



Robert and Lisa Stewart

Serving with Mission to the World in Japan

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We returned to the States for William's graduation from Covenant College, and what a joyful occasion it was. William worked hard for this accomplishment, and as his father, I could not be more proud of the man he has become. It was a wonderful time for our family to celebrate together and thank God for His faithfulness through these years.

A further blessing of the trip was the people we were able to see along the way.

Some we spent days with. I had two days with my sister in Florida and two days with Lisa's parents in Tennessee. Some we saw only for an evening, dinner with my cousin, time with my nieces, lunch with my college roommate and his wife, and a meal with dear friends after graduation. Others we saw only briefly, measured almost in moments instead of hours.

One of the sweetest surprises came after graduation when I was reunited with a dear college friend whom I had not seen in almost thirty years. Surprisingly, our sons, William and Noah, were roommates this past year. In the middle of a crowded room filled with graduates and families, we finally found each other again. After decades, the first thing she said to me was, "Robert, we have gotten old!" We laughed, but beneath the humor was the realization of how quickly life moves. Truly, where does the time go?

Then came perhaps the most unexpected blessing of all. Some longtime friends and faithful supporters, Mark and Julie, read in our prayer letter that we would be in Chattanooga. Without telling us, they drove seven hours just to surprise us before church on Sunday morning. We only had fifteen minutes together before they had to get back on the road, but

somehow in those few moments we managed to share the “cliff notes” of thirty years of life and ministry. We laughed. We cried. And then, far too quickly, it was time to part again.

As I have reflected on all these moments, I have been overwhelmed by what a gift it is to belong to the body of Christ. There is something beautiful about reconnecting with believers after months, years, or even decades apart and discovering that the fellowship is still there. The conversations begin almost immediately where they once left off. The bond remains because it was never rooted merely in shared experiences, but in Christ Himself.

And yet, every reunion also carries a quiet sadness.

When you see people you deeply love but rarely get to be with, your heart remembers what it has missed. You long for another conversation, one more story, one more shared meal, one more round of laughter. Even in joyful reunions, there is the ache of separation and the painful awareness that time moves quickly and earthly meetings are always temporary.

Perhaps that is why the lyrics from *Hymn of Heaven* have come to mind so often lately:

“And on that day, we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice, a thousand generations
Sing, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.’”

What a comfort to remember that one day there will be no hurried goodbyes, no distances to cross, no passing years, and no wondering when we will meet again. One day, the family of God from every nation and every generation will stand together before the Lamb. And all the friendships, fellowship, prayers, sacrifices, and shared stories along the way will find their fulfillment in Him.

Until then, what a gift these small reunions are, little reminders that we belong to one another because we belong to Christ.

Thank you for being part of that story with us.



Summer Ministry in Nagoya

Nagoya Christian School finished the school year on June 13, and the summer months were full of preparation for the 2026–27 school year. Curriculum was ordered, classrooms were prepared, orientation was held for new teachers, and class assignments were made as we got ready to welcome students back in the fall.

This summer we also hosted four college ministry summer interns. While we were not directly involved in their daily schedules, Lisa and I were asked to serve as mentors during their time in Japan. We were thankful for the opportunity to encourage them as they experienced ministry and life here firsthand.

In June, our team leader and his family began a one-year Home Ministry Assignment. During their absence, Robert will take on additional responsibilities as assistant team leader. We appreciate prayer for wisdom, balance, and strength during this season.

In July, Nisshin Christ Church hosted Kids' Gospel Week. This year's theme was "Treasure," and we were excited to welcome a group of college students from California who assisted with the outreach. Lisa served as the point person on the field for the team as we worked together to share the Gospel with children and families in our community.

Finally, August brought the arrival of new teachers at Nagoya Christian School. Please pray that they continue to transition smoothly into life and ministry in Japan and feel encouraged and supported as they begin this new chapter.

Financial Need

The Lord has opened new opportunities for ministry and leadership. In Robert's role as assistant team leader, he has been invited to participate in leadership meetings with other team leaders across the Asia-Pacific region. These opportunities have allowed him to

contribute to broader conversations within MTW leadership and to encourage younger missionaries entering the field.

After nearly thirty years of ministry in Japan, Lisa and Robert have found great joy in mentoring younger families, sharing ministry experience, and helping parents navigate educational decisions for their children. We are grateful that the Lord continues to provide opportunities to serve not only through church planting and education, but also through encouragement and leadership within the missionary community.

Attending these international meetings and fulfilling these additional responsibilities requires both time and financial resources, placing additional strain on our support budget. In order to continue serving effectively in these expanding ministry roles, we need to seek additional ministry partners.

Would you please pray for our support-raising efforts in the months ahead?

At present, our account balance is approximately \$12,000, while Mission to the World requires a minimum reserve of \$16,000 in order to help prevent missionary accounts from slipping into deficit.

One of the greatest ways you can help is through connection. Introducing us to churches, mission committees, or individuals who may have an interest in the work God is doing in Japan is an invaluable encouragement and practical support to our ministry. We are deeply thankful for the many people who have faithfully stood with us through the years, and we are trusting the Lord to continue providing through His people.

Nagoya Christian School has a website!



Check it out at nagoyachristian.org

From the Field: Prayer Needs

Nagoya Christian School:

Praise God for new teachers raising support to come to Nagoya Christian School. We currently have two MTW missionaries raising support: a science teacher and a history teacher, both hoping to arrive in the next six months. We are also looking for an elementary teacher and 11-month interns for the 2027-2028 school year.

Pray for NCS to have more students. We currently have 13 students committed for the 2027-2028 school year. We are praying for 20 students at the start of the next school year, so please join us in asking God to lead more students to our school.

Nisshin Christ Church:

Praise God with us for the ordination of a Japanese pastor for the church. He has almost finished the long process of ordination in the PCJ (Presbyterian Church in Japan), and we look forward to his call as the lead pastor of Nisshin Church. Pray for God to give him wisdom and discernment in his calling.

Pray for *Hospi*, Nisshin Church's outreach to college students. The weekly gatherings will resume at the end of September as students start a new semester. College students are often more open to the gospel than others in Japan, so please pray for open hearts.

Stewart Family:

Pray for Robert as Assistant Team Leader, as he has more responsibilities while our team leader is on HMA until June 2027.

Pray for Lisa as she teaches at the school, as well as helping at Nisshin Church with Moms and Kids Club and Sunday School.

Pray for more opportunities for hospitality in our home.

Pray for our adult children: William as he adjusts to his job in Knoxville as Assistant Worship Director at Christ Covenant PCA, and Isabel as she finishes her senior year at Belmont University. Pray for direction as she applies to graduate programs in Speech and Language Pathology for next year.

Pray for all four of us to remain close to Jesus, trusting in His care for us.