

Esakis in Osaka

Peace I leave with you my peace I give you. John 14:27a



How Are Things In Japan?

Jesus: "I've Got This"
Isaiah 41:13 K. Esaki

Cherry Blossom
Viewing—No one
Invited Covid19

Things feel eerily normal. Most people still go to work by subway, with weekend travel discouraged. Restaurants are open, but we are told, "Please don't go out at night." Wearing masks is part of the culture as is bowing so we are told that's the key. A lighthearted measure of social distancing is shown on TV with two penguins, laid out end to end. However, the Governor of Tokyo says that we are in a "life or death situation" (4/3). The US Embassy's Alert shows little confidence in Japan's handling. **Please pray that the government will make the right decisions, and that the cases in this aging country will be lower than expected.**

Personally, we have been proactive about social distancing for a month and our church has been closed for that long. As with a lot of people, online meetings have been a source of encouragement. Church staff meetings, Bible studies and prayer continue that way. Sermons are pre-recorded in an empty room. We check up on members and send messages and drawings like the ones above (one inspired by our grandson).

CitytoCity Japan has been following our prospective church planters--14. We are offering an online prayer meeting, a preaching cohort and one-on-one coaching to encourage planters in this difficult season.

Our Children: Hana & Mae
They left NYC on March 25 for North Carolina. Marcia's brother and wife, Larry and Marie Cone, invited them to their nearby rental property. Remote working has made this

possible. Eisuke is going on nine months, and Hana is pregnant so we are grateful for this safe haven.

Prayer Requests

- People's heart openness during this time

- That online coaching for church planters in April and May could be done well
- For our own family's spiritual and physical health, and for Japanese pastors' health also