

# TOKYO TIMES

ALEX, KATHRYN, ISABELLA &amp; GABRIELLA HUMPHREYS

MISSIONARIES TO JAPAN

## We're Coming to America!

I know its cliché but, "time flies". It is hard to believe that nearly four years has passed since we started our second term as missionaries in Japan. When we arrived in July of 2010 our first daughter, Isabella, was only six months old. Now she is over 4 years old. And in that time our second daughter, Gabriella, was born and will be turning 2 years old later this month.

Much has changed in our family but one thing **has definitely not changed** and that is our **passionate call to reach the Japanese people with the gospel of Jesus Christ**. So, to continue fulfilling the call of the Lord on our life it is necessary for us to return to the US for another itineration cycle. This will be our third itineration since we have become missionaries with Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM).

With the growth of our family and our ever growing ministry responsibilities it is inevitable that our budget will increase. We look forward to seeing how God uses churches and individuals to help us meet our financial goals. This budget consists of both our salary for living but also all of the expenses necessary to minister.

But more important than our financial needs is our need for powerful intercessory prayer. If you have followed our past newsletters you will understand that darkness binds Japan. We are in continual need of prayer warriors lifting up the souls of the Japanese people before the throne of God. We are also in need of your prayers for our family's safety, health and growth. The cultural transitions during itineration can be rather strenuous on missionary families especially children so please keep us all in your prayers.

We will be leaving our Japanese church in Tokyo a bit in the lurch so it is vital that we return to Japan ASAP! Please pray that the Lord's will is accomplished during this season of itineration.



Our family has grown, literally, and we are really looking forward to seeing all of you soon!

## Now Scheduling for 2014/2015

We are currently scheduling services for our 2014/2015 itineration. We will officially start ministering and fund raising in July and will hopefully be at 100% of our budget by the summer of 2015. We are excited to share in Sunday AM and PM services, weekday services, youth groups, children's church services, home groups etc.

Please contact us ASAP so that we can schedule you!

► To our friends in **Ohio**, we will be in the state for the majority of **July 2014!**

## So, Why is Itineration Important?

I am sure that some of you reading this newsletter are either, 1: unaware of what itineration is or 2: question whether it is relevant or effective. I feel that it would be appropriate to take a moment and share how truly important and valuable missionary itineration is to our churches and to the people “in the pews”. To clearly express my thoughts I would like to use three “missions keywords”. They are **Go, Give & Serve**.

**Go** Both Kathryn and I were called to missions in our teens. The reason for this is that ever since we were children we heard various missionaries, itinerating through our churches, telling us of the great things that God was doing around the world. People are made acutely aware of God’s work in this world when listening to a missionary standing in front of you.

Not only did we hear what God was doing through other people’s ministries, but we were also encouraged by the missionary to seek the Lord and see what He desired to do in our own lives! I firmly believe that a missionary’s most vital role within the local church is to open people’s eyes and ears to the fact that God has a plan for their life and ministry.

In our last itineration alone, we inspired two different couples, neither of whom we had a previous relationship with, to seek God’s will for their lives. Both of those couples are currently preparing for their first term as missionaries!

**Give** I am a pastor. I clearly understand the delicate balance between giving and the operation of a local church. And because of that fact I know that healthy missions

giving is always preceded by an appropriate understanding of Biblical principles regarding tithing and giving to the local church. It is through giving to missions those principles are bolstered and the faithful giving to the church increases. If this does not occur then something is wrong. Experiencing God’s faithfulness and blessing through giving to the church encourages giving to missions and visa versa.

As a pastors and missionaries, Kathryn and I never encourage people to put missions giving before tithes and offerings to the local church. God cannot bless that kind of backward giving mentality.

**Serve** I am sure that some of you fear “losing” church members to the missions field; this is an unfortunate and misguided attitude. As I mentioned before, Kathryn and I were called in our teens and it was for that very reason that we became so involved in our church. We cut our teeth by learning to minister within the local church in America. It was clear to us that we could never be used to evangelize or minister in a foreign land if we could not do so first in our home country.

To this day our most influential mentor has been the senior pastor of our home church. The youth leaders that we worked with had an immense role in shaping our spiritual outlook on life. By serving we helped to raise up those around us to be new leaders within the church. And through it all we were examples to both those young and older than us. It is amazing how many people in their later years can be encouraged by young people who are on fire for the Lord and serving in the church.

*Itineration takes time and money but it is an invaluable part of the growth of our local churches. I hope you agree!*

We are blessed to be able to go to the Philippines in March and participate in a Asia Pacific regional “Spend Yourself” meeting.



**SPENDYOURSELF**

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This is how much luggage two of us had the last time we returned to the USA. I wonder what a family of FOUR will be like!



ASSEMBLIES of GOD  
WORLD MISSIONS

### Current Prayer Needs

Our upcoming itineration: travel, transition, fund-raising etc.

Salvation for the lost youth and wisdom for youth ministers

For the new missionaries currently preparing to come to Japan

Tokyo City Church while we are absent for itineration

Our upcoming meeting in Manila