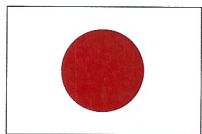
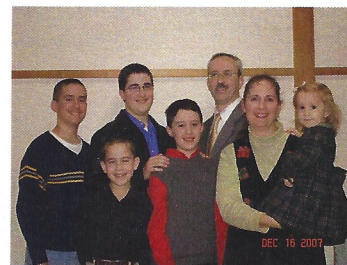


The Stanford Family



Establishing Independent Baptist
Churches in **JAPAN**



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

June 2020

Dear Pastor and praying friends,

Hello from the Stanford family here in Nagaoka, Japan. The virus still affects us here in Nagaoka, like I am sure it does everyone. First, let me give you an update on what we are doing. Awhile back, when cases here in Japan were increasing, we made some changes to our schedule. Before these changes, our Sunday schedule was our AM service at 11:00 then we would all eat lunch together at church. The afternoon would include our children's classes, special fellowship time, prayer time and adult classes. We continued to have our regular morning service at 11:00 each week. But, we discontinued lunch at all afternoon activities for a few weeks. Recently, we started doing our children's classes in the morning at 9:30. We have certainly not pressured our people to come if they are concerned. Some people here have been restricted by their employer as to what they can do outside of work and that has hindered some from coming. But, we have had good attendance. At the same time all this was starting, we split our children's classes into 2 groups. We had been all meeting together since the start of our church. But, there was a need to split up the age differences of our kids. We are praying this will go well and will be a help to the children's spiritual growth. Back to our response to the covid situation, it has been a blessing how the people in the church have responded. We ask everyone to wear mask at all times while at church and to distance as much as possible. Mask wearing is not a real problem here in Japan. It has been a part of the culture here for a long time. We have "experimented" lately and served lunch to everyone for one Sunday. It went well and everyone was very cooperative. It was nice having that time of fellowship back, we have really missed it.

We do have a very needful prayer request. We have had several people coming to church for quite a while who are not yet saved. Our problem is that since the covid situation started, most of them have not been coming to the services. Some are continuing with individual bible studies, and that is great. Please pray that they will resume coming and that, of course, these dear people will trust the Lord as their Savior. One good result of the covid situation is that we have begun to stream our services and children's classes on Facebook. We have seen a good number of people reached through this media and are praying the Lord will continue to use it. You are welcome to view our services on the Agape Bible Baptist Church Facebook page.

As for our family, we are doing well and trying to keep safe during these interesting times. Our city of Nagaoka has seen only a few cases of covid so far. The country's capitol, Tokyo, and other areas have seen their numbers going up and down. Probably one of our greatest concerns is our son, Drew. As we have mentioned before, he works at a government work center for handicapped people. They do a good job at his work protecting the workers there. He has to commute on public transportation each day. This is probably our greatest concern and we would appreciate your prayers for Drew's safety. Our everyday life has not changed much. We do wear mask anytime we go anywhere outside our home. Again, in Japan wearing mask was already a regular part of the culture. People regularly wear them here during flu and allergy seasons. We had a shortage at first, like many other areas of the world. But now they are readily available. As always, thank you all for your prayers and support. We are praying for each of you as well as we navigate these challenging times.

In His service

Your Missionaries to Japan,

The Stanford's

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