

Hello there, and Happy New Year!

I trust that you all were able to stay warm and safe during the Christmas celebrations. I heard from my family that it's been brutally cold there in MN.

We had a nice holiday, celebrating Christmas at two services - one of them being our Japanese congregation and the other being the English congregation we serve. It was hectic, especially not knowing how Hannah would handle the late night. Turns out she did better than all of us! We were exhausted (and perhaps a little crabby?) by the time we got home, just after midnight. We'll see what happens next year, when Hannah will likely be on the move. At least this year she was confined to the arms of whoever was holding her. I'm sure that won't be the case next year.....!

The blanket that was made for Hannah is a staple of her daily life. It's what she lays on for the better part of the day and sleeps with at night. Seeing your church name and so forth written on it is a nice way for us to think of you and remember the enjoyable time we spent in Benson (and the awesome dinner spread!).



We received your generous checks a few days ago - thank you so very much. Your kindness humbles us and we wonder how we can return the graciousness. Please let us know.

For now, please extend our greetings to the congregation and know that we think of you and pray for you. There is a picture attached of the girls, taken a few weeks ago. Hope it attaches ok.

Love,
Jackie Bencke and the rest of the Kumamoto crew (Patrick, Emilie and Hannah)