

# Prayer Guide

## 2021 Tokyo Olympics



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# July 23

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Japan is one of the most unreached countries in the world, with less than 1% of the country's 126 million people professing Christ. As the Olympics descend on the country, missionaries will be spending countless hours sharing the gospel with anyone God puts in their path.



*Pray that God will go before the missionaries and begin to work in the hearts of those they will encounter.*

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# July 24

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5 Minute English (5ME) is an entry tool used to gain contacts and help the Japanese practice basic English. Occasionally, the missionaries have opportunities to share the gospel. They are looking for ways to be intentional in their conversations and contextualizing the gospel, working in pairs along a busy sidewalk near train stations and other locations with lots of people. While holding up a 5ME sign, the missionaries invite passersby to talk with them. Their desire is to meet students, young professionals, families, businessmen, etc. Some will stop and talk with them, but some won't. The missionaries also will be holding an event August 7 where they hope to have more intentional opportunities to share the gospel.



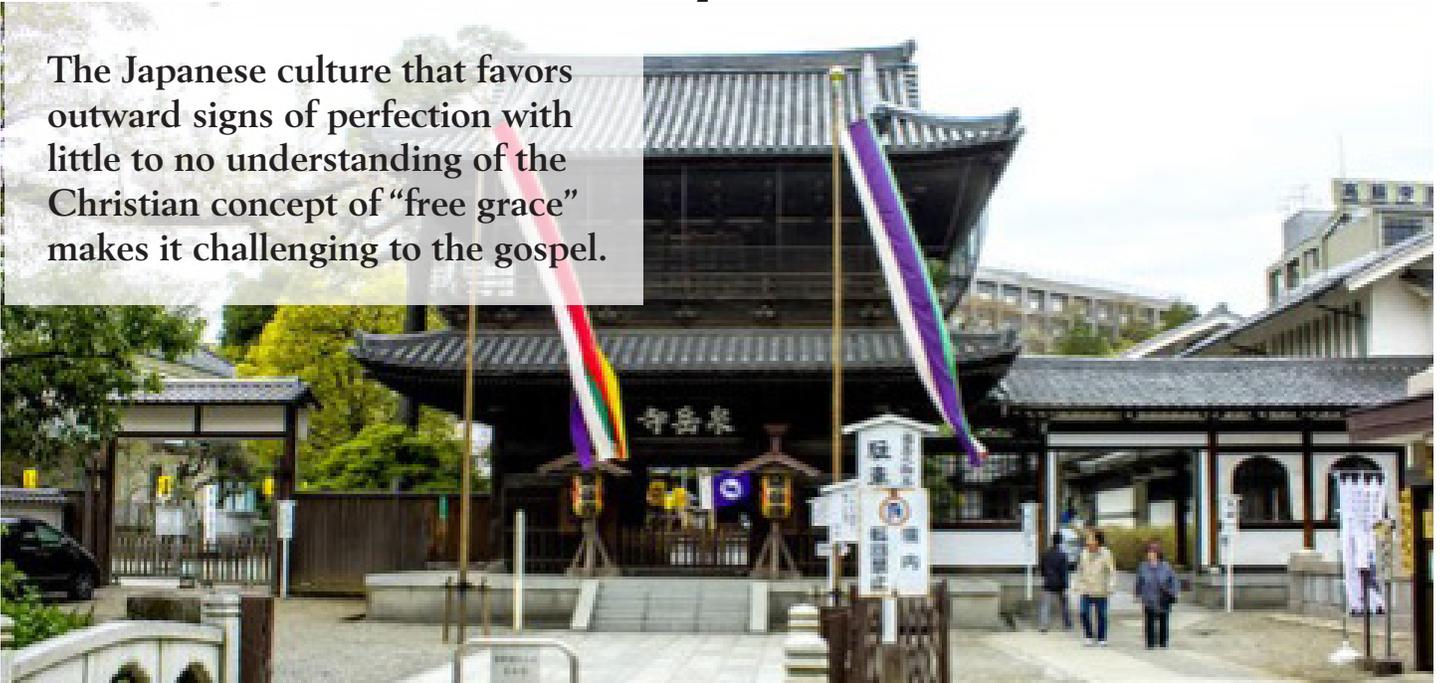
*Pray that many contacts will be made through 5ME so the Tokyo team can follow up and begin evangelism efforts.*

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# July 25

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The Japanese culture that favors outward signs of perfection with little to no understanding of the Christian concept of “free grace” makes it challenging to the gospel.



*Pray that God will give the missionaries the words to speak to bridge the gap in understanding God's grace and mercy.*

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# July 26

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Missionary teams plan to use manga — a Japanese-style of comic books and graphic novels — to reach people in numerous areas. Missionaries will have one or two people dressed in cosplay to draw crowds and engage manga-interested Japanese so they can hand out manga materials (i.e., Manga Bible, Manga Search and other materials). The missionaries will attempt to engage people in evangelism through digital presentations, Pin Trading and tract handouts. They will distribute materials in prepackaged bags. In this area, they will target primarily ages 30 and under. But because Japanese of all ages buy and read manga, they are prepared to engage anyone God sends their way.



*Pray that Satan will not hinder gospel advancement during outreach time.*

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# July 27

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Himeji Baptist Church, which has partnered with Alabama Baptists, offers Bible classes for pastors. The church, led by Japanese national believers, worships in Japanese but translates its service into English. The church also offers kids' club and English Café, where people can have conversations with native English speakers.



**Himeji  
Baptist Church**

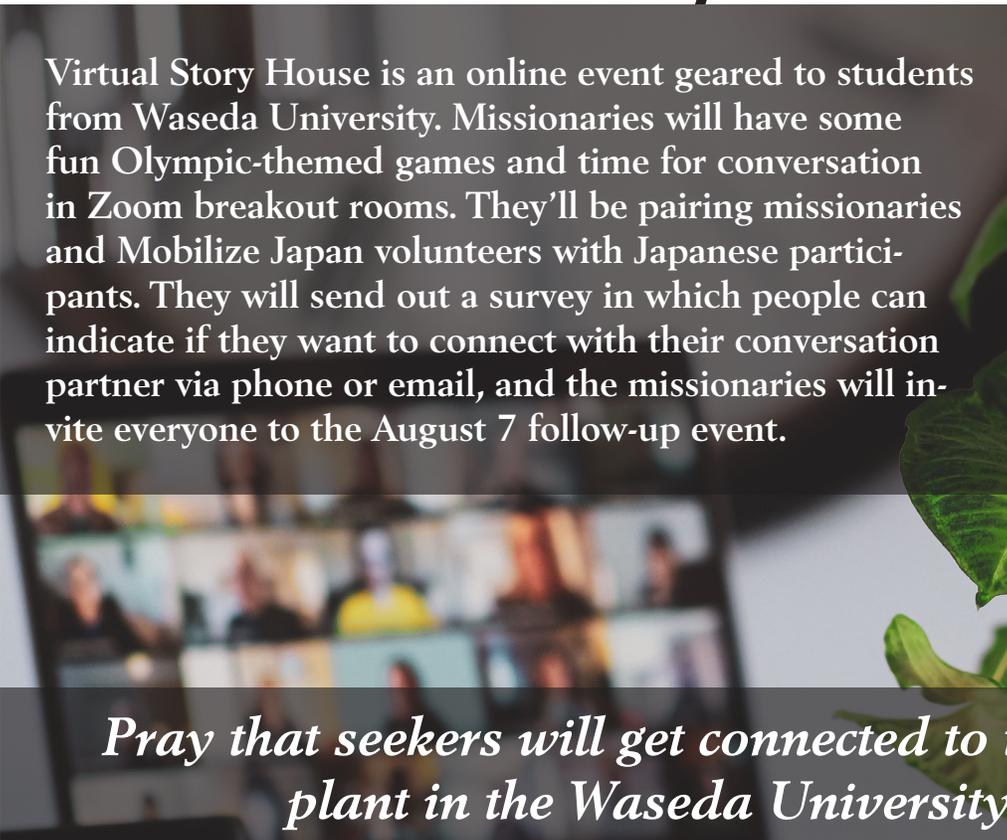
*Pray for God to grow the partnership between Southern Baptists and Himeji Baptist Church.*

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# July 28

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Virtual Story House is an online event geared to students from Waseda University. Missionaries will have some fun Olympic-themed games and time for conversation in Zoom breakout rooms. They'll be pairing missionaries and Mobilize Japan volunteers with Japanese participants. They will send out a survey in which people can indicate if they want to connect with their conversation partner via phone or email, and the missionaries will invite everyone to the August 7 follow-up event.



*Pray that seekers will get connected to the 0-1 church plant in the Waseda University area.*

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# July 29

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Missionaries will hold a mini festival for children ages three to six, composed of three to five games and puppets doing a Bible story. This is outreach and evangelism for the children and those who bring them. We may do some prayer-walking in the church neighborhood afterward. We are also hoping to reach out to both the parents and children through this event.

*Pray that many children will hear the gospel and spur their families on to attend church.*

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# July 30

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Team members and the local church pastor, as well as church members, will pray over the church community, residences, businesses, religious centers, shopping mall and others. They will pray that God will shine upon them with His salvation and mercy, and that His gospel will be known as they both pray and seek to engage and as they prayer-walk.

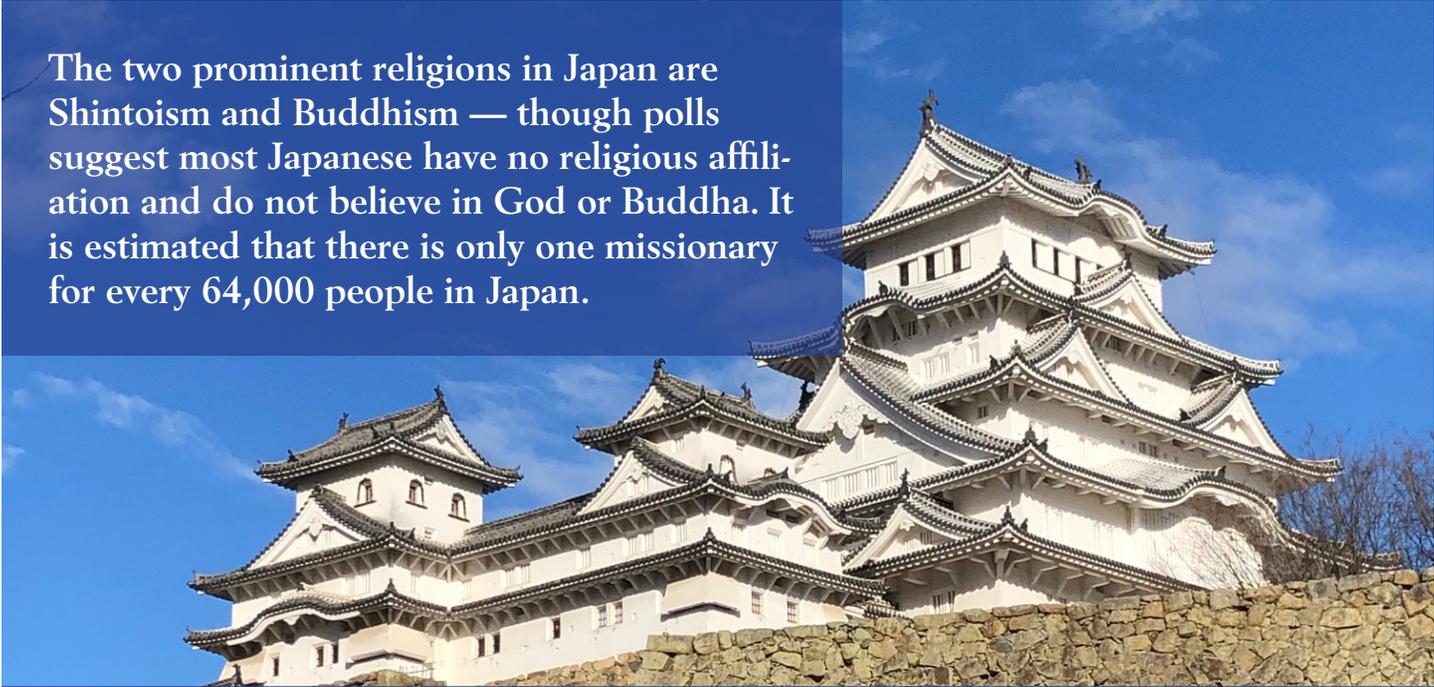
*Pray that God will lead the prayer walk and the Holy Spirit leads people to connect with Shinagawa Baptist Church.*

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# July 31

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The two prominent religions in Japan are Shintoism and Buddhism — though polls suggest most Japanese have no religious affiliation and do not believe in God or Buddha. It is estimated that there is only one missionary for every 64,000 people in Japan.



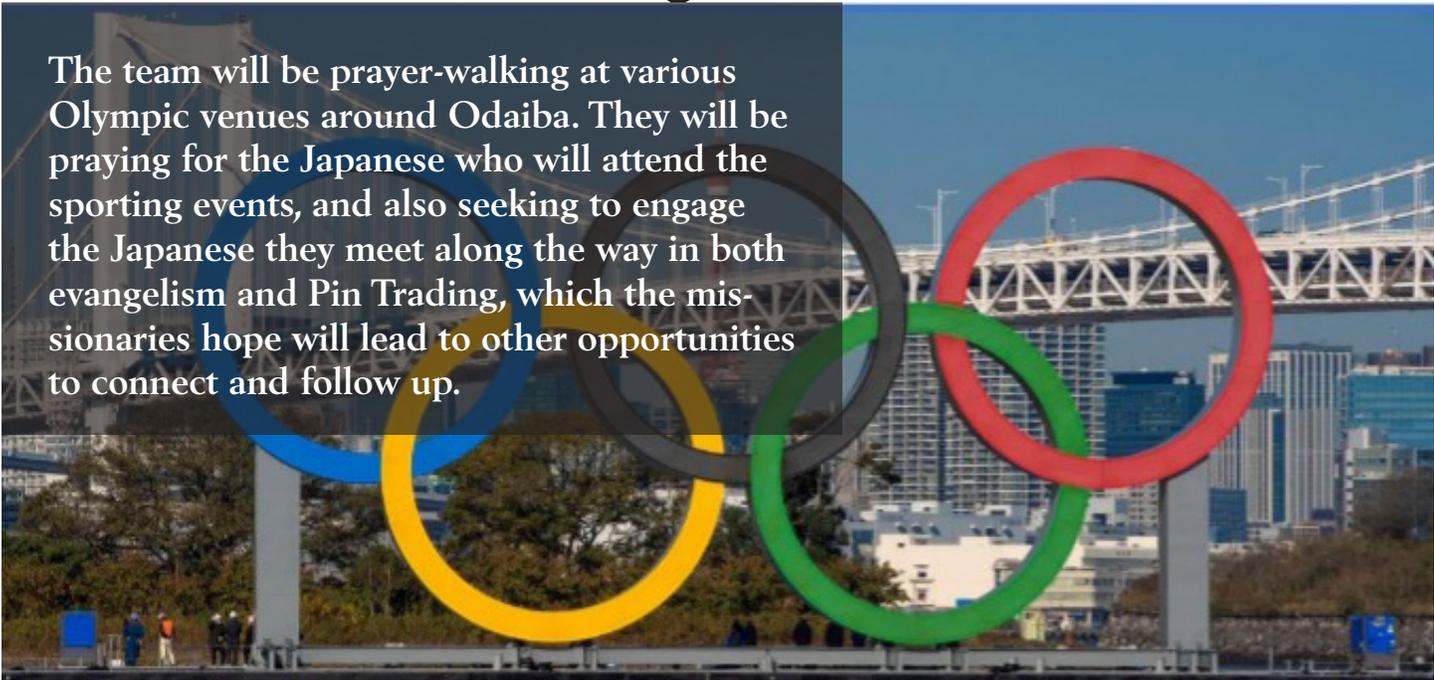
*Pray for more discipleship and church planting initiatives in Japan.*

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# August 1

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The team will be prayer-walking at various Olympic venues around Odaiba. They will be praying for the Japanese who will attend the sporting events, and also seeking to engage the Japanese they meet along the way in both evangelism and Pin Trading, which the missionaries hope will lead to other opportunities to connect and follow up.



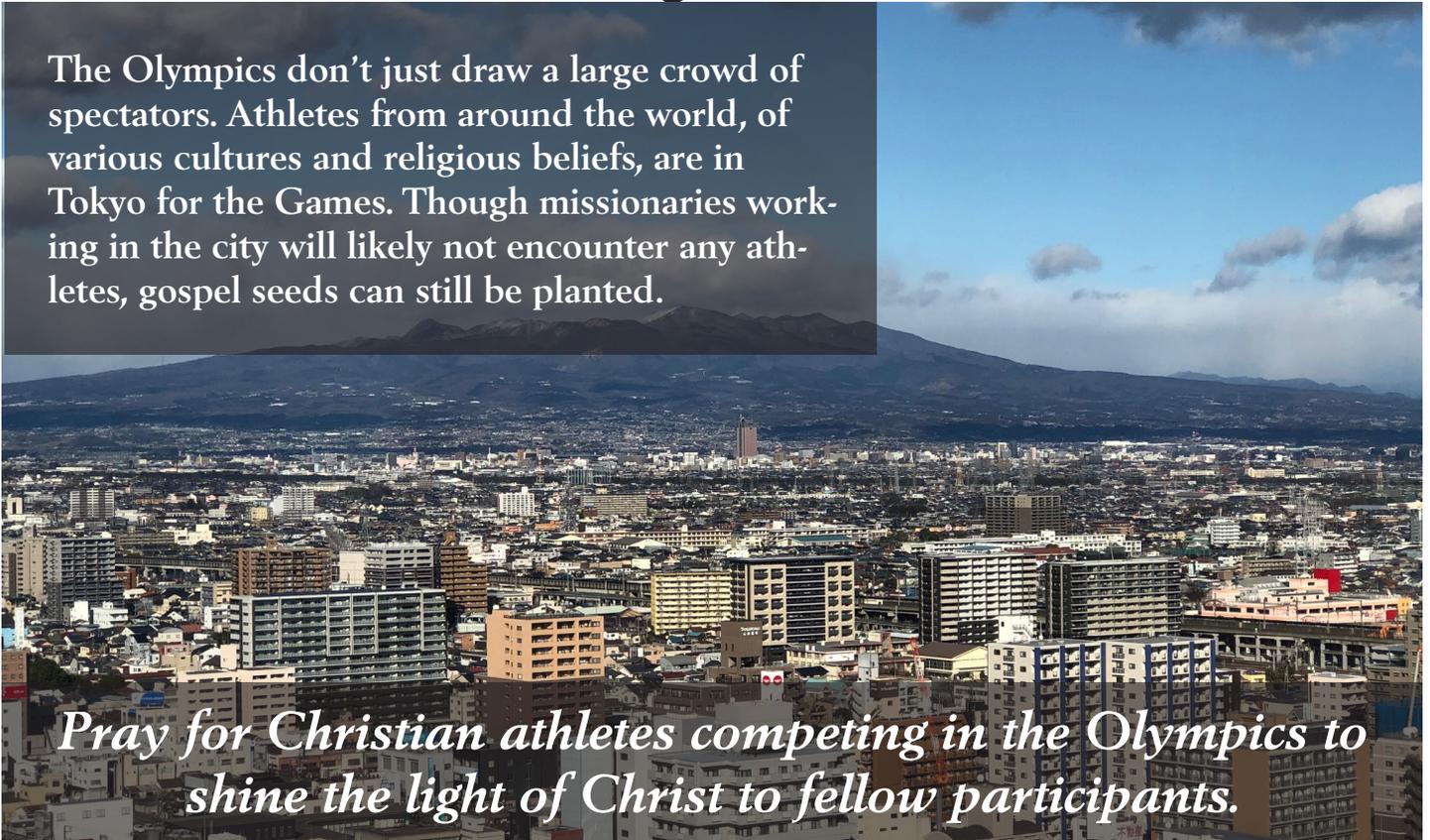
*Pray that God will go before the missionaries and begin to work in the hearts of those they will encounter.*

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## August 2

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The Olympics don't just draw a large crowd of spectators. Athletes from around the world, of various cultures and religious beliefs, are in Tokyo for the Games. Though missionaries working in the city will likely not encounter any athletes, gospel seeds can still be planted.



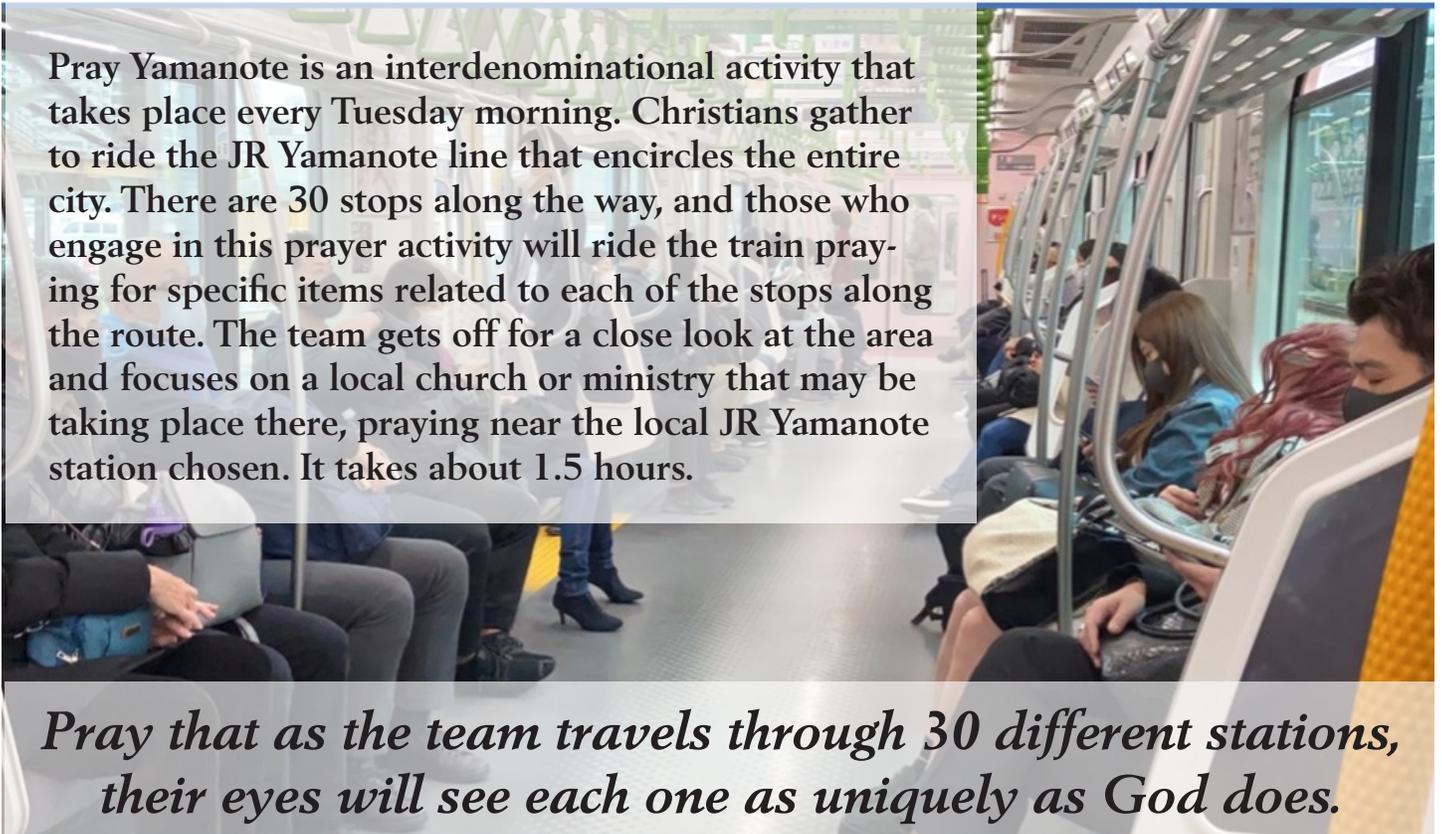
*Pray for Christian athletes competing in the Olympics to shine the light of Christ to fellow participants.*

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## August 3

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Pray Yamanote is an interdenominational activity that takes place every Tuesday morning. Christians gather to ride the JR Yamanote line that encircles the entire city. There are 30 stops along the way, and those who engage in this prayer activity will ride the train praying for specific items related to each of the stops along the route. The team gets off for a close look at the area and focuses on a local church or ministry that may be taking place there, praying near the local JR Yamanote station chosen. It takes about 1.5 hours.



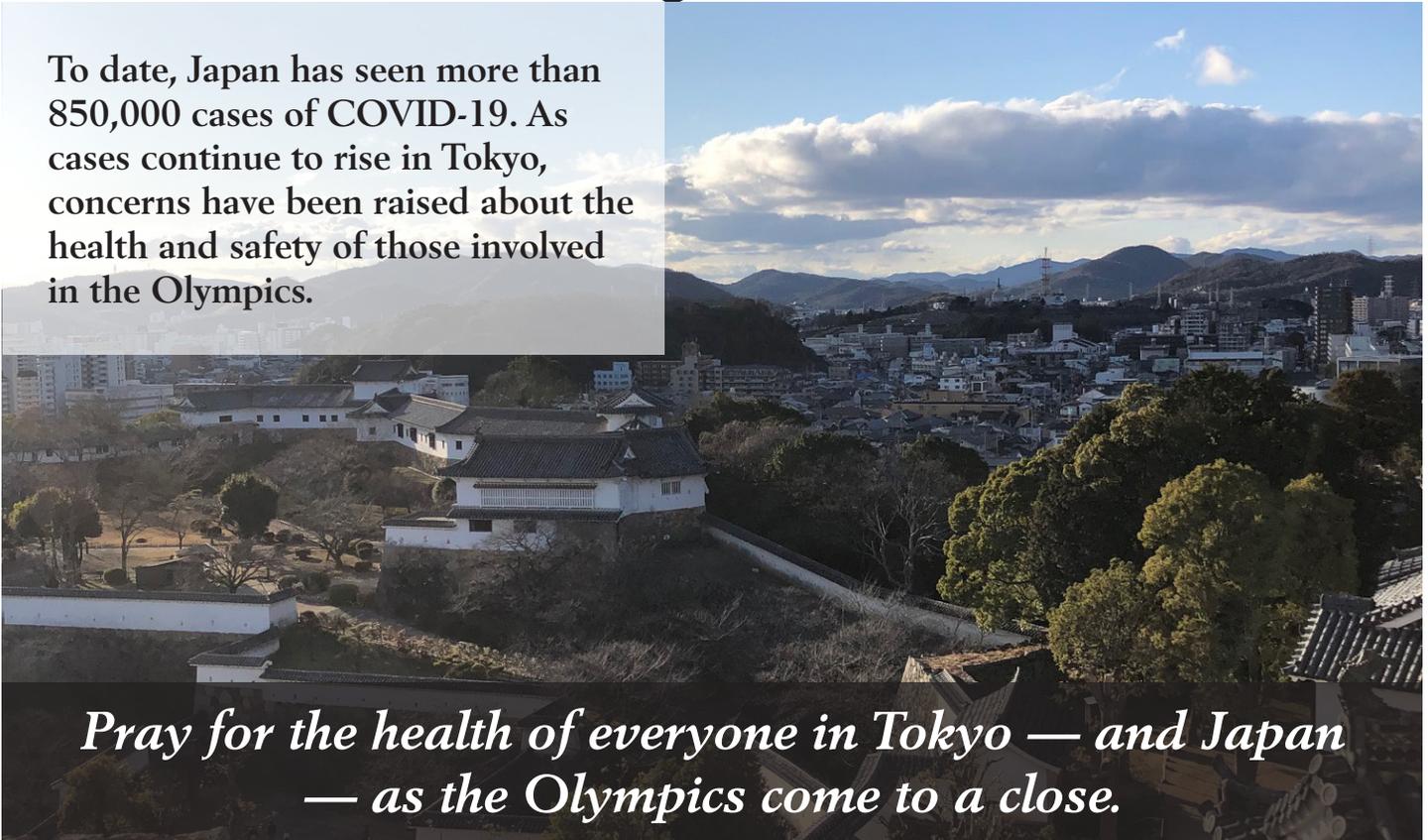
*Pray that as the team travels through 30 different stations, their eyes will see each one as uniquely as God does.*

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# August 4

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To date, Japan has seen more than 850,000 cases of COVID-19. As cases continue to rise in Tokyo, concerns have been raised about the health and safety of those involved in the Olympics.



*Pray for the health of everyone in Tokyo — and Japan — as the Olympics come to a close.*

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# August 5

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The team will engage in a prayer walk around the Okubo Area (where there is a local Baptist church plus two Korean churches). After they complete the prayer-walk, the team will seek to engage people near the Okubo Baptist Church area, where the team will hand out tracts at nearby train/metro stations, Japanese language schools and high traffic streets.

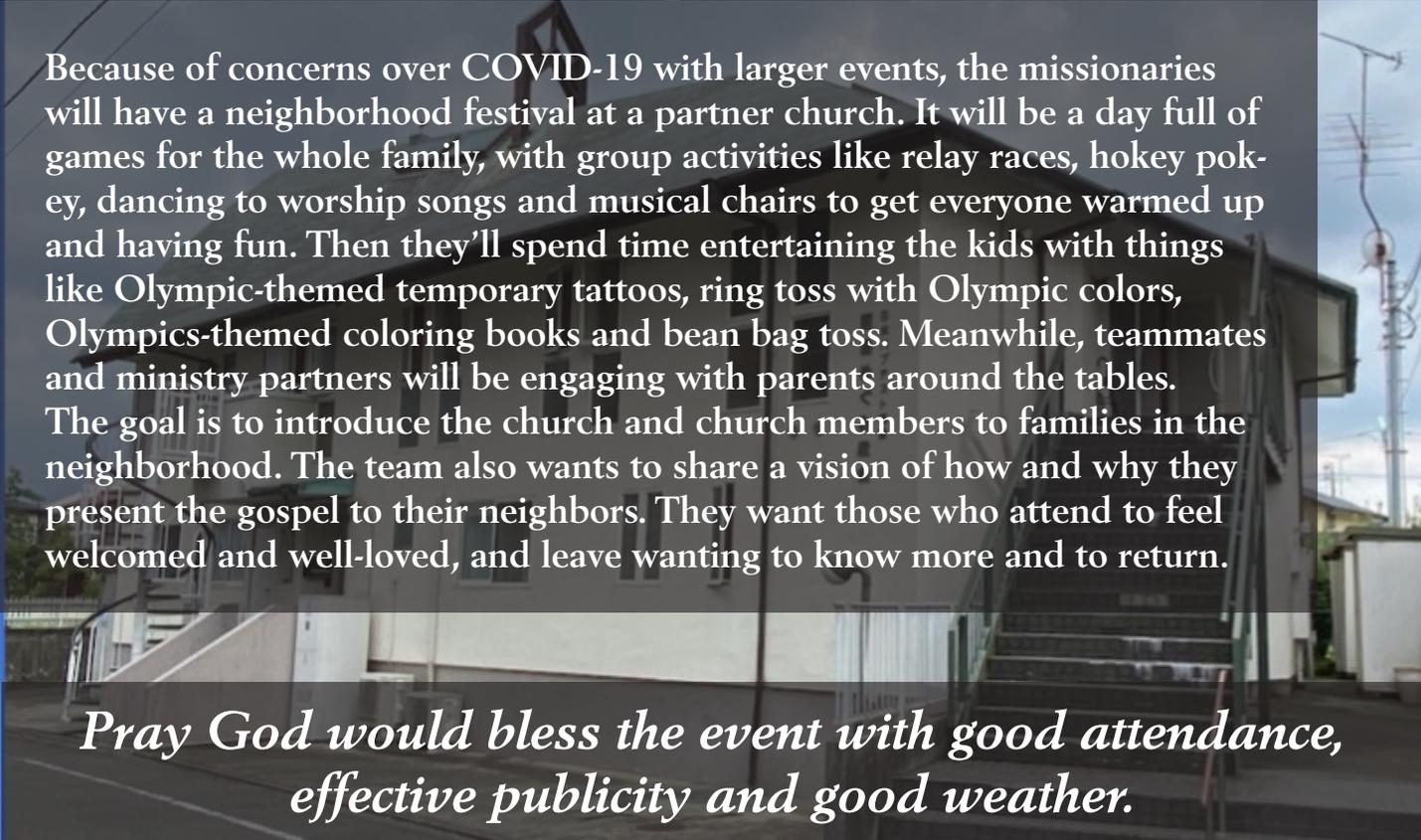


*Pray that many people will receive gospel tracts during station-front evangelism, and that they will read and receive the Word and come to know Jesus.*

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## August 6

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Because of concerns over COVID-19 with larger events, the missionaries will have a neighborhood festival at a partner church. It will be a day full of games for the whole family, with group activities like relay races, hokey pok-ey, dancing to worship songs and musical chairs to get everyone warmed up and having fun. Then they'll spend time entertaining the kids with things like Olympic-themed temporary tattoos, ring toss with Olympic colors, Olympics-themed coloring books and bean bag toss. Meanwhile, teammates and ministry partners will be engaging with parents around the tables. The goal is to introduce the church and church members to families in the neighborhood. The team also wants to share a vision of how and why they present the gospel to their neighbors. They want those who attend to feel welcomed and well-loved, and leave wanting to know more and to return.

*Pray God would bless the event with good attendance, effective publicity and good weather.*

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## August 7

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This will be a gathering of those who participated in the virtual event, 5 Minute English and other outreach efforts. The team wants to use this as a means to connect with those individuals again and introduce future activities through our Story House. These will include other English café events, fun activities and gatherings participants can use to invite other Japanese. Team members will use this to filter interested parties toward Gospel Story Café, discipleship groups and even a church plant we are working toward in the Waseda area.

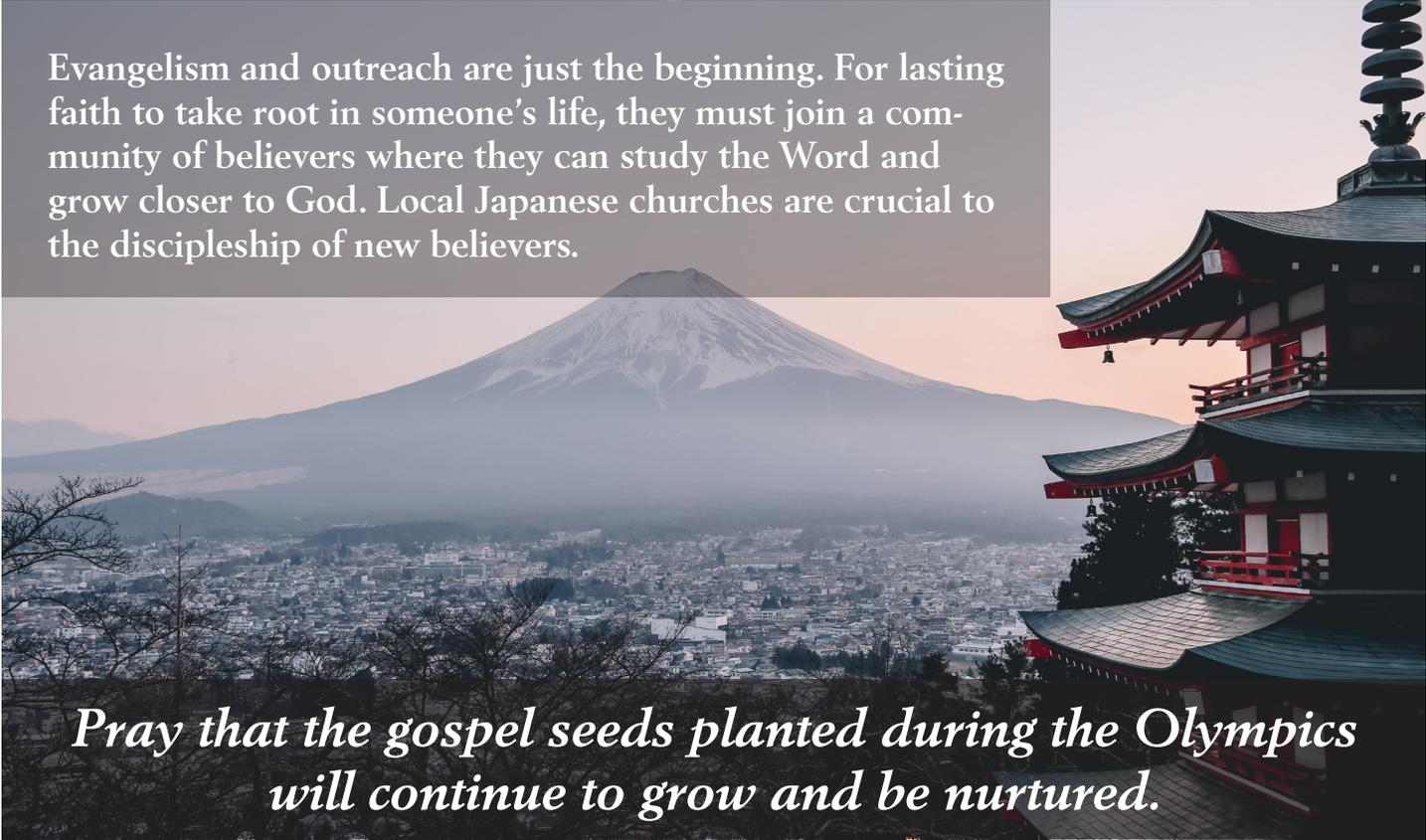
*Pray for team members to effectively connect with and reach out to those participating.*

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# August 8

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Evangelism and outreach are just the beginning. For lasting faith to take root in someone's life, they must join a community of believers where they can study the Word and grow closer to God. Local Japanese churches are crucial to the discipleship of new believers.



*Pray that the gospel seeds planted during the Olympics will continue to grow and be nurtured.*