

The Stewards in Japan *Spring 2025*

It feels like our last update was just a few weeks ago, but the time has flown by since our January Newsletter. We are as busy as ever with people coming through the house several times a week, reaching out to the students at KCS, leading worship at church on Sundays...etc. But God is good and we are thankful to serve Him in a country where there are so few workers and so many needs!

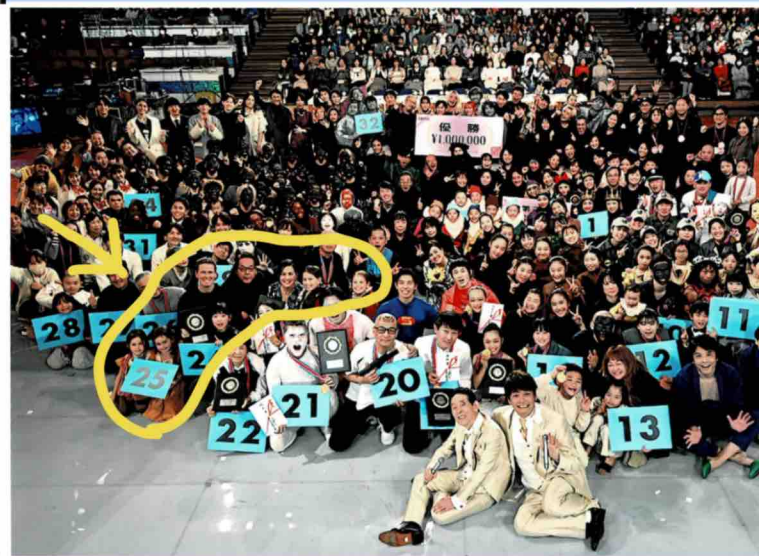


Our last Newsletter made mention of the amazing opportunities provided for us in 2024, chief among them was that we were chosen to be part of a long-standing nationally televised competition show and unexpectedly won second place. We were brought up to Tokyo in December for filming and the show aired in January. And while it was a lot of fun, the experience also led to many new opportunities to connect with people from all over Japan.



That appearance has also proven to give Japanese people who we haven't seen for a while a good reason to reach out, such as in the case of a Japanese lady we used to teach English but hadn't seen in five years. She contacted us out of the blue and we've now met up with her several times. She's interested in the Bible and visiting our church and we are hoping and praying for her continued growth and interest in God's Word!

Locally, people will recognize our family from the show (as if we didn't already stand out a bit!) and want to talk. We never expected that TV appearance would lead to so many opportunities to share about how God is the center of our lives! But people are genuinely curious and then amazed by when we tell them what is true: God gave us the idea for the show and we give Him all the glory.



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God also gave us favor with the program directors and TV staff, which led to invitation to perform the routine again at the World Expo in Osaka this coming May. Please pray that would lead to more opportunities for the gospel to be spread and for us to be salt and light in such a dark country!





March to April in Japan is a time of transitions and new beginnings - everything from work transfers to leases for apartments and the start of a new school year. Clara and Esther wrapped up their 5th grade year at about the same time as Aubrey and Laila graduated from Kindergarten. And starting April, we'll have all four girls in the local public school. They continue to do well and work hard at the language, cultural, and relationship learning. And through their efforts at school we have opportunity to connect with a few of their teachers who we are now reaching out to. Please pray that the conversations result in these people coming to church!



Some highlights and other prayer requests:

- The Japanese mother of a KCS student was baptized recently (praise God!) along with her daughter and has reached out to Lydia for help in how to use her hair salon business to spread the gospel. For now they are partnering by Lydia designing Scripture cards that will be distributed to customers. Please pray for that project and all of the possibilities for this new partnership!
- Please pray for development of the new piece of land adjacent to KCS (which almost doubled the size of campus!) into a dedicated outdoor athletics/sports court! We are currently working on a video introducing KCS and the students about what the school means to them and we've been amazed at how God is using KCS in each of the student's lives!
- Please also pray for the events and planning of the annual Spiritual Life Week (SLW) in early April - its a great opportunity to spend nearly 3 hours a day working with the students in new ways to understand the Christian life and build focus on Christ into their day!

KCS keeps on rolling as we begin the 4th academic quarter. As we plan for big picture projects like the upcoming accreditation visit and a host of other busy things, there have been such sweet reminders of the most important part of each school day: representing Christ to the students.



One particularly sweet reminder of this came from the Student Council (which Andrew oversees), who decided to produce a shirt that represents what KCS means to them. Each student wrote down ten words that describes the school, with the top 5 most repeated words being: "loving, family, caring, Christ-centered, and home" Thank you for keeping KCS and our sweet students in your prayers!

Finally, we are planning to visit the US this summer for a slightly shorter-than-usual time period. We usually try to visit every other year, but a few things came up this year that need our attention, including visiting family and friends back home and also helping graduates from KCS get settled in MN as they begin their college years. We're working away on the scheduling for our 5-6 week stay and realizing that we may not get to visit all of the places we want to visit, but we would still love to see you and connect with you if at all possible. Please pray for us, that everything goes smoothly on this side of things - getting the house, the school, and church responsibilities set in place for a 6-week absence. And if you know of anyone we can rent a car from over the summer, please let us know!



We'll keep you posted on summer plans and ministry updates.
We love you all and are so thankful for you!

If you would like to support our ministry in Japan, you can do so by following this link
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