

SPOTLIGHT ON VIETNAM

Japan Mission continues to work with ministry partners to make Bibles available in China, North Korea and parts of Southeast Asia. We recently received the following report from one of our ministry partners who are printing and distributing Bibles in Vietnam:

"Many in the West have different understandings about the situation in Vietnam. This is understandable, since it is complicated. In January 2007, Vietnam signed a World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement, in which Vietnam agreed to allow religious freedom.

"Shortly after this WTO agreement was signed, Vietnam allowed Western evangelists to hold open air meetings in Hanoi and Saigon, the two largest cities in Vietnam. But what was not seen by the international community was what happened behind the scenes. When we were near Hanoi, local people who had gone to the crusade in Hanoi told us that when they went back to their village, the police came and knew that they had been to the crusade. And the police told them sternly, "There will be no Christianity in this village."

"In the last few years, Vietnam was put back on the list for committing religious persecution. If this was proven, it would have threatened Vietnam's trade with the West. So, the Vietnamese government once again allowed a Christian crusade to take place. This seemed to silence the Western voices, but it didn't change the situation behind the scenes. There is still religious persecution.

"For this reason, our Vietnamese contact said that if they were not careful with distributing the 20,000 tribal Bibles that we had printed, then the Bibles could be confiscated and destroyed by local police in the countryside, where the Christians live. So, our contact could not have many pastors come together to meetings where they could pick up the Bibles. Instead, he went from village to village to distribute a few boxes of Bibles to each small village church. This took almost a year to complete."

The need for Bibles in Vietnam continues to be great. Bibles are currently being printed and plans are underway to distribute these Bibles in the coming months. **Pray** for wisdom, discernment and God's protection as this project moves forward.



JAPAN MISSION

CALLED TO SERVE

July / August 2026

THE GRACE OF GOD

Cameron and Gretchen Wright joined Japan Mission as missionaries in August 2025, together with Sayler (1-year-old daughter) from the USA. Gretchen gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Thomas, in Jan 2026. Cameron recently shared his testimony as follows:



Cameron, Gretchen, Sayler & Thomas Wright

"I was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee.

Memphis is located within the **Bible Belt** of America, a region known for its strong social and cultural acceptance of Christianity. There is a church on almost every corner, and believing in God is the cultural norm. I grew up in a Christian family, attended a Christian church, and went to a Christian school. My whole life was saturated with all things Christianity.

"Because of this, I grew up assuming I was a Christian. It was simply what everyone around me was, and I was doing the things I thought a Christian was supposed to do—going to church, trying to be a good person, and avoiding obvious wrongs.

"My understanding of a relationship with God was built entirely on trying to be good enough before Him. I believed it was all about doing the right things to make sure I would get to Heaven. So, I tried to avoid things like cussing, drinking, smoking, or anything else that I thought God

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would disapprove of. In my mind, if I checked all the right boxes, I would make it to Heaven.

"It wasn't until I was a junior in high school that I was confronted with a verse in Ephesians 5:4:

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

"This is probably not the first verse someone would expect to be used to bring a person to faith in Christ, but when I read it, it struck me like a ton of bricks.

"Although I believed I was doing Christianity the right way, I had a very dirty mouth. Some would call it ***locker room talk***. The jokes I made and the things I said were crude and dishonoring to the Lord. At the time, I thought this was acceptable because I had never personally noticed anything in the Bible that spoke against it.

"But when I encountered Ephesians 5:4, I was shocked to realize that something I had been doing for so long and so frequently was actually wrong.

"I had thought I was living in a way that was acceptable before God, only to discover that I had been living in disobedience the whole time. That realization deeply concerned me and led me to ask an important question: If I had been wrong about this, what else might I be wrong about?

"The Lord used that verse to stir my heart and cause me to examine what a true relationship with Him was. What He began to show me was that a relationship with God is not merely a contractual arrangement based on doing enough good things to get into Heaven. Rather, it is a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the standard I could never keep. In turn, obedience flows from a thankful heart in response to what Christ has done for me, rather than from a sense of contractual obligation.

"This was the turning point that led me to surrender my life to Christ and submit to Him as Lord. From that point on, my desire was no longer to earn God's favor, but to live in response to His grace.

"Since then, my life has been a process of sanctification—growing in my awareness of my own sinfulness and weakness, and in turn growing in my understanding of my need for Jesus, His love for me, and my reliance on Him.

"In October 2021, the Lord brought Gretchen into my life. We first met each other at an event at our local church. It didn't take long for things to get rolling with us as we got engaged two months into dating and married three months after that.

"Shortly after marriage, we both got our first real starts in ministry. I became the Jr. High Minister at our local church and Gretchen became

the 8th Grade New Testament teacher at a local Christian school. Gretchen also helped me as a volunteer leader with the Jr. High Ministry. This was when we really fell in love with ministry.

"It was during this time that we felt the Lord leading us to consider ministry overseas. Over the next two years, we spent much time seeking His will through prayer, His Word, and wise counsel as we discerned a call to overseas missions. During this two-year period, we felt the Lord had affirmed a calling to overseas missions as well as given us a heart for the Japanese people.

"As we spent time learning about the culture, talking with different organizations, and understanding more of the spiritual condition in Japan, we came into contact with Japan Mission, an organization focused on supporting the local Japanese church and evangelizing

the lost. In May 2024, we made a short vision trip to Japan and visited Japan Mission.

"When we met the team at Japan Mission, we were immediately struck by their kindness and hospitality. They were incredibly genuine and thoughtful toward people they had never met before, which left a strong first impression.

"During our time with them, we were able to meet the team and observe several of the onsite ministries they had going on. We left encouraged and excited by what God was doing through Japan Mission to reach the Japanese people through their partnership with the local church.

"Shortly thereafter, Japan Mission contacted us about a position that had opened up, which they believed we might be uniquely suited to fill. After taking time to pray and carefully consider the opportunity, we accepted the role." □

PRAYER REQUEST

Cameron (28) and Gretchen (29) Wright joined JM as missionaries in August 2025, together with Sayler (1-year-old daughter). They have had the opportunity to befriend and share the reason why they came to Japan with many. They have also impacted the lives of many students and the parent community, as they served in the English Evangelism Program.

Gretchen gave birth to Thomas in January 2026. This gave them another opportunity to be a witness to an entirely different community, as they met many doctors, nurses and hospital workers. **Pray** that God would continue to bless and protect the Wright family, as seek to be a witness to those they come in contact with.