

Phil and Debbie Melton

Missionaries to Japan with Evangelical Baptist Missions

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August 26, 2006

Cascades Baptist Church
1012 West High Street
Jackson, MI 49203

Dear Pastor and Friends at Cascades Baptist,

It seems hard to believe that seven years will have passed since our last furlough. But here we are preparing to schedule only our third furlough in the (by then) 20 years since coming to Japan. And we are certainly looking forward to seeing you again.

While we realize that seven years is a longer time than normal to be on the field and away from supporting churches, God has blessed us with so many wonderful ministry opportunities, including two churches which we pastor, two daughter churches of our International church, a fully functioning Christian campground, a couple of wonderful youth groups, fabulous children who are all serving God with us here in Japan, amazing supporters (thanks for your patience for an in-person report), and a burden for the Japanese people that have resulted in some fantastic ministry opportunities over the years (we have enclosed a photo page to give you a view of some of the activities from this summer), but which have also created the need for a more extended term than most require or desire. But it appears that the time for another furlough is now at hand.

We are sending this letter to you today for four reasons.

- (1) To say a BIG thank you for your faithful support of our ministry over the past seven years on the field,
- (2) to send you a pictorial overview of our ministries from this summer,
- (3) to ask you to please fill out and return the enclosed church survey form for our records to help us prepare for our return, and
- (4) to let you know that we will be back, and that we are available for meetings, should you have a preferred meeting date in particular.

Our plan is to determine which areas we can best serve at what time (based initially on whoever invites us to come when--on a first come, first served basis). If you have a particular date between September and December of 2007 or January and May of 2008, please contact us as soon as possible either using the enclosed information card, or by e-mail (preferred--philmelton@aol.com), letter, or phone call. Our plans are to return to the USA in May to report to our home church and various area churches and to speak at a couple of camps, and then I plan to return to Japan for the summer to help with the various summer ministries, returning in September to finish out the furlough year. We hope to have our entire year completely scheduled by December of this year.

Thank you so much for your prayers over the years, your willingness to share with us in our ministries, and especially your love for us as a family and your support for the salvation of the Japanese people. We look forward to seeing everyone, and to sharing in the lives of so many of our friends in the year ahead. Thank you for your prayers until then!

In His Love,



Phil and Debbie Melton

Stephanie (22), Danielle (20), Sharon (18), Nathan (15), Natalie (15), and Andrew (14)