

Zach & Esther Motts

Serving in Japan



November 10, 2019

Year Three: Youth Summer!



This August, we passed the year three mark! Thanks to your support, we have been in Japan for the longest term yet! Before, the longest we had made it was two years before coming back to the US. Thank you so much for being with us through the ups and downs of this term.

Last time we wrote, we were waiting on a group from Ohio Christian University to arrive. The group you see here made it safely, spent time ministering in Tokyo and Shimonoseki, and was able to make some great contacts with local churches and university students. They had an extremely busy schedule while they were here, but each one was a trooper from

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beginning to end and we really enjoyed having them here.

These two photos are of a chance they got to sit down with a local pastor's family, share their testimonies, and learn about some of the difficulties of trying to reach out to Japanese communities as a Christian. It seemed to be an encouraging time for the students, and also for the pastor and his family. We



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are really appreciative of the effort these OCU students made to cross the ocean and be a part of the ministries here.

At the end of the summer there was the denominational youth camp, Tonicam. This is a photo of the group I was with this year. It was a very good camp, but I am not as young as I used to be. While playing soccer with some college students, I hit the ground hard and found out later that I had broken two ribs. So, that slowed me down a little bit for a couple months. My bones are apparently not as supple and forgiving as they used to be... sigh...



Year Four: Still Work to Do

About a year ago, we had a wonderful and generous response that helped us



make it through our third year in Japan. Thank you so much for helping us make it this far. I know that it is hard to feel connected when you have not seen us in years and there are lots of other things happening in your life. Japan is a place where long-term presence is important, and your support has made it possible for us to minister to

churches and on college campuses, do Fun-Fun English classes, teach Bible studies, be involved in our neighborhood, and support the efforts of our fellow missionaries.

The chart above, though, is where our account balance with WGM stands. As you can see, because of our deficit budget, we have had a steady decline in our account balance over the past several months. When our account dips to a certain level, HQ will recall us back to the United States to do fundraising again. If possible, though, we would like to continue to minister for one more year. Please pray

with us that the needed funding would come in, and, if you have the means to help us a little extra this season, we would be very grateful.

The Gang is All Here

Another reason that we would like to make it through another year is that all of our WGM missionaries are in Japan at the same time. Holly Muehleisen made it back to Japan at the beginning of October. She is now working on moving in and planning the next steps for the Fun-Fun English ministry. Brandon and Izumi Kuba are still in Shimonoseki at the Immanuel Church there and, big news!, they just had their first child. So, it is an exciting time because we finally have everyone in place and we are looking forward to the chance to work as a team.

As Area Team Leader, I traveled out of Japan twice for WGM meetings, one in Indiana for Team Leaders and the other in the Philippines for our Asia staff. While in Indiana, I was able to be at Billie Sue Dunn's retirement (right). Billie Sue is from my home church and was the definition of the word missionary for me as a child.



This photo to the left is of our Wesleyan and WGM Japan coworkers who were all present in Indiana during those meetings. It was great to be able to see them. All of these people have been immense encouragements to me.

Speaking of encouragement, our regional director, Don Moon, was kind enough to write a letter for us. It is on the next page, so I am going to sign off here. Thank you for your kindness to us.

From Tokyo,

Zach and Esther Motts



Dear friend of Zach and Esther Motts,

It is no surprise to you that we live in a rapidly changing world. Yet, there are some things that change very slowly, if at all. Zach and Esther are on the frontline of a tremendous challenge in this regard. They serve among people who have a long history and who highly value traditions that have been developed over centuries. These traditions are often built on beliefs of what is true and false and values of what is good and bad that are very different from the truths of Jesus. Getting to a place where people will even consider these truths takes a long time of gaining the respect of people by building lasting relationships, showing genuine concern, and living out the love of Christ in everyday life.

In a world of Twitter and Instagram, where information is transferred in a fleeting photo, tiny snippets or simply in symbols, it takes a trained and dedicated person to truly seek to engage people at the deepest levels of their lives. As team leader, Zach is shepherding his team through a time of strategic planning. Esther is involved in helping a local church develop and grow. They both are working hard to find creative and relevant ways for themselves and the team to connect with people that will open doors for them to share the truth of the Gospel.

As their Regional Director, I know of their dedication and commitment to sharing the Good News with the Japanese people and I commend them highly to you. Would you prayerfully consider supporting them with prayer and finances? They live on a very tight budget and I know how hard they work to make ends meet so that they can remain in Japan. Your donations will go a long way in helping them to stay and build that long term relationships through which they share the truths of the gospel. You can donate to their ministry anytime at www.wgm.org/missionary/motts.

For the nations,
Donald Moon
Regional Director
World Gospel Mission

P.S. The region of the world where I live and serve with my wife is one where there is a strong resistance to the truth of the gospel on several levels. It takes dedicated men and women to serve here. One challenge is to get global workers deployed. Another one is to help keep them here so they can be effective in the long term.

