reading to Emma

Starting this week, we will be moving the worship service from Saturday nights to Sunday mornings. Since the Converge's pioneering missionaries retired in the late 1970's, Mihama Grace has been without their own pastor--having to rely on churches as far as two hours away for pulpit supply. In order to accomodate this, they have been meeting on Saturday nights for as long as anyone can remember. The members are extremely excited about moving the worship service to Sunday mornings! Please pray for this move, as we are hoping it will allow more families with younger children to attend the service.

Recently a young mother U-san, and her two daughters has been coming to church faithfully, from a mountain village north of Mihama-

Please continue to pray for a fresh move of the Spirit among the Japanese people--that despite the many obstacles to the Gospel, many would hear and respond and put their faith in Jesus.

Please pray for the Japanese people, most of whom have never had a chance to hear the Gospel. Pray that God would send out more workers into the harvest field, and that God would raise up more laborers to serve among the Japanese.

Please pray for Converge Japan in 2025. We have a new Asia field director, new missionaries in the pipeline and many new opportunities in front of us. Please pray that God would continue to work through us in Wakayama and that we would be able to build a team there if it is His will.

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"Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall

cho. Please pray that she would be able to continue coming faithfully even as it shifts to Sunday mornings. Please also pray for M-san and her family that they might begin attending, and H-san and her newborn as soon as they are able to start coming. Maki is going to be working with the Okamatos to re-launch the Sunday School this week starting at 9am, before the service. Additionally, we are starting a bi-weekly prayer meeting this Wednesday, which alternates with their already existing community oriented English class, taught by Nemu from the Shirahama Church.

see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel."

Zechariah 4:8-10

Mitsuhashi sensei preaching at Inami Baptist Christ Church

This past week we had the opportunity to visit one of the elderly church members, Higashibata-san, in his care facility. Highashibata-san was baptised by Francis Sorley, and served as an elder at Mihama for many years. He is currently bed bound, and no longer able to communicate. However, as we prayed over him and sang some of his favorite hymns, he was visibly moved and wept. Please pray that the Lord would comfort him during his prolonged period of hospitalization, and prepare him to meet Jesus face to face. We are hoping to visit him and some of the other elderly members of the church on a regular basis to encourage them, even as they cannot come to service themselves. Please pray for F-san, who has recently stopped coming to church after she began to suffer from dementia.

This past Saturday a young junior high aged girl came to the church for the first time--invited by the Okamotos. I had prepared a sermon for Galatians 2:1-10, and instead spent most of the time explaining the terms in the text which she would likely not be familiar with, and giving a basic gospel presentation. Please pray that Ru-chan would continue to attend in the future, and that the seeds scattered would fall on good soil in her heart and produce saving faith in Jesus.

Over the past month we have had the chance to visit with some other local churches, including the Baptist churches in Inami and Gobo, as well as an Assemblies church, Riverside Chapel in Kozagawa. We were encouraged to see how God is working in other churches throughout the area. Please pray for the churches throughout the Ki-Peninsula that they would be strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit in order to continue to faithfully steward the gospel in this very spiritually resistant part of Japan.



Fellowshipping with the Manleys right before leaving for Japan

We still haven't had the bandwidth to start searching for a van yet, but thankfully we received more than what we had hoped for! One church in particular had their VBS kids run a fund-raiser for our new van, and raised over a thousand dollars! We're so thankful for everyone who gave above and beyond their normal giving. Thank you so much. As soon as we have pictures of the new van we'll make sure to share them with you.

There are a lot more things I would love to share, and will in coming updates. I have an article coming out in the next issue of Japan Harvest on the necessity of a vision for rural church planting in Japan, and will be working on some other writing projects. One of the Mihama church members has a spare house that we are hoping to spruce up a bit in order to receive visitors and interns in the future, and there are many things about Mihama-cho and Wakayama in general that we would love to share with you so that you can know better how to pray for us. We continue to post weekly on our private prayer group on Facebook if you would like more frequent updates and prayer requests. Thank you for your prayers!

Maki and I have a private prayer group on Facebook where we post updates and prayer requests multiple times a month. If you would like

more frequent updates, please consider joining our private prayer group. Please reach out to me if you haven't already received an invitation.

**Current Support Level: 108% (Committed) / 103%
(Performing(annual))**

I sincerely appreciate those who read these updates in their entirety (and pray over them)! I am especially grateful for those that have sacrificially given towards this ministry among the Japanese. If you feel lead to make a financial commitment towards reaching the Japanese with the Gospel, [you can find out more about how to support my work in Japan here](#). All gifts are tax-deductible.

Ian Smith,
Missionary, Converge



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Thank you for your partnership in the work of the Gospel!

You are receiving this e-mail because you are a prayer-partner, friend or acquaintance of Ian Smith, Converge Worldwide Missionary to Japan.

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