



## Back to Japan!

Aloha John & Elaine,

It's hard to believe, but our break is over and we are returning to Japan next week. Our time in Thailand has been wonderful. Mele has gotten to know her cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents around Bangkok. For myself, all the muscle aches & pains from months of hard work in Karuizawa have vanished. We're feeling refreshed, and ready to plunge back in.



## Happy 3rd Birthday!

Mele's 3rd birthday is in April. Since we will be settling into our new home then, we held an early party for her last week. This allowed us to share the fun with her friends and family in Thailand.

She will be turning four by the time we leave Yamanaka and by then she'll have a whole lot of Japanese friends to celebrate with. It's hard to imagine how much life will change for us in the coming 12 months.

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## A Busy Schedule

Please pray for us during a very busy period ahead. We fly to Japan on Monday, April 8th, arriving at the SEND Guest House outside Tokyo around 10:00 PM. A fellow missionary has graciously offered to meet us at the airport and drive us there, which is a huge help.

The rest of the week is filled with training by various SEND staff members at their Tokyo headquarters. Pen & I will be responsible for bookkeeping at Yamanaka Chalet, something we didn't do in Karuizawa, so we will need to learn their accounting system. We will also be handling reservations and correspondence, as well as housekeeping, landscaping & hospitality. It's a much broader role than what we had with TEAM. Also in Tokyo, we will visit Japanese Immigration to transition from tourist visas to Religious Worker visas, which will allow us to stay in-country for a full year.

On Friday April 12th we'll make the drive to Mount Fuji and settle into our new home. We'll have no downtime, because the very next day (April 13), a group of missionaries is coming to Yamanaka Chalet to help with landscaping improvements on the grounds. This will give us a chance to meet many of the missionary families whom we will be serving throughout the year.



## Thank You For Your Partnership

We would like to thank you once again for partnering with us in this important work. Through your encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts, we are carried forward to Japan in God's hands. We know that we could not fill this role in our own strength; your prayers keep us centered on this mission to bring the gospel to the unreached.

## Please Keep Mele in Your Prayers

As adaptable as Mele has been through all our travels, all this moving around is very disruptive. Just when she gets used to one setting, we are off to another, with a new language, different food, and unusual customs. We try to explain what's going on, but it can be overwhelming to a three-year-old.

Pen has been extremely creative in finding cultural and social opportunities for Mele to make new friends and overcome language barriers. From cooking school to karate lessons to yoga, she has definitely had many opportunities to try new things. We are also praying that her Japanese language skills will quickly grow as we enroll her in a Yamanaka nursery school.



We look forward to all these new opportunities and are so glad to be able to share them with you. Thank you again for being a part of this.

Yours in Christ,

John, Pen and Mele

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