

## March 2020

*"Now may the God of peace... equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him...." - Hebrews 13:20-21*



When we last wrote we had just finished up a two week whirlwind outreach with Jana Alayra across 7 cities in the Philippines. Our plan had been to leave there for Japan flying through Hong Kong. But we had to quickly reschedule our flights and rearrange our plans because of the corona virus (*Hong Kong was shut down for international travel*). With a diverted itinerary we continued on our journey and arrived in Hiroshima, Japan on February 4. Calvary Chapel has a church there in the nearby city of Iwakuni that ministers to a US marine base. We have had a relationship with the Pastor of the church for several years (*Pastor Glenn Phipps*). Over the past year Bible Fellowship has been sending over missionaries for three month stints to come along side the fellowship. Our desire was to come over and help out for a few months in any way we could.

It did not take long for us to run into our first opportunity to adjust to the new location. When we left the Philippines the weather was a balmy eighties (*on a cold day*). When we arrived in Iwakuni we immediately had to start layering up our clothes as the average temperature was in the frigid forties! Bundled in as many jackets as we could fit on our next opportunity was overcoming the language barrier. Fortunately 7-11 is spelled the same the world around so we were able to hunt down a place to grab some snacks!

We loved setting into a little apartment that the church had rented for the missionaries. Jen and Hallel spent the first few days decorating our new home while I got situated into a routine at the church. The first day Pastor Glenn asked if I could help redo their sound system. I had to smile at the request as working on a sound system was how I first got plugged into Bible Fellowship years earlier. A little bit of carpentry (*built a base to raise up a speaker*) and a couple of orders to replace some equipment and things started to sound great!

We spent many of our evenings just hanging out with the Phipps family (*they have five boys ranging in age from one to eighteen*). Jen, Hallel, and I had a wonderful time learning countless new games as we laughed the night away fellowshiping with this amazing family!

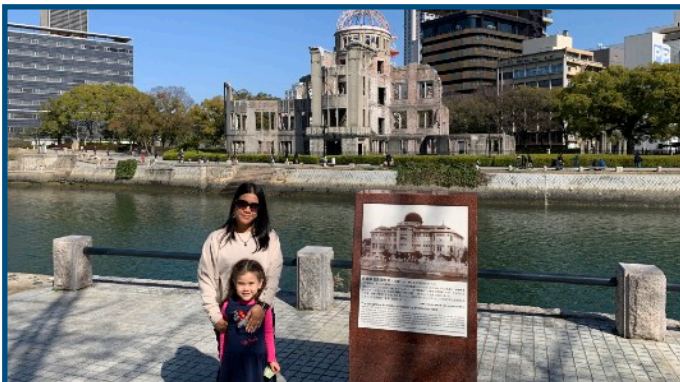






Pastor Glenn asked if I would be willing to teach their mid-week services while we are here. He had just finished up the book of Ezekiel and was preparing to begin the Book of Daniel. I excitedly agreed (*I love the book of Daniel*). We have spent the last three weeks working our way through the book a chapter every week. I was also asked to fill in for Pastor Glenn on March 1 while he traveled to Calvary Chapel Okinawa to teach at a men's conference. In praying about what to teach the Lord put on the heart to pull out of the Old Testament. Just like so many other Calvary Chapel's, Calvary Iwakuni teaches book by book through the New Testament on Sunday mornings and the Old Testament on Wednesday nights. If people are only able to attend the Sunday services it means they are missing out on the blessing of the Old Testament. The New Testament sits on the foundation and history of the Old Testament. If there is any doubt on how important the Old Testament is the New Testament lets us know. The New Testament included approximately 250 quotations from the Old Testament! If we include indirect or partial quotations the number jumps to more than 1,000! The quotes come from every book of the Old Testament with the exception of Obadiah. So which book did the Lord put on my heart to teach, Obadiah of course. When I shared with Pastor Glenn my thoughts for the Sunday service he had to laugh. He said he has told more jokes about Obadiah than he has every quoted from the book. When he told me the jokes it was my turn to belly laugh. He said he

considered naming one of his boys Obadiah. To be specific he wanted to use the name Obadiah John. That way he could give his son the nick name, "Obi-wan"!



One of the reasons why I love missions is because you get to do things you would never ordinarily do (*or maybe even should be allowed to do*). For example those who know me can testify to the fact that I am not necessarily gifted in construction. If your computer needs to be fixed I might be the guy to call, but if you need a wall built you would likely call someone (*anyone*) else. Keeping that in mind I loved the opportunity to help remodel the kitchen at the church. Admittedly my favorite part was demo day when we got to tear out the old walls and kitchen. I did have a more than a few moments of doubt standing among the debris wondering if we could be able to rebuild (*hopefully improve*) what we had torn down. What helped with motivation was a challenge from Pastor Glenn. He threw down the gauntlet and challenged Keegan (*his assistant*) and I to finish the remodel in one week (*before he came back from Okinawa*). So the work began in earnest to see if a couple of novices (*with help from some precious saints in the church*) could rebuild the walls, install the plumbing and electrical, and put in a donated kitchen set before Pastor Glenn returned. Were we successful? Stay tuned and we will update you in next month's newsletter!



Love,  
David, Jen, and Hallel