

[January to March 2026 AC Reports]

Thank you for your constant prayers and support.

Project Impacts for past 3 months :

(1)Meiji Gakuin High School Overnight Training Program (Yokohama City, Kanagawa)

We served as an instructor for a two-day, one-night training program held at Reimeikan, the clubhouse located at Meiji Gakuin University's Totsuka Grounds.

"Are you chasing results so much that you're losing something along the way?"—A discussion on relationships that help you discover your own value

Themes:

- ① Team Building: "Time to Connect"
- ② Servant Leadership: "Time for Supporting Leaders"
- ③ Who Am I? "Time to Discover Myself"

Over the two days, participants discovered their strengths and found their own value.

As we built our teams together, we grew even closer, staying up all night playing card games and chatting. We identified and shared each other's strengths, and even discovered positive qualities about ourselves that we hadn't noticed before.

Four teachers also participated; we are grateful they went along with our spontaneous requests and helped liven up the atmosphere.

We are so grateful to the Lord for giving us this time to connect deeply with the students, for the fun we shared together, and for the opportunity to share the Gospel!



(2)The many churches that have sent us to serve in Japan(Here are a few examples)

-New Hope Chapel Hikone (Hikone City, Shiga)

For eight years, we went out into the field asking, "How can we bring the Gospel to the sports world?" Supported by many churches, we listened to their advice and went through a process of trial and error. The work of Athlete Church is to build up Japan, together with the churches of Japan. That has remained unchanged from the very beginning until now.

Amidst all this, Pastor Shimozawa is one of the pastors who has believed this to be God's work, stood by us, and walked alongside us, looking forward to the Lord's work.



He always encourages us, saying, "Athlete Church is a ministry unlike any church has seen before; it is walking a new path."

Every time we thought of giving up on missions, we were led to New Hope Chapel—the place where God gave me "new hope." As we served by delivering a worship message there, God's love overflowed, and we couldn't stop crying.

-New Hope Yokohama (Yokohama City, Kanagawa)

Many people were moved by the video and joined the prayer group.

We received so much encouragement, with comments like, "We are so glad we met Athlete Church!" and "We'll be cheering for you!"



(2) -Yokohama Onnuri Christ Church

(Yokohama City, Kanagawa)

Ever since we began our missionary journey in 2018, modeled after the Book of Acts, they have watched over us and walked alongside us. We received great encouragement from God's family: "Even as pioneers, we may face anxiety, fear, and conflict, but the God who has guided us for the past nine years will continue to guide us."



Testimonies of life change where we have served :

● Seinan Gakuin High School(Fukuoka)

We had the opportunity to coach the track and field team at Seinan Gakuin High School.

Although the track and field coach is not a Christian, he is a graduate of Seinan High School and has been familiar with the Bible for many years. The conversation suddenly turned to the Bible when he asked Madoka, "I've been hearing about the Bible for a long time, but is it okay to aim for victory in sports?"

Madoka told him, "Of course, you can aim for victory. But that must not become the sole purpose of your existence."

This led to a discussion about the Bible, and he said, "Please share the Bible with the students next time." We are also able to give him a Sports Bible. We are grateful for this new connection.

● Our Relationship with a Track and Field Athlete



When we first met him three years ago, he wasn't attending middle school. He was so nervous that he barely spoke, but now we're on such good terms that we even joke around. The other day, we trained with him and we had a meal together. Starting in April, he'll be attending a prestigious high school and will begin training in track and field in earnest.

We've prayed together before his competitions in the past, and we hope to continue sharing the Gospel with him in the future.



● **As soon as we arrived in Morioka**, Jin was given many opportunities to share the Gospel. When Jin went to a hot spring, about 20 local middle school students who play sports took an interest in him, and he talked for nearly two hours in the bath while Jin shared the Gospel with them. We then created a LINE group, and we've been inviting them to futsal games and church events.

On another day, when Jin went to the stadium, he met a father and son who were practicing track and field. After giving the son some advice on running technique, Jin discovered he was a student at the junior high school where our daughter, Lei, was about to enroll. The father and son was very grateful and asked Jin to come coach at the school as well. Jin also met a kickboxer, and after talking to him about Jesus for about an hour—he showed great interest—we decided to go hiking together soon. We are so grateful for all these encounters and for the many opportunities God has given us to share the Gospel.

Prayer requests :

【For Our Family】

1. **Son Jun:** Jun will be attending Obirin University in Tokyo starting in April. He will be living on his own. Please pray that he finds a good church and that his faith remains strong.
2. **Daughter Lei:** Lei will be attending a junior high school in Morioka starting in April. Please pray that she will meet good teachers and friends, and that her faith will be strengthened within the church community.
3. **Our family's spiritual growth:** Amidst many visions and tasks, may we prioritize time with the Lord and time together as a family above all else. May we never forget we are children of God.
4. **Academic studies and research:** Please pray that Jin will be able to devote himself to his master's thesis, tentatively titled "Sports and the Gospel," at Tokyo Christian University Graduate School.
5. **From Athlete to Worshipper:** If it is Your will, may Jin participate in the World Masters Games to be held in Daegu, South Korea, in September 2026, and worship the Lord through running.
6. **Our financial needs:** At this time, we have many financial needs, including Jun's university admission fees and tuition, Lei's school supplies, housing deposit, and moving expenses. Please pray that all our financial needs will be met.

【For the Three Pillars of Ministry】

(1) Athlete Worship

Athlete Worship has received support from many speakers, including Running Pastor Hari, former professional soccer player Matsunami, and former Olympic taekwondo medalist Yoriko Okamoto. Infact, the next generation of athletes has begun to participate. In April, professional basketball player JR Sakuragi will share his testimony.

Please pray that, through the Lord's encouragement, new members will be added one by one.

(2) Mission Center

On March 1, we became members of the Morioka Bible Baptist Church.

Through sports, camping, youth ministry, and outreach across Japan, we see the potential to serve as a mission center based in the Tohoku region.

Also, there is a high school student in Hyogo Prefecture who wants to share the Gospel through sports. There is also a former professional female soccer player who wants to get involved in sports ministry. Recognizing their potential, we look forward to working with them. For starters, we are thinking about doing some ministry together somewhere this year.

Please pray that we may form partnerships with mission organizations and local churches to revitalize our mission work.

(3) Club Team

Jin has been given the opportunity to coach the track and field club at a mission school. Also, every time he goes to the track, Jin meet many non-Christians, and while giving them advice on running technique, Jin is given the opportunity to share the Gospel with them. We are currently exploring how to structure this into a club team.

Please pray that God will grant us wisdom on how to build a sports community in partnership with ZION.