

Hello from Michigan!

The Orient Express

The Lakes ~ Serving in Japan with Biblical Ministries Worldwide

July 2026

Hello from Michigan!

We are grateful for so many of you who have been praying for the Lord's ministry in Japan. In mid-June, we began a 3-month U.S. work assignment. Our plan is to share the great things we've seen God do in Japan over the last 18 months.

Busy Spring

We hosted 6 short-term missionaries in Akashi, Japan this spring. We call these short-term trips "Vision Trips", because the intent is for the workers to get an understanding of what it is like to live and serve the Lord cross-culturally. Five of the workers were from Bob Jones University, and they served with us for 2 weeks. We believe God worked in and through them through their participation in the English Cafe ministry & cultural excursions. They all enjoyed eating Japanese food as well. The team brought a great deal of energy and excitement to the English Cafe ministry. We threw 2 different Luau (Hawaiian) English Cafe events. There were special games and snacks that were a lot of fun for all those who attended them. We also had a new student join one event, as well as a couple students return who hadn't attended since Christmas. We are thankful for these connections that often come through special events.

The 6th person (Caleb) had planned on a 1-month visit, but God's plan was different. After 2 weeks of serving with us, Caleb needed an emergency visit to the hospital and later a surgery on his ear. He is recovering well now, but the doctor recommended him to delay his return flight to late July, to make sure his recovery from surgery is more complete. Please pray for Caleb's continued recovery to go well.



Serving with the Vision Trip Team!

Exciting start to a new English Cafe

Uozumi Chapel is a church that we have attended about twice per month for almost 18 months. We began a ministry partnership with this church in April. Going forward, they want to do an English Cafe at their church twice per month. On the evening of our first English Cafe, one of the students ("Karen") talked with the pastor's wife after the event. She made a profession of faith, and proceeded to start attending Sunday worship services. Karen also shared her testimony during her third visit to the Sunday worship service. Please pray for her to grow spiritually.

Also, this church has decided to continue the English Cafe while we are in the States! There are 3 young adults who are international students at a nearby technical college. These 3 are professing believers (2 are newer believers through the ministry of this church) and will be the conversation table leaders. Pray for them as they serve in this role while we are gone.



U.S. work assignment plan

We will share ministry updates with supporting churches and families. We enjoy telling people about God's faithfulness and grace. Our long distance trips include Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Texas. Most of our time will be in SW Michigan. Skip is scheduled to preach four times so far.



We are helping Issei (our missionary teammate) with his support-raising this summer. We are looking for opportunities for Issei to share his ministry vision and his financial goals with people who have a heart to help reach the 2nd largest unreached people group in the world.

REFUEL Conference is a Biblical Ministries Worldwide (BMW) missionary event taking place in Vermont later this month. We will connect with other missionaries as well as BMW support staff. Please pray for safe travel for us and that we would be refreshed by the Bible teaching and fellowship during this 1-week event.

Online English Cafe ~ We will provide a free, online English Cafe to our regular students in Japan who want to practice English while we are in the U.S. We have some Americans that have served with us in Japan previously, who have volunteered to help us provide this fun event.

We are excited to announce Pastor Nozomu and his wife Mayu are coming to visit us in Kalamazoo, August 3-11. He is the senior pastor of Tsuchiyama Christ Church. We have been doing English Cafe there on Fridays for over 4 years now. They plan to share what God has done through English Cafe in their church. Please pray for safe travel and that God would be glorified during their visit.



Psalm 19:1

*"The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."*

Points of Praise:

- Salvation of Karen at our newest English Cafe location
- Successful ear surgery & steady recovery for Caleb
- Safe travel to the USA for our 3-month work assignment

Points of Prayer:

- Karen's spiritual growth
- Continued healing and recovery for Caleb
- For God to be glorified as we share ministry updates
- For God to raise up more laborers to serve Him in Akashi, Japan

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