

Go and Danielle Oishi Missionaries to Japan

**Kisarazu
Hope**
BAPTIST CHURCH

Full-Time Missionaries since June 2018
Current Phase: On the Field, First Church Plant

Sending Church

Support Agency

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

21220 Walnut Street
Willdomar, CA 92595
(951) 945-8744
Pastor Bruce Goddard

FBMI
MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

507 State Street
Hammond, IN 46320
Missionary No. 207
(219) 228-2850

Volume 80: Covering January 2025

Our Regulars Are Stepping Up!

Danielle's Journey

Dear Partners in the Work of God,

Glory to God! New Year's Day in Japan is one of the two spiritually darkest nationally observed holidays in Japan, as the majority of the Japanese population gather in the Shinto shrines to give what many consider to be a culturally obligatory and socially mandatory "first prayer" or *hatsumode* to idols that most of them do not even believe in. Many Christians in Japan face battles on this day, with heavy pressures from lost family members and work colleagues, and for all of these reasons, we decided to hold our own **New Year's Day Worship Service** every year at our church to begin the year worshipping our true God! Last year, only my wife and I were present, but this year, we rejoice that **we packed out our church office with 13 people**, who truly stood up for God, giving praises to our true living God when the rest of the nation were bowing their knees to dead idols! What a fantastic start it was to 2025!

Our church theme last year was "I (Jesus) Will Build My Church," taken from Matthew 16:18, and we rejoice that He clearly began doing exactly that in 2024! This year, we have decided our theme and focus for this new church that Christ has built will be "Rooted and Built Up in Him (Christ)," taken from Colossians 2:7. Generally, there are two types of people who initially gather in a church plant started from zero in a place that previously had none: one being the lost who first heard of Christ through the church plant, and the other being the saved who were searching and praying for a solid church to be planted in their city, neither of which were "rooted" anywhere and growing before being led to that church plant. The congregation gathered in our church plant is also a mix of these two backgrounds, and our focus and prayer this year is to help these precious souls now become grounded in His Word and be used of Him through our church plant as we continue to reach the lost. We immediately launched two opportunities this month for our regulars who are already saved and baptized in our church: **"Volunteers for Jesus" to open various opportunities to serve in some way** and a **church membership class** for those praying about making our church plant their official church home. We rejoice that **5 of our faithful adults have signed up for both opportunities this month!** Immediately, one of them **donated a screen** to use in our main bilingual worship service for him to also work the slides, which allowed us to implement a **Bible verse memory time** in our service, as well as provide lyric guides during our congregational singing so that those who wish to sing in both languages do not have to juggle two songbooks (and there are many gathered who truly don't want to miss out on anything)! Others are preparing to serve in other ways that will allow our church plant to do more than just what my wife and I can handle. **Especially in the areas of service, personal Bible reading, and memorizing of Scripture, our church has seen evident spiritual growth this month.** We praise God for His work in the lives of people!

Our outreach and visitation are also off to a great start. We were able to have our first family in our home for a meal this year on New Year's Day, with a saved Japanese couple who attend our church faithfully and **their two college-aged children, one who is out of church and the other who is not saved.** On January 18, we had a good visit with **the lost father of the two children who trusted Christ last month** during our Christmas outreaches. Please pray for God to work in the hearts of all of these people. As an additional blessing, **a church in Mexico and a church in England have taken our family on for support of their own initiative,** growing our financial capacity to do even more for our ministry here. To them and many more, thank you for your part in all that God is doing in Japan!

Your friends and co-laborers to Japan,
Go and Danielle Oishi

✉ go.oishi@fbmi.org

☎ (951) 200-9548

🌐 fbmi.org/missionary/oishi

📍 1-1-69 Hongo, Kisarazu, Chiba
292-0015 Japan

