

## **Greetings from Ishikawa, Okinawa**

Dear Pastors, Friends, and Co-laborers,

It is with both sadness and great joy that I write to you today. Sadness because we have come to a place in the ministry at North Shore Baptist Church (NSBC) that we never expected to come to. When 2020 started no one could have predicted how the year would turn out but God already knew. During the year (2020) God saw fit to relocate all of our members to other duty assignments and we were left with an empty church. When we finally did arrive back in Japan (November 2020) we found ourselves in the middle of a virtual ghost town. None of the previous hustle and bustle was happening and there were little to no military in the local community. The restrictions on the U.S. Military have had a major economic impact on Kin. While I'm glad to see many bars and tattoo parlors close, I am sad to see NSBC close. However, God already had a plan in place for us to continue ministering to the U.S. Military.

I received a call from the pastor of Yokosuka Baptist Church (YBC) on Mainland Japan. Yokosuka is where the U.S. Navy 7th Fleet is stationed. He asked if I would pray about candidating to become pastor of YBC. After praying and seeking Godly council from my pastor and several other seasoned missionaries, I accepted the invitation to candidate at YBC. This took place in the middle of December 2020. After praying about it, the church (YBC) voted to call us as their new pastor toward the end of December 2020.

Following this, I spoke with Brother Ed Navato about taking over the facility in Kin as a ministry from Maranatha Baptist Church. After praying about it and meeting with the leadership of MBC, they determined they do not have the finances or manpower to utilize the facility. However, they will continue, as they have for the past many years, to drive buses to Hansen and Schwab to bring military members to MBC.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that Covid has had a major impact on ministries in Okinawa. As a matter of fact, there is a very large ministry that has been on Okinawa for almost 50 years that has had to shut their doors and close down. I am grateful that God knew ahead of time how things would transpire and led us on to a new Military Ministry.

Although we are closing the doors, the witness for Christ will remain. We will begin full time ministry at YBC on January 24, 2021

Please pray for us as we continue to minister in Japan. We pray that each of you will continue to support us as your missionaries to the U.S. Military. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at [stuartjellison93@gmail.com](mailto:stuartjellison93@gmail.com) or by phone at +81 80 3394 1776.

Because of Calvary,

Stu Jellison