



February 1, 2014

Dear Friend,

### **What exactly do you do all week?!**

Ha ha ha. A hilarious Japanese surfer dude once commented to us that a ministry job is awesome because you can work just once a week on Sundays. Well, we want that job! On a serious note, Ted's job has shifted pretty radically over the past year, compared to the first 6 years here in Japan. Whereas 80% of our time was previously spent in various forms of youth ministry and worship service operations, now we have passed those duties to young leaders, and are focusing our energies elsewhere.

#### **Strategic Books & Tools**

We use a handful of tools for outreach and discipleship purposes. And our church here has a great team of translators. Ted has enjoyed shaping and editing many of these. We also started a special Welcome Team that hands out a free gift to church visitors and helps to connect them to a small group.



#### **Evangelism & Discipleship Classes**

Discipleship is relationship. It's not classes! But good events can really help to speed things up. Welcome Class helps people take a next step towards faith. Victory Weekend helps to boost faith & break bad patterns. Equip+ is a series of classes to develop leadership skills. Ted (and a team) run all these classes. Work! But fun!



#### **Database & Systems**

Numbers. They're so important, God put a book called Numbers in the Bible! And as long as one person in our city doesn't know Christ, our church is not big enough. Ted's developing a database and new systems to track where and how our church is growing.

Unchurched Guests			Small Group Attendance			Baptisms		
2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2013 Q4	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2013 Q4	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2013 Q4
17	29	23	234	233	235	4	7	7

#### **Personal Evangelism & Discipleship**

These first two boys (**Shoichi** and **Keisuke**) found Christ in 2013, and got baptized this past November. They love Jesus! In our next letter, we'll also tell you about one of Lauren's friends who recently crossed the line of faith. In the mean time, be praying for these others: **Koki, Sotaro, Hide, Kuon, Yori and Rikako**. They're slowly opening up!



Our plans to return home are on track. A close friend just announced she'll be getting married in Japan on June 14, so we'll be flying home just after that. Pray for us, for a fruitful final stretch.

**Finishing strong,**

*Ted and Lauren*