This past month has been an exciting time for our family and ministry! We have ventured away from the midwest to encourage churches to participate in missions and to present our ministry. We’d like to share with you several reasons we are praising God this month.

January and February Meetings
The first reason we praise God is that we are several steps closer to Japan! Six churches have partnered with our ministry! We are thankful for new partners: Beacon Baptist Church Taylor, Southside Baptist Church Joplin, First Coast Baptist Church Jacksonville, and Harbor Baptist Church Ormond Beach. God has also opened doors for us this last month to present at Bible Baptist Church Saint Charles, Current River Baptist Church Doniphan, Beacon Baptist Church Taylor, Grace Bible Baptist Church Fruitland Park, Harbor Baptist Church Ormond Beach, and Calvary Baptist Church Fruitland Park. Please continue to pray for us as many of these churches are looking to take us on as God provides the necessary funds!

Being used by God
The second reason we praise God is that he has brought several people across our paths that are considering surrendering to full time ministry. I remember only several years ago when I was personally considering surrendering to full time ministry. God brought several deputating missionaries to my church that encouraged me and played an important role in my decision making process. It has been amazing to be used by God in this same capacity to encourage others. Please pray for these individuals we have ministered to that God would continue to provide wisdom and direction for their lives through his Word.

Goodbye Luggage Carrier
The third reason we praise God is that he kept us safe while on the road. Our twenty year old luggage carrier broke off the rails on top of our minivan and was flapping in the wind on the interstate. We almost lost it but we are so thankful nobody got hurt and we didn’t lose any luggage. We did, however, have to say goodbye to our luggage carrier.

What’s going on with Simon, Isaac, and Elisha?

The fourth reason we praise God is for our first birthdays while on the road this year! Elisha is turning five and Isaac is turning seven! Tanjoubi omedetou! (Japanese for Happy Birthday!) If you want to give them something, we have started a fund for our children’s education for the first two years we are in Japan. During those two years we will be unable to homeschool them since we will be in Japanese language school full time. We are planning on having them attend a private school in Tokyo that is specifically for missionary kids in Japan. They will have an American style education while learning Japanese. If you would like to donate to this fund above your normal donations, please send in your donation designated for “McCowns Japan Kids Education.”

Thank you for your prayers and donations last month!

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