



# The Shrouts to Japan

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## Newsletter – October 2023

Greetings from Texas!

### Survey Trip Report

Our last letter, we knew no one in Japan. Thanks be to God, now we know several! We were very blessed to have met a couple of Independent Baptist Missionaries who are currently serving in the Sapporo area, and we are very thankful for the Evans and the Walters families for sacrificing so much of their time and effort in showing us around.

The Evans picked us up from the airport Thursday afternoon local time, and got us safely settled in our AirBnB apartment where we stayed. We had a busy day Friday, beginning with meeting the Evans for breakfast and fellowship. They then drove us to look at housing and cars, as well as introducing us to the oldest Independent Baptist Church in Sapporo (Sapporo Bible Baptist Church), where we had the pleasure of meeting the Pastor and his mother-in-law.

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? - Romans 10:14*



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On Saturday, Jenn and I learned how to use the train system. We took the subway and Japan Rail (surface level train) from Sapporo into Kitahiroshima, and spent a very enjoyable afternoon walking around there.

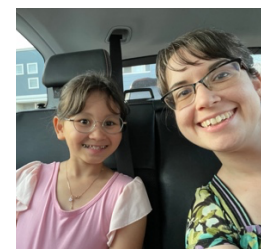
Sunday, we attended Suzuran Bible Baptist Church, the work the Evans have been faithfully ministering in for 30 years. After Sunday School and the morning service, both held entirely in



Japanese, the ladies went out for a hotdog BBQ and fellowship, and the men distributed tracts via mailbox.



Monday, Jenn and I went exploring again, around the western ward of Sapporo where we put several miles' worth of wear on our shoes. Tuesday and Wednesday we spent with the Walters, a couple close to our age. We visited the Hokkaido Shrine, the largest Shinto shrine on the island, which was busy despite the rain. We also went to several different stores to look at clothes, appliances, household items, and we were blessed to be able to fit in a 3-hour lesson at language school.



Thursday, we met another local pastor, Pastor Kosaki of Independent Baptist Tomakomai Christ Church, in Tomakomai, which is about an hour south of Sapporo. We were very blessed to be able to meet with him, as it was nowhere in our original plans. After that, we had the opportunity to return to Suzuran for their Bible Institute (classes are held every Thursday evening). There was a mixture of native Japanese and now-grown missionary kids who offered invaluable insights to the culture, attitude, and heart of the Japanese.

There is so much more to share with you, and we look forward to being able to do so. Please continue to pray for God's direction as we get back on the deputation road!

In Christ,  
Zack Shrout