

Regular prayer update for Ian Smith,
Converge Worldwide Missionary to Japan.

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Prayer Works



Path near the beach in Ichinomiya. (January)

Thank you for your prayers during the last couple of months! There are a few things that you can be in prayer for regarding my ministry here in Japan. Please pray in particular for Fu-san, a Chinese student I have been reaching out to and for K-san, a lady from the neighborhood who has continued coming to church after attending an English bible study I did two years ago.

Firstly, thank you for your prayers during the Christmas Season--It can be lonely living overseas during the Holidays, but thankfully I was able to share them with good friends and had encouraging fellowship. Here's a picture of a turkey I roasted for the Christmas Party at Masago Baptist Church.

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New picture soon?

Intercession Points:

Please pray for China and Japan as the Coronavirus continues to spread here in East Asia. Pray for wisdom and discernment for world leaders and for health professionals as they tackle this epidemic.

Pray I'll keep my wits about me as I prepare to file my Japanese taxes before March 15th.

Please pray for the Mehns as they prepare



Roast Turkey for the Masago Christmas Fellowship Meal.

It has been more than six months since I began dating Maki Okada, a wonderful young lady here in Chiba. I would appreciate your prayers for our relationship as we seek clarity regarding God's will concerning our possible future together. Over the past few months I've had the opportunity to meet with her parents, pastors, and siblings. Please pray for clear communication and discernment regarding our future. Maki and I have discussed the possibility of a short trip to the States so that she can have a chance to meet my parents.

I have continued to try to develop more discipline and have lost over 20 kilos since August--or around fifty pounds. This has been accomplished with a combination of a ketogenic diet and intermittent fasting. Please pray that I can remain diligent even as my weight has become more stubborn in falling off over the past month.

Japanese Tax Season is here, and is easily the most stressful time of the year for me in Japan--with my insufficient Japanese language ability and very unique financial situation as a missionary, I never feel like I know what I am doing. Please pray that this year's taxes would be submitted early and without too much stress.

to return to the States after decades in service to the Lord here in Japan.

Please continue to pray for my language studies. I'm hoping to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test at level 3 in July.

Please pray for my relationship with Maki that it would be glorifying to God and that the both of us would be prayerful and discerning regarding God's will for the two of us.

Please continue to pray for my spiritual, emotional, and physical health.

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For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely

given us in the One he loves. -Ephesians 1:4-6



At Moriya Beach in Katsuura, southern Chiba.
(November)

Please continue to pray for my Japanese studies. I'll hopefully be taking the Japanese Language Proficiency Test this July which has given increased focus to my studies.

John and Elaine Mehn are scheduled to retire from full time service in Japan with Converge in April. Please pray for there preparation to return to the States and for the final goodbyes and logistics that are involved in this season. John will continue to serve with Converge as part of the Asian Impact Team. With the Mehns retiring, the Japan field is losing decades of experience and know-how. Please pray for the the Luskys (raising support), Chapmans (who will be returning from home assignment in the spring), Jane Fisher and I was we continue to work to share the Gospel here in Japan.



It's cold-smoking season, I bought a meat slicer and vacuum sealer.

As many of you are probably aware, there is a public health crisis in China with the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus. Japan is right next door to China and Chiba is the gateway to Japan. Please pray for national leaders, healthcare workers, and the general public to keep calm and be prepared. There are already multiple cases of the virus here in Japan and it is likely going to spread more widely. With the 2020 Summer Olympics scheduled for this August, there is a lot of concern regarding whether the virus will have been fully dealt with by then.

With this in mind, I will likely be writing shorter but more frequent prayer updates to keep you abreast of the current situation, in my life, ministry and here in Japan more broadly. We know that the Lord hears the effective fervent prayers of godly men and women, so please join with me in praying for those that are suffering in China and around the world from this growing pandemic.



View from Nokogiriyama in southern Chiba. (February)

I sincerely appreciate those who read these updates in their entirety (and pray over them)! I am especially grateful for those that have sacrificially given towards this ministry among the Japanese. If you feel lead to make a financial commitment towards reaching the Japanese with the Gospel, [you can find out more about how to support my work in Japan here](#). All gifts are tax-deductible.

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