

Vision Team Coming!

The Orient Express

The Lakes ~ Serving in Japan with Biblical Ministries Worldwide

May 2026

Hello prayer warriors!

Thank you for praying for the Lord's ministry in Japan. We are in a very exciting time of ministry this month. Lord willing, we will welcome 6 Americans to join us in ministry. Five of them make up a 2-week Vision Team from Bob Jones University. The plan is for them to arrive this Wednesday. Early next week, a young man from Appalachian Bible college will arrive to serve with us for 1 month. Having young adults support the Lord's English Cafe ministry usually brings energy and enthusiasm into the ministry. The hosting churches enjoy these opportunities.

The short-term mission trip the Americans are going on is called a Vision Trip. The purpose is to give all of these Christians a vision of what foreign missions is like. What is the ministry activity like? What is it like to live in a foreign culture? How could God specifically use them as a missionary? Along with participating in the English Cafe ministry, they will have opportunities to interact with the Japanese pastors and church members of our partnering churches. We will also take them to sites to show them the Japanese culture and spiritual beliefs. Please pray this would be a great experience that provides a vision of what God is doing here.



The group of 5 coming from Bob Jones University.

New English Cafe!

God has opened a new opportunity with a local church to do a regularly scheduled English Cafe. It is at Uozumi Chapel. They had been doing a monthly international worship service & meal, but the church leaders decided to make a change to an International English Cafe & meal. This has been an outreach mainly to students (Japanese & Internationals) who attend and live on campus at the nearby National Institute of Technology. We have been encouraged by the heart of this church to reach out to their community, and look forward to serving with them through this English Cafe.



First International Cafe & Meal ~ Making Okonomiyaki (a batter with cabbage and meat, and cooked like a pancake)

1-on-1 Bible Study

Skip did a 1-on-1 Bible study with a non-Christian man named "Charlie". They did the 7-week Christianity Explored program which studies the book of Mark. Charlie is very open to studying the Bible and he asks very good questions. Upon the conclusion of the study, he said the challenge of becoming a Christian is the problems he fears it would create with his parents and his wife. He is the oldest son and is responsible for all Buddhist activities related to funerals, gravesite cleaning, and maintaining the Buddhist altar in their home. Please pray for Charlie to trust Jesus and believe by faith in Him. This Tuesday they will be watching and discussing the movie, "The Case for Christ".

Language Study Milestone

Keturah closed the chapter on a valuable activity for just over the last 2 years. Keturah had one-on-one weekly Japanese language lessons from Mrs. E in Himeji. She found her teaching style enjoyable and effective, and has been able to grow in her ability to communicate in Japanese. We praise God that He brought Keturah and Mrs. E together for this opportunity. Please pray for Keturah's next steps of Japanese language study.

Deuteronomy 13:4

“You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”

Points of Praise:

- The Easter-themed English Cafe went well. The students became very quiet when faced with the Bible’s teaching on eternity, though a couple expressed questions/interest.
- We had a good meeting with a lawyer who will help with our next VISA application in 2027
- Keturah’s Japanese language lessons with Mrs. E were very helpful & a blessing

Points of Prayer:

- Salvation of Charlie, who studied the book of Mark with Skip
- Wisdom to lead the 6 Americans coming for a short-term Vision Trip to Japan
- Opportunities for good conversations with English Cafe students & churches to be encouraged through the Vision Trip members
- Pray for our Japanese teammate (Issei) to raise support while in the USA for 3 months. Please pray for him to receive opportunities to share ministry presentations
- Wisdom to plan a productive U.S. work assignment for us while being in the USA 3 months this summer

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