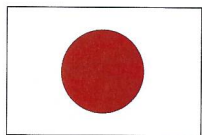
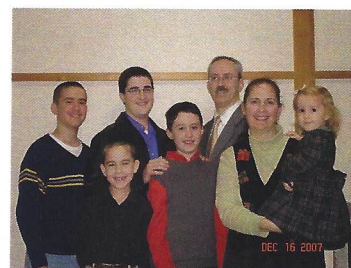


The Stanford Family



Establishing Independent Baptist
Churches in **JAPAN**



"... I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." Acts 13:47

September 2019

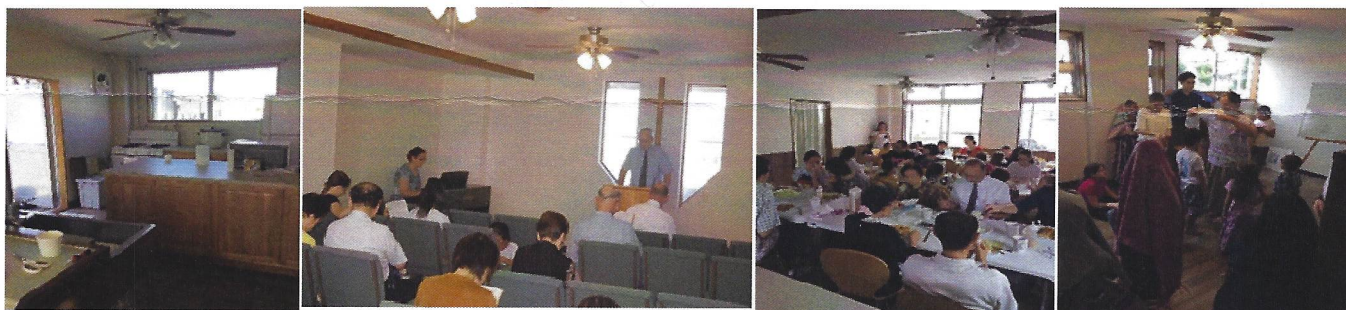
Dear Pastor and praying friends,

First let me share with you some exciting news. We held our first service in our new building on Sunday, September 15. After over 2 years of working, waiting and, of course, praying, the interior of the building was finished enough for us to move in. There are still a lot of unfinished areas in the inside and outside but what an incredible feeling it was to have our first services there. This new location is a blessing in so many ways. Because of our Sunday schedule, most people come for our morning service at 11:00 AM and do not leave until the afternoon. The building we rented and used for 12 years was small and though we were thankful for it, it was crowded. At our new location, our church kids have so much more room to play; inside and outside. We are in a great neighborhood where there are parks close by for the kids to play and go for walks. The sidewalk in front of our property has a steady stream of foot traffic from the nearby neighborhoods. Also, there are 2 universities and a trade school close by. We have placed 2 large crosses on 2 sides of the outside of the building and will soon put up a new sign. Please join us in praying that people will come and hear the truth from God's word.

Let me share with you some other blessings and things to join us in praying about. Several months back, we had a man come to the church for the first time. Bro. Hasebe is deaf and lives here in the city of Nagaoka. He began coming to our mid-week prayer service and was excited when he learned about our new property as it was close to his home. He has come to our first 2 Sunday services at our new location and even brought a visitor with him the first week. Please pray for us as we work to be a blessing to this dear man. He blesses us each week with his sweet spirit. As he is deaf and cannot speak, we are finding ways to help him through writing out sermon outlines and notes.

We had our second Sunday in our new location on September 22. Again, we have so much to be thankful for, but let me share one special. Mrs. Maruyama has been coming to the church for several years she is a Christian and brings her 2 young boys each week. Her husband is not a Christian but, thankfully, has allowed her to come to church. Recently, he began to express some interest in the Bible and, in fact, has been coming during the week to study the Bible at the church. On our second Sunday, he came with his family to church. We eat lunch at church each Sunday, and he ate with us. He then stayed with his kids as they were a part of our children ministry on Sunday afternoon. Please join us in praying for this man that as the Lord works in his heart, he will respond.

Pictures at new building: Left to Right, church kitchen, auditorium, lunch at church, kids acting out story of Noah.



In His Service,

Your Missionaries to Japan,

The Stanford's

Russ, Joy, Will, Josh, Drew, Ben and Hope

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