



## The Edwards – Ben, Rebecca, Nolan, & Eli Missionaries to Japan

Dear Prayer Warriors

April 2024

Spring is officially here and so are the beautiful well known Japanese Cherry blossoms. (Sakura) Japan is filled with God's artwork and is enjoyed by so many from around the world, including our dear friends from America who have come for a visit. We have been able to visit several interesting places with them. It has been a blessing to see God's beauty, but once again it brings to light the religious beliefs of the Japanese people. During this time of year many areas are having festivals. At the temples you can see the rituals of the Japanese trying to appease their man-made gods, such as bowing before going through the Tori gate, the gate that separates the world of the people from the world of the gods, and pouring holy water over their hands and mouth to purify themselves of evil spirits, so their gods hear them. They stand in front of their god, clap their hands twice, bow in prayer, and clap once again after their prayer. They purchase fortunes—if the fortune is bad they tie it at the site of the temple to be taken away. If the fortune is good, they keep it. Though the respect they show is admirable, I am so thankful to have a God who always listens. There is no need to buy a fortune. He has given me a book full of His promises. If I trust and obey His word, I will be blessed. Please continue to pray for the people of Japan to turn from their religious rituals and turn to Christ.

Many of you have been praying and asking for an update on our visas. We are praising the Lord last week we went to the immigration office and were given five year visas. Another blessing — two weeks ago we had a great turnout for our children's Easter activity. Please pray for all those who heard the Gospel, both children and adults.

We covet your prayers for language school, as well as, for our biggest ministry outreach, the church barbeque on May 3rd. In the past there has been great attendance. The people eat and listen to the Gospel. We now we live within five minutes (walking) of where the event is held. Several neighbors have expressed interest in attending, we are praying they will join us this year.

Thank you for your love and prayers.

In Christ's Service,

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