



The Taylor Family Goes To Japan

An introduction to the Taylor Family
and our heart for the Japanese

Konnichiwa! We're the Taylor family, and we'd like to thank you for taking the time to read a little bit more about us and our vision to teach the Japanese about Jesus. We hope that after you read a about this vision, it will be as important to you as it is to us!

In 2010, our family moved to Kojima, Japan to help out some vocational missionaries in the area. We ourselves were also going as vocational missionaries; Leslie took a job at a Japanese *hoikuen* (kindergarten) teaching English. During this year we had many experiences which gave us a love for the Japanese and their culture. Most importantly, however, we realized how few people in Japan knew anything about the gospel. Unfortunately, due to Leslie's job, there was little time to focus on evangelism, so we decided to go back to America, raise support, and return to Japan as full-time missionaries.



Japan is an amazing country! History, food, dress, festivals - Japan has it all! Except for one thing: *Jesus Christ*. **Japan's population is over 127 million people, yet only 1% of Japan considers itself Christian of any kind.** There are only 57 churches of Christ in Japan. In comparison, consider that there are over 130 congregations in Nashville, TN alone! Some Japanese congregations consist of only 2 or 3 people, while others are located on military bases and consist of American families. Despite these small numbers, there are only a handful of missionaries currently working in Japan. "The harvest is plenty but the workers are few!" (Matt. 9:37)

So What's The Plan?

We first want to focus on becoming effective missionaries. Our initial commitment will be for 5 years. During this time we will study the Japanese language and work with Steve and Debbie Carrell in Matsudo, Japan, who will help mentor us. Our goal is to grow in our language ability and to be helpful to them and the work. We believe we can be useful in Matsudo in a number of different ways. As a young married couple with children, my wife and I have seen first hand how many doors open for relationships and teaching opportunities. We plan to take hold of this, building relationships with other parents and people our age, and using these relationships to get many Bible studies going, in the hopes of making disciples of Jesus (Matt. 28:19). We plan to return and start this work in May of 2012.

We believe this is a special time in Japan's history when hearts are opening, and we don't want to let that opportunity slip by. But in order to give the kind of focus the work in Japan needs, we need people to partner with us. As Paul wrote in Romans 10:15, "how can they preach unless they are sent?" We are looking for people to help send us! We have already partnered with the Wilkesboro Church of Christ in Wilkesboro, NC as our sending congregation. But we need further support. Our family needs to raise **\$5200 a month** to live in Japan, as well as an additional **\$20,000** for start up costs (this includes plane tickets, key money, etc.). To raise this money we are depending upon individual and congregational support, consisting of both long term commitments and one-time gifts. Please know that your sacrifices for this effort are greatly appreciated, and we genuinely consider you a partner in this work. This work *cannot* be done without the generosity of others! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can send the enclosed donation card to let us know you would like to receive our newsletter, and to send your tax-deductible donation to the work if you are able. May God bless you and us as we strive to serve Him, and may Japan come to know the Lord!

In Christ,

The Taylor Family (Leslie, Sara, Cambria, and Madeleine)

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Email: taylorsgotojapan@gmail.com

Website: <http://taylorsgotojapan.blogspot.com>

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Introduction to the Taylor Family



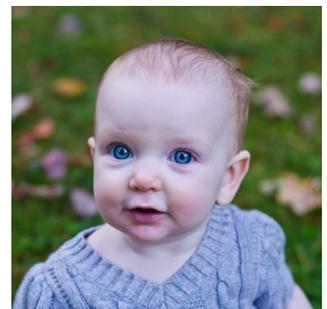
Leslie is 28 years old and is from Pensacola, Florida. Leslie lived in Japan from 1993-1996 while his father was in the Marines. In fact, he was baptized in the Nishiki River in Iwakuni, Japan. In 2010 he moved back to Japan with his wife and children, and taught English at a hoikuen. These experiences combined to give him a heart for missions in Japan. Leslie holds a B.A. in Communication as well as an M.A. in Ministry from Freed-Hardeman University. Some of Leslie's hobbies include photography, guitar, and the Boston Red Sox. His favorite Bible verse is 1 Cor. 15:20.

Sara is 26 years old and grew up in Franklin, New Hampshire. She holds a degree in Business Administration. Sara's fire for missions was sparked during a summer trip to Brazil in 2004, and has only grown since then. Sara loves spending every day raising her girls, and is passionate about teaming with Leslie to bless their and other families with the joy of living in Christ. Sara's hobbies include reading, fine-tuning her encouragement skills, learning new recipes, and being creative with her children. Her favorite Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 15:55.



Cambria is 3 years old and has already moved around quite a bit in those 3 years! She was born in North Carolina, but has lived in Florida and Japan as well. In her 3 years of life, Cambria has brought joy to many people. Most people immediately notice her big blue eyes, which she got from her mother. Cambria loves to sing, dance, laugh, and just have fun in general - and she is very good at all of it! She loves to watch Clifford the Big Red Dog and Arthur. Her favorite book is *ぴょーん* (A Japanese book about animals jumping).

Madeleine is 1 year old and was born in Kurashiki, Japan. She has been a great joy to the family ever since she was born! Just like her sister, whom she absolutely adores, she has big blue eyes which she got from her mother. Right now Madeleine likes to eat, crawl, practice her syllables, and socialize! And of course she grows more and more every day!



Thank You For Reading About Our Family!

Wilkesboro church of Christ

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To our brothers & sisters in Jesus Christ:

This letter is to encourage your support of the Taylor family, who are going to Matsudo, Japan as missionaries. We have agreed to be their sending and overseeing congregation as they travel to Japan to preach the gospel, and would like to tell you more about the Taylors, ourselves, and why we are confident that your partnership with this work would be a good utilization of resources.

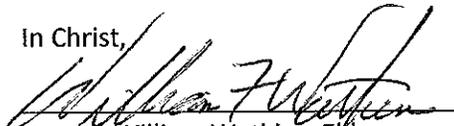
Leslie and Sara (as well as Cambria and Madeleine, their two daughters) are very near and dear to our hearts. We hired Leslie as our full time youth minister in January 2007. He and Sara worked with our youth for 3 ½ years, until May 2010, when they moved to Japan to do vocational mission work. The entire congregation was sad to see them go, but we sent them with our blessing. We had watched them grow and mature much in their time with us. Their walk with God and their zeal for spreading the gospel only grew further in their time as vocational missionaries to Japan. We are excited to see and confident in the fruit they will produce for the Kingdom in Japan.

Leslie and Sara are not the first missionaries our congregation has supported. Our congregation has a history of being involved in a serious fashion in many evangelistic efforts both abroad and at home. We currently oversee Craig Philips family (India), Robbie Lewis family (Germany), and the Lowell White family (Honduras). We hold a Small Church Evangelism Workshop each October, as part of our efforts to encourage churches in our area to reach out to the people around them. Several of our congregation's leaders and families have been involved in various forms of mission work. Besides this, we have taken part in numerous other events and projects to help spread the gospel to the people of the world. Mission work is a very important aspect of the work done at the Wilkesboro Church of Christ, and we take seriously every work that we oversee. You can be assured that, as the overseeing congregation for the Taylors, we not only have the experience to help encourage them in being fruitful workers, but also the heart and love for the work they will be doing.

The Taylors are committing 5 years to the work in Matsudo, Japan, working alongside Steve and Debbie Carrell - long term, experienced missionaries to Japan. To do this work, they need to raise \$63,600 a year (\$5200/month), plus a one-time cost of \$20,000, which includes travel expenses, key money for an apartment, and language training. These numbers take into account the dollar-yen exchange rate, which will fluctuate from year to year. While we are helping support them, they need to raise further support to make this work possible.

We would strongly encourage you to partner with this work and support the Taylors as they work in Japan. Any assistance you can provide will be a great benefit to the work in the church at Matsudo and throughout the country. We believe in this work, and request your prayers as we all undertake this together for the cause of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,


William Watkins, Elder


Dale Isom, Elder

Dear Brethren,

My name is Stephen Carrell, a 61 year old missionary. My parents brought me to Japan in 1950. I learned the Japanese language and culture as a boy during my first 15 years. My wife, Debbie, and I have served in Japan for nearly 33 years in Hokkaido (10 yrs), Ibaraki (2 yrs), Tachikawa (14 yrs) and a few other places. Both of our children, who were born in Japan, are grown, married, and live in the States.

Each week, for the past 4 years, I have been preaching and teaching for a small congregation in Matsudo in Japanese. The members seem to be growing in their faith and knowledge of God's word. My wife teaches Bible classes to children and adult women. Matsudo is the only Church of Christ in Chiba prefecture, just outside of Tokyo.

A few years ago, we met Les and Sara Taylor as they were thinking of coming to Japan the first time. They have now spent time in Japan getting to know some of the language and culture and were helpful to the Brent Rogers family in Kurashiki (southern Japan). They now seek to come to Japan again next spring with their children, Lord willing, to become full time workers in the kingdom in Japan. We believe we may be able to help them get some needed training for being effective workers in Japan. Here are a few of those areas:

1. The opportunity to train the Taylors as missionaries would enhance their current skills to be more effective in the Japanese language and culture.
2. Since we will likely want to train other missionaries to work in Japan in the future, training the Taylors would train us in the process.
3. The Taylors as a young family with children would greatly inspire our current members and might draw others of similar age to the Bible classes and worship.
4. Working together with the Taylors should be mutually beneficial as we share our talents and technical skills with each other.
5. Having co-workers on the field would lessen our burdens so we could devote time to developing teaching and evangelistic materials for Chiba.

Please prayerfully consider the Taylors' needs as they raise funds for Japan. May God bless you in your decisions and may His name be glorified in all things

In Him,
Steve and Debbie Carrell (3 John 5-8)

Leslie and Sara Taylor family

- I will be praying for the Taylors and their work in Japan.
- I would like to receive newsletters by e-mail.
- I would like to receive newsletters by mail.
- I would like to make a contribution.
\$ _____ one-time contribution.
\$ _____ for _____ months / years.

Please return this card to:

Leslie and Sara Taylor
c/o Wilkesboro Church of Christ
PO Box 81
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Please make checks payable to *Wilkesboro Church of Christ*.

Note: Once we have received the necessary amount of pledges, we will contact supporters to let them know when support should begin.

Name:

Address:

City, State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-mail address:

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

Romans 10:14-15