

Meet Some of Our Littlest Nationals

“As I play, Jesus will always be with me!”



For 11 years, OTAN's Japan ministry managers Pastor Tony and Marcia Haug have operated New Beginning Preschool in Shimonoseki, Japan. In addition to the ministry and outreach of Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church, the preschool allows them to reach their community by providing English language lessons to their little students.

Along with English, the preschoolers learn about Jesus and about God's love, kindness, and forgiveness. These lessons make their way into the children's hearts **and** into their homes to reach Japanese families for Christ. Almost all of the New Beginning students come from homes where Buddhist teachings and traditions as well as Shintoism (ancestor worship) are mixed with other cultural traditions and customs.

This school year's theme was “God Made Everything,” and the March graduation ceremony coincided with the beauty of Japan's cherry blossom season. New Beginning's tiny graduates performed several songs and participated in a play called *One Seed* that not only reinforced God's creation but taught students how to respond to difficulties and discouragement.

The preschoolers loved sharing some of the things they learned at New Beginning:

“Thanks to you, I know many things. I know that there is magma in volcanoes. Red food is good for the heart. Plants need sunshine and lots of water to grow. Everything in the world was made by Jesus, and Jesus shines like a light!”

“My favorite Bible story was learning about how God made everything, even the sky, oceans, and animals.”

“I liked the stories during Bible time. I especially liked the story about Joseph.”

“I am glad that I could learn English. As I play, Jesus will always be with me, so I know I'll be fine!”

One child told a New Beginning teacher:

“I told my daddy that God made me, but he said, ‘No He didn't. I made you!’ But I know that God made everything. He made people and vegetables and fruit, too!”

In Japan's population of about 124 million people, less than one percent are evangelical Christians. Though the Japanese enjoy freedom of religion, new Christians face societal challenges, and many fear the disruption of order and the rejection by family that their new faith can bring.

Today, would you pray for these little New Beginning Preschool graduates? Pray that their hearts will embrace the biblical truths they have learned and that they will become followers of Jesus. Pray also for their families, that their parents and siblings who walk in spiritual darkness will come to know that “*Jesus shines like a light!*”

Pastor Tony and our Japan team at Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church love the Japanese people and are dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus with them. Support is needed for a young Japanese national who is being trained to become SCBC's next pastor. To help this new pastor, click on the “Give” tab on the menu above and choose “Japan Pastor Support” to donate securely today. Thank you so much for your prayers and your gifts.