Back to the fields of Japan!

The Orient Express
The Lakes ~ Serving in Japan with Biblical Ministries Worldwide **October 2026**

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11



We had a great visit to the U.S. this past summer. We were able to share about what God is doing in Japan with all of our supporting churches as well as dozens of individuals / families.

Summer Highlights

The Biblical Ministries Worldwide (BMW) **Refuel Conference** this year was in Warren, Vermont. All BMW North American missionaries as well as any global missionaries who are in the U.S. were welcomed to join. It was an encouraging week with solid Biblical teaching, great worship, and encouraging fellowship with BMW teammates. The Refuel conference was a blessing for both of us.



Online English Cafe – Skip was able to lead an ONLINE English Cafe during our 3-month visit to America. There were a total of 8 English Cafes through video calls. This ministry was supported by 3 former Vision Trip teammates to help lead the conversation "tables." The purpose was to continue helping the Japanese cafe students with their English while continuing to be a messenger of God's truth to them during the summer. This continued contact helped maintain relationships and was appreciated by the students.

We **hosted a Japanese pastor and his wife** for 1 week in August. Pastor Nozomu and his wife, Mayu, serve the Lord at Tsuchiyama Christ Church. We have been doing English Cafe at their church for over 4 years. They were able to share with several pastors in Michigan about what God is doing through the English Cafe ministry in their church.



The **last highlight** we'd like to share is being able to help **Issei Nakamukai** with his support-raising. Issei is a BMW missionary who is an important member of our ministry team. Issei is willing and able to help the ministry in many different ways. His primary role is as an interpreter during our English Cafe events and also when Skip preaches.

Issei was able to share his vision for ministry with many different churches and individuals. He has raised his financial support level from 16% to 41% (so far). Issei and his fiancée, Erlin, will be getting married this Saturday, October 10th. Please pray for them to have a marriage and a missionary career that glorifies the Lord.

Looking Forward

We certainly hit the ground running upon our return to Japan. We led English Cafe events at all 4 of our partnering churches our first week after arriving to Akashi, Japan.

- At **Uozumi Chapel** we were encouraged by the efforts of the 3 international students who continued the cafe while we were in the States.
- In **Himeji**, many of our regular students attended. Through the topic we were able to share that in following Christ, He is to be our highest priority in life. This was a challenging truth for them.
- In **Kakogawa**, we reconnected with Pastor Nozomu & his wife Mayu (who visited us in the U.S.), and had 3 new students join English Cafe.
- For the English Cafe in **Akashi**, we have tried both afternoon and evening times. We will be holding the cafe in the evenings, as there is a high school student with a high desire to join, as he plans to study abroad. Please pray that he and others will join this English Cafe.

We have heard from several people expressing interest in serving with us for short-term mission trips in 2027. Thus far, we don't have many confirmations, but we trust God to provide for our staffing needs. We do appreciate the many short-term workers that have served with us, but we are asking God to provide longer term workers. We ask you to pray that God would stir hearts of Americans to commit to 2 or 3 years of mission work. The ministry could benefit from adding another table leader for all of our English Cafe locations.

BMW Japan is meeting together in Nagoya for the 2nd year in a row during November. This is an encouraging time for us to pray together, have fellowship, and also discuss ministry strategies to possibly help each other. We will be joined by some BMW staff from America as well as some individuals that are prayerfully considering missionary careers in Japan.



Rice harvesting is beginning in our area. With that comes fall festivals heavily connected to Shinto beliefs to thank, please, or seek protection from the gods. We have been nightly hearing drum practices in preparation for events (a main one being carrying Shinto shrines along the streets) in our community this weekend. It is another vivid reminder of the cultural pulls toward the darkness versus the one true all-knowing, all-powerful, living God.

Points of Praise:

- We thank the Lord for a great & refreshing visit to the U.S.
- We are thankful for God's provision of housing and transportation during our visit
- Great encouragement during BMW's Refuel conference in Vermont
- A well-attended ONLINE English Cafe during our 3 months in the U.S.
- The opportunity for Pastor Nozomu and his wife Mayu to visit us in Michigan
- For God's provision of additional support for Issei Nakamukai this summer

Points of Prayer:

- For Issei & Erlin to have a marriage and missionary career that glorifies Christ
- For God to soften the hearts of the Japanese non-Christians that attend our English Cafes
- Pray for an encouraging meeting with BMW missionaries serving in Japan on Nov. 10th
- For God to provide American workers who are willing to serve the Lord with us for 2 or 3 years.

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To partner financially with us:

Checks can be made out to "Biblical Ministries Worldwide" and mailed to:
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*** Please include "Lake / 4046", on the memo line ***

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