



Field Address  
3112-5 Nakagomi  
Saku Shi, Nagano Ken  
385-0051 Japan  
maariffel@gmail.com  
574-914-0045

Sending Church  
Grace Baptist Church  
Pastor Matt Elliott  
1830 N Michigan St.  
Plymouth, IN 46563  
(574) 936-3445

Mission Agency  
World Wide New Testament  
Baptist Missions  
P.O. Box 725  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
www.wwntbm.com

Missionaries to



“I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.” Psalms 138:1

### Greetings in Jesus' dear name,

We praise the Lord for His goodness and faithfulness during these troubling times. Our prayers go out to the things happening there in North America and in Ukraine. Recently, the news told of a Russian helicopter flying over Japan air space. The Japanese seem worried since Russia is so close to Japan. Thankfully, we know God is in control.

### Christmas events

Thank you for praying for our Christmas events. We praise the Lord for being able to share the true meaning of Christmas and the gospel message with our English students. Our church's plan to pass out baked cookies with tracks and an invitation to



all our neighbors went really well. For some, it helped stretch their faith and opened up doors to talk about their faith with their neighbors. Praise the Lord for using this ministry.

### Covid Spike

This year began with the highest ever Covid levels in this area. We are thankful that none of our church folks here have contracted it and we can continue to hold Sunday morning services and Wednesday prayer meeting. We are not having our English Classes right now but April has been sending videos to the moms for the kids to hear English and practice. She also reminded them that we are praying for them and that God loves them and that we can trust in Him. We pray that they will remember what they have heard and will trust the Lord.

### The Border is Opening for New Missionaries.

We praise the Lord that Japan is starting to open up their border which has been closed to new foreigners for most of the pandemic. The Derry and White Family are working on their paperwork now so that we can get their certificate of eligibility to apply for visas so they can move here. They plan to minister with us until they learn Japanese and then go to start new churches here in Nagano prefecture. Please pray for them to be able to get the remainder of their needed support, finish up their deputation and make all the preparations for them to come to the mission field. The Whites have their tickets already to come in August for 3-4 weeks and then, Lord willing they will be moving over officially in January of 2023.

### Preparing for Baptism and membership

We are very excited that sister Rose and sister Shoko have almost finished their new convert classes in preparation for Baptism and membership. We praise the Lord that He led Shoko to begin a new job this year which has freed her time up to be able to finish the classes and join our prayer meeting more often. She is growing a lot in the Lord and very excited about following the Lord in this step. Shoko's husband also changed jobs and attended our New Year's church event at our house. He said that he does not have to work on Sundays now and that he would like to come more to church this year. Praise God. He came last month and Michael was able to talk and witness for a good while. Please keep praying for Maeda's salvation and their daughter Lisa to understand as well.



Rose has squeezed in the classes between watching her 5 children including her twin babies who are now walking. We are looking forward to her becoming a member as well. Please pray for Rose and her family as she will be sending her children to pre-school and starting a part time job in April. Her oldest, Samantha, has learned Japanese very quickly since moving here two years ago, but is still behind in kanji and math and is being bullied at school. Please pray for her. We asked prayer for Rose's husband, Yuichi, in our last letter. He has come to church once since then and almost came last week. Please keep praying for him.



We were sad to see a member leave and another move away for work in January, but he is hoping to move back again after a while. We continue to pray for them. However, we really feel like there is a great spirit in our church and we look forward to what God will do this year. We will be taking up our Faith Promise Missions giving once again and also are planning our first church camp. This year we also started an encouragement ministry where each person in the church shares some scripture and word of encouragement with another person each week. We all rotate who we will talk with each week (men with men and women with women). It has been a real blessing and help in applying and sharing God's Word.

### Abigail's Corner

Abigail really enjoyed our church sledding and ski trip last week. She has become much better at skiing and we are very proud of her.

Thank you all for your special part in the ministry here, Michael, April, & Abigail Riffel

